

inside:



**Emergency Preparedness Week**

PGS: **6+7**



**12** Invasive Plant Drop-off Day coming up!

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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

62nd year  
Issue 18  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY CARLA MARUCA

**GREENING UP:** Robin Jenkinson, a driving force behind School District 64's school garden programs, gets set to plant a lupine as part of Earth Day initiatives on the Salt Spring Elementary and Gulf Islands Secondary School grounds. Milo Stuart and Tara Galpin, with Rainwalk Design & Nursery, worked with GISS International and Leadership students and SSE classes to plant a number of legacy trees with support from community sponsors.

**RETAIL BUSINESS**

## Fields set to open this summer

Renovations underway to prepare for return to island

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's low-cost retail offerings are set to expand this summer, when Fields Holding Company (FHC) hopes to have a new outlet open and ready for business.

The company's owner and CEO Jason McDougall told the Driftwood on Monday that renovations at 804 Fulford-Ganges Rd. are underway. Although lots needs to be done to turn the former Slegg Lumber premises into a retail store — including installation of new walls, insulation, flooring and lights — the goal is to have the store open by July 1.

"Our opening date keeps moving a bit because there's a little more work we have to do. We know the community needs us and we're working to get there as soon as possible," McDougall said.

Salt Spring last had a Fields outlet in 2009, when its lease at the Country Grocer complex expired. FHC bought the historic Western Canadian chain after that, and has been actively looking for a new Salt Spring home for the past seven or eight years, McDougall said.

The former Slegg Lumber branch closed on Nov. 30, 2019.

"It was someone from Salt Spring who actually called us to let us know the building was available and might be a suitable location," he said.

McDougall said the store will be a typical Fields with a mix of merchandise that includes clothing, toys, stationery and foods. He noted the latter department won't be very large, though, because the company is aware Salt Spring is well represented by grocery options.

"Depending on the needs of the community, the departments can increase or shrink," he explained. "We're pretty flexible in terms of what we sell. We want to make sure we're adding to the community, not bringing something that isn't needed."

McDougall said he also wants Salt Springers to have the option to buy low-cost clothing or footwear without having to take a ferry, unless they want to make a trip. People who are shopping for one thing off-island will likely do other shopping as well, he observed.

**FIELDS** continued on 3

GULF ISLANDS

# Driftwood

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**SAFE AND SEEN:** From left, Jon Scott tries out the new red flag safety system in place at the Lower and Upper Ganges Road crosswalk. Flags are also available at the McPhillips Avenue and Lower Ganges Road intersection, with additional installations coming at the Hereford Avenue and Lower Ganges Road crosswalk and the one on Lower Ganges Road near Village Terrace. Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission member Peter Meyer instigated and organized the project to help make pedestrian use of Ganges crosswalks safer.

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**TRANSPORTATION**

**Baker sightlines cause concern**

Commission asks staff to seek immediate remedy

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Transportation Commission is hoping to take a more active role in pathway planning after hearing numerous delegations and considerable negative feedback on its current project.

Commissioners directed Capital Regional District staff to immediately examine options for improving safety at the Baker Road intersection and along concrete barrier curbs, while ensuring the pathway is completed in time for a funding deadline after hearing delegations at the April 26 business meeting. They also resolved that any future pathway designs must come to the commission for their recommendations before they are finalized.

Residents and frequent users of Baker Road who presented concerns to the commission last Monday said sight lines at the Lower Ganges Road intersection have been dangerously impacted by the new retaining wall installed as part of pathway construction. Cars turning into Lower Ganges Road from Baker may have difficulty seeing southbound traffic cresting the hill, especially if those vehicles are going faster than the speed limit.

"Due to the placement of the concrete blocks, the ability to see oncoming traffic is severely diminished," explained Jan Fellenius, who has property next to the intersection.

Fellenius added he had a recent near-miss when a small car was coming down the hill, and said measures must be taken

before someone is seriously hurt.

Ken Jackson, a retired safety professional who worked for 25 years assessing risk and investigating incidents at major industrial sites, said he believes risk at the intersection has increased significantly in a place that had problems to begin with.

