

inside:

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, Apr. 21, 2021

LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

Driftwood

62nd year Issue 16 \$1.50

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7 Map shows progress of island clean-up.



9 Crawford retrospective impresses at Mahon Hall



12 Students correspond with Royal Family



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

SPIRIT OF OPENNESS: Cherie Geauvreau of the Wagon Wheel Housing Society, which has spearheaded a public laundromat, shower and soap exchange facility in the Creek House complex on Fulford-Ganges Road in Ganges, with a mural created by artist Talia Peckel on a wall in the new space. A critical part of the process – hiring of staff – has been delayed by COVID-19 restrictions, but Geauvreau said interviews will be conducted outdoors soon. While no exact date has been set for the facility to open, Geauvreau said last week it will be “soon.” Donations are still welcomed. See page 10 for more photos.

COVID-19

B.C. cracks down on travellers

Next five weeks will be toughest of pandemic: Horgan

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Province of British Columbia is stepping up efforts to end non-essential travel as the five weeks leading to the end of the May long weekend are expected to be critical for besting the coronavirus pandemic.

During a press conference on Monday afternoon, Premier John Horgan announced that BC Ferries travel will be limited to legitimate needs and accommodations bookings will be restricted to people living in the same health authority. Police have been given new, limited enforcement authority to conduct highway checks in some areas and to issue fines.

“Circuit-breaker” restrictions initially introduced for three weeks on March 29 will be extended through to the end of the Victoria Day long weekend, which this year falls on May 24.

“This is done with a heavy heart but it’s done with resolute purpose,” Horgan said.

Additional methods to restrict unnecessary travel mean BC Ferries will not be permitted

to take reservations for recreational vehicles, campers or trailers starting this Friday. The company will also not be adding extra ferry sailings for the long weekend. People are asked to stay within their own communities as much as possible.

The premier said following the rules would be necessary to “save a summer we all desperately need.”

“Our appeal to people is to do the right thing and stay home. Do not plan a holiday until after the long weekend,” Horgan said.

As well, new signs discouraging non-essential travel will be installed on the border with Alberta. The province is working with the accommodations sector and also with BIPOC representatives to ensure travel checks don’t target vulnerable people unfairly.

Horgan said programs introduced to help businesses impacted by the circuit breakers will also be extended.

B.C.’s immunization program is meanwhile in full swing, with the initial registration process available to all adults this week. Registration opens for people aged 30 and up

today (Wednesday, April 21) and will be open to everyone aged 18 and older by Friday.

According to the province, the fastest way to register is online at www2.gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated.html. Registration can also take place through a provincial call centre between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. at 1-833-838-2323 or in person at Service BC locations.

People will need their personal health number, their postal code, first and last name, date of birth and an email address that gets checked regularly or a phone number that can receive text messages.

Registration is the first step. Once registered, people will be contacted when it is their turn to book a vaccine appointment.

B.C.’s age-based program runs parallel to a pharmacy program. Now, anyone over the age of 40 is eligible to be vaccinated with the AstraZeneca vaccine in local pharmacies throughout the province.

New rules announced Monday mean employers must pay their workers for time off if needed for their vaccination appointment.

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CRIME

Salt Spring RCMP release first-quarter stats

Numerous and complex incidents investigated

SUBMITTED BY SSRCMP

Salt Spring Island RCMP responded to 646 calls from January to March 31, 2021, including, but not limited to, five child pornography investigations, eight sexual assaults, 139 mental health complaints, various traffic violations and multiple COVID-19 complaints. Some 305 foot patrols in Ganges and Centennial Park and 85 licensed premises checks were also conducted during this period.

SSI RCMP are asking residents to be mindful of online and social media safety: naked pictures or videos sent to an individual or a website can immediately be placed on the internet for all to see, or for sex-based extortion ("sex-tortion") by the recipient. Threats to post sexual photos/videos to all the contacts on a person's Facebook page have been made to Salt Spring residents. Also, numerous online scams have been reported to local RCMP stemming from animals purchased over the internet and monies paid, but the animals are never sent. Police encourage residents to remain aware of fraudsters and online cheats.

Some of the calls of the last few

months include the following:

January

- A COVID-19 ticket was issued for \$2,300 after an illegal gathering was held.
- A male who was on court-ordered conditions to not be in the province of B.C. was found and arrested on Salt Spring Island; the male was also arrested for two acts of indecent exposure and an assault that also occurred on the island.
- Multiple abandoned campers and various vehicles were towed and subsequently taken to a salvage yard for destruction.
- A male who erected a tent and began camping on BC Ferries property was arrested for outstanding warrants from Victoria.
- Police were requested to conduct a well-being check on an individual; police were asked to go to their residence and "have a cup of tea with them."

February

- The owner of a vacant lot on Salt Spring reported to police that unknown persons had cut down hundreds of trees on their property; police attended and observed multiple buildings that had been started using the fallen trees as walls and rafters. It is believed that multiple people were planning on building illegal cabins and squatting on private property.

- Ecological reserves had been met with unknown persons removing gates/locks/signage/boulders for individuals' own access and land use; police continue to investigate.
- A report of a multi-child sexual assault was reported to police; the investigation is continuing.
- Police received a report of a male spray-painting traffic signs near downtown Ganges; the male has now been identified.
- Police initiated an investigation into an allegation of child abuse on the island.
- RCMP responded to a male who was high on drugs and armed with knives and a baseball bat stating that he wanted to kill people; members responded and took the male into custody without violence.
- An elderly female who could not remember her name, address, phone number or friends was located by police and returned to her residence.
- Two males broke into an unlocked residence; one local male was arrested and a warrant is being sought for the other off-island male.
- RCMP responded to a local ferry for a report of a male on board with a knife who wanted to die; police responded and apprehended the male before he could hurt himself, others or the police. He was then taken to Lady Minto Hospital for assessment.

March

- Police responded to a report of a young male who allegedly advertised he had multiple properties on Salt Spring and was willing to rent them out; police attended the youth's only residence and discussed with him the legalities of asking women to send naked photos/videos of themselves to ensure the approval of their tenancy.
- Police responded to a report of a naked male throwing street signs at passing cars on Lower Ganges Road; police attended and, after discussion, the male donned his clothes and left the area peacefully.
- A cell phone was stolen from an unlocked car in downtown Ganges.
- By court order, RCMP assisted with removing a child from a parent.
- Police responded to a male known to police who had been banned from numerous businesses on Salt Spring for refusing to wear a mask while shopping; the situation was mediated and the male left the property.
- RCMP arrested an older male for sexual assaults after he allegedly exploited the needs of young women wanting housing on Salt Spring.
- Salt Spring RCMP assisted the BC SPCA with an animal negligence investigation.
- RCMP assisted the BC Coroners

Service (BCCS) with found human remains. The area is a possible historic burial site and the discovery is not believed to be suspicious. The BCCS has maintained conduct of the investigation.

- An impaired driver was caught and his driver's licence suspended.
 - Reports of a suspicious male walking through various properties resulted in two foot chases and a 90-minute search of various woods and properties. The male was located and arrested by RCMP. Incidents of break and enter and theft at various locations were able to be attributed to the arrested male.
 - Police responded to a gun call in Ganges Harbour where a shotgun was being fired at clay targets near vessels and island residences. Police spoke with the owner about the importance of shooting at safe distances and gun safety.
- RCMP remind residents that crime, violence and illicit drug use occur here on Salt Spring, and that mental health calls are higher per capita than on Vancouver Island. Also, property crime, including theft (whether theft of animals or theft of vehicles/boats), mischief and break and enters continue to happen. Residents are encouraged to remain vigilant in locking their residences and their vehicle doors and to not leave their keys in the vehicle's ignition.

SD64

School bus website created

Online registration for all routes introduced

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Families who use school buses in School District 64 will have a new system for registering their kids and guiding their participation starting this week.

The district's new transportation portal launched Monday for all Salt Spring school bus routes and will soon extend to Pender and Galiano islands as well. Anyone who plans to use a school bus in the 2021-22 school year is asked to register on the site starting May 3 and before May 30.

Plant services staff Tania Aguila and Jodie Miller presented the new registration system and website they created to the Gulf Islands Board of Education on April 14. As Aguila and Miller explained, the new system will provide a more efficient organization and improve knowledge of which students are expected to be on which bus with more accurate rider manifests created by the transportation department. Previously this was done through collection of handwritten cards that drivers used to assemble their own lists.

"Now that we have COVID, we have to trace who is on the bus," Aguila said after the meeting. "But also it is the law to have a consistent list, and this puts us in the 21st century."

The new website includes information pages on COVID-19 safety protocols and SD64's transportation code of conduct, which parents are supposed to read over with their children and must attest to for

the registration process to complete. The site also includes Google maps with every school bus route and every stop to help with the registration.

