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 Issue 17
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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DEAD FUNNY: Gulf Islands Secondary School drama students in Grade 12 perform the third act of *Our Town* during an outdoor show in the school courtyard on Thursday. Each act was created and performed by a different learning group, with Grade 9 students taking Act 1 and Grade 10 students Act II for a unique interpretation of the classic play influenced by clowning and improvisation. From left are Christopher Jason, Katie Cooper, Jasmine Schatzmann, Maddox Ainey and Andy Poystila.

TRANSPORTATION

Petition seeks end to private road

Beddis area residents take issue to MLA

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People living near Beddis Beach and Creekside Drive are calling upon the provincial government to intervene in a property dispute impacting the main access route to their neighbourhood.

A petition that had gained 118 signatures as of last week asks the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) "to exercise its legal jurisdiction over and responsibility for" a section of roadway that passes through Laughing Apple Farm at 900 Beddis Rd., which the owners say is private property.

The petitioners state the ministry must direct its contractors to immediately recommence maintenance of that section; remove "private road" and "use at your own risk" signs; and remove speed bumps and rocks placed at the ends of those speed bumps or humps.

The petition asserts "allowing this owner to continue the illegal road obstruction without consequences sets a very unfortunate precedent for the hundreds of kilometres of similar public roads over private lands throughout

British Columbia. We the undersigned ask that MoTI reassert proper public control over this public road, for the safety of residents and visitors alike."

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen submitted the petition to the B.C. Legislative Assembly on Thursday.

"Residents of the neighbourhood are requesting the Ministry of Transportation to address a long-standing issue with respect to the road and road ownership. This has been going on for a long, long period of time. This is the neighbourhood asking MoTI to step in and assist the neighbourhood," Olsen said.

Laughing Apple Farm owners Brian Swanson and Mary Laucks had the speed bumps created in 2016 to calm traffic in front of their farm, citing excessive speeds and the fact the road had never been dedicated as a public highway.

"Before we had the humps, some people used to drive at high speed (over 100 km/hr) on the straight stretch of our road, and most people did not slow down near our gate where there is a curve with less visibility. We felt unsafe crossing the road at our gate," Laucks

and Swanson told the Driftwood.

"Another reason that we installed the humps was so that the many people who enjoy walking and riding their bikes on the road would feel more safe and be able to enjoy the rural landscape. We thought we were enhancing this section of the road."

MoTI appeared to have difficulty determining whether its contractors had been performing maintenance on that stretch of road at the time of the installation. Doing so would make the roadway a public highway even if it had never been formally dedicated, according to provincial law.

The provincial government's incorporation offer to Salt Spring stated that \$5.7 million set aside for road maintenance and other issues was to include financial assistance to resolve the outstanding road tenure issue on Beddis Road, should it not be resolved prior to incorporation. Since islanders voted in a 2017 referendum not to incorporate, that funding was never advanced.

BEDDIS continued on 3

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CENTENNIAL PARK

CRD to pursue Centennial Park safety options

Plaza renewal project also advanced

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission is moving forward with preliminary design options and cost estimates for installation of lighting and security cameras at Centennial Park.

The commission voted on April 20 to establish a project fund of \$30,000 in order to start the first phase of work, which will include studies to determine if such a project is feasible. The amount represents 20 per cent of a total project estimate of up to \$150,000 if it does go ahead.

Crime prevention at community parks has been an issue preoccupying the parks commission as well as Capital Regional District staff and elected officials for a number of years. The most frequent complaints are public drinking, fights and property damage to nearby businesses.

Speaking to the commission by invitation last Tuesday, Salt Spring RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook agreed the impact of environmental interventions on crime is difficult to measure, but said they are helpful in his experience.

Seabrook observed that Cen-

tennial Park and Fulford-Ganges Road are dark at night, and as early as 4 p.m. in the winter.

"That whole area is extremely dark and people are free to move around in there, and really it's extremely difficult even to see people who are not too far off the roadway," Seabrook said. "And so anytime we have people that are out of sight ... it's our experience that people tend to congregate and group in those areas. When people are doing something they shouldn't, they typically don't want to be seen."

Surveillance video may be most effective for enforcement and follow-up after an incident, both Seabrook and parks manager Dan Ovington suggested. Video evidence has helped hold people to account for dumping garbage at the CRD's Ganges office in recent weeks, for example.

"But the hope is if people know they are being monitored, they're more inclined to behave themselves," Seabrook said. "From my side there's two different sides to it. There's hope that with increasing lighting and having the cameras in place, we'll see that drop in activity there and we won't have at least the seriousness of the calls, and then when there is an incident we'll be able to at least properly document exactly what happened there."

Questions as to whether measures like cameras and lights would have a net positive impact have arisen many times in the past. Commissioner Brian Webster raised concerns with privacy laws and efficacy again last Tuesday.

"The hope is if people know they are being monitored, they're more inclined to behave themselves."

SGT. CLIVE SEABROOK
SSI RCMP

The Office for the Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia states, "A public body should use a video or audio surveillance system only where conventional means for achieving the same objectives are substantially less effective than surveillance and the benefits of surveillance substantially outweigh any privacy intrusion."

Webster referenced problems with adding cameras when they don't seem to impact crime rates. Those sentiments were expressed

by Drew McArthur, Acting Information and Privacy Commissioner for British Columbia, in 2018. McArthur issued a warning in response to plans by several local governments to massively increase public video surveillance.

"We must learn from the experience in other jurisdictions, such as the U.K., where over six million cameras (one for every 10 people) have not significantly reduced crime in urban centres," McArthur wrote, adding, "Cameras are particularly poor at deterring violent crime, as those acts occur spontaneously and the perpetrators are not concerned with getting caught, on video or otherwise."

Later in 2018, the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner (OIPC) told the City of Terrace it did not have the legal authority to install video surveillance cameras in public areas and threatened an investigation if the city went ahead without permission. According to the OIPC, the city's privacy assessment on the \$46,000 proposed project did not justify the need for collection of public information.

Webster warned that PARC might be heading for the same result with surveillance cameras.

"This is something that is not going to achieve the goals ... in somehow reducing crime. Six million of them in the United King-

dom have not reduced crime, and 10 or 11 of them or however many end up in Centennial Park will not reduce crime either," Webster said. "This is a really bad idea and I think it will be a discredit to PARC if we even try to move forward with it. It's a waste of taxpayer money and it will provide a false hope to people who think it will somehow change behaviour."

Salt Spring CRD electoral area director Gary Holman has increased funding for bylaw enforcement this year and has committed to another boost the following year. He also supports increasing safety measures by other means.

"I believe quite strongly we should be doing this. Far from putting PARC into disrepute, I think actually the opposite, that if we don't take some steps around crime prevention in the park, I think that's a bigger problem," Holman said. "I know this is strongly supported by merchants and I think will be supported by the community at large. And this [phase] is to do due diligence."

In other business last Tuesday, the commission approved a project charter for renewal of the plaza area at Centennial Park. The charter stipulates that three design options will be developed and public feedback on the options will be sought before PARC makes a decision on the final direction.

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DEALER # 11018

AGRICULTURE

Housing rules change in ALR

Impact on food production debated

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Changes to rules for the Agricultural Land Reserve are being finalized that will soon see more flexibility on the types and purposes of secondary housing allowed.

In the coming months, the B.C. government expects to detail rules that will enable ALR landowners to have both a principal residence and a small additional residence in most circumstances. Secondary residences will be allowed whether or not there is farming activity on the property, and without the owners having to receive permission from the Agricultural Land Commission. New rules will also streamline the approval process for a small-farm labourer residence or agritourism accommodation.

Sue Earle, who runs Salt Spring's Duck Creek Farm with her family, said anything that can help small-scale farmers make ends meet is greatly appreciated.

"I don't know of a farm that can afford to hire a full-time person or more than one without being able to offer something in kind [like housing]," Earle said.

More restrictive rules on housing in the ALR were introduced by the NDP government in 2019. The Ministry of Agriculture has since supported amending laws again after hearing that some of those changes were making it more difficult for smaller-scale farming to survive. The ministry created a policy intentions paper on the new direction in January 2020 and collected feedback from farmers, ranchers, ALR landowners, the Agricultural Land Commission, local governments and First Nations governments.

Earle said she's been able to continue operations on the farm she inherited from her partner largely because her adult children don't receive wages. Local produce prices have not increased much over the years, but Earle said their costs have increased on everything from seeds to inputs to travel.

"The only reason we can do it now is because my kids have decided it's a lifestyle they value and appreciate," she said.

Jan Steinman, a founder of EcoReality Co-op farm in the Burgoyne Valley, is worried the more flexible rules could actually be detrimental to farming because of the provisions.

"It didn't seem to protect food production. In fact it seems to diminish food production by the result of the development of housing," Steinman said about the proposed changes.