"It was not great before, but you could actually improve the sight lines if you moved the blocks right up against the cemetery," Jackson suggested.

The commission also heard presentations from Luisa Maffi, David Rapport and Gay Utter, who had similar concerns. Utter outlined the intensive process she underwent when creating the Acland Road subdivision and strata 20 years ago. Delegates also urged the commission to fund an independent traffic consultant.

The pathway was designed by Stantec engineering consultants and was contracted to Don Mann Excavating for construction.

CRD engineering staff did a sight visit on April 23 after receiving multiple complaints. They found the visibility at the Baker Road intersection appears to meet Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure guidelines. Staff have also observed there is a 30-km/hour slow down sign on the hill before the bend heading toward Booth Canal Road.

Commissioner Myna Lee Johnstone wondered if at least some of the concrete blocks in the retaining wall could be removed, an idea the commission ultimately directed staff to investigate.

"I have heard from the delegates here today that the issue is mostly that last batch of cement," Johnstone said. "Surely there could be some portion removed

that could improve visibility for them."

The commission stopped short of ordering a halt to the project or dismantling the work. Electoral area director Gary Holman said there was no question that safety concerns must be dealt with; the question was how far to go in that direction when the project had received MoTI grant funding and the completion deadline had already been pushed back once.

"I would suggest to the commission we don't want to jeopardize our \$500,000 in funding," Holman said. "If we start taking apart the project as currently designed, we risk half a million in funding."

A second safety issue related to the project is the high curb that was installed to separate the pedestrian pathway from the road. Cyclists have said this barrier and the narrow marked shoulder lane could be a "death trap" if vehicles are passing too close and they have no way to escape onto the shoulder.

Holman said asphalt had been added to the side of the road to provide a wider space, but he agreed the two-foot-high curbs might be a bigger factor.

"I don't think that anyone intended that improved safety for pedestrians might come at the price of decreasing safety for cyclists," Holman said.

The commission passed a resolution that future pathway designs must take into account both cyclist and pedestrian safety. Staff are also to seek immediate short-term measures for improving safety through things like flags, road sweeping and signage.

Holman said the CRD could also look into whether it could replace the high curb with a lower structure later on.

**TIDE TABLES**  
 at Fulford Harbour

**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
5	0112	3.3	10.8	9	0304	3.0	9.8
	0806	2.1	6.9		0955	1.1	3.6
	WE 1126	2.2	7.2		SU 1658	2.7	8.9
ME 1803	1.2	3.9	DI 2137	2.1	6.9		
6	0150	3.2	10.5	10	0321	3.0	9.8
	0838	1.8	5.9		1019	0.9	3.0
	TH 1327	2.3	7.5		MO 1747	2.9	9.5
JE 1905	1.5	4.9	LU 2224	2.3	7.5		
7	0220	3.2	10.5	11	0338	2.9	9.5
	0905	1.6	5.2		1045	0.8	2.6
	FR 1455	2.4	7.9		TU 1833	3.0	9.8
VE 1959	1.7	5.6	MA 2311	2.5	8.2		
8	0244	3.1	10.2	12	0355	2.9	9.5
	0931	1.4	4.6		1112	0.6	2.0
	SA 1603	2.6	8.5		WE 1918	3.1	10.2
SA 2050	1.9	6.2	ME				

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**WEEKLY COVID REPORT**

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE & STAN DERELIAN

The reduction in the number of COVID-19 cases locally and in nearby surrounding areas continues to modestly improve.

All community leaders are thankful for the efforts and want to see this trend continue as we keep observing the necessary precautions. It gives hope that by summer some of the precautions might be relaxed.

However, as onerous as it may be, restrictions on non-essential travel are necessary for controlling the spread of the virus. The Vancouver greater metropolitan area is experiencing a rapid spread of COVID-19. On April 30, there were 4,983 active COVID cases in the Fraser Health Authority area south of Vancouver city through Surrey and east from Burnaby to Abbotsford. Some 1,752 active cases were located in Vancouver Coastal Health, including the areas north of the Lions Gate Bridge. For comparison, all of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands had 320 active cases on the same date.