Features have been added to allow students whose parents live in different households to register on multiple routes — something that was very difficult to keep track of in the past because only one route could be entered in certain systems. Aguila said around 40 per cent of students divide time between households, so this was an important aspect to incorporate.

"I think this is really going to help our system and it's really going to help parents. It's going to help plant services, and it puts together a bunch of things around student safety and organization, and knowing where people are," said district secretary treasurer Jesse Guy. "I really appreciate the work they've done on this."

An additional pilot project will take place on two Salt Spring school bus routes this spring. GPS devices will be installed on two buses, and participating students will be given digital transit cards to tap on and off the bus, instead of the bus driver physically recording that info. Families will have the opportunity to opt in or out of the pilot while the district tests how this system works.

"It helps improve student safety and knowing where students are at all times and for the bus drivers as well, because it's very difficult for them during COVID," Guy said. "It has added a layer of complexity to keep track of so many manifests, and the students change buses. So it's technology helping us keep it safer on the buses without drivers having to divide their attention the same way."



Subject Property Address: 570 Blackburn Road, SSI
Parcel Identifier Number: 002-718-596
Application: SS-TUP-2020.4

TEMPORARY USE PERMIT NOTIFICATION

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

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

The purpose of this Temporary Use Permit is to allow a Commercial Excavating Business subject to the following:

- The use, including workshop, storage, office (300 square metres), and three (3) sea cans (50 square metres);
- Outdoor Storage of 4 Trucks, 1 Five-Ton Truck, 1 Machine (Backhoe) and 1 Office Employee Vehicle;
- Lawful Storage of Bulk Fuel Products for Use on Salt Spring Island;
- Indoor Repair and Service of Equipment, Machinery, and Vehicles; and
- Storage of Materials in 3 Sea Cans.
- During Hours of Operation: 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., Monday to Sunday.
- Power-Washing of Equipment, Machinery, and Vehicles is NOT permitted.



How do I get more information?
A copy of the staff report and proposed permit will be available online after Friday, April 16, 2021 on the Current Application webpage: www.islandstrust.bc.ca/SSlapplications
or, at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays (and COVID-19 office closures).

When: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 9:30 a.m.

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

Who should attend? Anyone affected by the application.

Enquiries? Kristine Mayes Planner 1 250-537-9144

Written submissions are welcome and can be emailed to: ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca or, mailed or dropped off at the Islands Trust office by Monday, April 26, 2021.

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

MARINE MAMMALS

SRKW protection program for 2021 shared

New fishing closure protocol piloted in Gulf Islands

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Measures to protect southern resident killer whales (SRKW) will be enacted for the third year in Gulf Islands waters as early as June 1.

On Wednesday, the federal government announced protective measures that include the return of interim sanctuary zones off Pender and Saturna islands this year, as well as the introduction of a new pilot closure protocol for commercial and recreational salmon fisheries in the southern Gulf Islands.

"Effectively ensuring the protection and recovery of southern resident killer whales requires a long-term, collective effort by the Government of Canada and other partners. These measures once again reflect advice from First Nations, the southern resident killer whale technical working groups, the Indigenous and Multi-stakeholder Advisory Group, and from public consultations," reads a joint announcement by the ministers of Transport; Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard; Environment and Climate Change Canada; and the minister responsible for Parks Canada.

Interim sanctuary zones will be in effect from June 1 to Nov. 30. No vessel traffic will be permitted in these areas, subject to certain exceptions for emergency situations and Indigenous vessels.

The new pilot closure protocol will see fishery closures triggered by the first confirmed presence of southern resident killer whales in the Gulf Islands area. Monitoring will begin on June 1. As soon as an SRKW is confirmed, fishery closures will start and then remain in place until Oct. 31.

The government is also putting fishery closures in place for commercial and recreational salmon in a portion of Swiftsure Bank from July 16 to Oct. 31, and in the Strait of Juan de Fuca from Aug. 1 to Oct. 31. A third interim sanctuary zone prohibiting boat traffic returns to Swiftsure Bank from June 1 to Nov. 30.

"These actions will help protect the whales' access to Chinook salmon with minimal disturbance in key foraging areas," a news statement explains.



PHOTO BY DAVE ELLIFRIT, CENTER FOR WHALE RESEARCH

New calf L125 with mom L86, spotted in Haro Strait in February. New fishery protocols will take place in the Gulf Islands area to protect feeding grounds this year.

The David Suzuki Foundation has said these fishery measures are insufficient to ensure the whales get enough Chinook in their diet, however.

"With three new calves, ensuring a steady supply of nutrition is key to the survival of southern resident orcas," David Suzuki Foundation senior science and policy analyst Jeffery Young said in a news release issued Thursday. "More must be done to restore Chinook populations to a level that will support the recovery of these orcas."

The foundation also said the measures around reducing vessel disturbance need adequate monitoring and enforcement to make sure they are successful.

Vessels are prohibited from approaching any killer whale within a 400-metre distance in southern B.C. coastal waters between Campbell River and Ucluelet, including Barkley and Howe Sound, for the second year. This is in effect year-round until May 31, 2022.

The Minister of Transport will also renew the agreement with local whale watching and ecotourism industry partners who have committed to once again not offer or promote tours focused on southern resident killer whales.

The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority-led Enhancing Cetacean Habitat and Observation program is set to announce measures related to large commercial vessels in the coming weeks.

Additional protective measures announced by the federal government include continuing to help reduce contaminants in the environment affecting whales and their prey. Long-term actions focus on enhancing regulatory controls, monitoring and research, sharing information and data, and expanding outreach and education.

According to the news statement, the 2020 measures resulted in more than 155 enforcement actions.

"This was fewer violations than in previous years, reflecting a successful educational campaign for boaters during the season. These efforts will be increased this year," the news statement said.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Brush fires take off in dry weather

Extra vigilance needed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Fire Rescue is asking islanders to be careful with outdoor burning after receiving a number of calls related to fires that escaped control over the past week.

While the weather has been enticing people to get out and clean up their yards, Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said it's also produced unusual conditions for the early spring.

"Normally we think at this time of year the fire isn't going

to get away," Holmes said, adding above-normal temperatures had made things especially dry, however.

In one of the calls the fire department attended to recently, the fire had travelled underground and popped up again around 15 feet away.

"That tells us the moisture level in the soil is low," Holmes said. "People should really think about where their burn piles are located, and be sure to monitor them and have water on hand."

Holmes said it's too early to know yet when the annual burn ban will be called. That will depend largely on what the weather in May and early June looks like, he said.

Weekly COVID Report

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE AND STAN DERELIAN

With rumours flying around Salt Spring Island about an upsurge in local COVID-19 cases, it is wonderful to receive the news from the BC Centre for Disease Control that the Gulf Islands had no reported COVID cases during the week of April 4-10.

Please note that COVID cases in surrounding communities continue to be of concern. This is especially true for Victoria and west to Port Renfrew. British Columbia had a record number of 7,885 new COVID cases during the week ending April 14. This has resulted in an ever-increasing number of hospitalizations, which are strongly impacting intensive care units in provincial hospitals. Eighty per cent of all B.C. active cases are in the Vancouver Coastal and Fraser health authority areas.

Editor's note: Due to the long lag time between data being available and Driftwood's print date, we are now posting 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 3/14-3/20	Week of 3/21-3/27	Week of 3/28-4/3	Week of 4/4-4/10
Southern Gulf Islands	0	6	2	0
Saanich Peninsula	1	11	12	22
Greater Victoria	52	83	145	131
Langford to Port Renfrew	17	24	53	58
Duncan Area	13	8	8	13
Chemainus to Nanaimo	48	77	80	67
Total	132	209	300	291

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BCSPCA SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS
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SHARE YOUR VIEWS

The Special Committee to Review Provisions of the Election Act wants to hear from you about:

ANNUAL ALLOWANCES FOR BC POLITICAL PARTIES

Share your thoughts by May 28.

For full details visit our website, email us at electionactcommittee@leg.bc.ca, or call us toll-free at 1-877-428-8337



www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/rpea



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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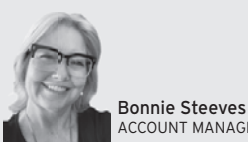
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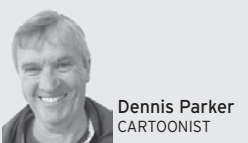
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EDITORIAL

Five more weeks

On March 29 Dr. Bonnie Henry and the provincial government increased restrictions related to COVID-19, applying what they called a "circuit breaker" to rising case numbers.

The main change was to ban indoor dining at restaurants and drinking in licensed premises. While those actions and/or a heightened public awareness did slow the rate of what had been an alarming rise in cases, they did not result in the decline everyone is hoping for and that is needed for life to return to normal anytime soon.

