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Wednesday, Apr. 14, 2021

62nd year Issue 15 \$1.50

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, KID: A young goat takes a peek at local visitors to the Salt Spring Cheese Farm on Sunday before joining some of the other kids at the farm for a snack of wild nettle plants.

AGRICULTURE

Farmers plead for dog control

Lethal attacks devastating during lambing season

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring livestock farmers are asking members of the public to respect the island's agricultural community and to keep their dogs under control following a deadly spate of dog attacks on sheep.

Falcon Farm owners Julia McKinley and Fraser Baldwin lost six breeding ewes and a lamb at the end of March, while eight of their newborn lambs were left orphaned. A nearby neighbour lost one more sheep that same night.

McKinley said she and Baldwin were woken up by a commotion in the sheep barn around 11:30 at night and discovered there had been an attack. They could hear dogs but could not see anything in the dark. They only discovered the true extent of the matter the following morning.

Five of the ewes they lost were euthanized by veterinarian Aleta Schmah later that day because they were too hurt to be saved.

"The one mother that was killed outright had two-day-old lambs, so for a sheep farmer, it's a real heartbreak," McKinley said. "We just

hope the bottle babies survive, and we'll do our best to feed them."

Dogs' natural chase instinct can be deadly even if they don't use their teeth. Pregnant ewes can be particularly vulnerable and may spontaneously abort when in danger. The Falcon Farm sheep were grievously injured, though, some with their skin torn off and their internal organs left hanging out.

McKinley said her Musgrave Road farm pasture is fenced, but not sufficiently well to keep out determined dogs. She and Baldwin will most likely need to create a smaller area with a secure perimeter. But they wouldn't need the added expense if people had control of their dogs.

Sheila Windsor of Windsor Farm helped McKinley and Baldwin recover after the attack and gave them milk replacer for the lambs. She knows from experience how devastating such an event can be. While some people on social media have suggested livestock farmers shouldn't care if their animals are killed, a dog attack means both that an investment is lost and that those animals die in a horrific way.

"There's a complete difference between one quick shot at the abattoir and being ripped apart alive by a dog," Windsor observed.

Even more troubling than having this happen on Falcon Farm is the fact it's suspected the dogs involved are known to island farmers and were the same ones sought after a series of attacks that took place in the north end of Salt Spring in 2018. Windsor said those dogs were seen in the Musgrave Road area and in Fulford in the weeks before the recent killing spree.

Allowing dogs to run at large is an offence under Capital Regional District bylaws. As well, the Right to Farm Act permits farmers to shoot any dogs found on their property that could pose a risk to their operations, whether or not those dogs are actively chasing or harming livestock.

The CRD can declare a dog to be dangerous and require it to be leashed and muzzled at all times. They can also seize such dogs and either rehome them somewhere where there are no farms, or euthanize them.

SHEEP KILLS continued on 2

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Sheep suffer traumatic deaths

SHEEP KILLS

continued from 1

"The trouble is, once a dog gets involved in an attack, usually they are going to do it again," said Don Brown, CRD chief of animal control and bylaw enforcement. "And if there are two or more dogs, they can kill an animal just by chasing it to death."

Brown said two of his officers were seeking an island resident believed to own the dogs implicated in the Falcon Farm attack. The dogs may be mixed shepherd breeds. As of last Tuesday, he said that person was no longer at their former residence or job and their phone had been disconnected, so they might have left the island. Even if that person is found, however, Brown said the evidence is "pretty circumstantial."

Windsor and other island farmers are frustrated by the CRD's lack of action so far. They believe the suspect dogs are responsible for close to 60 livestock deaths on multiple farms

over the past few years and should have been destroyed long ago. At the same time, though, there have been other incidents attributed to different dogs. The overall issue of pet control needs to be addressed, especially during spring, which is lambing season.

"Because of COVID, everyone has dogs now and no one has the proper etiquette," Windsor said. "These days everyone is getting dogs and having off-leash walks."

The CRD has a program for compensating livestock owners whose animals are killed by unknown dogs. Known owners of dogs that cause the loss of sheep or lambs are themselves responsible for those costs, but that is not a solution farmers want to see either.

"It's not okay to [get an offer of] reimbursement when you've cared for a sheep for four years and nursed it while it's giving birth," Windsor said. "That makes me sick. I did not okay your dog to rip it to shreds while it's still alive."



PHOTO BY JULIA MCKINLEY

One of the ewes on Falcon Farm that suffered a lethal dog attack just days after giving birth to lambs at the end of March.



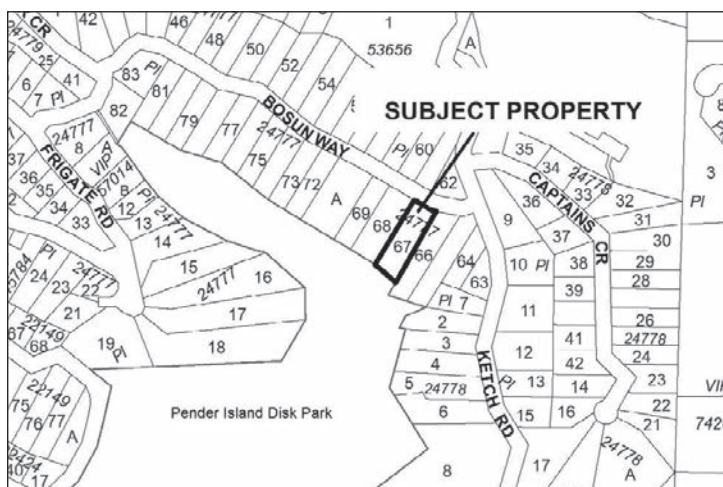
NOTICE NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NP-TUP-2021.1

NOTICE is hereby given that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit pursuant to Section 493 of the *Local Government Act*. The proposed permit would apply Lot 67, Section 10, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 24777 (PID: 002-815-869). This property is located at **4753 Bosun Way**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental within an Accessory Building (Cabin)** for a maximum occupancy of two (2) people.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached permit. The permit would be issued for three years and the owner may apply to the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee to have it renewed once for an additional three years. The use was previously permitted by NP-TUP-2016.2 and 2019.8 (Renewal).

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



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing April 9, 2021 and continuing up to and including **April 20, 2021**.

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

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Kim Stockdill, Island Planner at (250) 405-5157, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., **April 20, 2021**.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the electronic business meeting starting at 9:00 a.m., April 29, 2021.

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

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

PATHWAYS

SSITC backs off Ganges Hill plan

Plus private pathway remains closed to public

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Transportation Commission has decided to pull back on plans to build a pedestrian pathway in concert with Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure repaving on Ganges Hill, fearing their project demands might jeopardize the ministry's commitment.

MoTI has plans to repave Fulford-Ganges Road from just after the Seaview intersection to Cranberry Road. The project was originally scheduled to take place in 2020 and is now not envisioned until 2022 at the earliest.

"The more we talked about it, the more I could see that project potentially being pushed back. We're talking millions of dollars here, and I didn't want to kick that gift horse in the mouth," said Salt Spring's Capital Regional District electoral area director Gary Holman.

"It's still very good news they're spending millions of dollars on Ganges Hill, and those dollars are worth the wait."

The project work is to include a paved shoulder of at least 1.5 metres, plus a 0.5-m gravel shoulder. The transportation commission had wished to add a separated pedestrian pathway at the same time and had asked ministry staff to include provision for that in their design plans.

Complications arising from the terrain and inconsistent road width means MoTI will most likely be negotiating with property owners to produce sufficient right-of-way. Their staff don't believe there will be enough room for the pedestrian pathway as well.

"We wanted to do the construction at the same time, with the same contractors and the same equipment, and that's just not going to happen," said transportation commission chair Gayle Baker.

Baker noted the ministry plan does create a lot of new space that cyclists and pedestrians will be able to use. The commission now believes it will be best to see how that takes shape and then determine if they need to add a pathway project as well. They also may find they don't need to go up the hill as far as Cranberry Road. Pedestrian use may be heaviest between downtown Ganges and Community Services at 268 Fulford-Ganges Rd., for example, Baker said.

The decision to press pause on that project means the commission will need to identify a new number-one priority for its work program ahead. Baker observed they do not have any shovel-ready project designs currently on the shelf that could be submitted for grant applications. However, the James report that was used to generate the North Ganges Transporta-

tion Plan does identify two sidewalk needs that have yet to be realized, on the south side of Rainbow Road near the Lower Ganges intersection, and on Lower Ganges Road near the head of Ganges Harbour.

