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COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic: A YEAR LATER

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Wednesday, Mar. 31, 2021

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Issue 13
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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

HELPING HAND: John Fraser returns from dumping a pile of organic material cleaned off the Centennial Park plaza by volunteers in the Ganges business community on Sunday. The effort led by owners of the Bean Drinkin' Café, The Rental Stop and Ironic Developments included pressure-washing the plaza area as part of their "Ganges Restoration Action Now Together" plan.

COVID-19

Vaccination appointment crunch alarms

Additional clinic dates added; islander describes COVID-19 illness

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN AND GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

High demand for COVID-19 vaccinations in the 75+ age cohort has led to additional clinic space being made available for Salt Spring residents in April.

Several islanders in that age group contacted the Driftwood last week to describe their unsuccessful attempts to get an on-island vaccination appointment through the 1-833-348-4787 number for the Island Health region. Vaccinations had been scheduled to take place at the public health unit office at 160 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Some people reported they were told they could either wait two months for an appointment on Salt Spring or travel to another community for a shot sooner.

Island Health's media relations department told the Driftwood on Friday that the problems were occurring because the Salt Spring immunization clinic "has experienced unexpected demand."

In response, Island Health has increased local capacity at ArtSpring, by adding additional clinic time there during the week of April 12 to 18. Some people report they have appointments at ArtSpring in the week prior and after that as well.

"All our clinics are designed to be flexible, with the ability to scale up and scale down to meet demand," stated Island Health. "If one clinic has higher demand for bookings than another on a given day, staffing resources are allocated to meet the demand."

Vaccination call centres are operational from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. seven days a week. On Good Friday and Easter Monday, April 2 and 5, hours will be 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. As of Monday, registration had opened for Indigenous people born in 1966 or earlier and other Island Health constituents born in 1948 or earlier. Island Health advises checking its website at www.islandhealth.ca/learn-about-health/covid-19/covid-19-vaccine or the provincial government's social media channels for upcoming eligibility dates.

Island Health reached its 100,000 first-dose vaccination milestone on Friday, with 13 per cent of the population having received an immunization shot. However, the health authority saw a record 59 new daily cases on Friday and the province reached a record high of 936 new cases from Friday to Saturday.

B.C. provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced new measures Monday for a three-week "circuit breaker." The effort to reduce the rising case count means food and liquor-serving premises can only provide patio service, take-out or delivery orders until April 19.

COVID-19 continued on 2



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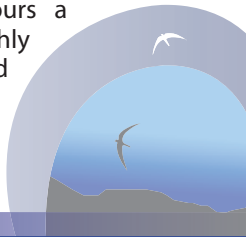


SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY (SSICS) is inviting individuals dedicated to serving the community to apply for a role as a member of the board of directors.

- **The role of the volunteer governance board** is to represent the interest of the community in developing policy for the organization that is vital to the health and well-being of the community. As an accredited and publicly funded organization, SSICS develops and provides quality services to support and strengthen individuals, families, and communities to build an inclusive and sustainable community.

- **SSICS currently operates** 40 programs with over 100 paid staff and equal number of volunteers. For more information of the programs and services see the website <https://saltspringcommunityservices.ca>.

- **The Board director requires** strong communication and team work with effective consensus decision making and leadership skills. A commitment is required of approximately 3-4 hours a month to attend monthly board meetings and committee participation. **Expression of interest can be emailed to board@ssics.ca.**



ISLANDS TRUST

Pedestrian-car conflicts flagged

El Loco Taco spot a concern at Trust meeting

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee is asking that more thought go into development of a busy corner of downtown Ganges where a potentially dangerous meeting between pedestrians and vehicles is in the mix.

The LTC voted on March 23 to ask the Salt Spring Transportation Commission to weigh in on a development permit amendment application and the El Loco Taco site plan, and moved that restaurant owner Tom Boekbinder should incorporate that feedback into a revised application. All three trustees outlined worries about the submitted design. Staff and trustees additionally noted the site has already been altered without the necessary permit amendment.

"I have a number of concerns, and the first concern is the applicant went ahead and completed this work without consulting with our staff, or with trustees, for

that matter," said trustee Peter Grove. The loss of street parking both on the site and on the street was another potential problem for Grove, since he had accepted a reduced parking requirement under the original development permit in part because it made more on-street parking available. He felt the marked pedestrian pathway around the property should also be better designed and protected.

Trustee Laura Patrick said she applauded the business owners' efforts and wanted them to find success.

"But it is in a very central part of our town," she added.

Patrick pointed out the configuration of parking as currently arranged creates a few tight spaces and requires cars to back out through the area where pedestrians cross.

"It's a combination of cars and people that is very concerning," she said.

Boekbinder apologized for being overly enthusiastic and building a patio in the former thoroughway before getting the permit amended. He agreed a pedestrian pathway that is protected by a curb is a great idea, but said for a restaurant oper-

ating during a pandemic it just wasn't in the budget.

LTC chair Peter Luckham said much of the site's issues probably stemmed from the fact it was designed as a gas station before it was converted into a restaurant.

"I am concerned about pedestrian access because the nature of it is people flowing through enjoying downtown Ganges, not driving in and getting gas and then driving out again," Luckham said. "It's a different flow, and I'd be in support of some reconsiderations there."

In other business at the March 23 meeting, the LTC approved a temporary use permit for a food trailer to be located outside Fulford Hall. The trailer will be operated by Salt Spring Community Services as part of their food program. Coordinator Simone Cazabon said they hope to have the new Harvest Cafe location up and running sometime this summer.

The applicants must have an effluent management plan to contain grey water as part of the permit, since the site backs onto a riparian area and the LTC does not want that effluent to get into Fulford Creek.

Circuit breaker ordered as cases increase

COVID-19 continued from 1

Indoor dining is prohibited. Indoor adult group fitness classes have been paused, while the previously announced relaxation of restrictions on indoor worship has been rescinded for now.

Henry additionally urged everyone who can to work at home if possible.

Although the Gulf Islands local health area has seen low case numbers so far, local impacts are being felt, including the temporary closure of two island business locations due to potential exposure.

Cat Cooper of Black Sheep Books announced on March 22 that her shop would be closed for at least a few days after a member of the team contracted the virus. Cooper said in a statement that she had not been asked to close by Island Health, but wanted to be cautious to protect public safety. The store re-opened Monday with limited hours. Bookkeeper Meron Moroz and an

employee of hers were also directed to self-isolate for two weeks after the employee had a business meeting related to Black Sheep Books that Island Health contact tracers deemed to be high risk.