"I have concerns that if farmers are able to make more money by putting houses on their land and renting them than they are by growing food, the land will effectively be removed from farming and food production by more housing."

According to the Ministry of Agriculture, people who are farming already have a path with the ALC to build one or more residences of any size if it can be demonstrated that they are reasonably necessary for farming purposes.

Local government rules continue to apply and may be more restrictive on residential use of the ALR than provincial rules. Salt Spring's Agricultural 1 and 2 zones currently permit secondary suites and mobile homes in line with past ALC regulations. Updates to the official community plan and land use bylaw will be needed to reflect any change in ALR housing policy that arises from the provincial review.

Property owners say road is well maintained

BEDDIS

continued from 1

People who live in the neighbourhood located past the private property say maintenance has been poor and there are now potholes to contend with, in addition to the speed humps.

“MoTI’s failure to maintain this part of Beddis Road poses a risk to legitimate users, including members of 140+ households in the Beddis Beach area, many more islanders who use the road as an arterial between Ganges and the south end, emergency responders, school buses with students and drivers,

delivery drivers, trades going to job sites and hundreds of seasonal tourists. Hydro and telephone lines also follow the road across this property and are also potentially in harm’s way,” the petition states.

Laucks and Swanson were not informed of the petition and wish that neighbours having problems with the road had taken the time to talk to them. They do maintain the road and believe the standard is as good or better than MoTI provides elsewhere.

“We are so surprised that a few people at the end of Beddis Road are upset with our speed humps. They

have never contacted us or asked to speak with us about their concerns,” they said. “We have had many people express their support for the speed humps and some would like to do the same thing in their own neighbourhood, for instance, Cusheon Lake Road.”

Laucks and Swanson said they have no intention of closing access to the road. They believe some people may have signed the petition mistakenly believing that was the case.

The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure was unable to provide an update on the situation before the Driftwood’s press deadline.



Area of Beddis Road that goes through a large parcel of property owned by Mary Laucks and Brian Swanson.

PARKS & REC

Maxwell land purchase potential investigated

PARC also seeks works yard rezoning

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The outlook on increasing Salt Spring’s parkland inventory with a purchase at Mount Maxwell has become sunnier with a recent decision of the island’s Parks and Recreation Commission.

PARC issued notice after a closed meeting session on April 20 stating the commission had voted the Hwmet’utsum (Mount Maxwell) Lands park acquisition proposal should be considered further. Under the motion, assessments will be completed to identify areas of interest for ecological and recreation benefit, and fair market value for the purchase of a portion of the land will be determined.

The opportunity to buy anywhere from one to four forested lots comprising a 345-acre property on Seymour Heights first came to the commission as a presentation by Salt Spring Solutions last fall. The group secured pledges of more than \$1 million toward purchase of the entire property last year, with the goal of developing it for recreational activities that have historically taken place there such as horseback riding and mountain biking, while keeping the second-growth forest intact. The property on the north side of the mountain would connect to a large contiguous protected area including the Mount Maxwell and Burgoyne Bay provincial parks and the Mount Maxwell Ecological Reserve.

Salt Spring Solutions said this month they hoped PARC would take steps to prudently assess the opportunity, or risk losing the land to private uses that could include further logging and development.

“BC Provincial Parks and CRD Regional Parks have indicated they will not consider acquisition of this property. The only remaining viable option for ensuring public recreational access to the trails and long-term forest protection is for PARC to take the lead,” a letter to the commission dated April 15 states.

Speaking after the April 20 meeting, Salt Spring Solutions spokesperson Elizabeth FitzZaland said the group was happy to hear the result.

“The opportunity to protect such a large swath of forest may never come again,” FitzZaland said. “Likewise, we have a chance to create a mixed-use trail network unlike any other offered on Salt Spring Island, serving groups like horse riders and off-road cyclists who have very few places to go.

“There has been a tremendous groundswell of public support for this effort. Our community collective is extremely pleased PARC is taking a leadership role by committing to explore local acquisition. Making this a local park would be the absolute best case scenario.”

PARC voted in November to have the Capital Regional District’s regional parks staff assess the proposal before the local organization moved forward. The commission is now recommending the CRD Board approve a five-year financial plan amendment to include additional funding of \$50,000 for associated fees and staff time to complete the necessary studies and inform next steps.

Kanaka Road rezoning initiated

Salt Spring’s CRD office is also proposing to expand facilities for parks maintenance crew and equipment through rezoning on Kanaka Road. Parks commissioners voted on April 20 that staff should get started with an Islands Trust application to rezone two of their properties to a Community Facilities zone that includes public works yard as a permitted use.

Parks and Recreation manager Dan Ovington reported staff had completed high analysis of both the Kanaka lots and Portlock Park. Currently, 210 Kanaka Road has residential zoning and 220 Kanaka is zoned Agriculture 1, and both properties are located in the Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR). However, Ovington reported the CRD received confirmation from the Agricultural Land Commission (ALC) that both parcels are small enough they are exempt from having to file non-farm use applications.

Portlock Park is zoned park and reserves but is likewise in the ALR and would require an application to the ALC, as well as a successful rezoning application. A previous application for non-farm use of an agricultural property on Brinkworthy Road intended for playing fields received strenuous community opposition and was turned down by the ALC after a lengthy application process.

WEEKLY COVID REPORT

PREPARED BY STAN DERELIAN AND CURT FIRESTONE

Good news. For the second consecutive week the Southern Gulf Islands had no COVID cases.

The curve is starting to flatten on Vancouver Island. This is especially true in the Chemainus to Nanaimo area. Victoria and Langford are on a downward trend but they still have a ways to go.

Bad news. There has been a dramatic increase in COVID hospitalizations, including those in intensive care units (ICU). On April 1, there were 296 British Columbians hospitalized for COVID. On April 23, that number had jumped to 486, with 33 per cent of these patients in an ICU.

The Lower Mainland remains the most troubling area with 7,455 active cases as of April 23. That compares to 354 active cases in the Vancouver Island health authority region.

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

	REPORTED ACTIVE COVID-19 CASES			
	Week of 3/2-3/27	Week of 3/28-4/3	Week of 4/4-4/10	Week of 4/11-4/17
Southern Gulf Islands	6	2	0	0
Saanich Peninsula	11	12	22	18
Greater Victoria	83	145	131	103
Langford to Port Renfrew	24	53	58	50
Duncan Area.....	8	8	13	13
Chemainus to Nanaimo.....	77	80	67	39
Total.....	209	300	291	223

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APRIL/MAY 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
28	0431	3.3	10.8	2	0413	2.8	9.2
	1137	0.3	1.0		0643	2.8	9.2
	WE 1922	3.2	10.5		SU 1456	0.4	1.3
ME 2355	2.5	8.2	DI 2334	3.4	11.2		
29	0459	3.3	10.8	3	0612	2.6	8.5
	1222	0.1	0.3		0731	2.6	8.5
	TH 2028	3.3	10.8		MO 1555	0.7	2.3
JE			LU				
30	0059	2.7	8.9	4	0027	3.4	11.2
	0531	3.2	10.5		0727	2.3	7.5
	FR 1310	0.1	0.3		TU 0907	2.4	7.9
VE 2133	3.4	11.2	MA 1658	0.9	3.0		
1	0223	2.8	9.2	5	0112	3.3	10.8
	0606	3.0	9.8		0806	2.1	6.9
	SA 1402	0.2	0.7		WE 1126	2.2	7.2
SA 2236	3.4	11.2	ME 1803	1.2	3.9		

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



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EDITORIAL

Kudos for clean-up

After watching the Driftwood's 2021 clean-up campaign unfold, we can now say with confidence that islanders are not afraid to get grubby for a good cause.

We took a hiatus from organizing a spring trash and litter campaign last year due to COVID-19, but decided to refloat the idea under a Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring banner in 2021. With so many people spending time outdoors since the pandemic began, awareness of trash on our roadsides and beaches was heightened.