Baker said the commission also wants to undertake an "active transportation study" that would identify the best ways to improve pedestrian and cycling safety in town.

Holman said Fulford village and the hill leading away from the ferry terminal could be another priority area. There is now a working group that includes BC Ferries and Salt Spring's ferry advisory committee, and potential partnering opportunities for road improvements with the Fulford Water Service Commission, which needs to replace water mains under the road.

Additional good news, Holman reported, is that federal gas tax transfers have been doubled this year. Salt Spring will receive \$600,000 in 2021 that can be used for eligible infrastructure projects.

Valhalla Road pathway access shuttered

A pathway between Valhalla Road and the Meadowbrook seniors complex that was blocked off sometime around the end of February is likely to remain closed to the public, according to property representatives and CRD staff.

Jenny McClean, a representative of the family who owns the Atkins Road property, told the Driftwood a pedestrian pathway had never been permitted on the easement at the back of the lot. The family recently received information confirming that and therefore took steps to prevent public access.

Residents of the area like Mary Hughes said they have been surprised and dismayed to find part of the "Stevens Memorial Pathway" blocked after many years in use. Hughes frequently took the route and always believed it to be a public amenity.

"It's been a favourite walk of ours, up Swanson to Atkins, appreciating the pathway up Atkins to Meadowbrook, along the asphalt walkway to that short gravelled narrow section leading to Valhalla, and on home. It's been a great shortcut to get to Meaden Hall, Country Grocer and other destinations," Hughes said.

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation manager Dan Ovington said there is an easement on title for Ganges Sewer along the back end of the property where the pathway connects to it. That easement does not include language that would require or permit access for pedestrian use, however.

While the situation is unfortunate, Ovington said, it's ultimately a case of private property rights.

"We have a lot of this on Salt Spring, where people have historically passed over private property and then the property is sold and the new owner doesn't want the liability. And people get up in arms, but actually they're trespassing," Ovington said.

COVID-19

Vaccine clinic info confuses

Registration schedule moves ahead to 50+ group

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Confusion around COVID-19 vaccination appointments continued to frustrate Salt Spring residents last week as information delivered by Island Health and the province didn't always align with actual experiences.

Some islanders who were eligible to register for their vaccine booking date last week were disappointed to find there was no space available at ArtSpring this month, meaning they had to choose a clinic located on Vancouver Island if they wanted to be vaccinated sooner than that. The shift to a new clinic location at ArtSpring starting April 7 also proved confusing, as some people were wrongly informed that previously booked appointments at the public health office would still take place there.

Island Health confirmed last week that all vaccinations on Salt Spring are now taking place at ArtSpring. The health authority is adding capacity at the clinic later this month, and they advise people to try again if they were previously unable to book on Salt Spring, although the option to choose an earlier date off-island will still exist.

On average, Island Health says it is currently booking appointments between one and three weeks out.

"The time between booking an appointment and receiving a vaccine varies by community, depending on the size and capacity of local clinics. Vaccine supply and demographics are important factors as we get every dose we receive into people's arms as quick as we receive it," a message from the health authority stated.

Island Health states the number of clients at a given immunization clinic at a given time is based on a number of factors, including vaccine availability and distribution of staff resources.

People arriving for their appointments at ArtSpring are asked to use the centre's back entrance adjacent to the parking lot to avoid the stairs. All vaccine clinics are set up with adequate seating and wheelchairs to assist people who need them. Appointments are spaced and there is minimal waiting in line. No one with an appointment will be turned away if they are a few minutes late.

An accelerated registration schedule was announced by the province Monday. As of today (Wednesday, April 14), registration is open for Indigenous people born in 2003 or earlier (18+), other people born in 1971 or earlier (50+), and all residents who have been determined to be clinically extremely vulnerable. People ages 45 and up can begin to register on Friday.

The provincial call centre is open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at 1-833-838-2323. Registration can also be done 24 hours a day online at getvaccinated.gov.bc.ca, or in person at Service BC locations.

Some pharmacies in Victoria, including Pharmasave and Rexall locations, are now offering AstraZeneca vaccines to people born between 1956 and 1966. Appointments must be booked directly with those pharmacies. A map of available locations can be found at www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/pharmacy#find.

MARINE RESPONSE

Rescue delays ferry

Witness questions Coast Guard response

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries crew from the Skeena Queen and the Canadian Coast Guard were called to act Friday evening when an apparently unmanned boat was spotted careening down Fulford Harbour.

Fulford resident and experienced sailor Colin Coe first reported a sighting of Deep Sea Diver to the Coast Guard emergency line just before 7 p.m. on April 9. Coe noted the Skeena Queen would be arriving in Fulford and would probably pass close by the boat. He was concerned the vessel could be a potential danger to other boats and that an injured captain might in fact be aboard.

Coe said he was surprised to see the ferry come in without taking any action, especially since the vessel was drifting close to the ferry terminal and the government wharf by that time. He was even more shocked to see the Skeena depart again at 7:50 p.m.

Coe called the Coast Guard a third time just before 8 p.m. to warn them the boat was now on shore.

"A falling tide and strong wind warning from Environment Canada heightened my concern. I was told by the Coast Guard that a boat was on the way from Ganges," Coe reported.

BC Ferries told the Driftwood they were contacted by the Coast Guard at 8 p.m. and immediately launched their rescue boat to investigate. Around 15 minutes later, at 8:25, the Coast Guard arrived and assumed control of the operation. They towed the Deep Sea Diver back to the government wharf just before 9 p.m. An ambulance was waiting at the dock.

Coe believes the situation could have been handled better.

"I did not feel that the dispatcher on the first two calls took my information seriously enough," Coe said. "If indeed there was an incapacitated captain — it could just as easily been a single person on the boat that fell over — then the delay was unacceptable."

The Coast Guard was unable to comment before the Driftwood's press time.

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ONLINE SURVEY
APRIL 6 – MAY 4

Shape the Future of Transit on Salt Spring Island!

BC Transit and the Capital Regional District are seeking the public's feedback on how we can improve transit in your community. We want to know:

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Submit your response at engage.bctransit.com/saltspringisland2021 or scan the QR code.



Printed copies of the survey and a drop box are available at the SSI CRD Office located at 108-121 McPhillips Avenue.



WEEKLY COVID REPORT

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE & STAN DERELIAN

It was wonderful to see a decrease in COVID cases on the Gulf Islands in the March 28 to April 3 period in this time of a strong resurgence in British Columbia. Nearby, Victoria and the communities from Langford west have experienced an alarming increase. There were 198 cases reported for the week ending April 3. In the prior week,

the number of reported cases was 107. The Victoria, Langford, Colwood, Sooke area has never experienced this many reported cases in a single week.

Editor's note: Due to the long lag time between data being available and Driftwood's print date, we will now post the weekly chart on our gulfislandsdriftwood.com website as soon as data is published.

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

REPORTED ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 3/7-3-13	Week of 3/14-3/20	Week of 3/21-3/27	Week of 3/28-4/3
Southern Gulf Islands	1	0	6	2
Saanich Peninsula	3	2	11	12
Greater Victoria	49	52	83	145
Langford to Port Renfrew	7	17	24	53
Duncan Area	6	13	8	8
Chemainus to Nanaimo	64	48	77	80
Total	130	132	209	306

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

APRIL 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	
14	0003	2.2	7.2	18	1446	0.8	2.6	
	0524	2.9	9.5		2351	3.2	10.5	
	WE 1219	0.9	3.0		SU			
	ME 1956	3.0	9.8		DI			
15	0048	2.4	7.9	19	1538	0.9	3.0	
	0539	2.9	9.5					
	TH 1250	0.8	2.6		MO			
	JE 2052	3.0	9.8		LU			
16	0139	2.6	8.5	20	0042	3.2	10.5	
	0551	2.9	9.5		1638	0.9	3.0	
	FR 1324	0.8	2.6		TU			
	VE 2151	3.1	10.2		MA			
17	0246	2.7	8.9	21	0126	3.2	10.5	
	0558	2.8	9.2		1744	1.0	3.3	
	SA 1403	0.8	2.6		WE			
	SA 2252	3.1	10.2		ME			

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



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EDITORIAL

Where the water flows

A long-awaited study on Salt Spring water services was released last week, but the hard work is still to come.