Moroz said everyone at that meeting had been following protocols, including distancing and wearing masks. Neither she nor her employee had become ill as of the past weekend.

"I think it's important that people are reminded that the decisions that they make can and do affect other people," Moroz said. "There is definitely a ripple effect that affects the lives and safety of those around us."

Island writer-director-actor Chris Humphreys learned he had COVID-19 earlier this month after a close contact tested positive and he was subsequently tested as well. He reported feeling just a bit unwell for four days after that, until he woke up with a "raging" fever.

"I was as ill as I've ever been," Humphreys said, describing additional symptoms of nausea and loss of balance.

Fortunately the extreme response was short for him. He did not experience respiratory problems, so he did not feel he needed to go to the hospital.

"I think the major problem has been the complete lack of appetite, because the sense of smell is gone and then the taste follows. So I've been literally forcing myself to eat," said Humphreys, adding he's been cleared by Island Health to re-enter society as of April 1.

Humphreys is not sure how he contracted the virus. He went to Vancouver for a dental appointment just before he was tested but the onset happened so quickly afterward he's not sure that would be the reason.

He advises people to keep following the protocols as best they can, and to avoid assigning stigma to those who do get infected.

Weekly COVID Report

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE AND STAN DERELIAN

The Southern Gulf Islands continues to have either zero or one reported cases each week.

However, after the March 14-20 reporting period closed, Black Sheep Books had to close their doors as one of their staff tested positive, and a second Salt Spring case was made public by another individual. We are hoping that a speedy recovery led to the store re-opening by the time you read this report.

Please note that when you add Victoria to the Langford to Port Renfrew area, the chart reflects 69 reported cases.

British Columbia reported over 4,500 new reported cases in the week ending March 20. The curve has not started to flatten yet.

Social distancing, staying local, wearing masks and hand washing continue to be critical community protections.

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

	REPORTED ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES			
	Week of 2/21-2/27/21	Week of 2/28-3/6/21	Week of 3/7-3/13/21	Week of 3/14-3/20/2021
Southern Gulf Islands	1	1	1	0
Saanich Peninsula	9	12	3	2
Greater Victoria	18	27	49	52
Langford to Port Renfrew	7	0	7	17
Duncan Area.....	57	35	6	13
Chemainus to Nanaimo.....	66	57	64	48
Total.....	158	132	130	132



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!"

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS . . .

- 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.
- 3 **Pick up your Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services coupon** from the Driftwood office and take your bag(s) to Laurie's, or otherwise dispose of what you've collected.
- 4 **Enjoy being recognized** in the Driftwood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make Salt Spring a cleaner and healthier place to live.

Thank you for your participation!



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NEWS BRIEFS

Shelter gets 24/7 funding

BC Housing has agreed to provide 24-hour-per-day funding for the island's homeless shelter.

Salt Spring Island Community Services, which operates the shelter on its Ganges Hill property, was notified last week about the change.

"The shelter currently provides an evening meal and overnight shelter with very limited daytime support from 8 to 11 a.m.," states Community Services in a press release. "The extra funding will provide the resources for the staff to be able to stay open the rest of the day as well as the nutrition and supports that are needed in order for people to be able to move towards stable housing."

While there are no plans for a shelter expansion in terms of numbers served, the capacity for daytime support will be met as the organization ramps up the staffing levels required.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for anyone looking for work serving the community and supporting people in need," said Annika Lund, program director for SSICS. "Staffing is the main component of implementing this vital program and is a chance for some very rewarding job training and experience."

A shelter that is open all day has been suggested as one factor in possibly reducing the number of people hanging out in island parks, sometimes consuming drugs and alcohol and engaging in violent behaviours.

Bowen Queen returns

Travelling between Vesuvius and Crofton should get a little less stressful as of April 1 when the Bowen Queen returns to the route for several months.

The Bowen Queen will replace the Quinitsa beginning with the 12:55 p.m. departure from Crofton on Thursday and will remain in service on the route until Oct. 11.

"The Bowen Queen has more vehicle capacity and better operational speed than the MV Quinitsa," states BC Ferries in a press release.

The company adds that the MV Bowen Queen has washroom facilities available on the car deck.

In other ferry news, high winds saw the cancellation of several sailings between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands on Sunday afternoon and evening.

COMMUNITY FACILITIES

CRD to form business case for school use



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Salt Spring Island Middle School, which will become available for other purposes when the Gulf Islands School District reverts to a K-7 elementary school model.

Middle school could be leased to community arts groups

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation could become the lead agency to manage community use of vacant Salt Spring Middle School facilities if the business case makes sense.

Much of the school campus will no longer be needed by the Gulf Islands School District when it converts to a grade K-7 elementary school model on Salt Spring starting this September. Following a vote by the island's parks and recreation commission on March 16, parks manager Dan Ovington will investigate business plan and partnership alternatives for managing that space in a way that opens facilities to other community groups.

"This is an exciting but also somewhat daunting opportunity for the Capital Regional District and the community," said Salt Spring electoral area director Gary Holman when announcing the news during the Islands Trust meeting last Tuesday.

Holman noted Salt Spring Parks and Rec has experience managing recreational programming for others. There will be significant costs to operating the facility, however, which could include some or most parts of two separate classroom blocks, so staff will need to examine the potential for rental revenue.

"It certainly makes sense for the CRD to hold a tenure, but the devil is in the details," Holman said.

Considerable public interest in the space has already been expressed, including through the formation of a new umbrella arts organization in 2020. The Salt Spring Community Performing Arts Society (SSCPAS) coalesced around the need for a central space large enough to accommodate equipment, set and costume storage plus rehearsal space for multiple member groups. The society now has 16 member organizations representing island theatre companies and schools, dance schools, bands and choirs.

Those groups account for 545 rehearsal dates in a year, and a total of 109 performance dates.

Visual arts groups such as the Salt Spring Arts Council have expressed interest as well. Sports-related programs for youth such as Salt Spring Gymnastics and Tsunami Circus are also looking for options for practice space and equipment storage.

SSCPAS had originally pitched the idea to the school board that they could be the lead agency managing the space, and envisioned renting some rooms at the market commercial rate to subsidize much cheaper rentals for non-profit arts groups.