Maybe that's one reason Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring prompted an incredible response from islanders, who donned gloves and roamed island roads, ditches and beaches with garbage bags in hand to pick up trash and recyclables. Some 50 different teams — mostly comprised of one or two people but as large as the Salt Spring Girl Guides group of 11 — signed up and tackled specified areas of Salt Spring throughout the month of April, covering an astonishing amount of terrain. (See the map

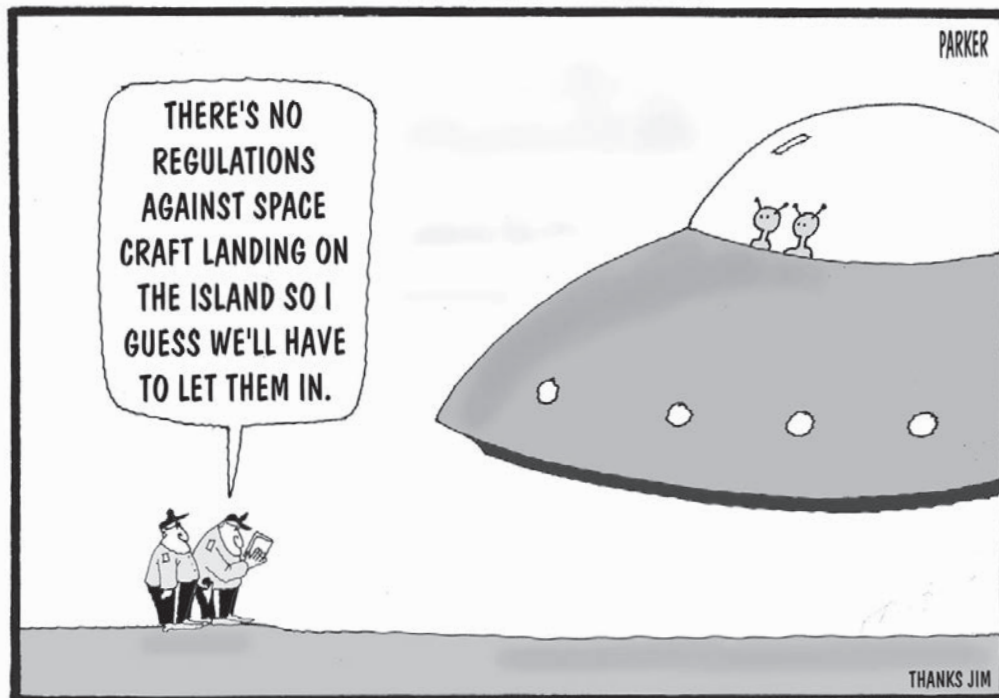
on page 16 of this paper.)

We can't say enough about the people who took on areas large and small with such enthusiasm. They seized an opportunity to become part of a collective effort where every individual's contribution makes a difference in reducing the amount of plastics and other toxic materials that would otherwise degrade our land and marine environments and harm wildlife.

Laurie's Garbage, Recycling and Organics has been an essential partner, not only donating garbage bags but covering the cost of disposal for those who required it. TJ Beans happily jumped on board mid-month by offering free beverages for participants who presented a coupon created by our office.

The clean-up campaign runs through April 30th, so if you see an available part of the island on our map that you could easily clean up in the next few days, please feel free to go for it and let us know!

Picking up garbage is a dirty business, but someone has got to do it. Thanks to everyone who did it this month and to those who do it throughout the year.



PARKER

THANKS JIM

Another world is possible

BY JAN SLAKOV

Earth Day was celebrated on April 22. By now, I'm sure we all understand that individual efforts to wean ourselves off factory farm products, to go carbon neutral, to reuse and recycle, though valuable, can't possibly get us where we need to go.

As for systemic change, it's hard to know where to start. Relationship is key. How do we relate to each other and to the Earth?

From April 10 to May 17 are the Global Days of Action on Military Spending. If we are to transform our relationships, I think it's essential that we reflect on our implication in the military industrial complex and how important it is to change that system. Historically, governments would conscript citizens in order to fight wars. Now they "conscript" natural resources and public financing to buy warships, fighter jets and generally to keep up with what military experts already referred to as the "revolution in military affairs" in the early years of this century. Our sons are not being sent off to kill and be killed, but there are, nonetheless,

VIEWPOINT

enormous costs to this way of "defending" ourselves. Our children's lives are still under threat; in a way, instead of sending them off to war, our current situation has brought the war "home" everywhere.

As Eisenhower once said, "Every gun that is fired . . . signifies, in a final sense, a theft from those who hunger and are not fed . . . This world in arms is not spending money alone. It is spending the sweat of its laborers, the genius of its scientists, the hope of its children." As we buy into discourse that fuels fear and hatred, as we stand by as the never-ending "war on terror" spreads death through drones and bombs, we buy into a logic that is bound to engender yet more terror. Hats off to the late Richard Moses, who wrote an article in this paper in 2003 to suggest flooding Iraq with food instead of bombs. Eileen Wtewaall applauded that idea, suggesting that sharing is the only kind of "war" worth engaging in.

Of course, actions con-

ducted by militaries are not always harmful, just as actions conducted by adherents of nonviolence are not always useful. But I agree with Albert Camus, who wrote, after WW II, that we needed to reflect on murder and to make a choice. "Over the expanse of five continents throughout the coming years an endless struggle is going to be pursued between violence and friendly persuasion . . ."

To find out how our right to freedom of conscience can help restore balance to this "world in arms," check out the Conscience Canada peace group, now in its 44th year. Parliamentarians, including NDP MPs Jim Manly and Svend Robinson, Liberal senator Eugene Forsey, Conservative senator Nancy Ruth and our MP, Elizabeth May, have supported Conscience Canada's efforts over the years. Personally, the group has served as a kind of incubator to deepen my sense that another world is indeed possible.

The writer is a long-time member of Conscience Canada and other peace groups.

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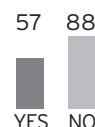
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Does policing in B.C. need dramatic reform?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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



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: }

"When people are doing something they shouldn't, they typically don't want to be seen."

SSI RCMP SGT. CLIVE SEABROOK

SALT SPRING SAYS

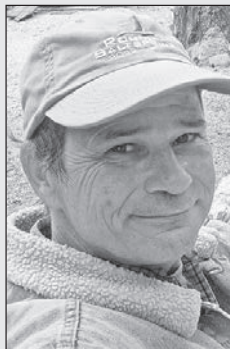
WE ASKED: *What did you collect or notice during the litter clean-up campaign?*

CARRON CARSON



My husband Bob and I covered a 3-km route twice in the month and were so pleasantly surprised by the lack of garbage. We intend this to be an ongoing project for ourselves.

JAN FELLENIUS



My wife Nelly and I cleaned up the west side of Lower Ganges Road between Baker and Booth Canal, and got two bags of miscellaneous garbage plus six golf balls.

HELEN HINCHLIFF



We picked up 33 pounds, not counting a real estate sign, and deduced a rear-end collision because shards of tail light cover were everywhere.

KEN JACKSON



The Baker Road walkers go to great lengths to pick up as they go, and I thank them.

VIV NIELSEN



So far, coffee cups, plastic, tin cans and some masks. But overall, fairly clean. Much cleaner than previous years!

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

More confusion

I am responding to Helen Hinchliff's "Path contradictions" letter in the April 21 Driftwood.

At this time it is not possible to explain the situation to Helen and others around the use of a certain area of my family's property. More information on this matter has come to light since last summer and that is why there is a change. However, there are still many nice places to walk in Ganges and I hope that people enjoy some new areas that they have not used before.

Land use is a legal matter and once a person gives land use to the CRD, it is usually not returnable. Anyone who is in the position of having use assumed

or asked for on their property should seek good legal advice.

Most people who used the area had no idea about my family and that pathway and are now shocked. I would love to see the day when there is appreciation given for contributions.

JENNY MCCLEAN,

SALT SPRING

Green lies

It's a sales pitch that's hard to resist: up to \$14,000 in government rebates, gas prices and gas taxes increasing, cheap battery recharge, say goodbye to environmental guilt, all with the simple purchase of a new electric vehicle. Whoa, better check the small print first!

The authors of the 470-page

book *Bright Green Lies - How the Environmental Movement Lost its Way and What We Can Do About It*, by Derrick Jensen, Lierre Keith and Max Wilbert, dismantle the illusion of "green" technology in comprehensive and documented detail.

Modern electronics, whether it be iPhones, computers or EV batteries, are a toxic mix of strip-mined lithium, cobalt, nickel, iron, copper and 17 rare earth metals that are virtually impossible to separate and recycle. Not only are lithium ion batteries highly volatile and the over 95 per cent of them that do end up in landfills can cause "catastrophic" fires but with just two per cent of the energy density of fossil fuel, they have zero future in replacing any diesel-driven

vehicle required by industry, agriculture or in the delivery of goods. EVs require roads, parking, kill wildlife and beneficial insects similar to other cars and there is nothing "clean" about building hydro dams or their "methane bomb" reservoirs responsible for two to four per cent of global GHGs.

The authors explode the myths of solar, wind, green energy storage, recycling, green cities, hydro power, geothermal, biomass and sustainable agriculture with "numbers, clear thinking, wit and love." It is a must read for all who cherish life on Earth.

RICK LAING,
WILKIE WAY

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Only canapes could improve vaccination experience

There's nothing like an open invitation from BC Health to make me feel good about myself.

Well, actually, the invite is not really "open," but extended to my entire CEV group. I read further down the notice to learn that CEV is the acronym for "clinically extremely vulnerable." I qualify because the chemotherapy treatments I have been receiving for the last eight months have moved me and the rest of my group who are suffering from serious health conditions up to the front of the COVID-19 vaccination line. The notice gives me a phone number to call to book my appointment and emphasizes that the invitation is "for you and you alone." Don't I feel special!