Non-essential travel is one area that has confounded the province. The message has clearly been that

THE ISSUE:
Extension of restrictions

WE SAY:
Latest changes necessary

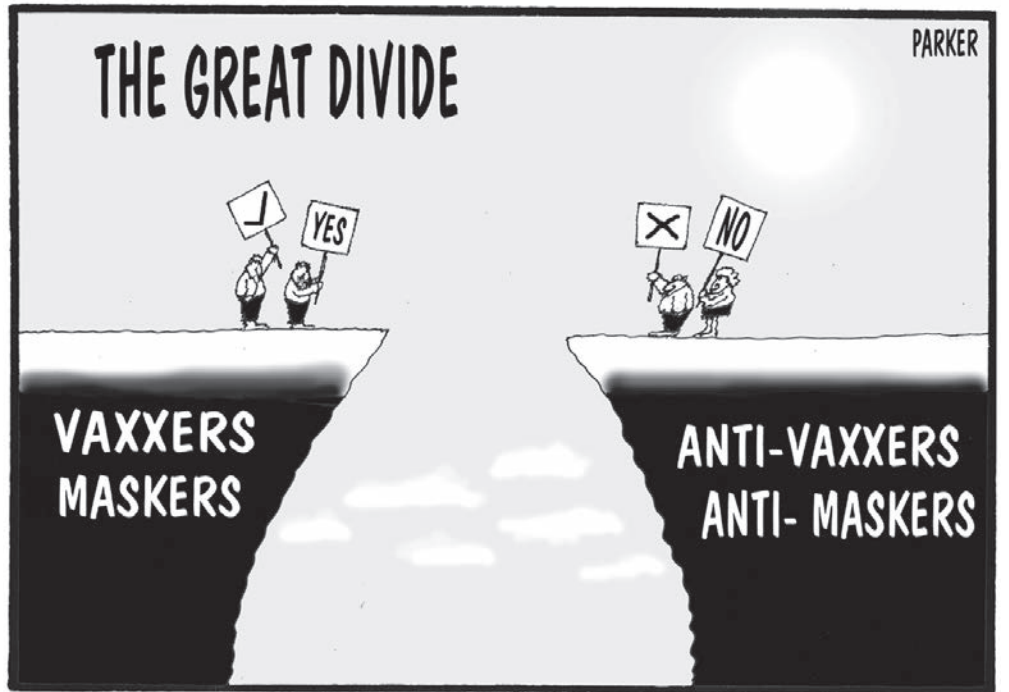
a framework for enforcement. It's clear not only by the fact that COVID-19 case numbers are not dropping in this province but to anyone who happens to be on a ferry or near a local ferry terminal: the message about curbing non-essential travel is only being absorbed by some people. As well, islanders have been talking about how many visitors they've observed in our community lately; people who seem to be here for the sole purpose of indulging their desires for non-essential relaxation and recreation.

BC Ferries will now be given a bigger role to play in curbing recreational travellers, as will RCMP across the province.

The need for a continued "circuit-breaker" period is underscored by the contributor to our adjacent Viewpoint space this week. Dr. Tina Lai, an emergency room physician at Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver, gives us an inside look at what she has observed in her daily work: a rising number of younger people in her hospital struggling to fight COVID-19 and serious concerns about the nature of the variants and vaccine effectiveness.

Everyone in this province is being asked to minimize their travel and exposures to other people outside of their household for another five weeks. As Horgan says, it needs to be done in order to "save a summer we all desperately need."

people should be travelling only for "essential" reasons, but Premier John Horgan had said that directive would not be enforced. On Monday he changed his government's tune by limiting travel to within one's own health authority. That does still give a fair bit of latitude, but also provides



ER physician shares view

BY DR. TINA LAI

I wanted to reach out today because as an emergency room physician at Lions Gate Hospital in North Vancouver, I think we all need to pay attention to the situation that is unfolding with COVID-19. We are in a third wave. It is going to be a big one. And I am truly worried.

Here are some reasons:

1) Lions Gate Hospital's COVID ward is full. We had to take over another entire floor to make room for COVID patients. I have not seen it quite this bad since the beginning of the pandemic.

2) Many of the COVID patients being admitted are 20 to 55 years old, and they need 100 per cent oxygen. Some of these are healthy people with no pre-existing health issues.

3) Variants of concern are growing so rapidly, it is very concerning to me. They are now the majority of all cases in B.C.

Data from Ontario public health officials found the B.1.1.7 (U.K.) variant, which has spread the furthest in B.C., led to a 60 per cent increase in both risk of death or hospitalization and a 100 per cent greater risk of admission to intensive care. The P.1 vari-

VIEWPOINT

ant from Brazil has affected many younger people. And I believe many of the 16 Canucks affected, some of whom are quite sick, most have a variant.

4) There is no clear evidence that the COVID vaccines work as effectively against the variants of concern. I personally have heard of a case of a patient who contracted a COVID variant even after having gotten the first shot of a vaccine.

Many of the COVID patients being admitted are 20 to 55 years old, and they need 100 per cent oxygen.

5) School transmission: This is a hard topic for me to weigh in on, since the data is not as transparent. There definitely has been an increase in school clusters and exposures. But you'll be reassured to hear there have not been significantly sick children with

COVID requiring intensive care. However, there have been an increase in kids transmitting COVID to their entire families. So whether you choose to send your kids back to school is a valid question. Try your best to get them to wear a mask at all times if possible. It really makes a difference for preventing COVID transmission.

Overall, I wanted to let everyone know that I am really concerned with what's happening in this third wave. We need to hunker down and keep to our household bubbles. Don't travel. Don't take chances. Cancel non-essential visits and travel. Please.

Daily cases are at a record high. Many of us are sick of hearing about it.

Many of us are tired of all the restrictions. I get it. I'm tired of it all too.

But now is not the time to turn a blind eye. Now is the time to pay attention.

Now is the time to turn on the news and listen to Dr. Bonnie Henry's reports.

This is getting real.

The above piece was shared with permission of the author by Salt Spring resident Robert Davies.

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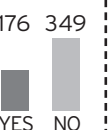
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is the federal government on the right track with its budget?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the vaccine passport concept?



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: }

“Her Majesty hopes you are keeping safe and well during the current situation.”

JENNIFER GORDON LENNOX LADY-IN-WAITING TO QUEEN ELIZABETH, IN LETTER TO SS ELEMENTARY OWL CLASS

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *Does Salt Spring need another tower to improve wireless communications?*

SIMONE FIDELMAN



Healthwise, I would not want to have it.

ASIA TOWNSEND



Personally I think we have enough data transmission without adding untested technology and upping the level of government surveillance.

LINDA LI



I think it's pretty good now.

CHRIS FRANKS



I'm not of fan of 5G because of the safety stuff they don't talk about. It's toxic and it's terrible.

VIRGINIA GALEA



I think we do need another tower — but not if it's for 5G.

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

Land donation issues prove complex

I enjoyed reading last week's articles both in print and online concerning activities of the transportation commission and the CRD in regards to pathways (“SSITC backs off Ganges Hill plan”). I found the articles fair and only wish to add a short comment in response.

The property that takes up a square from Atkins Road to Valhalla is my family property and has been in my family since 1948. It was sold to my grandfather and grandmother, Jim and Olive Stevens, and there is quite an interesting historical background to that and also to the Stevens family, who are descendants of Harry and Anna Stevens, who donated the land for the St. Mark's church along North End Road.

I was close to my grandparents and spent each day at their home while my mom worked at

the Bank of Montreal.

The manner in which this aspect of using this land as a pathway came about is confusing at best. Because there is still more to the story, I cannot really comment. However, I just wish to clarify that the comment from Parks and Rec manager Dan Ovington about people selling property and new owners who do not want the liability does not apply in this case. To start with, the property is not in that category as it has been owned by the same family in its original, unsubdivided form since 1948. Secondly, it is up to CRD to advise people of liability rather than assuming use and letting property owners have liability. If a piece of private land is turned over to the CRD, it is not changeable upon sale to a new owner unless that is part of a contract with the CRD. CRD staff know this and usually draw up contracts to have a use stated that runs with the land, is applicable in perpetuity and is usually binding upon heirs and future owners. I am adding this

because people who give land to the CRD need to know this. However, if there is not a contract for land use in a particular way, it is not enforceable.

I am not trying to split hairs here, but these are issues that the public should be aware of, particularly with our situation on Salt Spring Island.

JENNY MCCLEAN,
SALT SPRING

Tempest in a teapot

Regarding the April 7 “Get rid of park paint” letter citing white lines painted for the market in Centennial Park as a “desecration” — really?