The Salt Spring Island Water Service Optimization Study, completed by consultant Innova Strategy Group, was prompted by the fact that the North Salt Spring Waterworks District is prohibited from accessing provincial-federal infrastructure grants, unlike municipalities and regional districts. Attempts to convince the provincial government to change that restriction in the past several years have failed, but the government did agree to fund a study to see if improvements to the status quo could be found.

The simple solution would be for the NSSWD to become a service area with a commission of volunteers under the Capital Regional District, as five former Salt Spring improvement districts have done in order to access grant funds for new treatment plants.

But NSSWD trustees have an aversion to the loss of control that option implies, and know that dealing with the CRD comes with definite challenges. Instead, the NSSWD board favours what is known as the study's Option 3, the creation of a Salt Spring Island Water Utility department reporting directly to the CRD Board rather than to the CRD's chief administrative officer or a CRD Salt Spring administrative body.

On the surface, an agency that governs all or most water services on the island through the CRD sounds sensible. But it raises a number of questions too.

For one thing, island water resources are not an island-wide issue. We do not get our water from one big reservoir as some communities do. Four different lakes are in play, and about one third of Salt Spring's properties are either served by wells or small private systems. Would their owners contribute tax monies to water services they do not receive? Would they be allowed to sit as elected at-large commission members? How would infrastructure spending be prioritized?

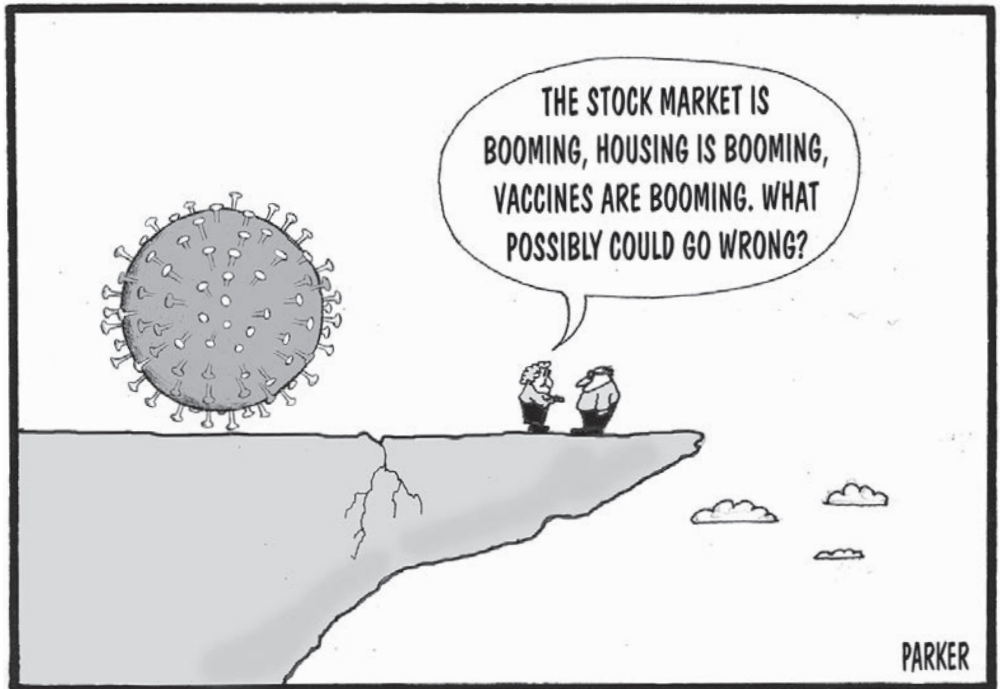
Beginning to explore Option 3 and the creation of a Local Community Commission to facilitate the change makes sense, if only to see if some of the governance and practical issues can be addressed. Whether or not the CRD would accept a set-up where a water utility is answerable to its board but not its administration is the first question that needs to be answered. If it is not, then the NSSWD truly is back to square one.

THE ISSUE:

Water optimization study

WE SAY:

More questions raised



Vaccines the right policy

BY JEFF WADE

I read Kim Hunter's April 7 opinion piece about vaccine skepticism with a mixed feeling of sadness and anger.

My wife Janice and I are American citizens, but our home has been Salt Spring since we discovered the island over 20 years ago. Last year, for the first time since finding this gem, we were unable to come home because of the spread of COVID-19. We've been stuck in a country that is spinning with confusion and teeming with anxiety because the last president insisted on inserting ego and politics into what should have been a purely scientific fight against a mutual enemy.

It is painful to read the same retrograde thinking in the Driftwood.

Vaccine passports are the logical and responsible way to handle the transition back to "normalcy," whatever that may become. The vaccines approved by the U.S. and Canada have been tested and approved — emergency use does not mean they "might" be safe: they are safe. Millions of us have had them with no ill effects, and the results are amazing. Virtually

VIEWPOINT

no deaths or serious illness in those vaccinated have been reported. Herd immunity is on the horizon.

Kim, if you don't want to take the vaccine, don't. But understand that you are breaking the social contract we all enter at birth. We make a pact with society. We will temper our personal freedom when the good of society demands. That is how we govern, Kim.

Would you prefer instead we pander to the intentionally ignorant?

We (ideally) express our concerns, then collectively take action deemed the best for the whole. If you are afraid, Kim, deal with your fear personally, and until you do, keep isolating from those of us who are getting the shots and building herd immunity so the disease dies, not us.

And please, stop the

false Nazi analogy. Yellow stars were forced on a group of people who did nothing, were no different than any other German. They were persecuted due to their ethnicity. You are making a choice to avoid the vaccine, an irresponsible choice. There is no parallel. Rather than discriminate, vaccine passports offer an incentive to the doubtful to step up and fulfill your duty as a citizen to conquer this virus. Would you prefer instead we pander to the intentionally ignorant?

Don't take your shots, Kim. But don't expect the rest of us, the responsible citizens, to shake your hand and welcome you to the party. You can't speed with impunity, you are forced to wear seatbelts; we have many responsibilities. This is another one of those obligations we all have, a big one, to protect all of us from this deadly disease.

Vaccine passports are equitable, promote safety, and encourage skeptics to think a bit more and perhaps join the rest of us in working toward a mutually respectful future. They are the right policy.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you support the vaccine passport concept?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the Rogers/CREST tower proposal?

195 320



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: }

"I did not okay your dog to rip [my sheep] to shreds while it's still alive."

SHEILA WINDSOR, WINDSOR FARM

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What are you excited about planting this spring?*

HIROE ROWTHORN



Beans, blueberries and herbs for the chickens.

GUILLAUME CHANUT



All the veggies! I'm having a garden for the first time.

JESS DAY



I'm eyeing the raspberries, and tomatoes.

ROD MARTENS



Snow puff cosmos.

NICOLE FISCHER



Trying to find some deer resistant plants. It's always hit and miss.

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

Holocaust comparisons exploit

We are writing in response to the "Vaccine passport alarming" Viewpoint published in the April 7 Driftwood.

What is truly alarming is the publication of this letter, and specifically the paragraph that compares the "whole handling of this virus" to Nazi Germany, followed by the question "Will those that don't get vaccinated be given a star? Just asking."

We find it abhorrent that the Driftwood, our local newspaper of record, would see fit to publish this anti-Semitic Holocaust distortionism. Furthermore, it was published on Yom HaShoah, the day of remembrance for Jewish victims of the Holocaust.

We understand that many people feel inhibited by the public health restrictions, they feel their rights and freedoms

are being infringed upon. But, surely these same people — crying out for respect of their personal liberty and opinions — can summon some respect for Holocaust survivors and their descendants, for the unimaginable suffering and generational trauma that has resulted? Allowing a platform for this kind of rhetoric is damaging, and every time these deeply inaccurate comparisons are made it is diminishing of the true horror of the Holocaust.

It isn't hard to find discourse on this topic. It is troublingly common after all. Take a moment to consider these words from ushmm.org: "Careless Holocaust analogies may demonize, demean, and intimidate their targets. But there is a cost for all of us because they distract from the real issues challenging our society, because they shut down productive, thoughtful discourse . . . it is especially dangerous to exploit the memory of the Holocaust as a rhetorical cudgel. We owe the

survivors more than that. And we owe ourselves more than that." Edna Friedberg, PhD

JESSICA MCDONALD,
ON BEHALF OF CONCERNED
COMMUNITY MEMBERS

Mismatched pair

The Driftwood's April 7 "Public feedback open on CREST/Rogers proposal" article is misleading.