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

	NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES			
	Week of 3/28-4/3	Week of 4/4-4/10	Week of 4/11-4/17	Week of 4/18-4/24
Southern Gulf Islands	2	0	0	0
Saanich Peninsula	12	22	18	16
Greater Victoria	145	131	103	74
Langford to Port Renfrew	53	58	50	41
Duncan Area	8	13	13	12
Chemainus to Nanaimo	80	67	39	46
<b>Total</b>	<b>300</b>	<b>291</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>189</b>

## Traffic considered



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Future site of a Salt Spring Fields department store.

### FIELDS

continued from 1

"Keeping dollars in the community is better for the community," he said.

Fields will be operating its commercial business on an industrial-zoned property with a temporary use permit (TUP) issued by the Islands Trust in October 2020. Getting the correct commercial access permit from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) in order to use a driveway off a highway was required as a condition of the TUP.

Some islanders who spoke during a February 2020 Local Trust Committee meeting said they were concerned about increased traffic to the site, which is located off an 80 km/hour highway and on a curve.

McDougall said he believes the store won't attract more traffic than Slegg Lumber did, because that was a busy location, but the company has been petitioning MoTI to add a slow-down area to that part of Fulford-Ganges Road. So far they have been unsuccessful.

McDougall said FHC will keep trying and will also expand the slow-down area at the property's entrance.

"We'll do what we can control, anyway. And I guess it will take a while for people to get used to there being a store there again," he said.

Look for announcements with the store's opening date in coming weeks.

### FIRE DISTRICT

# Deputy chief position filled

Trustee election also announced

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A long-standing gap in Salt Spring Fire Rescue management has been partly resolved at last with appointment of Jamie Holmes to the deputy chief position.

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District announced the appointment, effective May 1, at the April 26 business meeting.

"The board of trustees is fortunate to have Acting Chief Holmes' skills and experience on their management team. We are grateful for his continued service to our community and excited for the future of emergency services on Salt Spring Island," said board chair Per Svendsen.

Holmes thanked the board for their support.

"I'm willing to continue to support Salt Spring Fire Rescue and the community of Salt Spring Island as best as I can," he said at the meeting.

Holmes has been serving as acting fire chief since November 2020 and will continue in that position for the time being. The announcement states he has served Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue for 25 years since joining the department as a paid-on-call volunteer in January 1996. He became a career firefighter in 2002 and ascended through the ranks, becoming assistant chief in 2015.

"During his 15-year tenure as training officer, the department successfully trained many volunteer firefighters that would go on to become career professionals both within our own department and in other departments across the province," Svendsen said. "Acting Chief Holmes set a benchmark that members be trained to the NFPA 1001 standard. This high standard allows members to apply for a career with any

department in North America."

The deputy chief position has been vacant since 2015, when former deputy Arjuna George took on acting chief duties. George was officially hired as chief in 2016, but has been on personal leave since the end of June 2020. Having Holmes appointed deputy chief means there will be a non-union management position available to him if George returns.

Open positions on the board of trustees may be more difficult to fill. There are currently two vacancies at the seven-member table, and another two trustees will see their three-year terms expire at the end of this year's annual general meeting. While that meeting would normally take place in April, COVID-19 meeting restrictions pushed last year's AGM to December and a date has not yet been set for this year.

The board had attempted to fill the two vacancies before the end of 2020, but a call for nominations went unheard. New interest from a prospective board member in former school trustee John Wakefield has inspired the board to try again.

The trustees voted last week to initiate the election process and appoint a returning officer. Announcements of the nomination period are expected in the coming weeks.

In other news, Holmes reported a plan to vaccinate first responders in the Island Health region with the AstraZeneca vaccine was derailed as those doses were diverted to hot spot areas in the Lower Mainland and the Fraser Valley. However, public health unit staff on Salt Spring asked for a list of firefighters waiting to be vaccinated and called them whenever the local vaccination clinic had doses left over at the end of the day.

Holmes said all firefighters who signed up for that list have now been vaccinated.

### LAND USE PLANNING

# Swanson Road strata plan introduced

Community amenity question part of tough path forward

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A strata development proposal seeking to bring six new houses to Ganges is opening questions about how and why density should be managed in the village area.