"There's enough space there that all of us could get a piece of it," said Derrick Milton, who chairs the SSCPAS board.

Milton said the north wing of the middle school alone has around 36,000 square feet. The performing arts groups figure just 5,000 square feet could accommodate all of their needs. But without a com-

mercial rent component, community space may have to be subsidized through other means.

"There's no easy solution, that's for sure. Everybody wants a piece of the pie, and who's going to pay for it?" Milton observed.

Having the CRD investigate alternative business case scenarios for the middle school does feel like forward movement, though.

"It seems like Dan and Gary are both pretty positive about at least providing some space for the arts," Milton said.

Advertising Deadline 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 & CLASSIFIED WORD ADVERTISING DEADLINE: Wednesday March 31, 12 noon

OFFICE HOURS ARE: 9am - 4pm Mon. to Fri.

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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
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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

Charitable support

While the impacts of the pandemic on families, performing artists and some businesses have been obvious in the past year, a lower-profile affected group is charitable organizations.

That impact was recently quantified through release of a Salt Spring Island Foundation survey of some 40 local charities. Seventy-five per cent of respondents said the pandemic has "significantly" impacted their ability to deliver on their mandate. Almost half said the long-term impact on their organization is unknown.

Several non-profit entities have seen reduced revenue due to bans on public gatherings and fundraising storefronts being restricted. Some have been unable to provide services due to their volunteers not wanting to risk exposure to COVID-19 through public activities.

THE ISSUE: Pandemic impact on non-profits

Charities have had to be nimble by coming up with innovative online fundraisers. One of those kicks off on Friday, April 2 when The Circle Salt Spring Education Society (formerly SWOVA) launches Purses With a Purpose, Satchels With a Story. It sees some 75 high-quality new and gently used purses, satchels and handbags auctioned off online until April 11.

Earlier this year the Salt Spring Island Conservancy raised some \$28,000 from an online art auction that received great support from both donors and purchasers of art. Islanders Working Against Violence also held a successful fundraiser that saw home delivery of picnic baskets replace its usual Stowell Lake Farm dinner.

Our One Year Later COVID-19 timeline centre spread this week illustrates how islanders and foundations have stepped up to ensure residents are as safe as possible and that many activities can continue despite COVID-19. Everyone's efforts have been truly impressive.

But as the pandemic continues to affect local charities and the people who are served by them, island residents are urged to keep on supporting non-profit groups so they can survive through the rest of the pandemic and hopefully thrive once again when things return to some kind of normal.

Many groups' revenue streams were also choked off by being unable to hold traditional fundraisers since those usually involve people getting together in one spot.

WE SAY: Extra support needed now

HARRY AND MEGHAN BROUGHT ALL THIS OVER FROM ENGLAND BUT THEN THEY HAD TO DOWNSIZE. IT'S YOURS FOR 20 BUCKS.



PARKER

Community needs differ

BY STEVE WRIGHT

As the target of lobbying groups, and personal and editorial comments which have misunderstood and mischaracterized the intent of my motions to Trust Council earlier this month, I'm surprised no one has taken the time to contact me to find out what was their purpose.

I did reach out to Rhonan Heitzmann of Salt Spring Solutions but he did not take up my offer to discuss their intent. It is disappointing that Jason Mogus did not contact me to ensure he had the facts straight before starting his lobbying efforts.

Any suggestion that I am in any way "anti-affordable housing" or "anti-community" is untrue and nothing in the motions leads to those conclusions. Nor is there anything I have said or written that diminishes the need for a variety of housing, including lower-cost housing.

I understand housing is a critical issue on Salt Spring and I admire trustee Laura Patrick's attention and efforts on her community's behalf. What I fail to see is how any reference to community needs in council documents is going to assist her

VIEWPOINT

in that effort or make any difference to local communities simply by having those issues at the council level. The Local Government Act directs them to be addressed at the local level, not by council.

The inclusion of community matters in the policy statement or the strategic plan will have no demonstrable effect within communities other than draining resources away from local Trust committees (LTCs), which could be better used to facilitate their efforts. No blanket policy endorsed by council will fit all islands or solve their individual problems. If they did, then consider that those policies have been in effect since 1994 and perhaps that in itself indicates how successful they have been. Their placement on successive strategic plans have not produced any measurable solutions. If we have any hope of resolving these critical issues we will need actions rather than platitudes. I believe community groups, of which Salt Spring has a number of articulate and resourceful organizations, will have

more creative solutions that better reflect their own needs than offered by Trust Council.

Policies are powerless by themselves. Council has no real means of enforcing LTCs to enact council policy. So what other purpose is there, other than to create more work for staff and some false sense of accomplishment by council members, to include these matters in council documents? What my motions suggested is council should focus its attention on ensuring that the environment, rural character and natural resources are not adversely affected by the infrastructure needed to support community needs. That should be council's priority. Community needs should be the priority of LTCs.

The result of council's decision to defeat motions to prioritize the environment in the decisions made by trustees is something worth noting.

In closing, I am fully aware that being elected opens one up to criticism and I have no problem with that, but I would prefer it is about something I actually did or said.

The writer is a South Pender Island trustee.

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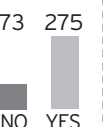
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you support B.C.'s 3-week "circuit-breaker" rules?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should anticoagulant rodenticides be banned in B.C.?



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: }

“Everybody wants a piece of the pie, and who’s going to pay for it?”
DERRICK MILTON, SS COMMUNITY PERFORMING ARTS SOCIETY

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *Are you doing anything differently since the rise in COVID cases?*

BRAD DUNSTAN



No, it hasn’t changed anything.

ANDREA J. DAVIDSON



We’re still staying safe. There’s a while to go yet.

COLIN BYRON



No. We’re quiet people and we live in a small circle.

SUE WALKER



We are very careful, always wear masks and try to get outside in the fresh air as much as possible.

FOX TOWNSEND-BROWN



We live on a boat so we’ve been isolated since this began, and essentially just trying to be as safe as possible.

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

No tickets?

Imagine my surprise when I pulled last week’s Driftwood out of my mailbox and discovered, on the very front page, a gaping (if metaphorical) hole.

It was at the end of the caption beneath the photo of unmasked protestors in Centennial Park inveighing against rules meant to keep us all safe from COVID-19. The caption ended, where a follow-up article (nowhere to be found) should have begun, with this cryptic, inadequate sentence: “Local RCMP officers observed the situation but did not issue COVID-19 violation tickets.” Leaving readers scratching their heads and asking themselves the obvious question: Why?