Rogers and CREST are not a "team" that share the altruistic goal of improved emergency services. Rogers wants to build this 131-foot tower to help strengthen their telecommunications monopoly and their 5G network. CREST is simply leasing space for their equipment. Once this tower is in place, Rogers can — and has said they likely will — cover it with as many commercial antennas as it holds, greatly increasing the electromagnetic on our island.

In 2019, not just 200 letters, but almost 1,000 letters and

petition signatures were submitted to the Trust in opposition to the CREST Legion siting. Why? Residents voiced concern about our health, our environment, our privacy, the suitability of the location, and primarily, 5G. Why then would CREST now choose to "partner" with a company that is all about 5G? This shows a deep disconnect and a deep disrespect for the will of our island.

In terms of Safety Code 6, experts agree it is not protective enough. In 2001, the Salt Spring Trust recognized the need to take a precautionary approach to radiation exposure and created a guideline that is 228 times more protective than Safety Code 6.

Rogers and CREST are a mismatched pair. Let's not support "Big Telecom" but instead encourage CREST to build their own tower with no commercial antennas allowed.

JESSICA BECK,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Trust must act on climate emergency declaration

BY SHAUNA DOLL AND CHRIS GENOVALI

In 2019, the Islands Trust issued a "Climate Emergency Declaration" that committed them to "intensifying . . . efforts to better match the urgency of the climate change emergency."

Unfortunately, meaningful action associated with this declaration has yet to materialize. Considering that coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems within the Islands Trust Area store 82 per cent more carbon and have 43 per cent higher carbon sequestration potential than other parts of the region, ecosystem protection must be prioritized as a climate change response.

The Gulf Islands represent 33.2 per cent of the provincial extent of coastal Douglas-fir forests and associated habitats, which are among the most biodiverse in the province. Yet, this region is also the most degraded. According to the B.C. Conservation Data Centre, there are 43 ecological communities at risk within the coastal Douglas-fir zone. Even prior to the current climate and biodiversity crisis, the Islands Trust was uniquely mandated to "preserve and protect" the habitats and ecosystems of the Trust islands and ensure the sustainability of their communities.

An Oxford University publication from 2019 stated that coastal regions, islands and ecosystems "exist in a delicate balance at the land-sea interface," making them exceptionally vulnerable to climate change impacts. The loss, degradation and conversion of native habitats, forest canopy, forest understory, and wetlands, reduces water storage, perpetuates water shortages, increases soil desiccation and erosion, increases flood and fire risk, increases temperatures and heat waves, perpetuates declines in biodiversity and weakens community resilience.

A Nature series publication last month expanded on the impli-

cat- from such risks,

GUEST COLUMN

noting that habitat and climate-induced threats to biodiversity could have ripple effects from extinctions that can cascade beyond just a single species, impacting whole food webs and services that humans rely on. In light of the fundamental need for functioning food webs and the regional, national and international recognition of a global climate and biodiversity crisis, the Trust needs to act.

The loss of forest habitat on Trust islands is occurring because, despite the Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate, on some islands there are few to no constraints on the development of single or multi-unit properties, footprint of houses, or house amenities, nor are there limits on the extent of habitat conversion per lot, the extent of impervious surfaces, limits on water and other resource demands, limits on extensive tree removal, or limits to development and growth on finite islands. In addition, there appears to be no recognition of cumulative impacts on, or the carrying capacity of, the Gulf Islands.

As part of the Trust Policy Statement review process, Raincoast Conservation Foundation submitted a document reminding the Islands Trust that there is no place for a pro-development, urban planning approach in the Gulf Islands, which by definition are rural and by law were intended to be protected and managed for ecological and conservation value above all else. Whether "green" or not, more development is not the answer to mitigating climate change and creating ecological resilience on the Gulf Islands. Developers and development interests often exploit climate change, using it as an excuse to keep building in rural landscapes and green

spaces which should serve as regional refugia, and not be subject to further incursion.

The Trust Council needs to follow through on its Climate Emergency Declaration. Making such commitments without active implementation of substantive mitigative action renders the declaration nothing more than a public relations exercise. Arguments can be made that most islands have reached their development limits and additional anthropogenic pressure will exacerbate the climate-change-related issues the Trust claims it has prioritized. The Trust Policy Statement in its current form leaves too much open for interpretation and, despite a plethora of commitments and recommendations, very little is actionable via operational strategies or plans.

According to the IPCC, we have nine years to avoid the impacts of 1.5°C global warming above pre-industrial levels. The Trust must move toward implementing innovative environmental policies in collaboration with island communities, First Nations, scientists and policy experts. Land use and policy decisions affecting the rural landscapes of the Gulf Islands cannot continue to be shaped by urban planning perspectives. These decisions should be filtered through an ecological lens.

The most recent Trust Council meeting demonstrated a pervasive hesitancy to fully commit to the Trust's mandate and instilled little hope that consequential climate action will be taken.

Time is running out as business-as-usual practices strip the Gulf Islands of its forests and ecological resilience. The exigencies of the climate crisis are undeniable. The time for political bravery is now.

Shauna Doll is Raincoast Conservation Foundation's Gulf Islands forest project coordinator. Chris Genovali is Raincoast's executive director.



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MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Disrespectful

I am disheartened, saddened and angry that you chose to publish an opinion piece — “Vaccine passport alarming” — that compares the idea of a vaccine passport to Jewish citizens having to wear a yellow star during the Nazi regime in the 1930s.

Your decision to publish that piece uses the historic (and still felt) trauma of millions of Jewish people to make an inaccurate point that is misaligned, disrespectful and hurtful. Having to carry a piece of paper that indicates that you have protected yourself, your family, your friends and your neighbours by taking a vaccine that inoculates you against a global virus is massively different than being forced to wear a symbol that makes someone a target for murder.

That you published it on Holocaust Remembrance Day is not only entirely insensitive to Jewish members of our community but also undermines the importance of bringing forth important stories from our past that serve to remind us of the need to fight for kindness, equality and justice.

Such material is ignorant, irresponsible, unprofessional and ultimately damaging for our entire community.

CHRISTIE ROOME,
SALT SPRING

Shining a light

As a Pender Islander I want to thank you for the excellent article (“Helicopter buzzes up alarm on Pender”) in last week’s paper. I thought it was well presented and handled a very contentious issue in a rational and balanced way.

Many of us are not nearly as balanced, and believe me, there are a lot more of us than just a few “pitchfork brigade” members. We just want this helicopter gone and are so concerned about not only the precedent it sets, and the fire dangers, but also the very real threat of losing our birds. I always loved to take my binoculars and go up to Oak Bluffs to watch the turkey vultures in their nests and on two occasions was fortunate enough to see the Peregrine falcons building their nests. As they are an endangered species, it was so good to know they had found a home with us on our island.

Thanks again for shining a light on an issue that may soon affect all of our islands.

CHERIE THIESSEN,
PENDER ISLAND

Fibre optic claims

The group opposing the proposed G5 tower on Salt Spring claims that wired fibre optic cables are preferable for emergency communications.

This ignores the fact that such a sys-

tem will collapse even during a moderate earthquake, let alone a severe one. An earthquake is one of our greatest risks. Evidence from the earthquake in Christchurch, New Zealand indicates most buried communications cable and electric power systems were destroyed within minutes.

The group claims that “There are no studies showing that 5G or 4G are safe.” Well, that’s an impossibility. Nothing is absolutely “safe” and at most any study can only determine the level of risk. There are no studies showing that these frequencies are unsafe either, although some, mostly on social media, claim there are. Millimetre-wavelength non-ionizing radiation can’t even penetrate human skin.

URI COGAN,
SALT SPRING

Natural look

While serviceable, the large ugly concrete blocks near the cemetery and golf course used to construct the new pathway are pretty unsightly.

A facing wall of dry stack stone, as one sees lining the roads and lanes in Europe, would look charming and be in keeping with our natural look while hiding the concrete blobs.

BRENDA MACLEAN,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

COVID-19 IN BC

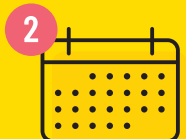
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1 Register now: ages 50 and over and Indigenous peoples ages 18 and over

Friday, April 16 at 12pm – ages **45 and over**
Monday, April 19 at 12pm – ages **40 and over**

Register at gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated



2 Watch for your invite and book your date

When it's your turn, you'll receive an email or text and can then book your appointment. Vaccine booking dates will vary based on your age, the region you live in and BC's vaccine supply.



3 Get vaccinated

Show up, get the shot and help put the pandemic behind us.