A bit untidy yes, which I acknowledged online, but that language should be reserved for something egregious like house building on the Grace Islet First Nations burial site, not a few lines of removable paint.

For the record, I didn't state online that the paint “doesn't

violate the bylaws,” but the CRD's chief bylaw officer certainly did in response to that cheeky suggestion. Also, I've discussed the concerns with CRD staff, who indicate they will tidy up the painting.

The online tempest in a teapot overlooks the hard work of PARC staff and the market coordinator to prepare the market for its annual opening. Not to mention the work of staff to maintain our local parks, pathways, water accesses, tennis courts, skate park and swimming pool, and to organize so many programs and activities for people of all ages in our community (see the Parks and Recreation Guide for April-August published on April 7).

To all of our staff and to PARC commissioners, I join many in our community who thank you for what you do for us, day in and day out.

GARY HOLMAN,
SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Vaccine the first step on blessed road to salvation

That's me taken care of, a foot on the road to nearly normal, my government-prescribed passé-partout hidden under a tiny plaster, my body bursting with antibodies or whatever it is that takes the fight to COVID-19. Now all that remains is for the other seven billion of you to be similarly blessed and the world will be as right as rain.

Mrs. McElroy and I were vaccinated last week, and I am here to testify that (a) it's entirely non-lethal so far (b) it is mostly painless and (c) it will not make the slightest difference to your life yet. You can forget a grand mask burning or community hugs in Centennial Park because no matter how invulnerable we newly vaccinated Übermensch may feel personally there are still too many of you in the susceptible compound for us to take any risks. Oh, and we still have a second shot sometime in the future, which will guarantee our survival.

(Never mind that we had to travel all the way to Duncan for the cure, any legitimate journey off island feels like an escape from Alcatraz. A trip overseas and a vaccination at the other end was almost unendurably exciting.)

So, it's all a first step to salvation unless of course we run up against a smug anti-vaccine, anti-mask Muppet who has decided they know better than 99 per cent of the world's doctors and scientists and have determined that their insane parti pris is more important than the well-being of the rest of us. I cannot tell you how much it infuriates me that these selfish wretches will eventually attain their herd-immunity on the backs of those of us who have read and understood the literature and made the entirely sane decision to wear our masks, keep our distance and accept the vaccines for what they are — a very bright light at the end of a long and miserable tunnel.

I understand that there are those who are opposed to vaccination because they suppose someone in their family had a dev-



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

astating reaction to an entirely different vaccine for an entirely different disease, but I really don't believe that that gives them the right to jeopardize the rest of us. And those who have simply jumped on the anti-vaccine bandwagon because they are always looking for another bandwagon to jump on have no right at all because stupidity was never a justification for anything.

The “legitimate” anti-vaccine lobbyists will invariably make the case that they are simply trying to protect children from the vague and mostly unproven side effects of vaccinations but consider this:

Sixty years ago, I was at school with two boys who both wore callipers and built-up boots because their lives had been overwhelmed by polio while we regularly had school collections to help pay for an iron lung that some unfortunate child would spend the rest of their desolate lives in because polio had robbed them of the ability to breathe for themselves. There is no cure for polio, but the vaccine will protect a child for life and the number of cases around the world have fallen to almost none.

And again, since 1979 there have been no recorded cases of smallpox, a ferocious disease that has coexisted with human beings for thousands of years and is estimated to have killed up to 300 million people in the 20th century alone. Another visionary scientist saved millions from the despair of permanent disfigurement and invariable death from smallpox.

Measles was declared “eliminated” in the

U.S. in 2000 until the anti-vaxxers began their hysteria-driven drivel and in 2019 there were almost 1,000 new cases, the greatest number since 1994 and all of them in pockets of unvaccinated children. But compare that to America's 450 deaths and almost half a million cases in 1960 and then consider the demise of whooping cough, tetanus, rubella, hepatitis A and B, diphtheria, mumps and even chickenpox and tell me vaccinations don't work or are dangerous.

We are hopefully on our way out of a deep, dark hole and have science and 21st-century medicine to thank for it, despite the conspiracies about butter-fingered boffins in China accidentally dropping a flask of COVID-19, or a cabal of industrialists plotting to overthrow the world order by making us all sick and then charging a fortune for the cure. Although that one does have its merits considering the vast fortunes Big Pharma is going to make, but it certainly wouldn't have been the politicians because most of them, as we are discovering, couldn't organize a sick day in a sanatorium.

And as for the knuckleheads who suspect the vaccine contains microscopic robots to take over their minds, I would simply point out that it helps to have a mind in the first place.

I'd like to say that Trudeau, Horgan and the blessed Bonnie Henry have been beacons of governance, but I just can't, although I suppose they can't be blamed for Canada not having its own vaccine factories any longer nor, I suppose, should they be blamed for the so-called variant COVIDs that have begun to rear their ugly heads. It is simply that I have always believed that Canada mostly did things better than other countries, but this has somehow slipped through our fingers.

I just hope we get the next pandemic right.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

Baker Road pathway creates traffic hazard

BY DAVID RAPPORT AND LUISA MAFFI

Salt Spring Islanders may hold different views about the pathway under construction between Baker and Booth Canal roads.

Some have decried what they see as the needless, senseless cutting of nearly two dozen mature firs and some large arbutus along the path, and the defacement of the historic Baker Road cemetery by massive, soul-less concrete block retaining walls. Others seem not to mind any of that for the sake of gaining an "amenity."

Some folks may even dig the slick "Pat Bay Highway look" that the concrete blocks created along the cemetery and further south on Lower Ganges — away with our sleepy "rural character" at last! And the island's would-be graffiti artists may well have their spray cans at the ready, eyeing that nice long wall of blocks as the perfect surface for their urban-style creations.

But, most likely, we would all

agree on one thing: safety on our roads is essential and should never be gratuitously compromised. That, however, is just what the pathway construction has done. The new walls along both edges of the cemetery facing Lower Ganges have created dangerous blind spots for drivers turning in either direction from Baker onto Lower Ganges Road.

From the stop sign on Baker, visibility of both southbound and northbound traffic on Lower Ganges is now near zero until vehicles are far too close for a safe turn to be made. Drivers must creep up a few metres beyond the stop sign and onto Lower Ganges to see well enough. By then, oncoming vehicles are already onto them, often at the high speed that is all too common on Salt Spring's main roads. Drivers who may have committed to a left or right turn are now at serious risk of being hit, especially if their reflexes are slower and they drive smaller, slower cars. In essence, one is now

INDEPTH

forced to proceed into fast-moving traffic with inadequate lead-time.

When we noticed this problem a few weeks ago, we immediately brought it to the attention of CRD director Gary Holman, on whose watch the construction of this particular stretch of pathway was approved and implemented. He insisted that all was well, as the design engineer had said "the line of sight is OK." We pointed out to Gary that the problem is not limited to line of sight but involves traffic dynamics. He then referred the matter to CRD staff, who reportedly said, in turn, that everything is fine because the line of sight is OK. That in and of itself is not so, and furthermore neither Gary nor CRD staff appear able or willing to take into account that the issue is not only one of statics (line of sight) but also one of dynamics (traffic flow). The most Gary seemed prepared to

do was state that the next time the engineer who oversees the project for the construction firm comes to the island, "he'll take a look."

All that is not comforting, as long as the assessment of project results that are being questioned is entrusted to the same engineers who have been responsible for pathway design and execution, rather than to an independent third party (and, we would add, one with professional expertise in traffic dynamics). As for the CRD engineers' understanding of the project, suffice it to say that one of them (now departed) had assured us that the blocks along the edge of the cemetery would be hidden from view!

Regardless, given how serious the issue is, "taking a look" is not nearly good enough. That is even more apparent now that we have heard from two other frequent users of Baker Road who have made the exact same worrisome observations, without knowing each other or knowing about

our own concerns. One of the two explicitly flagged the problem during one of the monthly check-ins of the Baker Road emergency pod group. We made Gary aware of these independent remarks, but so far even that does not seem to have prompted quicker and more expert action.

If three different people mention a big problem independent of one another, one does not need statistics (let alone a CRD staff opinion) to know that there actually is a big problem, and that a solution is needed right away. The wall along the edge of the Baker Road cemetery must come down immediately to restore visibility before a serious accident — or worse — occurs.

It appears that our CRD director has not yet seen the urgency of addressing the situation that has been created under his authority. Let us hope we do not need to wait for a tragedy before he does.

The authors are long-term residents of Baker Road.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Path contradictions

I was disappointed to read the article in the April 14 issue of the Driftwood about setbacks in the plan for a path up Ganges Hill, but I was truly astonished to read the section of that article headlined "Valhalla Road pathway access shuttered."