MURRAY REISS,
FULFORD

Man-made environment dominates

Your March 24 editorial entitled “The Right Balance” misses the important point that, here on the Gulf Islands, there can be no right balance between humans and the natural environment so long as the Islands Trust Policy Statement remains wide open to interpretation.

You are correct when you say “the Trust mandate is and has always been the preservation and protection of the environment above all else.” But that is basically reiterating what is stated in the Islands Trust Act.

The current widespread damage to ecosystems on the islands stems from the fact that the intent of that visionary piece

of legislation, to limit development, is not implemented through the policy statement. Without a clear statement of priorities, this protected area is drifting like a rudderless ship, and more often than not, the currents that determine the direction of the ship come from those who want higher densities.

The whole point of trustee Steve Wright’s first motion was to ensure the man-made environment does not overwhelm the natural environment. Unfortunately, that motion was defeated by a vote of 17-8. Some trustees obviously believe sustainability just happens on its own.

It is interesting to note that by far the greatest amount of correspondence calling for more housing came from Salt Spring, the largest and most populated

of the Gulf Islands. Could it be that urbanization creates its own momentum?

ANDREW DEGGAN,
GABRIOLA ISLAND

Rebel spelling

It’s said a picture is worth a thousand words and that was never truer than in your front-page photo last week.

The fact that the anti-mask, anti-vaccine brigade misspelt “Tyranny” in their nonsensical banner did everything to throw a spotlight on their woeful ignorance. I guess at some time they must have also rebelled against the “tyranny” of education and of common sense.

PAUL MCELROY,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

How-to YouTube videos don’t cut it for everyone

I always wanted to be the guy who could fix anything. In my daydreams, I pictured a garage half filled with broken-down appliances dropped off by neighbours and friends who had consummate faith in my ability and stubborn perseverance. I would bring their machines back to life. They all knew I had the “knack.”

The best part of these daydreams was the fact that I didn’t charge any fees for my work. I fixed things in my spare time and received my payment in smiles from everyone who went back home with a working appliance. Just the knowledge that I had succeeded in resurrecting another broken toaster or malfunctioning weed whacker was reward enough.

As I said, this is who I am in my daydreams. In real life, on the other hand, I am better at breaking things than I am at resembling a Mr. Fix-it. When put in my hands, screws get stripped, bolts bend, and washers and nuts disappear faster than Harry Houdini.

I suppose I should have expected life to turn out this way for me. As a child, I used to take great pleasure in dismantling any wristwatch, clock or radio that stopped working in our house. I loved seeing how many parts I could pull out of the thingamajig and I especially relished in the sight of all those little parts lying neatly spread out on an open sheet of newspaper on the floor.

What I found really exciting was my belief that when I reassembled all the pieces back together again, the clock would start to tick again and the radio would once more blare out ‘50s pop music. Alas, that never happened. And even though I had carefully made mental notes as to how the parts went back together again, not only were the appliances still broken, but there were always a few small dials, springs and screws still sitting patiently on the newspaper sheet after the contraption had been put together again.

Fast forward to just a short while ago and everything, it seems, has changed for the better. The Age of YouTube is upon us. With the advent of YouTube, not only are we able to enjoy practically every musical concert ever performed, every lecture ever given, and every stupid cat video ever recorded,



Shilo Zylbergold
NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

but we now have at our fingertips the information needed to fix just about anything that has ever been broken.

Correct. YouTube instructional videos have made it possible for all men to become Mr. Fix-it and all women to transform themselves into Ms. Do-It-Yourself. All we have to do is browse the internet for the video that tackles the problem, follow the easy repair instructions, and ... Bob’s your uncle ... problem solved.

Or so I thought. By watching these helpful home repair videos, I could become the repairman I had envisioned myself in the daydreams of my youth. All I had to do was search YouTube for the video clip that dealt with my problematic repair job, select the solution that seemed the most promising, watch it carefully, follow the steps and success was sure to land on my doorstep.

As luck would have it, my loftiest daydreams have turned into my most abysmal nightmares. My hopes of being able to fix anything have been flushed down the toilet and my personal mantra of “I can do that” is now rusting away in the junkyard of insipid aphorisms.

Why all the doom and gloom? Why am I feeling like a first class, bona fide loser? The answer lies in my possibly warranted realization that something is sure to go wrong. Maybe I won’t have the proper tools for dismantling the cover on the lawn mower. Perhaps there are too many sheets of paper jammed between the rollers of my printer to allow me to jerk open the lid. Even if I was able to pull out all the crumpled sheets of blank paper, why is it impossible for me to replace the empty cartridges so they will sit snugly in their holders? The old ones came

out easily, so why won’t the new ones slide into their positions just as smoothly?

It always looks so easy on YouTube. The bolts never get cross-threaded. The vacuum cleaner dust bags don’t ever become stuck so that they tear when I pull hard and I end up depositing a thick layer of dust back onto the carpet I just vacuumed.

These YouTube instructional videos make me feel the same way as I do when following the printed directions after purchasing a wooden bedframe or shelving unit at IKEA. The instructions come in 23 different languages, but the most confusing are the ones in English. The diagrams for assembly make it look as if I’m seeing the front, side and top views of the piece of furniture at the same time. And always, and I mean always, there are too many of one kind of fastener but not enough of another to hold the unit together.

The worst part about watching these videos is having to tolerate the person demonstrating the repair procedure. Usually, it’s an “ordinary Joe” who is not being condescending or trying to make me feel inferior. It’s just that nothing ever goes wrong with the repair job in the video. Sometimes the machine is already partially disassembled right at the beginning and I realize that I will never get to the same point as where the video starts because I can’t even pry the cowl off my leaf blower.

Nobody asked me, but I’m pretty sure that YouTube is deliberately trying to make me feel like a dweeb when it comes to doing home repairs. I don’t think I’m being paranoid, but I’m certain that the videos are skipping essential steps which render the repair job impossible. Or maybe they are using an appliance model which is slightly different than the one I have, which is why I can’t back off the red throttle screw a quarter turn because I don’t have a red throttle screw.

I guess it just wasn’t meant to be. It seems to me that it’s going to take more than a quarter turn to fix this here repairman. Until something drastic happens to improve my repairing abilities, I’ll have to switch over to the YouBoob website.