I check the invitation to see if there is a dress code requiring attendees to be outfitted in formal attire, but the only two specifications mentioned are a short-sleeved shirt and a mask. Apparently, nobody cares what is covering the lower half of my body.

I RSVP the invitation by dialling the booking number, but I make sure to pull up *War and Peace* and a couple of other nice long novels I can read while I am put on hold. I have heard that they can keep you waiting for hours and often some people have not been able to get through at all. I hear a click on the other end of the line, which alerts me that a representative will be with me shortly and then some insipid Muzak tune is played into my ear. A more appropriate song for booking a vaccine injection, I think to myself, would be Pat Benatar's *Hit Me with Your Best Shot*.

Now comes the surprise. Less than 30 seconds into my holding and waiting, the music clicks off and I find myself speaking to an actual human being who really wants to help me. After we run through a few formalities such as name, birth date and personal health number, the health rep gives me the date and time for my vaccine shot and tells me that the clinic will take place at the local ArtSpring centre. And just like that, it's all been arranged and I'm ready to get jabbed or poked when the time comes.

The next few days before the vaccination appointment are spent fantasizing about and obsessing on the upcoming event. Will it be like the opening to an art show? Will we, the CEV group, be given the red carpet treatment? Will there be uniformed wait-



**Shilo
Zylbergold**

**NOBODY
ASKED ME
BUT**

ers and servers carrying around silver trays loaded with canapes and hors d'oeuvres such as shrimp quiches and mini sausages? Perhaps instead of food, each tray will be loaded with samples of the leading vaccines. I picture myself with toothpick in hand selecting the Pfizer after having already tried the Moderna, Johnson & Johnson's, and AstraZeneca.

As it turns out, all of my musings on the invitation to the vaccination event are completely misinformed. There is no rubbing elbows with the rich and famous (even at a distance of six feet apart). I am greeted at the door by someone who could possibly be doing the same thing at a Walmart, and I have my identity verified. I am then asked to sanitize my hands and adjust my mask so it fits over both my nose and mouth. Although my mouth is completely hidden by my moustache, I slip the mask as far under my chin as my beard will allow, where it perches precariously. I am subsequently ushered into one of the side rooms at ArtSpring which usually serves as a meeting room or as a gallery for an art exhibition.

I am suddenly transported back in time to the mid-1950s when I was still in elementary school. Polio was then the epidemic of the day and the virus caused nerve damage that could lead to partial or complete paralysis. It was very contagious and particularly dangerous to children. When the polio vaccine was developed, it made sense to administer the vaccinations at school. Our class teacher had the habit of organizing school activities alphabetically by student surname and since my name began with Z followed by Y, the last two letters, I felt relatively safe, especially after catching a glimpse of the super-sharp dagger of a needle the public health nurse clutched in her rubber gloved hands. For once in my short life's experiences I would be only too happy to have to wait to be the last one to be able to do

something. Imagine my dismay when the teacher announced that this time we would go alphabetically but in reverse order. What happened after that has been pushed far into the recesses of my subconscious.

With that odious memory in mind, I walk into the ArtSpring makeshift clinic and am directed to the nearest table. The attending nurse takes my CEV invitation letter and goes through a checklist of standard questions to eliminate the possibility that I am presently infected with the virus. She informs me that the vaccine may give me side effects of pain, itchiness, swelling and redness in my arm from immediately after the injection up to seven days after. She mentions that other symptoms such as swollen lymph glands, fatigue and joint soreness may also appear but are less common. She assures me that although some of these symptoms are similar to those caused by COVID-19, the vaccine will not give me the disease.

When she is satisfied that I understand the risks and aftereffects of the procedure, she reaches for her injection kit and innocently asks if I am prone to fainting when poked by a needle. It is at this point that I notice in the far corner of the room a recliner chair partially hidden by a curtain. This is obviously the place they haul the fallen and definitely not where I want to end up today. When I see how tiny the diameter of the business end of the needle is, my fears are quelled as I breathe out a sigh of relief. Compared to the vaccination needle, the IV catheter the nurses try to shove into my veins at my weekly chemo sessions looks to be about the size of a highway culvert.

A few moments later the deed is done. I honestly don't remember feeling anything, pain or otherwise. I am asked to remain seated on the perimeter of the room for a few minutes to make certain that I don't develop any allergic anaphylactic shock to the Moderna vaccine. When the allotted time goes by, I am reminded that I will be contacted in four months to arrange for my second dose and then I am sent on my way.

Nobody asked me, but I don't think the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine could have gone any more smoothly for me here on Salt Spring. The only knock I can give to the entire vaccination operation is that they could have served a few shrimp quiches and mini sausages as well.

MLA urges input on B.C.'s policing practices

The year 2020 was a period of monumental disruption.

The COVID-19 pandemic played one part. The profound impacts of the deaths of George Floyd in Minnesota, Regis Korchinski-Paquet in Toronto and Chantel Moore in New Brunswick, in addition to allegations of racist "games" in the British Columbia health-care system, shook our business-as-usual public institutions for the better. No longer could the reality for many British Columbians who have personally experienced the deeply entrenched systemic bias, discrimination and racism be ignored.

In the summer, the B.C. government launched an investigation into the extent of institutionalized racism against Indigenous people in the health-care system. Following calls from the public to de-fund the police, they struck an all-party committee to review the Police Act. In the ensuing months the demands for justice, fair treatment and sys-



Adam Olsen
MLA'S
REPORT

temic change in our law enforcement institutions have continued.

The purpose of the Special Committee on Reforming the Police Act is to review British Columbia's law governing policing and public safety. It has been decades since there were any systematic or major reviews of the legislation. When creating the terms of reference for the review of the Police Act, Hon. Mike Farnworth, Minister of Public Safety and Solicitor General, gave the committee a sweeping mandate.

I am thankful to be a member of the special committee. For the past few months we have been hearing testimony from experts, academics, stakeholders, community advocates, Indigenous communities and provincial ministries and agencies. While I appreciate the challenge we have as a committee in parsing the huge volume of information, the quality of our recommendations must be informed by broad consultation. It is necessary that our review include knowledge holders from many sectors, including police, mental health and wellness, addictions and harm reduction, Indigenous communities and advocates.

We also need to hear from the public. The committee is accepting input from all British Columbians on policing, public safety and related systemic issues. As an individual or organization, you can provide a written, audio or video submission — whatever best communicates your experiences and advice

on the future of policing in British Columbia. The deadline to submit is April 30 and you can learn more about the submission process at: www.leg.bc.ca/cmt/rpa.

Gathering information is just the first step in the process. Once that is complete, my colleagues and I will begin deliberations on our recommendations to the government. It is likely this will include more than just a new Police Act. We have heard a variety of advice on a wide range of laws, regulations and government policy that all need to change if we are going to seriously address the systemic bias, discrimination and racism.

From what the committee has heard so far, we need systemic and institutional change. We have that opportunity now to take those necessary steps to ensure we have a just, fair and safe society for all British Columbians. In this spirit, I encourage you to please take this opportunity to have your say in this important work.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Arbutus blight

I think there is an epidemic amongst our arbutus population, not only on our property but also widespread on the island.

It seems characterized by blotched dying or dead leaves yet still flowering. The younger trees appear to be overwhelmed, the older and more established are partially affected.

I worry and wonder what the future holds for these magnificent trees.

MARTIN E. RANDLE,
SALT SPRING

Safety concerns

There have been some concerns expressed about possible safety impacts of the nearly completed Booth Canal pathway.

The concrete shoulder barriers were recommended to CRD staff by the project design engineer

and approved by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI). The retaining wall fronting the cemetery underwent a similar process, and was approved by the Anglican Parish.

The concrete shoulder barriers are similar to those for the pathway at Harbours End on Upper Ganges Road heading north, although vehicle speeds are lower there. The width of the paved road shoulder adjacent to the pathway has been nearly doubled from about 0.65 metres to 1.2 metres. As elsewhere on Salt Spring, the existing, very narrow paved shoulders in the Booth Canal area also pose a risk to cyclists. The sight line concerns related to the cemetery retaining wall are not shared by all area residents.

We need to complete the pathway to ensure transfer of \$490,000 in MOTI funding for the project. However, the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission and I will work with CRD staff, MOTI, the project design

engineer and other stakeholders on options to respond to safety concerns. These options will be considered as soon as possible at a transportation commission meeting.

GARY HOLMAN,
SSI CRD DIRECTOR

Peace and harmony

There has been increasing concern about racism in society recently with lots of disturbing examples but few, if any, solutions.

Racist behaviour is learned, but solutions can be learned too. I'll share an example from when we lived in Victoria.