The pathway in question is one I have used regularly and frequently for the past 18 years or so and I remember it was created at about the same time Meadowbrook was built. It has been my understanding that Joan O'Connor and Jean Stevens agreed to the installation of the pathway in return for it being named the "Stevens Memorial Pathway." My understanding was confirmed on Feb. 5, 2014 when I read an opinion piece by Jenny McClean titled, "Rainbow Road plan deserves

attention" that was published in the Driftwood on page 10. While discussing the then-proposed path on Rainbow Road, Ms. McClean included the pathway in question as an example of "one of the most successful pathways on Salt Spring [that] have been given by private donors." After naming other paths on donated land, Ms. McClean praised her mother, Joan O'Connor, and her aunt, Jean Stevens, for their role in the creation of the path that is now boarded up. Specifically, Ms. McClean wrote, "The path that is used to connect the back of Country Grocer to Valhalla was a land donation by my mom and aunt in memory of my grandparents, Jim and Olive Stevens."

Why would Ms. McClean take public pride in 2014 for her family

having donated land for a path in return for it being named for her grandparents, and then board it up and say her mother and aunt never agreed to the path in the first place? What's more, if they didn't agree to the path, why didn't they board it up 18 years ago?

HELEN HINCHLIFF,
BRINKWORTHY PLACE

Protecting health

Regarding Kim Hunter's April 7 "Vaccine passport alarming" Viewpoint, we strongly advocate that every person should get vaccinated against COVID-19.

There is absolutely no question that worldwide research has concluded that the Moderna and Pfizer vaccine will protect each vaccinated individual. As we are individually protected, we are protecting our community.

There is controversy over when

the second vaccination should be administered. According to the National Advisory Committee on Immunization (NACI), "effectiveness has been documented for up to two months after the first dose of the mRNA (Pfizer-BioNTech and Moderna) vaccines."

On April 7, NACI endorsed stretching that interval between doses up to 16 weeks — a gap longer than any endorsed by any other country — to get a greater proportion of the population at least partially vaccinated. The officially authorized window is 21 days between doses for Pfizer-BioNTech's vaccine, and 28 days between Moderna shots. Some infectious diseases experts have called on NACI to narrow the interval for people over age 60, as well as those with underlying active cancer or transplant recipients, and question the scientific basis for the four-month interlude.

Dr. Bonnie Henry said, "It may turn out that the optimal dosing is actually five months or six months... This is all science in action. We're learning as we go."

Our personal hope is that B.C. will amend its current vaccination schedule and administer the second dosage to those over 60 and the most vulnerable within two months of the first vaccination, as originally recommended by NACI.

Ms. Hunter opposes a vaccination passport. Our position is if the countries of the world decide to issue vaccination passports, then Canada must comply. If the passport requires the double vaccination, that is further reason for B.C. to provide the second vaccination in accord with NACI original requirements.

Vaccinations have protected health and saved life for centuries. Get your COVID-19 vaccination.

STAN DERELIAN,
CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

Appreciation

We are writing to express our appreciation of, and strong agreement with, the Viewpoint by Jeff Wade and the letter to the editor by Jessica McDonald and colleagues in last week's Driftwood. The two pieces make fundamentally important, though very different, points.

Wade's Viewpoint is as good an explanation of vaccination as part of the social contract as we have seen. The part that each of us plays in the community's response to major issues is ignored far too often. McDonald and colleagues address the casual, mostly uninformed anti-Semitism (and the more general term "racism") that is also too common in current public dialogue.

WILL & CLAIRE CUPPLES,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8


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	
21	0126	3.2	10.5	25	0320	3.2	10.5	
	1744	1.0	3.3		0942	1.3	4.3	
	WE				SU	1606	2.8	9.2
	ME			DI	2123	1.6	5.2	
22	0202	3.2	10.5	26	0342	3.2	10.5	
	0842	2.2	7.2		1017	0.9	3.0	
	TH	1139	2.3		7.5	MO	1713	2.9
	JE	1848	1.1	3.6	LU	2210	1.9	6.2
23	0232	3.2	10.5	27	0405	3.3	10.8	
	0852	2.0	6.6		1055	0.5	1.6	
	FR	1326	2.4		7.9	TU	1818	3.1
	VE	1945	1.2	3.9	MA	2259	2.2	7.2
24	0257	3.2	10.5	28	0431	3.3	10.8	
	0913	1.7	5.6		1137	0.3	1.0	
	SA	1452	2.6		8.5	WE	1922	3.2
	SA	2036	1.4	4.6	ME	2355	2.5	8.2

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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!



Areas where people have promised to clean up as of Monday are shown in pink. Road sections in black are still available to volunteers.



PHOTO BY ANNE PARKINSON

Above, Transition Salt Spring volunteers, from left, Bryan Young, Tom Mitchell, Chris Marshall, Mike Wall and Lucille Lamarche during their outing to clean up areas of Burgoyne Bay/Xquaaqw'um on Saturday as organized by the TSS Marine Working Group.



PHOTO BY LIZ ANDERSON

At right, Suzy McEwen and Erin Murray with some of the trash collected, along with Liz Anderson, on one side of Lee's Hill over the weekend.

Still Some Areas Up For Grabs

With 10 days left in the month of April, which we've designated for our Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign, a large part of the island has been or will be rid of trash.

The map on this page shows roads and beaches that people have committed to cleaning up sometime during the month. It's exciting to visualize how many kilometres will be travelled by volunteering members of the community for this specific cause. If you see an area that you'd like to take on — it doesn't have to be huge — let us know by phoning the Driftwood office at 250-537-9933 or emailing news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

New people signing up this week are Viv Nielsen, Kelly-Ann Haslauer, the Hildebrandt family, Liz Anderson, Suzy McEwen and Erin Murray, Carol Wright and Paula Kiffner, Tamsin McKenzie, Erin and Robb Magley, and Bev Sutherland and Mike Maynard.

And thanks to TJ Beans, we now have coupons for a free tea or coffee of any kind available for all participants. Drop by our office at 241 Fulford-Ganges Road to pick up yours, along with free garbage bags donated by Laurie's and the Laurie's disposal coupon.

Thank you to all participants and sponsors!

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Holocaust minimized by inaccurate comparisons

BY NATALIE BAACK

As the sun set on Wednesday, April 14 and Yom HaShoah or Holocaust Remembrance Day began, I was thinking about and praying for my family that was lost in the Holocaust. My Zady, whose first wife and two children under five were murdered by Nazis in the Warsaw ghetto. My Bubi, whose mother and siblings were shot by Nazis through the floor of their home in Vilna, Lithuania. And the countless other Jews in my lineage and those of my friends who were carted to their death by gas, starvation and otherwise.

I learned shortly after that the Gulf Islands Driftwood newspaper had published an opinion piece — “Vaccine passports alarming” — that compared the handling of the novel coronavirus to Nazi Germany in the 1930s and suggested that vaccine passports were the equivalent to the yellow stars placed on the sleeves of Jews by the Nazis to mark them for death.

I was appalled and hurt, as were many of my Jewish friends in the community, that the comparison was made at all, let alone the day it was published was a Jewish holiday dedicated to remembrance of the Holocaust.

I would hope that I wouldn't have to explain why this is so problematic, but I realized this person was

IN RESPONSE

not alone in this opinion and that perhaps some conversation would be merited.

First I'll start by saying I am not looking to invalidate the fear of government overreach in our social liberties. We as a community and society need to be incredibly careful when we choose to surrender individual liberties. That is something I think we can all agree with. Perhaps, for some, this feels as big as the fear one might have felt could they have seen what was coming in Eastern Europe in the '30s.

But comparison to the Holocaust is not the way. I had to learn this too, having even compared Trump to Hitler, I made a similar mistake. So I feel it's important to explain that it is not only hurtful, but it's threatening at its core. By comparing anything to the Holocaust — especially something that is significantly different — one minimizes the horrors of mass genocide that took place. This undermines the severity of what happened and weakens the promise of “never again.” It creates space for anti-Semitism to be normalized. And if anti-Semitism is normalized (again), an environment is created for it to flourish, which has historically led to the persecution of

Jewish people.

Other incredibly horrific acts have occurred, some with parallels to the Holocaust. But there is only one Holocaust. It is a very unique period of our history and must be respected as such.

Choosing to publish such material, especially on Yom HaShoah, is unprofessional, irresponsible and damaging to the entire community, especially to the local Jewish community.

By comparing anything to the Holocaust – especially something that is significantly different – one minimizes the horrors of mass genocide that took place.

While a few may fear that the vaccine passport is representative of an authoritarian shift in governance, many of us don't feel that fear in the same way. And comparing it to the Holocaust is a mistake that has been marked as dangerous by many Jewish organizations, including the U.S.