Now where did I put that whatchamacallit that screws into that doohickey?

COVID-19

The coronavirus pandemic: A YEAR LATER



SSI Foundation chair Brian Lawson, left, gives appreciation plaque to Leigh Large of Country Grocer for extraordinary support given to the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund.

On March 11, 2020, the World Health Organization declared the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic. Shortly after, borders were shut down, restrictions on gatherings were implemented and school and business closures were announced. One year later, the pandemic continues to affect our lives in profound ways.

Nevertheless, our community has triumphed. These hard times have inspired generous acts, gestures of solidarity and innovative projects of all kinds. The community has come together in various ways, with individuals, businesses and non-profit organizations having rolled up their sleeves to offer help and comfort to their fellow citizens.



Toby Fouks with cloth masks she made, with proceeds benefiting the SSI Food Bank and local SPCA.



Cathie Grindler creates a Salt Spring map for the ECU wing of Lady Minto Hospital thanks to a SSI Foundation RSNB grant.

We feel it's important to share the stories of some of the those who made a difference over the past year and highlight some pandemic news events as well.

Supporting a healthy and caring community

- * Grants from our COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund are helping local charities affected by the pandemic.
- * Other Foundation grants also assist Salt Spring charities in many ways.

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Salt Spring Island shines in challenging times!

MARCH 2020	APRIL 2020	MAY 2020	JUNE /JULY 2020	SEPT/OCT 2020	NOV/DEC 2020	JAN/FEB 2021	MARCH 2021
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Organization declares the coronavirus outbreak a pandemic on March 11. Lady Minto Hospital Medical Staff Association asks the public to heed provincial and federal directives in response to COVID-19, with "staying at home" topping the list. Islands Trust chair Peter Luckham issues an appeal for people to not visit the islands at this time. All non-essential businesses are closed. Salt Spring Island Foundation launches the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund. More than \$130,000 is raised in under a week. As well, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation quickly raises \$125,000 for a COVID-19 Relief Fund to cover extra needs for the hospital and staff in dealing with the virus. In-class schooling cancelled indefinitely as switch to online instruction begins following spring break period. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ferry service is reduced across the system and Long Harbour terminal is closed as travel for essential reasons only is stipulated. Salt Spring Islanders rally to 3D-print face shields and other supplies, and make protective gowns for health-care workers, while others sew and distribute cloth masks. Some of the SSI Foundation and LMH Foundation funds were used for these efforts, as well as purchase of alcohol sanitizer and other supplies. Tuesday Farmers' Market opens. <p>At left, Caroline Trepanier cuts fabric for gowns for health-care workers. Below, the Covid Corvids Plan-C logo for a group making protective gear with 3D printers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Drive-by birthday and anniversary celebrations thrive. SSI Fire Rescue trucks participate in many. <p>Banner for Greenwoods resident Aubrey Watkins' 100th birthday on a SSIFR truck.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Special efforts launched include Salt Spring Literacy's Pandemic Postcards and the Salt Spring Arts Council's COVID Chronicles projects. Non-essential businesses and services start reopening as of May 19 under the B.C. government's Safe Restart Plan, with WorkSafeBC guidelines set out to protect employees. Island Comeback website launches to facilitate online shopping for rural island businesses and artisans. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> SSIF COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund exceeds goal with \$202,000 collected. Through charities, \$61,550 in Country Grocer food cards go to islanders in need; a mental health first aid program is funded; and PPE and protective equipment provided for Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop, Meadowbrook and the library. Several other groups receive grants, including Islanders Working Against Violence, Island Natural Growers, 'Stqeeye' Learning Society and many more. <p>Dr. Bonnie Henry button with her mantra of Be Kind Be Calm Be Safe created by the SS Arts Council and painter Patrick McCallum for front-line workers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In June, limited in-class learning is restored in public schools. As of July 2: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> B.C. had 2,940 confirmed cases of COVID-19 and 177 people had died. In Canada, there were 104,204 cases and 8,591 deaths. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students return to GISS two metres apart and wearing masks. Positive COVID-19 test for a Tree House Cafe worker is the first publicly identified exposure on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands. No other person is reported infected due to that case. School reopens with students limited to socializing in cohorts. High school students wear masks while in transit in the school. SD64 teachers and bus drivers express concerns about lack of protection. Some drivers refuse to work for a period of time. With the SS Fall Fair cancelled, the Farmers' Institute initiates a photos-only "fun fair" publication through the Driftwood to maintain the spirit of the fair. Responsive Neighbourhood Small Grants recipients are announced by the SSI Foundation. RSNB grants aim to cultivate resilience, wellness and community connections in fun, COVID-safe ways. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Restrictions increase as COVID-19 case numbers soar in B.C. Non-essential travel is discouraged and only households (or tiny bubbles for single people) are permitted to socialize as of Nov. 7. First local school exposures are made public in December: one at GISS and one at SS Centre School. Residential care aide Nisha Yunus is first person in B.C. to get a vaccination on Dec. 15. First West/Island Savings Community Response Fund local disbursements made to SSI Farmland Trust (\$500) and SSI Community Services (\$10,000) by end of the year. B.C. COVID-19 case breakdown by health authority as of Dec. 31, 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Fraser - 55,147 Vancouver - 22,414 Interior - 7,443 Northern - 5,681 Island - 3,081 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Salt Spring Island high-risk health-care workers and long-term care home residents are first to get vaccinations. Island Comeback participant number reaches 160. School safety guidelines are increased by the province after pressure from teachers and other groups. Mask-wearing is mandated for all middle and secondary school students and all K-12 staff unless sitting or standing at seats or workstations, or they are eating/drinking or behind a barrier. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 organizes Staycation nights with Kitchen 92 menus from a warm country of the world and a tropical photo backdrop. <p>Tom and Leah Woods enjoy a midwinter tropical "staycation" at the Legion.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After one year since pandemic declaration, confirmed COVID-19 cases and deaths are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> World: 118 million+; 2.6 million+ Canada: 896,739; 22,335 B.C.: 86,219; 1,397 Gulf Islands: 24; unknown Further First West/Island Savings Community Response Fund disbursements made to Salt Spring Therapeutic Association (\$5,000); Salt Spring Literacy Society (\$2,000); School District 64 (\$10,000). As of March 26, SSI Foundation total emergency relief fund grant distribution to 24 projects is \$180,548 from a donation total of \$256,951. On March 11, Dr. Bonnie Henry loosens restrictions to allow outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people. On March 25, Henry states that visitation limits for seniors in long-term care homes will be broadened by April 1, but rising case numbers by March 29 prompt further restrictions on indoor activities for a three-week period. By March 25, 3,934,959 people (10.47% of the population) have had at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine in Canada; in B.C., 523,320 have had one shot; on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, 100,000 or 13% of the population have had one shot.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

FAMOUS FLAGGER: Abraham Charlie, who has been flagging for the CRD off-road Lower Ganges Road pathway project from Baker to Booth Canal roads contracted to Don Mann Excavating, holds up a copy of last week's Driftwood containing a rose of appreciation for the happiness he imparts to everyone who passes. Driftwood Facebook and Instagram posts of the photo drew several hundred likes/loves and positive comments. Charlie says he loves flagging and it's the best job he has ever had.