When our son was three years old we joined a cooperative preschool group. The aim of this group was to raise our children to be citizens of the world. All parents were involved in this shared experience along with an experienced teacher.

We were reminded that we

all belong to at least one ethnic group. Our preschool included Dutch, English, Norwegian, French, Irish, Scottish, Italian, Ukrainian and Chinese members. We took turns sharing our ethnicity with the group. This meant we took turns providing stories, songs, pictures, toys, games, costumes and of course special foods unique to our particular heritage on our participation day. Each child felt special as his or her heritage was shared, and we all learned a lot. Because this was a happy occasion for everyone, the learning had life-long effects.

Life took us in different directions but the inter-racial friendships have remained strong ever since.

As Canada is a multicultural society it is important to be more aware. We are all immigrants, or offspring of immigrants, unless we are First Nations. We need to remember that our national symbol is a peaceful beaver, not a lion or bear or eagle. As beavers make their home they also create a home for many others. Their ponds are

home to fish, frogs and birds. They provide food and water for many animals and a host of insects. Beaver activity prevents or mitigates floods from spring run-off and rainstorms. They retain valuable water and restore the environment. If and when ponds silt up they become meadows. Even the beaver's lodge may be shared with other animals, e.g. muskrats and mice in winter. First Nations people often welcomed the early settlers, sharing their land and resources, just like the beavers. We should be so grateful.

Canada's early history was not the American wild west. Our heroes were the coureur du bois and those exploring the great rivers that flow to the Pacific and Arctic oceans and into Hudson's Bay.

We have every reason to learn and share and live together in respectful peace and harmony, no matter who we are.

NANCY WIGEN,
FERNWOOD

MORE OPINION continued on 11

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Financial Advice

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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Real Estate

What Should Buyers Do BEFORE Viewing Homes?

Set Your Priorities — BEFORE you view homes and while you are thinking intellectually and not responding emotionally.

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Find A Realtor To Represent You — Most buyers just "happen" to connect with a realtor who has a house listed that they are inquiring about. Savvy buyers will seek the opinion of their lawyer, mortgage broker or others and determine whom they would like to represent them in obtaining what is likely the largest asset in their lives. Experience and strategic negotiation skills are great attributes. This is the person who will provide **guidance as to offer price and subject conditions to protect ...**

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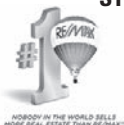
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Marketing

Does colour in newspaper ads work?

Visual factors play an important role when consumers are purchasing products.

Industry research confirms what most of us already know ... colour has a significant impact on newspaper advertising compared to black and white ads. Research on colour, conducted in the past by Starch Canada and the Canadian Newspaper Association (CNA), finds that colour increased ad visibility by 14% to 34% over non-colour ads.

Adding colour to newspaper ads increases visibility over black and white ads regardless of gender. However, the impact of adding colour is even greater for women in Canada based on a CNA survey. Women notice colour ads 42% more than black and white ads. Men are 26% more likely to notice colour ads vs. black and white ads.

Research also found the printed community newspaper is by far the favourite source of local news and information in communities large and small across Canada.

Canadians trust newspaper ads, in both print and digital formats, more than any other media. Despite the proliferation of digital ad formats printed newspaper ads top the list when it comes to trusted ad formats.



NANCY JOHNSON

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HELLO Spring!

IT'S HOME AND YARD FIX-UP TIME



RENOVATION PROJECTS

Garage conversions expand living space

From rental suites to art-making space, anything is possible

With most of us spending more time at home, our lifestyle is forcing us to adapt and renovate.

One of the most popular trends are garage conversions, which involve extending your living space by transforming your garage into much more than storage space for your car, bikes and kids' toys.

Spring is the perfect time to tackle this DIY project, as it will let you enjoy the warmer weather in your new space, which can then be transitioned into a winter refuge with proper heating and an insulated door. Here are some ideas for what you can do to your garage with just a little creativity:

• **Artist studio**

Some of us have responded to increased isolation by creating art to express ourselves. Whether you've taken up painting, crocheting or ceramics, you can create a private area that drives your creativity. You can even make a dark room if you've gotten into analog photography. Simply set up your supplies and decorate with your own creations or other artwork that inspires you.

• **Games room**

When we first transitioned to virtual school and work, we were so focused on creating spaces to accommodate these activities at home. But now it's time to find a place for fun. A games room can encourage you and the

family to spend time together away from screens and enjoy each other's company. Stack your favourite board games on a recycled shelf, add a card, foosball or ping pong table and let the games begin.

• **Sports lounge**

Many of us had a hard time coping when our favourite sports went on pause last year. Celebrate the return of more normal seasons by designing a room to enjoy them. Install your big screen TV, some comfortable couches and a fridge or cubby for snacks and recreate the pub at home. You can even add a wet or dry minibar to enjoy fresh beer or prepare some cocktails.

• **Rental suite**

A little extra income never hurts, and many are transforming their garages into rental apartments. You'd need heating and insulation for year-round use, but it's certainly doable. Check local land-use bylaws to see what the requirements are for your area.

• **Solid foundation**

Whatever you want your garage conversion to be, it's important to lay the groundwork for a comfortable and cozy spot before you get to decorating. This starts with installing subflooring, an essential step that ensures floors are soft, dry and warm. Dricore premium subfloors are a popular choice for best results – they're designed with air gap technology to help protect against moisture.

Source: newscanada.com



NEWS CANADA PHOTO

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UPGRADING

Kitchens can be modernized one area at a time

Five different ways to update an important part of your home

Does your kitchen look like it's from another decade?

Unless you're going for a vintage esthetic, it's time to bring the space into the 21st century. Here are five ways you can modernize the appearance of your kitchen.

Flooring

As a gathering place in your home, the kitchen's floor gets a lot of wear. If yours is faded, scratched or stained, you have two options. Either you can repair it — swap out cracked tiles or sand and varnish hardwood — or replace the entire surface. To help you make a decision that suits your needs and budget, seek advice from a professional.

area to discover the wide range of materials, colours and textures available.

Appliances

The stovetop, oven and range hood, along with the fridge, microwave and dishwasher, are focal points in a kitchen. If yours are scratched, mismatched or out-dated, consider selling or donating them so you can invest in newer models. To get the most out of your purchase, be sure to select Energy Star certified appliances or smart devices.

Paint

Whether the colours in your kitchen are out-dated or the walls have faded over time, a fresh coat of paint is an affordable way to breathe new life into a space. Consider repainting the cabinets as well as the walls. You can easily add a modern flair to your kitchen by choosing a second, bolder colour for the island or lower cabinets.

Decor

A variety of accessories can be used to transform the look of your kitchen in the blink of an eye. Visit local home decor shops to find curtains, blinds, mirrors, light fixtures and more to provide the wow effect you want. Smaller items such as island centrepieces and plants can be rotated with the seasons to freshen up the space every few months.

Countertops

Even if the material is timeless, years of preparing meals on them can leave kitchen countertops looking a little worse for wear. Replacing them with a pristine surface can instantly change the look of the room. Visit specialized stores in your

From upgrading the sink and faucet to replacing cabinet hardware and installing a new backsplash, there are plenty of ways to modernize your kitchen. For best results, enlist the help of an interior designer.



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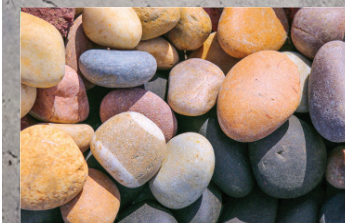


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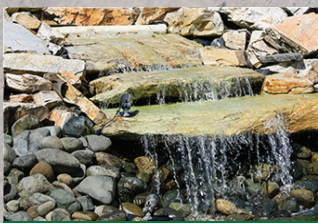
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FLOORING

Factors to consider when selecting flooring

Bring photos of rooms being renovated when it comes time to make a purchase

When it comes to flooring, homeowners have a range of options.

Popular choices include hardwood, vinyl, terrazzo, laminate, ceramic, cork, natural stone and bamboo. Here are four factors to consider if you need to update your floors.

1. Function

Do you have kids or pets? Do you like to exercise in a particular part of the house? Opt for flooring that's practical and suits your lifestyle. For instance, while blonde hardwood and white marble floors are stylish, they may not be the best choice if you have a cat or dog with dark fur. Additionally, you may want to avoid flooring that's excessively hard in rooms where you spend a lot of time on your feet.

2. Atmosphere

Flooring is an integral part of your home's appearance, so make sure you choose a type that contributes to the style you want to create. For example, natural stone generally provides a Zen-like ambiance, whereas blonde hardwood will add warmth to a space. If you want a retro vibe, consider pastel terrazzo. For a more sophisticated look, opt for dark laminate flooring.