Holocaust Museum.

I have also heard mask wearing and vaccine passports compared to the residential schools or to the slave trade, which is similarly harmful to the Indigenous and Black communities.

We have to be careful not to compare the perceived oppression of the historically privileged to the historically oppressed, marginalized and racialized groups. It's not a fair comparison and it causes harm to those who carry these traumas.

These comparisons also distract from real, present-day oppression other members of our community are facing, particularly the Black, Brown, Indigenous, and, this year especially, Asian community members.

In fact, the real horror of this pandemic, from my perspective, is the fact that, after the elderly, it's marginalized communities and families who have been impacted most by COVID. BIPOC folks are dying at disproportionately higher numbers due to COVID-19 simply because the system in which we live continues to impact their health so dramatically that they have more pre-existing conditions that make them vulnerable to the virus. As well, BIPOC are primarily the ones working on the frontlines. These measures are for their protection, as well as our own.

The fear of loss of freedom has caused a disregard for these community members as well as those with disabilities. The rebellion against protocols seems to be more important than the possibility of killing and wiping out an entire generation of Indigenous, Black or Brown elders and families, or the large number of the population with pre-existing conditions that are co-morbid with severe COVID. A type of passive genocide is actually happening as we speak, as far as I can see. And would I compare that to the Holocaust? Not ever.

There may be legitimate concerns about tracking people, and dividing them into classes of who can and cannot participate in society. History is packed with examples where this has ended in tragedy. . . many more than just the Holocaust. But it's as lazy as it is dangerous to make this comparison.

I ask you all in the community to do better. A vaccine passport is not the same thing as Jewish people being labelled for ethnic cleansing in gas chambers.

When we know better, we do better.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident of Jewish descent and an ally of the island's Black, Indigenous and People of Colour community.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 6

Cherry-picking climate facts

It is very disappointing to read misstatements of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, namely: “According to the IPCC, we have nine years to avoid the impacts of 1.5 deg C global warming above pre-industrial levels,” as written by Shauna Doll and Chris Genovali in their guest column in last week's Driftwood.

From the IPCC Summary for Policy Makers (<https://www.ipcc.ch/sr15/chapter/spm/>), “Global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to

increase at the current rate.”

This is a range of nine to 31 years. When people insist on using a nine-year deadline — to instil fear in people — it becomes climate alarmism.

The IPCC report also stated that “anthropogenic emissions (including greenhouse gases, aerosols and their precursors) up to the present are unlikely to cause further warming of more than 0.5°C over the next two to three decades (high confidence) or on a century time scale (medium confidence).”

I do not believe that the world is going to end in nine years, and using such language is inflammatory. Please stop cherry picking “facts.”

T. KRESS,
SALT SPRING

Memories of Prince Philip

It was breakfast time in 1957 at the Lee house at Shrivensham, the site of the Royal Military College of Science where my father was a radar and telecommunications professor.

“Why are you wearing a tie, Dad?” I asked, knowing this was a rare event.

He replied, “Prince Philip is coming over from Windsor for his annual visit to the college, and I am giving a presentation on the latest developments in radar, the military use of the doppler effect and the miniaturizing of weaponry with transistors.”

Dad was not a royalist, but he admired Prince Philip because he was a strong public

supporter of science. In the prince's honour, a cricket game had been set up on the college cricket field and the lab staff had dressed in cricket whites. Prince Philip, a keen cricketer and sportsman, was to bowl a few balls and hit a few back with a cricket bat. A doppler machine (based on the principle that a police or train siren changes pitch as it passes an observer) was set up to measure the exact speed of a moving cricket ball. To Prince Philip's delight he was able to crack a cricket ball at 100mph from a fast ball, delivered by the bowler at 60mph.

Philip also expressed great interest when he was shown a radar image of the moon, which was a world first in radar development.

KEN LEE,
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ART REVIEW

Artist's major themes illustrated in exhibit

SS Arts Council presents
Ronald T. Crawford exhibit
and events

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring artist Ronald T. Crawford's painting is characterized by deeply rooted interests in pattern and in the process of making marks, a dual theme that he has explored multiple times in his 40-plus year career.

The way Crawford continually expresses, deepens and returns to those interests is beautifully showcased at Mahon Hall this month, where a solo exhibition of his painting curated by artist Rosalie Matchett makes up the Salt Spring Arts Council's Spring Art Show. On daily through May 2, Cave Chanting: A Ronald T. Crawford Retrospective is a must-see for understanding one of the island's cornerstone art figures.

"A retrospective aspires to show the major themes running through the artist's work," Matchett explains in her curator's statement. "Throughout Ronald T. Crawford's career there has been an attempt to reconcile two seemingly conflicting ideas: his attraction to abstract expressionism, especially how the gesture or act of painting reveals the process of making the work, and at the same time his engagement with the more perennial endurance of patterns."

Crawford started out with the gesture and then became more consumed with exploring and creating patterns. His interest in the latter encompasses both those created by humans, from Amish quilts to Islamic arithmetic, and those found in nature. In each case, his painting is a permanent record of what may have been a fleeting movement: the arm flinging paint, or the wave imprinting the sand.

"I've always enjoyed being in the process and how things are made," Crawford explained during a recent interview with the Driftwood. "When I study nature that's

what I'm interested in, too: How did that pattern happen? What created it? Was it the wind, was it the water, was it a creature? That's kind of what intrigues me."

Crawford says his career path has been more like a spiral than a linear progression in terms of interests and techniques, and there are many good examples in the show of how he returns to ideas with new approaches. *Refuge Of*, from 1996, features rounded shapes emerging from a surface that has wavy interlocking panels of criss-crossed lines. The round shapes are painted deeper shades of red into black against a background of duller red and shimmering orange. *Jenny*, from 2007, also combines round shapes with wavy grooves, but in this case there are concave depressions and holes punched into the centre of concentric circles. Bits of bright jewel colours come through from behind the textured surface.

**"I'm not a narrative artist;
I'm not figurative in any
sense. The work comes
out of study of the
landscape and the process
of painting itself."**

RONALD T. CRAWFORD

The process being foremost is particularly evident in Crawford's most recent decade of work. His later paintings have started out life more like sculptures, in plaster that is carved with deep grooves or caused to drip to form slumped stalagmites over the background board. A group of six "Caravaggio" works from 2020 exemplifies this twinned process, and also speaks back to the above-mentioned pieces with layers of finely etched overlapping circles. In these paintings, Crawford summons the Baroque



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Ronald T. Crawford's *Self Portrait in Stone* with some of his paintings seen in the background, part of a retrospective showing at Mahon Hall through May 2.

painter's mastery of light with luminous underpainting and shadows highlighting the three-dimensional elements, though not his subject matter.

"I'm not a narrative artist; I'm not figurative in any sense," Crawford said. "The work comes out of study of the landscape and the process of painting itself. And it's a very strange process I've developed for the newer work. Basically I make what I consider to be my own landscape, or objects, through the process of painting. I think I'm more in tune with that now than I've ever been."

In the *Chasing Shadows* series he creates works in pairs, and in fact the boards are tethered together with metal framing for the first stage. Plaster and paint applied to one surface drip down to build forms on the other, and then the structure is flipped over for reverse action. The series started with looking at the beach at low tide and seeing how the marine animals were marking the surface from beneath, and evolved as Crawford thought about how to represent that emergence.

"I like the mark; it's unpredictable but it has a natural, organic, almost creature-like quality about it," he said.

Crawford said he feels like he's come closest to what he's been trying to achieve in his latest series with the monumental *Landing Diptych*. The muted overtone is a gloomy medley of brown-plum-grey. Hints of the bright pinks and yellows beneath come through on the creature-like dollops, which appear to be both placed randomly and with abstract pattern.

"I wanted to make them monochromatic, more or less. I wanted to make the surface mysterious, and I wanted to bring out the sculptural quality of what I'm doing. So I wanted to keep the colour very subdued over the past four years," Crawford said.

Crawford takes his mutually informing process to different lengths depending on the pair. Though they can be viewed on their own, placing the twinned works together for the show provides insight into the artist's unique concerns and method of exploring them.

"It's what I call my 'arena of chance.' It allows for me to create something that I then try to control," Crawford said. "Sometimes they really reflect each other and sometimes they don't. I allow it to take its own course that way."

Spring Art Show events also include an April 23 online talk by Ron Crawford, an April 27 online talk on *The Nature of Creativity*, a youth art exhibit in the Mahon Hall annex space and kids' art workshops.

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ISLAND LIFE

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PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

READY TO ROLL: At left, a bank of energy-efficient washers and dryers set up in the new Salt Spring Laundromat and soap exchange site in Ganges, while above is a rubber ducky and a name tag for one of the machines, all of which were named in a fun contest last year. Once staff have been hired and trained, the facility should be able to open.