Second-shot delays not sound

BY STAN DERELIAN AND CURT FIRESTONE

Dr. Mona Nemer, appointed by Justin Trudeau to the post of Canada's chief science advisor, stated in a March 22 interview on CTV: "... that extending the interval between doses has had a negative effect on their efficacy, particularly in seniors."

So when the top science advisor says it's wrong, how does B.C. justify going from 35 days between vaccine doses to 112 days (16 weeks)? Even accounting for supply delays, 16 weeks is a longer interval than any other country has adopted. Canada is the only country arbitrarily mandating a 16-week interval. It appears from the scientific literature that currently 42 days seems to be the acceptable extended outer limit for the second shot. This is the interval prescribed by Pfizer and Moderna and

INDEPTH

supported by the U.S. Centre for Disease Control.

Particularly worrisome are published observations by medical professionals that with a delay beyond 35 days in administering a second dose, there is a decline in the protectiveness produced by the initial dose, especially for seniors and those who are immunocompromised. If there is a decrease in strength in the period before administering a delayed second dose, what does it mean for protection against the more virulent variants that are appearing almost daily?

In fact, there is some thought that a weakened immune response among individuals might provide conditions favourable for such

mutations to occur.

Long-range studies could provide answers, but at this point with nothing definitive, the B.C. second shot plan looks like an experiment, leaving one to wonder whether B.C. citizens are being used without their permission as test subjects in a public health experiment. That raises obvious and serious ethical questions, mostly around the issue of informed consent. Because there is a possible negative outcome from an extended delay, as well as the danger of being infected during the interval, participants need to be clearly advised of the risks of participating, and if acceptable to them, be asked to sign off on it. This is not being done.

Then there is the question of vaccination passports. Many jurisdictions as well as businesses here and abroad are

formulating plans for a credential that would identify the holder's state of protection. The implications for B.C. residents are obvious. Proof of full protection will be required to fly, cross borders, eat in restaurants, etc. A one-shot person is not equal to a two-shot.

A question that needs to be answered now before we go any further is how does the government intend to differentiate the half-vaccinated one-shot citizens from the fully vaccinated two-shot people? How will this reduced status be accepted by entities inside and outside Canada? Just what will the B.C. government do now that they are creating a huge group of second-class Canadian citizens?

We need answers... now!

The writers are Salt Spring residents with a keen interest in COVID-19 health matters.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Lives matter

Through Dennis Lucarelli's March 17 "Equality matters" letter I'm glad to be reminded of Orwell's famous comment in *Animal Farm*. I surely agree, some lives matter more than others.

In our society and times we believe that

every human starts with the right to have a chance, to live out the possibilities of their genes. We argue about when that right starts, but it's early, before we are active players in the world.

After that we say we judge actions, then disagree passionately about standards to judge by. A great many nations do agree that someone's acts can be so bad that their life should be taken away.

On a scale of minus 10 to plus 10, their lives couldn't matter (to the rest of us) less.

Judges sin when judgement is based on signals of genetic difference — skin colour, say — not actions. That's why "Black Lives Matter" marches are needed and marches for other hues are just as necessary. All lives matter equally in their innocent start.

BOB WEEDEN,
PRIMROSE LANE

COVID-19 IN BC

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Dance and activism explored in presentation

April 7 Zoom event

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How does dance intersect with local and global politics?

Join us as we speak with interdisciplinary artist and educator Ahalya Satkunaratnam to learn about her new book, *Dancing Bodies, Navigating Conflict: Practicing Bharata Natyam in Colombo, Sri Lanka*, and her dance project called *Usha/Agni/Vyvastha (Dawn/Fire/Order)*.

This online event, which sees Satkunaratnam in conversation with dance outreach coordinator Aina Yasuë, is co-presented by ArtSpring and Made in BC Dance on Tour and runs via Zoom on Wednesday, April 7 at 6:30 p.m.

The presentation is about how

activism, academics and art practice intersect, and will be followed by a Q&A open to the community. It will explore the significance of interdisciplinary approaches to making and understanding art, how one can bring a critical approach into the dance studio space, and how structural and systemic barriers shape arts making and arts analysis.

Ahalya Satkunaratnam is a professor of arts and humanities at Quest University Canada, with over 20 years of experience in anti-racism teaching. Her research examines dance practice in Colombo, Sri Lanka during the civil war (1983-2009), through historical analysis, methods of dance studies and dance ethnography.

Her own practice as a dancer and choreographer has seen her work pre-

sented in Sri Lanka, the U.S. and Canada. Her current piece — *Usha/Agni/Vyvastha (Dawn/Fire/Order)* — reflects on human experiences of how we live with war through sound, movement and visual arts. Her unique style fuses her Bharata Natyam training and artistic commitment to storytelling that is intertwined in the everyday.

Amidst the instability of this past year we are excited to speak and learn about how dance can be in conversation with the political and social movements that affect us all. We hope that academics, activists, dancers, artists, educators, authors and anyone else who wants to learn more about dance will join the discussion.

For a free Zoom link to the April 7 event, send an email to tickets@artspring.ca.



PHOTO BY BILL CHRISTIANSEN
 Ahalya Satkunaratnam in dance studio.

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APICULTURE

Students glean facts about local pollinators

Outdoor lessons focus on Mason bee nests and food

BY ROBIN JENKINSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Late winter, early spring is time to think about Mason bees, also known as blue orchard bees or BOBs. These native pollinators are a fruit farmer's best friend. During a few weeks in March, Tanya Grant and Gail Bryn-Jones' grades 4-5 classes at Salt Spring Elementary were gleaming the nectar of apiarian knowledge about these spe-

cial insects from island experts Ken Hargrove and Harry Burton.