Rants + ROSES

Rants

On buying a greeting card in a local store I couldn't help but read that the design was made in the U.S.A. and the printing was done in China. Couldn't we start in a small way by not ordering from these companies? There are many artists in Canada, and also many print shops. What a difference it could make if we all only bought Canadian goods.
Connie Hardy

Roses

Sending a bouquet of roadside flowers to the happy flagman we look forward to seeing as we travel to town through the construction zones, these days. He makes the delays quite bearable, with his smiling antics, as if there's no place he'd rather be than right there. The Helsets

Roses of appreciation to all the staff at Country Grocer and Thrifty Foods. They remain cheerful and helpful, despite some difficult customers who are not being safe and kind. J. McLean

I would like to thank Kaz and Corey for building a new ramp at the skatepark that everyone really enjoys. Big thanks! Kieran

I noticed that the Murakami family put an item in the Driftwood thanking Richard's customers for their support over the past 53 years (let that number sink in). It is we, the residents of Salt Spring Island, who owe Richard and his family the deepest heartfelt thank you for all they have done for our community. Given their tragic history they had every reason to feel resentment. Instead, they

turned the other cheek and gave much love and support to those who needed it most. God bless the Murakami family. Their positive legacy is second to none and will never be forgotten.
Paul Oliphant

A bunch of “Scottish” roses to Dr. Applewhaite, Danielle, Jenny and Jen for looking after me so well on April 5 in emergency at Lady Minto Hospital. You're the best. Scott Merrick

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to my wonderful Aquafit instructor of 17 years, Brenda Akerman. Brenda went that extra mile for each one of us in the class, always checking to make sure everyone was comfortable doing our exercise routine. And if someone was having trouble, Brenda would never fail to help them out right away. I'll really miss having Brenda teach our class, but I'm very happy she felt she could retire at last. I wish her all the very best! Love you, Brenda! Aldyth

A shelf full of cascading roses for all volunteers and staff at our Salt Spring Library! It is so wonderful to have access to books, to be able to request a book online and find it ready for pick-up. I don't know what I'd do without our library, so please respect their hard work by wearing a mask and keeping everyone safe. M. Ruurs

A rose to Kim Hunter for her wisdom and bravery! K. Peter

I'd like to send a bunch of Girl Guides Blue roses to Seven Ravens Tree Farm for their generous support of backpacking gear to the Island Trex Girl Guides group.

For more details, visit gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated



LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

Wow!

So many Salt Spring Islanders have stepped up to pick up trash on the island since our campaign launched last week. We are thrilled to see how community members have embraced the opportunity to clean up their island, and to learn about people who are doing it even without an organized campaign.

Some people have picked their neighbourhoods, while others have chosen areas they walk regularly, or that are important to them in some way. A number of keeners have reported that their task is already done.

Thank you to everyone who has signed up and/or tackled their chosen area so far!

Next week we will publish a map to show how much of the island has been cleaned up or committed to being cleaned up so far.

Joining in is simple: Just pick an area of the island to rid of trash and recyclables at some point during the month of April. Let us know what you've done or committed to and we will add your name and area to our running list. Phone us at 250-537-9933 or email news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com. We have also prepared a tip sheet to make the process as easy as possible.

People can pick up garbage bags donated by Laurie's as well as a coupon to cover disposal cost at the Driftwood office at 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd. (the former surveyors' office) on Ganges hill between Monday and Friday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

OUR RUNNING LIST AS OF MONDAY IS:

- Cusheon Lake Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to Stewart Road – Connie Hardy & Don McMahon
- Racheal Doucette & Todd Mitchell – Atkins Road
- Sicherman Family – Baker Beach
- Rosamund & Patrick Dupuy – Fulford-Ganges Road from the bridge to Fulford village. Possibly some of the way down Isabella Point Road.
- Elizabeth Nolan – North End Road between North Beach and Whims
- Damian Richards – 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd. to the village
- Nancy Johnson – 690 Sunset Drive to Duck Creek Park
- Gail Sjuberg – Cranberry Road from Fulford-Ganges Rd to Blackburn
- Karen Hudson & Lynda Nash – Isle View Drive
- Transition Salt Spring – Marine Working Group: Burgoyne Bay beach from wharf to head of the harbour
- Fiona Wolfe-Milner – Old Scott Road and Welbury Drive
- Krista Lefler – Walkers Hook Road from Deer Park to Maliview Drive
- Linda Dares and Susannah Devitt – Robinson Road
- Karen Mouat & Doug Abernethy – 780 to 877 Sunset Dr. and Sir Echo's Way
- Paul de Roo – Fulford-Ganges Road from Jones Road to Fulford Hall
- Carron Carson and Bob Reynolds – Roscommon, Corbett Road through Lady Minto parking lot, Kings Lane to Norton Road, Lower Ganges to Roscommon circuit.
- Angela Trarup and Helen Hincliff – Lower Ganges Road from Wildwood Crescent to Crofton Road
- Danielle and Etienne Osieck – Starks Road
- Diane & Scott Fraser – St. Mary Lake area – Lucky Point to 1381 North End Rd.
- Girl Guides group – Salt Spring Island Middle School area
- Steve Coopman & Michelle Grant – North Beach Road – all of it
- Susan Fussell – Peter Arnell Park area
- Nora Wright – Baker Road
- Gwen McDonald and Curt Firestone – Bradley Road neighbourhood
- Jan Fellenius and Nelly – Lower Ganges Road across from the golf course
- Annebeeke Breuer – Long Harbour Road area
- Claudia Travesi and Sophie – From Community Services down to Ganges, around town, Centennial Park and part of Rainbow
- Terry Simard – Lower Ganges Road from Crofton to Rainbow
- Amanda McLeod – North End Road from North Beach to Southey Point Road
- Country Grocer crew – Area around Country Grocer
- Ken Jackson – Baker Road
- Blair Carley – Rainbow Road from GISS to the Farmers' Institute



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Asher Odurukwe cleans up North End Road near Cedar Beach Resort on Saturday. Asher was not aware of the Driftwood campaign and was doing it of his own accord.



PHOTO COURTESY NANCY JOHNSON

Driftwood publisher Nancy Johnson with the two bags of trash and recyclables picked up in 2.3 kilometres between 690 Sunset Drive and Duck Creek Park last week.

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NEXT TO COUNTRY GROCER

what's on this week



Wed. Apr. 14

VIA ZOOM

Gulf Islands Board of Education Meeting. 1 p.m. See SD64.bc.ca for the link.

Thur. Apr. 15

VIA ZOOM

Together In Concert. A Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign event in solidarity with African grandmothers. Performance event features Jackie Richardson, Steven Page, Stratford Festival, David Myles, National Ballet of Canada, Sheree Fitch, Bridge Brass Quintet, the della kit and more. Access begins at 4:30 today and continues through 4:30 p.m. on April 18. Register at www.cdngrandmothers.com.

Fri. Apr. 16

VIA ZOOM

Together In Concert. See Thursday listing.
ASK Salt Spring. Guests are MP Elizabeth May, MLA Adam Olsen, CRD director Gary Holman and Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com to get the link.

Sat. Apr. 17

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Saturday market runs with COVID-19 safety protocols in place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat. Apr. 17

VIA ZOOM

Island Resilience Poetry Readings. Readings by seven Salt Spring island poets in celebration of National Poetry Month. Christine Smart, Brian Day, Diana Hayes, Karl Meade, Rowan Percy, Murray Reiss, Sandi Johnson. 7 p.m. To register, email: programs@saltspringlibrary.com
Together In Concert. See Thursday listing.

Sun. Apr. 18

VIA ZOOM

Water Storage Options for the Gulf Islands. With panelists Gord Baird, Maxine Leichter and Grant Wickland. 3 to 4:30 p.m. Registration by donation at tinyurl.com/collectwaterSSI
Together In Concert. See Thursday listing.

Mon. Apr. 19

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting. 6:30 p.m. See saltspringfire.com for the link.

Tue. Apr. 20

VIA ZOOM

Bridges of Love: Unearthing Histories. First in a series called Conversations on Racism presented by the Japanese Garden Society of SSI. With Evelyn White, Joanne Bealy, Rumiko Kanesaka and Brian Smallshaw, moderated by Maggie Ziegler. 3 to 4 p.m. See saltspringjapanesegarden.com/conversations-on-racism/ for the Zoom link.

VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission. Monthly business meeting. 3 p.m. Email rsoles@crd.bc.ca for an audio-only link to the meeting.