AUTHOR EVENT

Alexandra Morton focus of evening

Zoom discussion on April 21

Islanders are invited to an event featuring two of B.C.'s most prominent environmental activists on Zoom tonight (Wednesday, April 21).

In a Salt Spring Library sponsored event beginning at 7 p.m., biologist and author Alexandra Morton will talk about her new book called *Not on My Watch: How a Renegade Whale Biologist Took on Governments and Industry to Save Wild Salmon*. Joining her will be Salt Spring author and environmentalist Briony Penn.

According to library materials, Morton's book is not just about salmon. "This is a story of a fight to keep part of this Earth alive. And it will break your heart and fill you with rage. It's about our country. Our (unforgivable) provincial and federal governments. Our environment and ecosystem. Our survival, our stewardship and what we are leaving our children. It's an exposé of one of the greatest scandals of recent Canadian history."

To register and get the link, people should email programs@saltspring-library.com.

what's on this week



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

Thurs. Apr. 22

ONLINE

North Salt Spring Waterworks District AGM. Annual general meeting via Microsoft Teams platform. 6 p.m. Link is available on the northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website.

Fri. Apr. 23

VIA ZOOM

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are Salt Spring Transit bus system managers. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. To get the Zoom link, email ask@asksaltspring.com.

Artist Talk: Ron Crawford. Part of Spring Art Show activities. 7 p.m. See www.ssartscouncil.com for the link.



EXHIBITIONS

- **Spring Art Show - Cave Chanting: A Ronald T. Crawford Retrospective** runs at Mahon Hall daily until May 2, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Youth Exhibit - Art Not Apart** runs in the annex gallery at Mahon Hall daily until May 2, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Gallery 8** celebrates its 12th anniversary with the Symbolically 8 Exhibition upstairs in the gallery until May 14.
- **Leslie Corry** has artwork hanging at Salt Spring Coffee Co.

Sat. Apr. 24

ACTIVITIES

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

Kids Art Workshop: Collage Garden. Led by Rosie Schinners. Part of free Spring Art Show events through the Salt Spring Arts Council. Time slots available for up to 4 children at one time between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. Sign up at www.ssartscouncil.com.

Mon. Apr. 26

VIA ZOOM

CRD Transportation Commission Meeting. See crd.bc.ca Monday, 1-3. Zoom link will be posted on CRD website by Thursday or call 250-537-4448.

Defunding SSI: A Community Discussion. The BIPOC Community Collective Society and the Salt Spring Community Alliance present an in-depth look at the current role of policing and prioritizing community well-being in funding decisions. 7 p.m. RSVP to ssispeaks@gmail.com.

Salt Spring Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting. Postponed from last week. 6:30 p.m. Get the link from www.saltspringfire.com.

Tues. Apr. 27

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Meeting. Regular trustees meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. See the Salt Spring page of the islandstrust.bc.ca website for the link.

Artists Talk: The Nature of Creativity. Part of Spring Art Show activities. 7 p.m. See www.ssartscouncil.com for more info and the link.

Wed. Apr. 28

VIA ZOOM

Death Cafe. A group directed discussion about death. 10:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m. Email ssideathcafe@gmail.com to get the free Zoom link.

Impressions 6

Show of work by island printmakers
Salt Spring Public Library Program Room
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EXHIBITIONS

- **Salt Spring Gallery features RETRO**, a retrospective show by the Printmaking Group of the Salt Spring Painters Guild, from Friday, April 23 through May 12.
- **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.
- Photographer **Stasia Garraway** is the featured artist at Switchboard Cafe this month.

END OF LIFE CARE

SSI Hospice seeks input

Insights on support needs welcome by phone or email

SUBMITTED BY SSI HOSPICE SOCIETY

Like most organizations, the Salt Spring Island Hospice Society has had to reduce its activities since the pandemic was declared.

Some of our services have consisted of emotional support to individuals and their families who are facing the end of life, sitting vigils (if requested) with people when death is imminent, and grief support for the bereaved, either one-to-one or in six-week group sessions.

Many of our clients are usually in the hospital or in Greenwoods, and normally we bring our services to them there. Salt Spring's population is too small to have a free-standing facility such as many people are familiar with in larger cities, but as a community we are very lucky to have a purpose-built palliative care suite in our own Lady Minto Hospital. Since the pandemic, the hospital and other residential facilities have been mostly closed to visitors, including hospice volunteers.

We continue to receive requests for emotional support from people who are terminally ill and still living at home, and we are able to provide this one-to-one support over the phone and, on occasion, in person, at the discretion of the volunteer, with COVID safety protocols in place. Soon we may be able

to consider whether we could offer vigils (usually when death is expected within three days) to people who would prefer to die at home but whose caregivers are not able to sit with the person through the night. We cannot provide physical or medical care of any kind, but due to COVID safety protocols the medical system is now much better set up to provide medical support virtually, potentially even through the night.

We would like to hear from anyone who has recently cared for someone who wished to die at home. We would be interested to know whether or not they were able to achieve that, or whether their loved one was hospitalized in the end? What did you find helpful and who helped most? Did you find that you needed support that was not available? What would you have liked to have known before embarking on the home death route? What can we learn from you to make it easier for others in the future?

If you have any insights that you would like to share, however small, please call Salt Spring Hospice Society at 250-537-2770. Our office hours beginning May 1 will be Monday through Thursday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Alternatively, you can send your thoughts, or request a phone call, by emailing office@saltspringhospice.org.

All information will be made anonymous before sharing it with our members and other collaborators.

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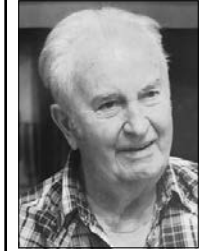
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Obituaries

WILFRID (WILF) BERTRAM TAYLOR

Sept. 10, 1936 – Apr. 6, 2021



Wilfrid Bertram Taylor of Salt Spring Island passed away peacefully April 6 in the Greenwoods Eldercare facility after a long struggle with Parkinson's disease. A long-term Salt Spring resident, Wilf was well known for his successful construction business, warm friendly nature, and his love for family, farming, vehicles, sailing and animals. Born in Vancouver, Wilf grew up in White Rock, BC and attended Semiahmoo High School. Following his parents, he moved to Salt Spring Island and apprenticed as an automobile mechanic, operating service stations in Crofton, and later in Victoria. It was there he met Jean Smith, his wife-to-be, when she brought in her family car for maintenance. Wilf and Jean lived briefly in Victoria before purchasing what is now Maple Terrace Farm in 1963.

In the meantime their daughter Marilee was born in 1962. Working for the BC Highways department and building on his experience as a mechanic, Wilf quickly became adept with using large vehicles, including concrete trucks, loaders, bulldozers, etc., and transferred this expertise to farming and logging on the farm, even designing and building his own sawmill. (Wilf continued to work the farm until two years ago, when he moved to Greenwoods.)

Changing careers again, in the early 1970's Wilf and his friend Ben Greenough formed Greenlor Construction, where they worked together building and renovating Salt Spring homes for more than 40 years. Wilf's construction skills soon proved a godsend: the farmhouse burned to the ground in 1975 but, not skipping a beat, Wilf quickly built the beautiful house on the hill he and Jean have called home for 46 years – the fire was arguably a blessing in disguise!

About this time Wilf and Jean took up sailing, and enjoyed many summer retreats wandering the waterways of the Inside Passage, often meeting up in sheltered coves with close friends. They also traveled broadly and often: Scotland, the English Lake District, Europe, the US, Hawaii, Alaska, and all over Canada. In 1990, the first of four grandchildren arrived, and as the years went by, much to Wilf's delight the farm became their playgrounds: apple picking, Easter egg hunts, backhoe and tractor rides, Christmas tree hunting, haying, and the animals.

Wilf was predeceased by his parents Reginald and Kate Taylor (immigrants from England who become lighthouse keepers on the west coast of Vancouver Island before moving to White Rock). Survivors include his wife of 60 years Jean (Smith) Taylor; daughter Marilee Pearson and son-in-law David; siblings Jon Taylor, Kay Atkinson, Robert Taylor and Mary Stephenson; and four grandchildren: Julia, Ilana, Hillary and Stewart.

Wilf was a longtime member of the Farmers' Institute, Salt Spring Island Sailing Club, and was awarded an honorary lifetime membership of Admiral Lodge 170. He will always be remembered for his loyalty, devotion and generosity to those he loved, and the warmth and kindness he bestowed upon family, friends and animals.

The family wishes to thank all the outstanding Greenwoods staff for their warm, compassionate and expert care over the past two years.