Students first foraged for information at the Rainbow Allotment Gardens behind the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre, where Marian Hargrove pointed out flower beds filled with heather, crocuses, hellebores and other early bloomers that provide native bees with shoulder-season nectar and pollen. The children were then regaled with Mason bee facts by her husband Ken, and shown the BOB nesting boxes around the community garden.

Ken shared that "Mason bees pollinate about 115 times faster than honeybees." The crowd was really wowed by his statement that "It takes 2,000 honeybees to pollinate a large apple tree, but only 10-15 mason bees." The kids suggested that for more effective pollination and honey, someone should cross a honeybee with a Mason bee and call it a "money bee."

This past week, Harry Burton of Apple Luscious Orchards and Salt Spring Apple Fest fame continued this pollination of young minds in the school's geodesic dome. He taught about native bee diversity (there are over 450 native bee species in British Columbia) and described the differences between European honey bees and native bees (70 per cent of native bees are ground-nesting and 90 per cent live solitary lives, like the BOB). Although honey bees are familiar pollinators, local wild bees are better adapted. They get busy pollinating even when the air is cool or in light rain, conditions when honeybees stay in their hives.

Then Burton demonstrated how to build the right kind of BOB nests, so they can be taken apart and cleaned each year.



PHOTO BY ROBIN JENKINSON
Ken Hargrove teaches Salt Spring Elementary School grades 4-5 students about Mason bees and their nests.



PHOTO BY ROBIN JENKINSON
Harry Burton ties together pine boards to create an ideal home for Mason (or blue orchard) bees.

Following Burton's guidance, 5/16" (about 8mm) grooves were routed in 1x6 pine boards and cut into six-inch pieces. The kids smoothed out the grooves and stacked the pieces and tied them together with baling twine, along with an overhanging roof board.

Finally they mounted it on a sunny fencepost in the Salt Spring Elementary Hillside Garden. Burton provided Mason bee cocoons to release into the garden to pollinate the apple trees when they begin to bloom. Moistened clay will be placed near the nest when the BOB season begins. The children loved gently touching the cocoons and imagining the bees cracking out of their "eggs" in the spring warmth. Pollinator gardens here they come!

The lesson closed with Monika Grunberg's picture book called Sunshine and Pollen; The Life of Mason Bees, all told from a cheerful Mason bee's perspective. After she hatches, warmed by the spring sun, the tiny heroine emerges to smell the delicious nectar and revel in all the colours.

"Each flower shows us exactly where to sip. I could hardly wait to dive into one!" she buzzes. "From plants to insects to fruit to seeds and back to plants: this is the Circle of Life."

Here are Ken Hargrove's instructions for getting started with your own Mason bee project:

1. Choose the type of Mason bee nest or condo (wooden or plastic nests, or paper tubes, all available at garden supply stores or easily built) and mount it near your gardens at about six feet high, facing southeast where it can get sun.

2. Acquire Mason bee cocoon.
3. Get a small cardboard box and place the cocoons inside. Cut a couple of 3/8" diameter holes in the bottom corners of the box.

4. When the blossoms are out and the temperature is 10-12 degrees Celsius, put the box with the cocoons outside near your mounted nest box, along with a container of damp, clay soil on the ground nearby. (They'll use this to separate the eggs in the nesting tubes.)

5. You'll see the bees fly about, and in some weeks the condo tubes will be full and the openings will be sealed with a mud derivative.

6. After late May or early June, you'll notice there's no more activity. Remove the nest box/condo and store it in a cool space like a garage in a sealed plastic container.

7. In early November, carefully remove the cocoons from the condos. Clean them in a light bleach solution or sand, then store them in a sealed, cool place until mid-March, and start again!

Other good resources:

- Background and guidance on Mason Bee Nests by Linda Gilkeson.
- Foxglove Farm & Garden on Salt Spring Island sells Mason bee cocoons and pre-made Mason bee nests from BeeDiverse, plus guides on how to encourage native pollinators.
- The David Suzuki Foundation has Mason bee home building instructions and how to enhance habitat for other native pollinators.

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POSTPONED
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31	0005	1.9	6.2	4	0009	3.3	10.8
	0603	3.3	10.8		0535	2.8	9.2
	WE 1254	0.7	2.3		SU 0805	2.8	9.2
	ME 2012	3.0	9.8		DI 1631	0.6	2.0
1	0056	2.3	7.5	5	0114	3.3	10.8
	0629	3.3	10.8		0741	2.6	8.5
	TH 1342	0.5	1.6		MO 0907	2.6	8.5
	JE 2131	3.1	10.2		LU 1739	0.8	2.6
2	0158	2.6	8.5	6	0208	3.3	10.8
	0658	3.2	10.5		0834	2.4	7.9
	FR 1434	0.5	1.6		TU 1059	2.5	8.2
	VE 2252	3.2	10.5		MA 1846	0.9	3.0
3	0323	2.8	9.2	7	0251	3.3	10.8
	0729	3.0	9.8		0908	2.2	7.2
	SA 1530	0.5	1.6		WE 1253	2.5	8.2
	SA				ME 1946	1.0	3.3

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Auctions

LIVE & ONLINE AUCTION
 Saturday April 10, 2021 - Armstrong, BC - Valley Auction & Active Auction Mart present 500 plus lots of Farm Machinery, Industrial Equipment, 70 Dry Van Trailers, 27 Highway Tractors, Bailiff Seized Goods PLUS Others. - Consignments accepted until Tue April 6, 2021. Questions about Consignments, to View in Person, to Register, Bid & View Lots online visit www.ValleyAuction.ca call 250-546-9420 or buyit@activeauctionmart.com.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE *Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer*
www.sunstarastrlogy.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com
TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

The Moon in its last quarter phase is also noteworthy as it forms a conjunction with Pluto, activating a new cycle that will trigger the growing tension between establishment authority and the growing revolutionary rise linked to Jupiter and Saturn. Mercury entering Aries on April 5th is perhaps the biggest event this week. Its journey through Pisces has perhaps proven peaceful and relaxing, but not very motivating. Because Mercury travels so fast and, due to its lightweight nature in terms of its transiting effect, its impact may not always be very evident. However, because it is entering fiery, impulsive, pioneering and expressive Aries and joining forces with Sun, Venus, Chiron and the major asteroid Ceres, its influence will indeed prove measurable. As well, with the Lunar North Node in Gemini, which Mercury is the ruling planet of and with Mars, the ruler of Aries, in Gemini, Mercury entering the first sign of the zodiac will take on that much more punch and impact.