Wed. Apr. 21

VIA ZOOM

Freshwater Stewardship for Challenging Times. Real-world solutions to help protect a precious island resource. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Registration by donation at www.tinyurl.com/SSFreshwater
Alexandra Morton Author Conversation. Alexandra Morton talks with Briony Penn via Zoom about her new book called Not On My Watch. To register please email: programs@saltspringlibrary.com

Island Resilience Poetry Readings
Salt Spring poets read in celebration of National Poetry Month.
Saturday, April 17 at 7 p.m.
To register, email: programs@saltspringlibrary.com

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THE FRITZ CINEMA

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



EXHIBITIONS

• **Spring Art Show - Cave Chanting: A Ronald T. Crawford Retrospective** runs at Mahon Hall from April 16 to May 2, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Youth Exhibit - Art Not Apart** runs in the annex gallery at Mahon Hall from April 16 to May 2, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.
- **Gallery 8** celebrates its 12th anniversary with the **Symbolically 8 Exhibition** upstairs in the gallery from April 17 to May 14.
- **Impressions 6**, new original prints by 15 artists from the SSI Painters' Guild printmakers group, runs in the program room at the Salt Spring Public Library until April 30.
- **Naoko Saito** is the featured artist at **Switchboard Cafe** this month.

MORE LETTERS

CREST support requested

As CRD director, I've written to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee urging their support for the proposed telecommunications tower in the Channel Ridge area by Rogers and the non-profit CREST emergency telecommunications agency. This proposal does not deal with the coverage gaps in the Ganges area, which a previous CREST proposal attempted to address, but will provide needed improvements in communications coverage for north Salt Spring that will better serve any of our first responders working in that area of the island.

CREST has been upgrading its system throughout the Capital Regional District. Through the CRD, taxpayers on Salt Spring are participants in and contribute to the regional emergency communications system and its upgrading costs. The co-location of CREST equipment on the Rogers tower is a cost-effective approach to improving telecommunication coverage while minimizing the number of towers. It should be noted that the TELUS tower in the same Channel Ridge area was not available to accommodate either Rogers or CREST. Also, Rogers proposes to construct a tower with or without CREST, so building a tower specifically for emergency communications would be more costly (including for local taxpayers) and would not necessarily preclude the erection of yet another tower.

Dr. Richard Stanwick, Vancouver Island's chief medical health officer, has written the Trust previously, stating that in his view, and that of the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), the benefits of emergency communications outweigh any perceived health risks. The wave strength at the base of the tower, which would be located adjacent to a protected forest,

is below that recommended in the Local Trust Committee guidelines, which themselves are even stricter than federal standards.

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District (through CRD), BC Ambulance Service, and RCMP are all members of CREST and support these improvements, as do our local search and rescue organizations and the CRD Emergency Program.

But the Trust also needs to hear from the community at large. Please contact Local Trust Committee planner Geordie Gordon at (ggordie@islandstrust.bc.ca) in support of a cost-effective improvement to emergency communications for all of our first responders on Salt Spring. Comments are accepted until close of business on April 16.

GARY HOLMAN,
SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR

No control over towers

I would like to express my opposition to the Rogers tower that CREST will be a tenant of. With these projects, Canadians are left to be at the mercy of large monopolistic companies who set their own terms.

I am not certain why we are in that position, as Canada has options other than letting a telecommunication giant determine how many tenants will be on a telecommunications tower, who those tenants will be, what they will pay and so on. There is really no control over how Rogers wishes to manage this once the genie is out of the bottle.

If the offer made by Rogers is declined by Salt Spring, there will be other offers later in the future. If the offer is accepted, we are stuck with all the effects, and we don't even know what those will be yet. There is no deadline for removal of the tower once it is in place.

Public input is accepted only until April 16 and that is a strict deadline. Please put in your letters.

JENNY MCCLEAN,
SALT SPRING

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EXHIBITIONS

Arts Council presents Ron Crawford

Spring retrospective opens Friday at Mahon Hall

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Long-time islander and local arts champion Ronald T. Crawford takes the spotlight this season as anchor of the Salt Spring Arts Council's 14th Annual Spring Art Show — formerly the Easter Art Show — opening this Friday, April 16 at Mahon Hall.

The show *Cave Chanting: A Ronald T. Crawford Retrospective* is curated by Rosalie Matchett and will feature some of the artist's early work dating back 40 years, artworks that are now in private collection and a good selection of Crawford's most recent ongoing project, *Chasing Shadows*.

The arts council observes Crawford has been a strong instigator for the visual arts on Salt Spring. He is a past chair of the organization, one of the original organizers for Art Night, and the founding director of the Salt Spring National Art Prize.

Crawford's paintings and stone sculptures can meanwhile be found in private and public collections. Well-known works include the large wall piece *Once Upon a Time* at the entrance to the Salt Spring Library, and the *Standing Stone Circle*, commonly known as *The Babas*, a landmark installation at the Stonehouse B&B on Fulford-Ganges Road.

Visual artist Matchett said when she took on the role of curator for the retrospective, she was keen to create a catalogue for the show.

"This way I could really get to know Ron's work and include pieces that were no longer on the island. I chose the piece *Cave Chanting* as the title because it is a mid-career painting that touches on many

of the themes in Ron's work: his use of pattern to create structure, his suggestion of expanded space and geological forms and the allusion to a mythic narrative that occurs in many of his pieces."

Crawford was heavily influenced by abstract expressionism in his early years, but after seeing an exhibition of the ancient Book of Kells he began to consider the power of pattern, and to explore their expression in traditional cultures as well as their occurrence in nature.

"I am always thinking what kind of forces went together to make that happen," Crawford said of the natural phenomena. "Then I think, 'what is the quality there that is attracting me to it and how can I replicate that in a painting?'"

His most recent work merges the boundaries between sculpture and painting in three-dimensional wall pieces that begin with creating organic-feeling plaster formations over the base layer. In the final stages of painting, colour is neutralized to emphasize the sculptural elements, but as Matchett points out, the more the viewer looks, the more under-layers of colours emerge and the paintings' rich visual palette becomes evident.

A limited number of catalogues will be for sale at the show. Both the show and the catalogue are sponsored by Steffich Fine Art.

The retrospective runs from April 16 to May 2, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at Mahon Hall, following all provincial health orders, including mandatory masks. The arts council is also offering a diverse selection of free artist talks, kids workshops and public programs starting next week.

Full details and registration links can be found at <https://ssartscouncil.com/eas2021/>.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Spring Art Show feature solo artist Ron Crawford at his studio, with one of his new artworks seen at right.

VIRTUAL TREASURE FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

ArtSpring Treasure Fair 2021 is going virtual.

Silent auction:

Wed July 14 - Sun July 18

Live auction:

Sat July 17

More details, how to help and how to bid, coming soon.



artspring.ca

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ISLAND LIFE

BEACHCOMBERS

Message in a bottle thrills kids

Baker Beach find inspires search for senders

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring families may have their eyes trained on island beaches and roadsides this month for the Driftwood's litter clean-up campaign, but not every discarded item is necessarily trash.

For islanders Julia and Oscar Ashman, ages seven and five, a soda bottle they found at Baker Beach last week belonged more in the treasure category — a rare message-in-a-bottle discovery.

The children's mother Serena Picca said they were on the beach to the right of the access stairs and had not gone far at all before they spotted the glass bottle lying on the sand near a rock.

"It looked a bit used. Maybe it stayed in the water a while," Picca said.

The family was excited to see what looked to be a note inside. Extracting it took some work because some water had gotten in and they were trying not to damage the paper any further.

"The kids were expecting pirates or maybe a message from Japan, but it didn't travel too long," Picca said.

Indeed, the senders seem to be two other children named Eliza and Liliana who live right here on Salt Spring. Their handwritten note says anyone who finds the message should keep it, but can also put their own message into the bottle and return it to the sea. The senders also advise, "You should get a cat."

Picca said her kids would like to connect with the girls who sent the note, if possible. Since the soda the bottle once held had a 2022 expiration date it may not have been in the water that long.

Anyone who knows who the senders might be is invited to contact Elizabeth at the Driftwood at 250-931-3305 so we can help put them in touch with the recipients.