When you visit your local stores and suppliers, make sure to compare different flooring samples and seek advice from a qualified salesperson. It's a good idea to bring along photos of the rooms you're renovating.

3. Installation requirements

Before you install new flooring, you may need to update the subfloor. This could be the case if you have heavy flooring that requires extra support. It will also be necessary if you choose to install electrical wiring, plumbing or radiant heating in the subfloor. A qualified professional is always the best person to install new flooring.



4. Upkeep

Some types of floors require maintenance that goes beyond simply sweeping and mopping. For example, you need to periodically apply a sealant to porous flooring such as unglazed tile, limestone and concrete. In the case of hardwood, you need to sand and varnish it every so

often. Before you settle on a particular type of flooring, make sure you know what sort of upkeep it requires.

Keep in mind there are professionals who can provide expert advice. Contractors, interior designers and the staff at your local home improvement and furniture stores will be able to recommend specific solutions for your home.

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Housing crisis is now an emergency

The following was written to Salt Spring's elected representatives Gary Holman, Laura Patrick, Peter Grove and Adam Olsen and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY RHONAN HEITZMANN

At what point does a housing crisis become an emergency for the viability of our community?

I just saw an ad from Greenwoods Elder-care Society seeking long-term rental agreements for nursing staff, saying, "The housing shortage is hitting the ability to recruit staff needed to continue the quality health-care provided to our residents; please consider renting to a not-for-profit." This just after hearing recently that IWAV and Community Services are short staffed, Country Grocer is installing automatic check-outs and a 5th-wheel trailer area for employees, after already having many staff members commuting. Lady Minto Hospital is apparently seriously short-staffed, hiring temporary nurses from as far away as Ontario . . . I could go on and on . . . the RCMP, North Salt Spring Waterworks, CRD Building Inspection, Islands Trust, Natureworks health foods store.

The housing crisis for working people is accelerating at an alarming rate, but there are things that can be done to address this right now that do not need years of process and millions of dollars.

1. Making use of our existing buildings. There are probably hundreds of suites and cottages on Salt Spring that are either sitting empty or being used for vacation rentals because the property owners do not want to bother with a tenant or are afraid of getting saddled with a bad tenant and dealing with the difficult processes of the B.C. Residential Tenancy Act. The loss of the ability to have a fixed-term lease, and the lack of protections for landlords to deal with problem tenants has seriously hampered the availability of rental housing (among other issues, of course).

By establishing an emergency "landlord-tenant matching service" that could create a registry of businesses and individuals seeking

housing, screen their credentials (not vet) and advertise the intense need of our community to the public seeking willing property owners to come forward to lease their existing spaces with some degree of protection guaranteed by the business owners and the service.

This could be done relatively cheaply with only the cost of a single qualified staff person (part time?), some office space and equipment and an advertising budget. The CRD should be able to host this service, perhaps with help from the province through BC Housing. If there was a will this could be established really quickly.

You are our leaders! I suggest that all four of you as our elected representatives sign a joint letter and/or take out an ad for a series of weeks to promote this service and ask our community to open their doors to the working-class people needed to serve our community now.

This would give us some time while we go through the larger process of establishing more sustainable means to ensure sufficient housing for the working class for the long term.

2. The Islands Trust could temporarily suspend enforcement against all non-conforming dwelling situations while the crisis is in effect and until sustainable solutions have been achieved through the new Housing Action Program. (Unless there is a serious issue of public safety.)

Our community does not have anyone in public service responsible for meeting the housing needs of our working-class community. We desperately need some kind of a housing authority, but the above-mentioned emergency service is an easy and cheap first step.

All of the volunteers working on housing issues are burnt out and overwhelmed. Our community pays millions of dollars in taxes. It is long past time for some of those public resources to be directed to this issue that is killing our community.

Please take this appeal seriously!

The writer is part of Salt Spring Solutions.

Rants + ROSES

Roses

Our Public Health team would like to acknowledge the incredible service of over 30 volunteers who have helped facilitate the delivery of more than 2,000 COVID vaccines on Salt Spring Island. Thank you for your wonderful support

and dedication. You are such an integral part of our team!

A huge flower basket full of roses to Fraser's Thimble Farms for once again helping the Salt Spring club of the Canadian Federation of University Women in financing the

Second Chance Bursary for a woman seeking the opportunity to go back and pursue her education. Over the past several years, together with Thimble Farms, we have enabled a good number of women to do just that — qualify for nursing, become a teacher, and so on.



NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

NSSWD WATERING RESTRICTIONS HAVE CHANGED

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT IS IN STAGE 2 WATERING RESTRICTIONS AS OF MAY 1, 2021

Stage 2 Watering Restrictions:

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- Even/odd numbered addresses can sprinkle on even/odd dates between 7pm and 7am up to a maximum of 2 hours per day.
- New lawns can be sprinkled during the hours stated above or outside those times with a special permit.

MICRO OR DRIP IRRIGATION OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS

- Even/odd numbered addresses can water trees, shrubs, and gardens with micro or drip irrigation on even/odd dates before 10 am or after 5 pm up to a maximum of 4 hours per day.

HAND WATERING OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS

(with a bucket or hose with spring-loaded nozzle only)

- Even/odd numbered addresses can hand water trees, shrubs, and gardens on even/odd dates at any time up to a maximum of 3 hours per day.

WASHING OF VEHICLES & BOATS

- Vehicles and boats can be washed anytime using a hose or pressure washer with a spring-loaded nozzle.

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For the more details, visit the NSSWD website to view the Summary Table of Watering Restrictions.

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MIDDLE SCHOOL

SIMS Music gets creative for year-end concert

Outdoor performance spins marching band dreams

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Like most of the performing arts community around the world, students in Salt Spring Middle School's music classes have had to find alternatives to performing to an audience this year.

Michelle Footz, who leads the music programs at both SIMS and at Gulf Islands Secondary School, has been committed from the start of the pandemic to finding comparable learning outcomes as much as possible. For the SIMS Quarter Three final concert last week, that meant bringing every band student outside for one song performed together at last.

"We haven't played live shows for a year and a half now," Footz said. "It brings so much experience to play in front of a crowd, and they haven't experienced that, but this gives them an idea of what it would be like."

Under the Ministry of Education's system for allowing in-class learning this school year, every homeroom class at SIMS has been designated a separate cohort. That means only students within the



PHOTO BY FINLAY MCMMASTER

Salt Spring Middle School band students perform a song in socially distanced cohorts for an end-of-year concert recording on April 21. It was the first time the entire band was able to play together this year aside from a run-through the previous week.

same cohort can study or socialize with each other — and that's had a huge impact on the band and the choir, which normally draws a few students from each classroom. Music lessons and practice have therefore been taking place in small groups or even sometimes individually.

Footz said this has posed some challenges to how small ensembles work together, because the students in one cohort may happen to play a strange combination of instruments. Bringing together all the little groups to perform one piece together after practising separately brought additional challenges. The students had just one rehearsal together before filming the song. Their small groups needed to be well spaced from each other even though outside. That made it a little difficult to hear, and the sound quality also changed being outside.

"It's a way for them all to see what it's like to play together in a group of 50 students instead of five or 15. We can't even be in the gym with mixed cohorts, so that's the solution," Footz said. "Listening to each other in a different acoustic environment was one challenge, but after running through our piece a couple of times it did start to gel, and I think they had fun doing it."

Footz noted everyone is starting to get fatigued after more than a year of pandemic restrictions, so keeping kids motivated and excited about music has been her top priority. Something that might be helping with that is the prospect of a marching band being formed sometime down the line. Footz has already purchased some of the instruments and equipment needed with a Salt Spring Foundation grant. The outdoor performance was a good taste of what might be involved.

"It is hard work, standing and playing. It's a very physical task," she said, noting marching band is actually a competitive sport in the United States. "This is just a great way to get them started and excited about it."

The performance event was also a reminder of what to expect after the pandemic, when the music program will be performing live concerts and travelling on field trips once again.

In addition to the big group piece, the online concert includes a selection of recorded pieces from the ensembles and choir groups. Anyone who would like to see the show can email mfootz@sd64.org to get a link to the unlisted playlist.

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ISLAND LIFE



FAMILY PROGRAMS

Dad 'n' Me founder Bryan McCrea hangs up pancake flipper

Program started as 10-week pilot in 2006

SUBMITTED BY FAMILY PLACE

Way back in 2006, Bryan McCrea was asked by a Driftwood reporter why he volunteered to cook breakfast for the Dad 'n' Me Pancake Breakfast program at Family Place.

"It's Saturday morning pancakes and a place for the kids to play, what could be wrong with that?" McCrea said at the time.

What started out as a 10-week pilot program on April 30, 2006 has become the longest-running Dad 'n' Me program in B.C. McCrea took up the pancake flipper when his own children were six and one years old. Over the past 15 years, he has made an estimated 23,000 pancakes.