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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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.

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Coming Events

Wednesday, April 7th, 7PM
EDEN ROBINSON,
Author of Return of the Trickster with Local Kwakiutl Noblewoman
CHRISTINE HUNT
 Register for zoom: 250-537-4666 ext. 228
programs@saltspringlibrary.com



YOUR COMMUNITY
Your Classifieds

Coming Events

Call for Community Music Award Applications

The Salt Spring Singers invite community members to apply for a \$500 award toward music studies. All ages are eligible. Preference will be given to candidates who intend to study voice and/or are members of a community or school choir.

The deadline for applications is Monday, May 3, 2021.
 For more information and an application package, please visit saltspringingers.ca/scholarships.html or contact Lesley Reynolds at (250) 537-4861 or lesleyr1@telus.net

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FUNDRAISERS

Scrabble is on hold but AIDS crisis continues

Island group supports Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign

BY SSI GRAND(M)OTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS

The Grand(m)others to Grandmothers Annual Scrabble Fundraiser became another casualty in this dreadful year of COVID-19. We sure missed our players at the Salt Spring Inn and Penny's Pantry games and silent auction. After over a decade of fundraising for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign, we were looking forward to another successful event this our 13th year. Thirteen was worse luck than any of us could have foreseen.

An Angus Reid poll shows that nearly 40 per cent of Canadians who have donated to at least one charity in the past two years say they're giving less since March 2020 when the COVID-19 pandemic hit. However, while opportunities for fundraising have nearly come to a standstill, Salt Spring Grand(m)others recognize an even greater need for the ongoing projects in sub-Saharan Africa. Grandmothers there are already responding to the AIDS pandemic, raising a young generation who've



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Some Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers group members hold their banner before logging some laps at Portlock Park on Thursday. COVID-19 has quashed the group's traditional spring Scrabble fundraiser, but other ways to support still exist. From left are Anne Zeller, Diane Lugsdin, Oni Freeman, Jill Tarswell, Jo MacDonald, Joi Freed-Garrod, Beth Gessinger, Pat Hannah and Dexter Fyfe (Freed-Garrod's grandson).

lost their parents to AIDS-related illnesses, or who are affected by HIV and AIDS, while mobilizing and advocating for their human rights. The double whammy of two virulent pandemics is unfathomably devastating and the need for help is greater than ever. While so far none of the grassroots projects funded by the Stephen Lewis Foundation have been cancelled, it is crucial to safeguard decades of progress made against the HIV and AIDS pandemic.

The Salt Spring Grand(m)others have risen to the challenge with efforts we can make to help. Over our history and with your support we have raised over \$200,000. While Scrabble is on hold, some of us are tagging onto the Victoria Grandmothers Virtual Stride, clocking our steps towards a goal of 15,000 kilometres in celebration of the Grandmothers Campaign's 15th year. Some have made some garden totes to sell.

And we're collecting items in hopes of having a safe Granny's Yard Sale this fall. We have created an online fundraising site and if you are at all able to donate we urge you to go to our team page at <https://slf.akaraisin.com/ui/grandmotherspledges2021/t/ssig2g2021> and donate to the team or scroll down and donate to one of the team members.

And from April 15 to April 18, to celebrate the 15th year of the SLF

Grandmothers Campaign, Together in Concert will showcase a wonderful tapestry of Canadian talent in music, dance, storytelling and drumming. Hosted by the great Jackie Richardson, artists include Steven Page, the National Ballet of Canada, David Myles, Stratford Festival, Sheree Fitch, Bridge Brass Quintet, Canada's National Ballet School, the della kit, Feels Like Home, The Sojourners and many more.

The double whammy of two virulent pandemics is unfathomably devastating and the need for help is greater than ever.

It is a free concert, but donations are of course welcome. You can access the concert by registering at www.cdngrandmothers.com.

Donations of \$20 or more are eligible for a taxable donation receipt. No matter how large or small, all donations are valued and go much further in Africa than at home. We always welcome new members. Contact number is 250-537-4560.

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DEALER # 11018



what's on this week



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. 10 to 11:30 a.m. For more info and to register, email staroftheseassi@gmail.com.

Thur. Apr. 1

VIA ZOOM
Poetry Open Mic. With featured poet Shamana Ali, author of the poetry collection called Beauth. 7 p.m. Sign up for poets is at 6:45 p.m. One poem per reader. Register through programs@saltspringlibrary.com.

Fri. Apr. 2

ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM
ASK Salt Spring. Is taking a hiatus until April 16th.

Fri. Apr. 2

ONLINE OR VIA ZOOM
Purses With a Purpose. Online purse and satchel auction fundraiser for The Circle Salt Spring Education Society begins today at www.thecircleeducation.org and continues through April 11.

Wed. Apr. 7

VIA ZOOM
Author Event: Eden Robinson. Author of Return of the Trickster in conversation with local Kwakiutl noblewoman Christine Hunt. 7 p.m. Get the free Zoom link at programs@saltspringlibrary.com.

Wed. Apr. 7

VIA ZOOM
At the Intersection of Dance, Research and War. ArtSpring presents artist and educator Ahalya Satkunaratham in discussion with dance outreach coordinator Aina Yasué on the subject of Satkunaratham's book called Dancing Bodies, Navigating Conflict: Practicing Bharata Natyam in Colombo, Sri Lanka, and her latest dance project. 6:30 p.m. Get the free Zoom link at tickets@artspring.ca.

Purses With a Purpose, Satchels With a Story

Online purse, satchel and handbag auction to benefit The Circle Salt Spring Education Society. April 2-11. See thecircleeducation.org.

THRIFTY FOODS

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EXHIBITIONS

- Gallery 8 in Grace Point Square presents new work by Will Millar of Irish Rovers fame, in addition to work by other artists. See also work in the Coast Gallery in Unit 1104 at Grace Point Square.
- Naoko Saito is the featured artist at Switchboard Cafe this month, and Edith Stevenson is the ceramic mug artist until April 14.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

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