Obituaries

Obituaries



MARGARET MATHER

DECEMBER 15, 1921-APRIL 2, 2021

Margaret passed away peacefully at the age of 99 in Residential Care at Lady Minto Hospital.

Margaret was born in Verdun, Quebec, and was a respected and loved teacher until retirement in 1973. She and her brother Gordon later moved to Salt Spring. Margaret loved to entertain and often had out of town guests as well as frequent dinner parties until her move to Meadowbrook in 2009.

Leaving to mourn and cherish her memory are her cousins David Bellamy (Ana) and Terry Bellamy of Toronto (Kris); cousin-by-marriage Robert Jones of England; her very special students Jack Oldford (Karen) of Abbotsford and his sister Judy Dostie (Guy) of Pointe-Claire who always stayed in touch; good friend Judi Bracher and several other friends from B.C. to Quebec.

Margaret was predeceased by her brother Gordon in 1997, cousins Shirley Bellamy of Toronto in 2013 and Lynn Jones of England in 2021.

I am extremely grateful for the care and support provided for many years by Dr. Crichton and the Residential Care staff at Lady Minto Hospital, especially during this difficult time for everyone.

No service due to Covid. Interment has taken place at St. Mary's Cemetery in Fulford.

Should you wish, a donation may be made to a charity of your choice.

Obituaries

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Obituaries

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Wednesday, April 21st, 7PM

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Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) The time has come to establish more solid foundations. Your energy levels will continue to rise this week as your pace comes to cruising speed. The emphasis will turn to home and family, but you are wise to tread softly with loved ones. You may have a reluctance to make changes or adjustments in your career. Yet, you may have difficulty or letting go of the old to make way for the new.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) The stellation of planets forming conjunctions in your sign will activate your resolve to take new initiatives. This momentum will continue for several weeks. Many fresh starts and initiatives will occur before the week is out, leading to a strong assertion of your sense of individuality by next weekend. This is an eventful cycle and hardly a peaceful one, but you are challenged to forge ahead.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Focusing to build a sense of security will take on new momentum this week. You will likely be extra busy behind the scenes and this stands to continue into May. Yet, this is the week you will begin. You may just as easily find yourself huddling-in close to home and entering into a period of retreat, the reverberations of revolutionary impulses slowing with each day.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) A determined push towards creative self-expression will become evident this week. With so many deep changes brewing within, you may wonder where your old self has gone, or is going. Many new perspectives are vying for your attention and you are challenged to keep an open mind, as much as you may otherwise want to. Positively, social and professional opportunities are at play.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) You have begun to see a bigger picture. The results of it are either charging your engines to make some bold moves, especially in your public and professional life. Yet, they could just as well be leading you to want to escape. In these emotionally complex times, both responses are understandable. If you can split the difference you probably will, striking some form of balance between assertion and retreat.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) This stellation of conjunctions in Taurus stands to prove quite inspiring for you, or at least they could just as well be leading you to want to escape. In these emotionally complex times, both responses are understandable. If you can split the difference you probably will, striking some form of balance between assertion and retreat.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Financial interests and ambitions are leading you to identify your gifts and talents. Refining existing abilities and opening yourself to learn new modes and qualities of self-expression is indicated. Initiative is a keyword in this regard so be willing to make fresh starts or at least to try new angles of approach with your existing foray of skills, especially where financial returns are likely.

EDUCATION

Queen responds to literary role-play at SSE

Grade 3/4 class receives letter after imagining life as WWII evacuees

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Elementary School students participated in some creative time travelling this spring when a set of letters back-dated by eight decades they sent to Buckingham Palace received a response from Windsor Castle.

In 1940, a 14-year-old Princess Elizabeth gave a radio speech to comfort child evacuees who had been sent to live in the English countryside and across the Commonwealth due to the Second World War. Her sister Princess Margaret (age 12) joined in to say goodnight.

"To you, living in new surroundings, we send a message of true sympathy, and at the same time we would like to thank the kind people who have welcomed you to their homes in the country," Elizabeth said as part of the Children's Hour broadcast.

"All of us children who are still at home think continually of our friends and relations who have gone overseas — who have trav-

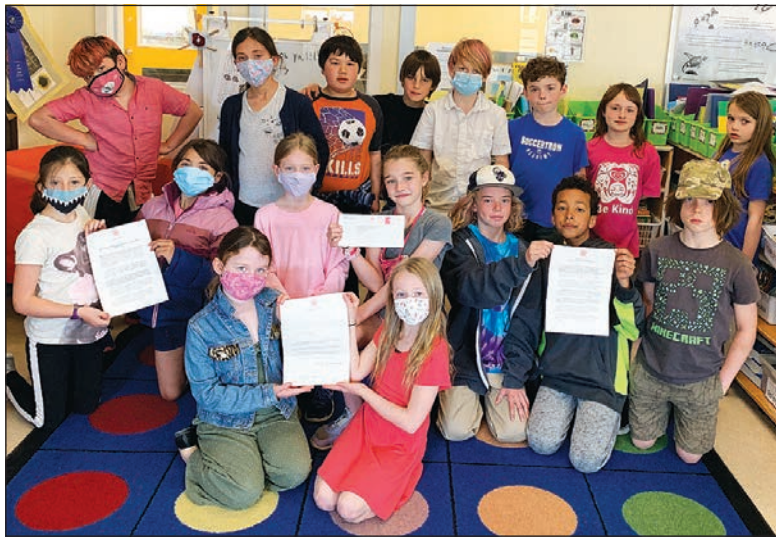


PHOTO BY KATHARINE BYERS

Katharine Byers' Grade 3/4 class at Salt Spring Elementary School show off letters they received from Windsor Castle after writing to princesses Elizabeth and Margaret in "1940" as part of a novel study project.

elled thousands of miles to find a wartime home and a kindly welcome in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, South Africa and the United States of America."

The princesses had themselves been moved from their Buckingham Palace home to Windsor Castle, around 40 kilometres away, which makes it fitting that modern-day Salt Spring letter writers received a reply from that address.

The originating letters were

written in character by Grade 3/4 students who imagined themselves evacuees responding to the radio broadcast in those times. It was just one part of an immersive learning experience teacher Katharine Byers created for the class to help with their novel study.

"Our class is reading Goodnight Mister Tom, so it inspired us to have a 1940s Day. We dressed up and wrote a letter to Princess Elizabeth and Princess

Margaret," explained student Yara Holmes.

"We got a reply a couple of days ago, which was really, really cool," added Mikayla Langdon.

Byers has been reading the award-winning children's book by Michelle Magorian out loud to the class. The novel follows William Beech — a young boy from London who goes to live in the Deptford countryside to escape German bombing — and the overall positive impact on his life and that of his elderly sponsor, "Mister Tom."

Byers said the project was a little different from what her nature class usually does, because they focus on place-based learning and Indigenous studies much of the time. She was pleased to see how involved the students were.

"It was an immersive, engaging experience and very memorable," she said. "And it was an excited class to get a letter back."

For 1940s Day, the classroom was reordered to period conventions, with a blackboard for Byers and desks lined up in rows to face the front. Aside from listening to the princesses' broadcast (with an iPad transformed into radio receiver), other parts of the experience involved a

1940s P.E. class with jumping jacks and skipping, and an air raid drill.

"It was really fun," reported Juniper Lee.

Tilly Buck said her class learned a lot about the time period through the novel. That helped them write their letters to the princesses.

Buck's letter asked whether any of their family members had gone to war, and recounted a neighbourhood family that failed to put up their black-out materials and promptly got bombed.

"I think they learned their lesson," she wrote.

The letter the SSE class received back from Windsor Castle was written by Lady-in-Waiting Jennifer Gordon Lennox on behalf of Queen Elizabeth II. Gordon Lennox praised the students for writing so imaginatively and said the queen appreciated hearing from them.

"Her Majesty hopes you are keeping safe and well during the current situation," she added.

The class was uniformly thrilled by the response.

"I know she does it for basically every letter, but I didn't think we'd get a reply. And she wrote it from Windsor Castle," Buck said.

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11AM-5PM

salt spring arts council

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

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LITERACY

Preschool books wanted

April designated a special month for book donation focus

Salt Spring Literacy is boosting its 1000X5 program for the island's youngest citizens with a book collection drive this month.

The 1000X5 initiative sees bags of books given to families with children aged zero to five years old. Distribution occurs primarily through Salt Spring's early years educational programs four times per year.

Storybooks can be purchased at Salt Spring Books or West of the Moon and left in a donation box in the store. Donations of other new or gently used books can be brought to the Salt Spring Literacy office at 125B Rainbow Road, Monday to Thursday, 12 to 4 p.m.

The 1000X5 moniker is based on the idea that if children hear 1,000 books by the age of five they will be more prepared to attend school when that day arrives.