"Bryan has not only nourished dads and young children with his amazing pancake-making skills, crispy bacon and strong coffee over the years, but most importantly he's given so many young fathers support, encouragement and confidence in their parenting journeys," said Family Place coordinator Hannah Kahane last week. "He's created a safe space for dads, grandpas and male caregivers to bond together and strengthen lasting friendships. He's also given their partners a Saturday morning break."

To McCrea, the importance of dads spending quality time with their children has always seemed as obvious as maple syrup on pancakes.

"I've loved every minute of it," McCrea said, "and all of the dads and their kids



PHOTO COURTESY FAMILY PLACE

Dad 'n' Me Pancake Breakfast founder Bryan McCrea says goodbye to the program after flipping some 23,000 pancakes.

who I have met over the years."

While all group activities are temporarily on hold at Family Place due to the pandemic, the maple syrup is still simmering on the back burner with plans to continue the legacy of Bryan McCrea's Dad 'n' Me Pancake Breakfast as soon as it is safe to do so.

ISLANDERS

Moya Doherty marks four decades at credit union

Milestone celebrated on May 5

SUBMITTED BY DAVE ROLAND

It's not often that someone works for 40 years in one job.

Moya Doherty started at the Duncan and District Credit Union in Ganges on May 5, 1981. Back then the branch was located where Salt Spring Coffee Company is now. Those were different times. People could smoke at their desks, the money arrived every week on the Salt Spring Freight truck and computers were new and the screens were very small.

Moya would often visit some of the older customers in their homes to do their banking, or if someone was in the hospital, Moya would happily go there. She often receives phone calls at home when people have pressing issues or concerns. She has on more than one occasion delivered bank cards to customers in Mexico while vacationing there herself.

Moya remembers several younger employees being toddlers that sat on her wicket when they were young and then as adults, got a job at the credit union and were then trained by her.

Over the years Moya has held many jobs at Island Savings. She worked her way up the ladder and is now happily back on the front line where she started. She says it's the best job.

In 40 years, many relationships have been formed. She has helped people through all stages of life and death. Many of her credit union friendships came from her kindness and compassion while helping loved ones navigate the estate process.



PHOTO COURTESY DAVE ROLAND

Long-time island credit union employee Moya Doherty, who celebrates 40 years on the job next Wednesday.

Moya says she was trained by the best and most of these retired mentors are still on the island. She recalls special occasions being celebrated with all of the staff and even those in the head office in Duncan.

Things change, people change, names change, but Moya has always tried to keep that original credit union feeling and provide the best customer service.

Due to the pandemic there can't be a celebration at the branch on May 5 to celebrate this milestone. So if you see Moya at the branch or on the street, wish her a Happy 40th!

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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.

  bctransit.com

ENVIRONMENT

New app helps track invasive species

Island group leads gorse awareness and removal project

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring residents are being asked to join a citizen science project to help slow the spread of gorse, while a special chipping and drop-off day is being planned to help deal with the noxious material.

The Native Plant Stewardship Group (NPSG), which formed as a Salt Spring Conservancy committee and is now a project under Transition Salt Spring, has been encouraging islanders to cut invasive plants like gorse and broom and hosting chipping events each spring for close to a dozen years. This year they have launched a new initiative using the iNaturalist app to map the spread of gorse, a plant that is invasive, highly flammable and tenacious.

Broom and gorse, both designated noxious weeds by the provincial government, look similar in their form and their bright yellow blossoms, although gorse comes with nasty prickles and can have some orange in its petal. Both plants were brought to the West Coast in the late 19th century by homesick British islanders and have since spread alarmingly all across the region.

NPSG member Cathy Young explained the new project hopes to get a handle on gorse and prevent it from taking over even more island

territory, but there is little hope of eradicating it completely.

"It's a very hard plant to get rid of. With broom you can cut it back at the root and it won't come back, but gorse keeps coming back again and again," Young said, adding the high oil content and unusually large amount of dead plant matter make gorse a serious fire hazard. The plant's dense growth meanwhile prevents native plants from flourishing.

The Native Plant Stewardship Group says mapping the spread of gorse will be a valuable tool in seeking help from both islanders and government in future, and understanding its extent will help prioritize local efforts to deal quickly with small patches before the plant spreads further.

To accomplish that mapping, the group is asking people to take photographs of areas where gorse has been spreading on Salt Spring and using the iNaturalist app. Young said the app was originally developed by graduate students as a thesis project and it has since been recognized by the Canadian government in their Citizen Science Portal. The app uses open source technology as much as possible.

Since most cell phones have a GPS device, all the user has to do is snap a photo and iNaturalist will take care of mapping the coordinates. Photos can also be uploaded to the website <https://inaturalist.ca>. Other members with expertise will confirm a suggested organism's identity (it can be used for any

plant or animal species) — probably within a few minutes.

"You don't even have to know what it is. You can just upload it and someone will identify it for you," Young said.

Once identified, participants can submit the photo to the Mapping Gorse on Salt Spring Island project. Viewing the project will allow anyone to see what has been mapped so far.

Young said some island gorse patches are well known, such as an infamous area near Ganges Marina that has spread all the way up Park Drive and around the middle school. The group is hoping that by adding many iNaturalist users they will be able to cover areas not publicly visible, such as private properties.

This year the first invasive species drop-off event for broom, ivy, holly and blackberry cuttings will take Saturday, May 15 at the Community Gospel Chapel. The project has welcomed two new partners, Emcon Road Services and Fisher Road Recycling, who will take the plants to be turned into compost. However, they cannot take gorse at this time.

Gorse, along with other invasive plants, can be taken to the second drop-off event set for Sunday, May 30 at Fulford Hall, where plants will be chipped for local use.

Both events will be open from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. with drop off by donation. The group is pleased to have Salt Spring Fire Department volunteers lending a hand once again.

Call 250-537-0880 for more information.

what's on this week



Wed. Apr 28

VIA ZOOM

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

Local Author Reading: Marilyn Walker.
Retired medical anthropologist, archaeologist and ethnobotanist and author of Shamanism An A-Z Reference Guide: Beliefs and Practices from Around the World and other books gives an illustrated talk. 7 p.m. A SS Public Library event. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com to register and for the link.

Fri. Apr 30

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
Self-guided family activity from SS Public Library through Mouat Park toward the Rainbow Road Pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat. May 1

ACTIVITIES

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

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Rock Painting for Kids Workshop.
Led by Cathie Grindler for ages 5 to 12. Free, safely distanced and limited group size, and part of Salt Spring Arts Council Spring Art Show events. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Register through ssartsCouncil.com.

Sun. May 2

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Mon. May 3

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Wed. May 5

VIA ZOOM

Restorative Justice Discussion: Island Workers Deal With Pandemic Stress and Public Harm.
Facilitated event for people who have experienced or witnessed harm from a member of the public in their jobs during the COVID-19 pandemic period. 7 to 9 p.m. Email Laura at ldafoe8@shaw.ca to register and get the Zoom link.



Impressions 6

Show of work by island printmakers
Salt Spring Public Library Program Room
Until the end of May



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• 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 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.

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 the end of May.
- Photographer **Stasia Garraway** is the featured artist at **Switchboard Cafe** this month.
- **Leslie Corry** has artwork hanging at **Salt Spring Coffee Co.**

COVID-19

Safer community fostered

Discussion springs from stressful times

SUBMITTED BY RESTORATIVE JUSTICE SSI

Have you witnessed or experienced harm from another member of the public since the beginning of the pandemic?

This is an invitation to support islanders who bravely face these times and continue to work and volunteer for the cultural and economic well-being of our island. If you are a barista, grocery clerk, waiter, manager or owner, secretary, health-care worker, a volunteer or any other publicly engaged person who is on the front lines of the COVID crisis we would like to hear from you. It is our hope that by sharing stories we can help guide our island social contract toward a kinder, more civil direction.

For more than a year, Dr. Bonnie Henry has been asking us to "Be kind, be calm and be safe." This is often easier said than done, especially in situations when we are faced with what we will refer to as bewildering behaviour.

Restorative Justice Salt Spring Island is offering a series of virtual evening workshops where we can tap into our collective wisdom and support each other during these challenging times.

Kindness begins with an understanding of what's happening in our brain and body during stressful times. Calmness is developed through sharing approaches and practice. We feel safe when our emotional and physical needs are met.

To better understand the contexts and needs related to these

stressful times, our first evening will focus on hearing from members of our community who daily engage with the public and have either witnessed or experienced harm. It is the intention of this project to compassionately raise awareness and collectively foster a calmer, kinder and safer community over these next coming months.

You are invited to join us on Wednesday, May 5 from 7 to 9 p.m. to explore these topics and work together towards peace in our community.

The evening will be facilitated by Restorative Justice volunteers Laura Dafoe and Adrian Wright and hosted by community health advocate Robert Birch.