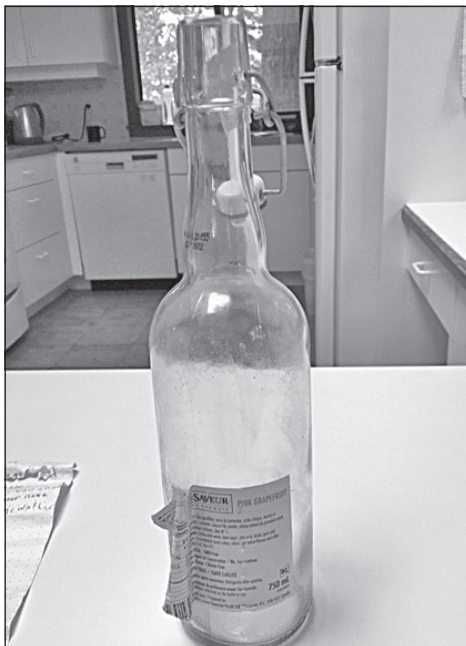


PHOTO BY SERENA PICCA

Bottle found by Julia and Oscar Ashman at Baker Beach last week. They are hoping to find the local kids who sent the note inside.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Racism conversation series launches Tuesday

Japanese and Black histories in focus

The first in a series of online conversations on the subject of racism presented by the Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island takes place on Tuesday, April 20.

As press material explains, "In this time of escalating racial hostility, in our immediate community and across the world, the work of bringing to light history and historical racism is critically important to making sense of the present."

The Tuesday event, which is called Bridges of Love:

Unearthing Histories and runs from 3 to 4:30 p.m., features two couples who have made significant contributions in unearthing history and building bridges to the past. Evelyn White and Joanne Bealy contributed to making visible the history of the Black community on Salt Spring,

while Rumiko Kanesaka and Brian Smallshaw have been involved for years with projects that unearth Japanese Canadian history. Maggie Ziegler is the event moderator.

Get the Zoom link on the saltspringjapanesegarden.com site under Anti-Racism Forums.

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.

Spring enters its mid-month period this week. First Venus and then followed by the Sun, Taurus time will seem to start early for those sensitive to such timing shifts. Given the larger backdrop of planetary influences, the overall atmosphere certainly reveals the revolutionary beat and pulse of our times. Aries is the sign of the pioneering leader, and Mars can be described as the verb in the sentence, the principle of action. Together, they manifest as the warrior principle with all of its pointed, energetic, assertive and aggressive resolve combined.

Taurus follows up with added determination to forge ahead and to push through any opposition. Where Aries represents germination and sprouts breaking through the crust, Taurus time reveals plants growing and gaining strength and establishing a foundation able to sustain continued growth. Nature works this way, yet human nature includes ego and free will and this is where things get both interesting from a whole new perspective, yet also chaotic and complex.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) The garden, the land or nature in general will call you out even louder this week. You will take delight in the blossoms and the birds, bees and all the rest. Practical matters will also assume more of your priority and include an emphasis on investments. This trend will continue and grow throughout the month and into May, leading you into much deeper places yet.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Venus and Sun entering your sign will activate a whole new level of leadership and charge. Already others see you as a person ready and willing to take a revolutionary lead. Although not easy, you are determined to plow ahead with the finesse of a bulldozer. Keeping the peace has perhaps become a thing of the past, leaving friends to guess and wonder.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) While you were quick to grab hold of the spring season early, you will not find yourself happy to simply linger in its warmth and beauty. It is not so much a matter of 'doing' as it is one of 'being'. Yet, you are keen to learn and come to new realizations. Going at your own pace is your main specification, which should amount to steady progress.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) March certainly described your pace and intention, and while this drive to enter new territory, especially in your public and professional life does continue, you are happy to direct the focus to more joyful and creative activities again. This does not mean you will be idle, as a good portion of your focus is upon preparing for the future. Yet, you want to play and visit too.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) You have been aspiring to see a bigger picture. Along the way, your sense of ethics and principles, your overall philosophy of life has been under review. While you are hardly in a mood to surrender, you are determined to decipher how you can best adapt, as well as fight against trends that are an affront to your sense of what is right and true.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) Looking back over the past few weeks, you will notice that some distinct and deep changes have occurred within you and your attitude going forward. In some respects, this process is still underway. It will shift this week, however, and lead you to embrace the beauty of the season and simply be for a while. But act now and don't put it off as matters will intensify soon.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) Shifts and changes on relationship fronts have and continue to inspire you to engage. These fresh starts come with the season, yet may prove longer lasting. Positively, you are ready for a deeper dive and this could well include love interests and perhaps romance too. With your passions steadily deepening you push for fulfillment and pleasure.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Fresh starts in your daily rhythm and routine are by now underway. Getting these going remains a focus, yet you are wise to take the initiative now if your ambitions continue to linger as thoughts and plans. The emphasis will shift to others and on both fronts your focus includes healthy improvements. Your resolve is deep but your methods may require review.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) You have been energetically and boldly tackling new creative projects. Some of these have likely lead to exchanges with others requiring diplomacy and negotiation. This theme of focus will continue this week, but you will be ready to forge ahead and with impassioned zeal very soon. Get ready; realizing dreams will take on a whole new attitude.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) A whole new resolve has been awakening within you. Your determination to work harder is indicated. How you proceed now is extra important. In some respects, you may notice that you have changed and you may not even recognize yourself as the person you once were. The main question is: are you happy with the new you? If not, this is your cue.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) Your perceptions are getting sharper by the day. This is not to say that they are all accurate and true from a purely objective perspective, however. So, you are wise to honour what you believe, yet also be willing to try to see as others do too. Some live by survival instinct, some purely by rationale, others by empathy and some by varying degrees of intuition. Understand to see more clearly.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Looking back over the past few weeks, there has probably been a mixture of fresh starts, endings and new orientations too. These new attitudes and approaches will take on increased momentum this week and next even more so. For now, keep digging to get even clearer on what you deem important and how you plan to proceed.

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Mechanic

Cars are not meant to sit still.

Vehicles that have been sitting for months unused always end up needing more maintenance than usual.

With the recent restrictions on travel many vehicles are getting limited use. Be good to your vehicles and take them for a drive once a week. A quick run to town for milk doesn't really do it, you need to get it right up to operating temperature and use the brakes enough to get rid of the rust that always accumulates. Many more good things are happening at the same time. A half hour loop around the island will do wonders.

Be socially responsible.

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

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



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Obituaries



Jim Hull

It is with a heavy heart that we announce the passing of Jim Hull.

Survived by his son Richard, and sister Janice. Jim passed away on March 27th at 63 years old.

Such a creative guy with one heck of a green thumb. Anyone who knows him will always remember his smile, that sideways look and his laugh.

Richard has fond memories of the adventures his dad took him on as a kid, up the mountain, down to the beach and playing in the woods. Jim's imagination always ran as wild as he did. A long-haired islander with his bike and a leather jacket, he grew up here and in his final years spoke fondly of his memories of this town and the good ol' days.

You will always hold a place in our hearts, and we will miss you, father and friend.

Rest in peace Cricket.

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In Memoriam

In Memoriam

SHEILA MACDONALD PEEBLES



On April 16, 2020 the good lord called another of his flock home. Sheila MacDonald Peebles joined her dear husband Sam, her grandson Jacob and great granddaughter Aubrey in eternal rest.

Sheila started life in Kelowna until she moved briefly to Powell River for her first teaching assignment. Her next year would take her to Quesnel, where she would meet her Sammy, they spent a wonderful 63 years together.

During their lifetime, they would have lots of adventures including one that took them to the Northwest Territories to the hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk. A bold adventure for a young couple with two young children. They would stay for two years and then return to the south to Enderby where they both taught for 28 years.

Their adventures did not stop there, they moved to Vancouver until they found their forever home here on Salt Spring Island.

They would spend their time tending their well loved garden and being active members of Salt Spring United Church.

Sheila's love of life was her singing, gardening but most of all her Sam and her children.

She is lovingly remembered by Stacey and Jack along with grandsons Sam (Lindsay) Toni (Alicia) and Jacob deceased. Along with her greaties Owen, Emerson, McKenna, Carter and Aubrey deceased.

As yet we have been unable to honour her with a celebration of life. It is our wish to do so as summer approaches and life may return to normal.

A great many thanks to the wonderful care at Lady Minto, with a special thank you to Dr. Reznick.

Any memoriam blessings may be directed to Salt Spring United Church.