Dafoe's First Nations heritage inspired her study of Indigenous restorative justice practices and peacemaking circles. Dafoe believes enhancing communication skills contributes profoundly to healthy relationships, healthy communities and ultimately global peace. She is a retired teacher-librarian with a degree in counselling.

Wright practised as a lawyer in Yellowknife, NWT for almost 30 years. In 2008, he was appointed chair for the NWT Human Rights Commission in the Indian residential schools adjudication process. He has acted as counsel in matters under the Fair Practices Act and the Human Rights Act, as well as the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Birch is a local counsellor and an international arts-based facilitator of community health projects, working and living in Salt Spring's south end for the past 23 years.

To register and for the Zoom link, email Dafoe at ldafoe8@shaw.ca.

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Back-to-back conjunctions in Taurus are a central theme this week. First, Mercury aligned with Venus for their 2nd of 4 conjunctions on April 25. It might be imagined that these two inner planets form conjunctions all the time, but their rhythmic, cyclic patterns are quite irregular. The main point, in this instance, is that this conjunction is destined to stimulate a whole new round of critical thinking.

The other is Sun conjunct Uranus which is an annual event with it advancing each year about 8 degrees. This time it is at 10 Taurus and occurs on April 30. This degree also reveals an activation of a whole new level of critical thinking. So, both conjunctions share a key common denominator linked to the influence of Virgo. Critical thinking includes challenging what we have learned with opposing evidence and questioning the reliability of our sources. Genuinely thinking critically is actually a rarer inclination and ability than is commonly assumed, and may indeed be deemed an art.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You have entered an industrious cycle. This may simply find you in your own yard cleaning up the winter residue. However, Mars in Cancer indicates the possibility of a much deeper dig. Renovations are even likely. These may be directed towards self-improvement as well as external tasks. The New Moon on May 11 will also push you to lively discussions and activate new sources.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

A mounting emphasis of planets in your sign will have a strong activating effect on you. As if suddenly, you will feel more energetic, enthusiastic, bold and invigorated. An emphasis on creative activity is strong and you may even come up with new innovative methods and even inventions. This beat and pulse will increase all month due to the approaching New Moon in your sign.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Shifts of perception are underway. Outer personalities and circumstances are shaking you out of your comfort zone. Positively, you welcome the push. However, the exact opposite may also be true. Either way, you are getting a reminder that neither you nor anyone sees reality so much as 'it is' as you and they are. Awakening to the realization that perception is conditioned will help you to see more clearly.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

A steady flow of change in your public and professional life continues. Yet, the shift has advanced to encompass your friends and social network in general. You may notice that your focus has been sharper of late and now has shifted to be steadier as well. In the deeper end, returns for past efforts are coming in, yet you must also contend with deep changes underway within.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Circumstances and key players have been activating you to see a bigger picture. This trend will continue but is already shifting to emphasize more practical applications, as well. This shift to the practical side includes financial realities and this focus will deepen. Positively, your social outreach is expanding and you are committed to making any extra efforts required to perpetuate this trend.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Some rather deep shifts and what may actually be deemed transformations in your overall approach and lifestyle in general have been steadily percolating. These will go to a new level of depth this week which will activate your orientation to more clearly and fully identify with what you deem to be true. Where others do not agree, you will seek diplomatic solutions.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Fresh starts on relationship fronts have been keeping you busy. Yet, your focus has shifted to deepen your research to be extra sure of what you are thinking and feeling. You are willing to invest more time, energy and perhaps money too, but you want to be more certain of what and who you are getting involved with. To this end, you will reach for new insights and to new sources.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Exercising a more constructively critical approach to your overall lifestyle continues. Deciphering what is and what is not working so well and where improvements are possible is on your mind. These inclinations may be inspired by, but are not solely linked to the changing season. Positively, you are excited to direct a creative focus to constructive ends.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

An inspirational cycle continues. It has supported you to open your mind to many new perspectives and possibilities and this trend continues. The shift now is towards more practical applications and this focus will both continue and deepen over the coming weeks. With your ambitions running higher than usual, you may even find yourself feeling more bold to look harder in places than you were willing to previously.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

The flow has directed you to really get in touch with your sense of authenticity of late. Who are you really, what do you truly feel and want, and what must you do to take realistic steps? You have likely been working extra hard to get answers to these and other such questions. Contending with the objections of others is the next phase coming in fast now.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

The flow of knowledge is accelerating and you have likely had to work that much harder to keep up. Positively, you feel excited by the steady flow. Yet, now you will have to work harder to digest the implications of what you have been learning. Knowledge can indeed prove to be empowering, yet it comes with added responsibility, as well.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

A steady flow of new initiatives have and continue to keep you busy. In fact, the scope is increasing and you must contend with even more fronts now and this trend will continue and deepen. Building upon new perceptions, concepts and realizations is the real task and this will require creative intensity. Fortunately, those very influences are flowing in quickly now.

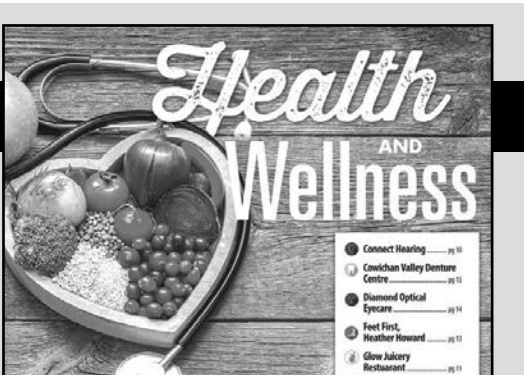
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Nutrition, exercise, heart health, Mental Health First Aid and COVID-19

Spotlight on local services

Thanks to you, our clean-up campaign was a great success ...

LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!



Salt Spring Girl Guides clean up the middle school area.



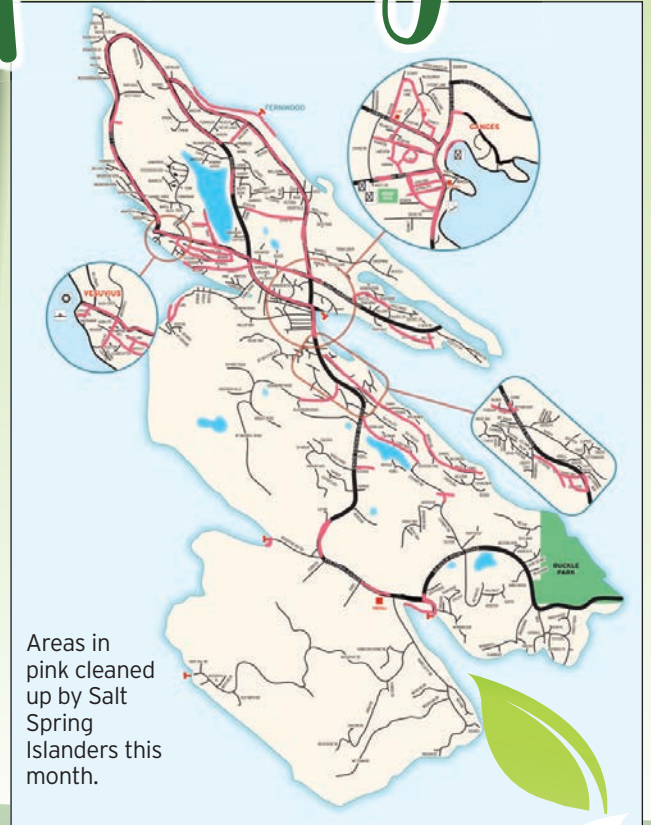
Gwen McDonald with the haul she and partner Curt Firestone collected along Vesuvius Bay Road (from Chu-An to Tripp) and the Woodland, Bradley, Elizabeth neighbourhood.

Joining the campaign in the final week were: Tanis McKillop, Ann Stewart, Charles Kahn, Nicholas Courtier, Jill Tarswell, Amber Billard, Lena and Joel Laforet, Diana Haenan and Evelyne Nasarre.

Heartfelt thanks to Laurie's and TJ Beans for generous donations.



Susannah Devitt works to clean up Robinson Road (along with friend Linda Dares who took the photo).



Areas in pink cleaned up by Salt Spring Islanders this month.

Thank you for your participation!

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COVID-19 IN BC

COVID-19 VARIANTS ARE A GAME CHANGER.

That's why BC has implemented new travel restrictions to help slow the spread of these variants. Vaccines alone cannot keep pace with the rise in cases unless we each do our part. These restrictions are currently in place until after the Victoria Day weekend, to help keep us all safe.



Stay close to home



Wear a mask



Only gather outdoors



Register to get vaccinated

To register for the vaccine, visit:
gov.bc.ca/getvaccinated

For more details on the new rules visit:
gov.bc.ca/covidtravel