Coming Events

Concrete & Placing

The Salt Spring Island Foundation's dynamic and committed board of directors seeks a new board member to chair the Communications Committee. You would be supported by committee members and capable staff who play a key role in our communications. Do you have experience in communications? Do you have experience as a Board member? Do you have time to volunteer for this position? Would you like to make a positive difference in the lives of Salt Spring islanders? If you answered yes to these questions, you may be the right person to lead our Communications Committee. You would have an important role in planning and implementing effective print and electronic communications to community partners, donors and all islanders. **Contact our Board Chair, Brian Lawson, at brian@ssifoundation.ca.**

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ROGER STEWART WARREN
1941 - 2021



Roger was born in Epsom, Surrey, England, on the 16th of August 1941. He emigrated to Canada with his parents as a teenager and grew up in Ontario.

In 1984 he moved to Salt Spring Island, BC, where he established Chickadee Pine, a handmade furniture business. He participated in the restoration of Mahon Hall, belonged to the Folk Music Club, and was active in the arts community. He also began sculpting, seeing the forms of birds and animals in collected pieces of wood.

He retired on six forested acres at the south end of the island, where he lived his final fifteen years in a sprawling house that he built and filled with his handmade furniture and carvings.

Robert died on the 6th of March 2021 at Lady Minto Hospital on the island and will be missed by many, including two ex-wives, Maggie Warren in Ontario and Judi Underwood of Victoria, BC; his step daughter Cyndy Spiers of Newmarket, ON; his cousin Sue Rehill (husband Ken) of Parksville, BC, and their son Kevin Rehill of Pemberton, BC; and another second cousin Roland Bonser in Washington State, USA. And also, in particular, by his friend of 60 years, Jim Ready of Innesfil, ON, and last but not least, his faithful dog Buddy.

Information

Drafting & Design

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 saltspringsingers.ca/scholarships.html or contact Lesley Reynolds at (250) 537-4861 or lesleyr1@telus.net

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Coming Events

Wednesday, April 21st, 7PM
ALEXANDRA MORTON,
Biologist and Author of *Not on My Watch*, with Local Environmentalist and Author **BRIONY PENN**
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NOMINATIONS FOR TRUSTEE

Nominations are now open for a trustee of **Scott Point Waterworks District**, for a 3-year term ending at the Annual General Meeting in 2024. Any property owner in the District who is a Canadian citizen over the age of 19 years old can be nominated. Nominations can be sent to trustee@scottpointwaterworks.com or mailed to 377 Scott Point Drive, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2R2 no later than April 23, 2021. If required, an election will be scheduled after that.

The trustee reports and the financial statements for the year ended Dec 31, 2020 have been posted to the District's website at www.scottpointwaterworks.com.

Please note that the Annual General Meeting has been postponed until Provincial Health Orders allow such gatherings.

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Victor Cecil Austin
1928 - 2021



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of a great man a husband, father, brother, grandfather, great grandfather, Victor Cecil Austin (Vic). On April 8 2021 he passed away peacefully in his sleep. He is survived by his wife of 72 years Violet, sons Garry (Charlotte), Mark (Laurel), Tim (Lorraine), 6 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren. Born in Saskatchewan, moved to Richmond in the 40's, retired to Salt Spring Island 38 years ago. An avid handyman and golfer (golfing he always kicked our butts).

We will all miss you greatly.

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 10

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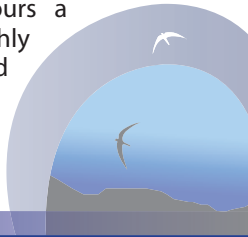


SALT SPRING ISLAND COMMUNITY SERVICES SOCIETY (SSICS) is inviting individuals dedicated to serving the community to apply for a role as a member of the board of directors.

- **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.**



CLIMATE CHANGE

Discussion flows on water issues

Transition Salt Spring hosts two events

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN
TRANSITION SALT SPRING

On our raincoast island, it can seem like there's "water, water, everywhere." In a landscape dotted with lakes and streams and an average 900 mm of rain every year, it might be hard in a soggy January for Salt Springers to relate to calls for water conservation.

But fast-forward to August. Soils in our forests get bone dry, and leaf litter underfoot sounds more like autumn. Our lakes and streams provide over half of our drinking water, with groundwater and rainwater storage making up the other half. And the recharge of those sources comes entirely from rainfall. Climate forecasts tell us what we know in our bones: that the amount of rain falling in the winter is getting heavier, with more of it running away to the ocean, and our summers are getting hotter and drier.

The warning signs are clear, and more troubling when you add to that an overall trend that sees our population forecast rising almost 10 per cent by 2030, on top of a typical tourist season which sees our numbers almost double to 20,000.

The conservation of water is already a habit for many of us. But many of us don't fully understand where our water comes from or think enough about our role in ensuring an adequate quality water supply for our communities and our ecosystems. Forests, streams, marshes and all the non-human species that populate them also need their share. This not only keeps our island's eco-



systems healthy and beautiful but keeps our communities safer from the ever-increasing risk of forest fires.

Climate change impacts the water cycle by influencing when, where and how much rain falls. Warming global temperatures cause water to evaporate faster, which leads to higher levels of atmospheric water vapour and more intense and heavy rains.

Climate modelling for our region shows that those increasingly intense winter rains will fall faster than soil, plants and forests can absorb them. This muddy runoff drains into nearby waterways, picking up contaminants like fertilizer on the way. All this ends up in our lakes, estuaries and the ocean, polluting waterways and causing overgrowth of harmful algae. Reliant as we are on lakes for drinking water, worsening algal blooms rob lake systems of purifying sunlight and oxygen and drive up the cost of potable water.

Salt Spring's newly released Climate Action Plan weaves the links between rainfall, freshwater and forest conservation. While setting out a bold plan to reduce island emissions by 50 per cent by 2030, the plan also lays out a stark warning: the future viability and safety of our island's drinking water will be under increasing threat if we do not act now to protect ecosystems ahead of increasing drought, higher temperatures and damaging storms.

Aside from the obvious fire risks from tinder-dry summers on Salt Spring, low-lying Ganges village — portions of which are built over what was once ocean and estuary — faces a future of ocean flooding during king tides in storm season only 80 years from now. Overdrawing well-water and rising oceans also risk saltwater intrusion that would affect not just one well, but all of them within a shared aquifer.

Anyone who has applied for a building permit lately knows that freshwater scarcity is also constraining development on Salt Spring Island. Since 2014, North Salt Spring Waterworks District has placed a moratorium on new water connections and imposed conservation regulations. Pressures for affordable housing are at an all-time high; these constraints are causing real hardship for families, workers and island businesses. How will we balance these needs?

Transition Salt Spring, under the "One Cool Island" banner, aims to chart a way forward for inter-agency collaboration to protect water supplies and wildlife, prevent flooding, boost low water levels, improve aquifer recharge rates and enhance water quality.

We welcome you to take part in two upcoming informative online events — described below — to learn more about the interconnectedness of water, forests, climate and our shared future.

Water Storage Options for the Gulf Islands

Sunday, April 18 from 3 to 4:30 p.m. Registration by donation at tinyurl.com/collectwaterSSI

Every year, nearly one cubic meter of rain falls on every square meter of Salt Spring Island. So why do we have a water shortage problem? How and why should we collect and store water?

This live virtual discussion will feature a panel of experienced practitioners involved with different water conservation approaches, collection and storage.

Freshwater Stewardship for Challenging Times

Wednesday, April 21, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Registration by donation at www.tinyurl.com/SSFreshwater

There's a lot we can do to reduce fire risks while addressing water quality and supply issues. At this special two-hour event, you will hear about exciting real-world solutions to these big picture problems from:

- Robin Annschild on efforts to restore wetlands at Xwaaqw'um ("Burgoyne Bay");
- Shannon Cowan and Bryan Young on the most important freshwater recommendations in the Climate Action Plan;
- Julie Pisani and Laura Patrick in a conversation about local government priorities related to freshwater stewardship.

We encourage you to join us! One Cool Island indeed.

One Cool Island is a regular series produced by Transition Salt Spring on how we can all respond to the climate crisis, together. Andrea Palframan is a TSS director and communications lead. More information: transitionssaltspring.com.

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11AM-5PM

CAVE CHANTING

A RONALD T. CRAWFORD RETROSPECTIVE

MAHON HALL

EVENTS ARE FREE | FULL DETAILS AT SSARTSCOUNCIL.COM

April 23 Artist Talk: Ron Crawford, 7pm, online
April 24 Kids Workshop: Collage Garden with Rosie Schinners, 11-2
April 27 Artists Talk: The Nature of Creativity, 7 PM, online
May 1 Kids Workshop: Rock Painting with Cathie Grindler, 11-2
Also Art on the Hall Mini-Murals | Youth Exhibit, Annex Gallery

www.ssartscouncil.com | 250.537.0899