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee gave preliminary consideration on April 27 to a rezoning application submitted by Sea Isle Development Group for 114 Swanson Rd. Representative Dale Rivers said the company has been working on plans for the land for close to a decade, and had originally planned to build a 12-unit townhouse complex similar to their Park Place Estates development. The current plan is for six single-family homes, with the seniors market in mind.

While the LTC allowed the application to advance by requesting a number of professional reports, proof of water supply and connection to Ganges sewer, the trustees predicted the way forward would be difficult for the applicant given the nature of the request.

"In terms of land-use density, this is 1.2 acres. It's actually a tiny lot, and six dwellings on that lot strikes me as an awful lot," said committee chair Peter Luckham, who added his inclination was to vote the application go no further.

"There are a lot of hurdles here and I'm not sure the applicant is going to be able to meet all those hurdles," he said.

The applicant's former plans for the property were upended in part by the

2014 moratorium on new connections to the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. Rivers said Sea Isle has since drilled two wells and the capacity is double what is needed to supply six homes. The developer will still need to be licensed as a water utility through the Ministry of Forest, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development, which is a lengthy and often difficult process.

Trustee Laura Patrick was not as concerned about adding density in the neighbourhood for the right reasons, noting the Valhalla Road subdivision on the next street over has 12 homes on a similar-sized lot. The type of housing proposed caused more concern, however. Patrick underlined the almost complete lack of housing for workers and proposed having a mixed-use strata that didn't focus on one demographic would be more appropriate.

An additional resolution the LTC passed last Tuesday requires Sea Isle to revise the application with consideration of a community amenity in exchange for the increased value rezoning would bring. Trustees would like to see rental and/or affordable housing factored into the project.

Regional planning manager Stefan Cermak reported that a one-to-one amenity exchange had been required for a rezoning nearby. Since the Swanson Road property zoning allows a duplex now and an additional four dwellings are requested, Cermak said two of the four units could be designated as the amenity.

Rivers said the company was open to mixed use and other possibilities, but he also noted that high construction costs would make it difficult to build anything

"affordable." Those costs have gone from around \$350 per square foot a year and a half ago to \$500. The homes being planned would total about 1,400 square feet each.

The project was also the topic of a delegation by Jenny McClean earlier in the day. McClean asked the LTC to hold off on the application until the Ganges village planning project proceeds further on its work. She also brought up potential water drainage problems in the neighbourhood, where her family owns property, and said she was waiting for a hydrology report that could provide more information.

### Charlie's Excavating TUP on hold


In other business at last week's LTC meeting, the committee gave Charlie's Excavating three months to come up with the additional information needed to consider a temporary use permit application. The business is currently operating illegally in a rural watershed zone.

Company business manager Mia Cahill reported the company has been looking for a more suitable place but options with the right zoning are extremely limited on Salt Spring. Charlie's Excavating is meanwhile on contract with Islanders Working Against Violence for its Phase 3 affordable housing project for the next year.

The LTC voted to defer the application until the July 27 meeting, and asked the applicants to provide proof from a qualified professional that a temporary fueling system has been properly secured. The committee is also waiting for a groundwater and watercourse assessment and a noise assessment that were required by staff.

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# OPINION



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Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

2020 BCYCN Awards  
Bronze - Best Historical Writing (Elizabeth Nolan)  
Bronze - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)



## Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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### EDITORIAL

## Group effort

Getting ready for anything besides the immediate task ahead can be a struggle these days.

The anxiety produced by COVID-19 and the ever-changing rules and updates have left many people exhausted. It could be that the multiple steps required to book a vaccine appointment have tapped our last reserves.

Unfortunately there are still other disasters that could hit, and without some advance planning the impacts could be far worse than anything Salt Spring has endured so far.

As Baker Road interim neighbourhood pod leader Ken Jackson asks in our emergency preparedness feature this week, how do you get people to think about the unimaginable when they're already immersed in a once-in-a-century global pandemic?

### THE ISSUE: Emergency planning

### WE SAY: Time to think about other disasters

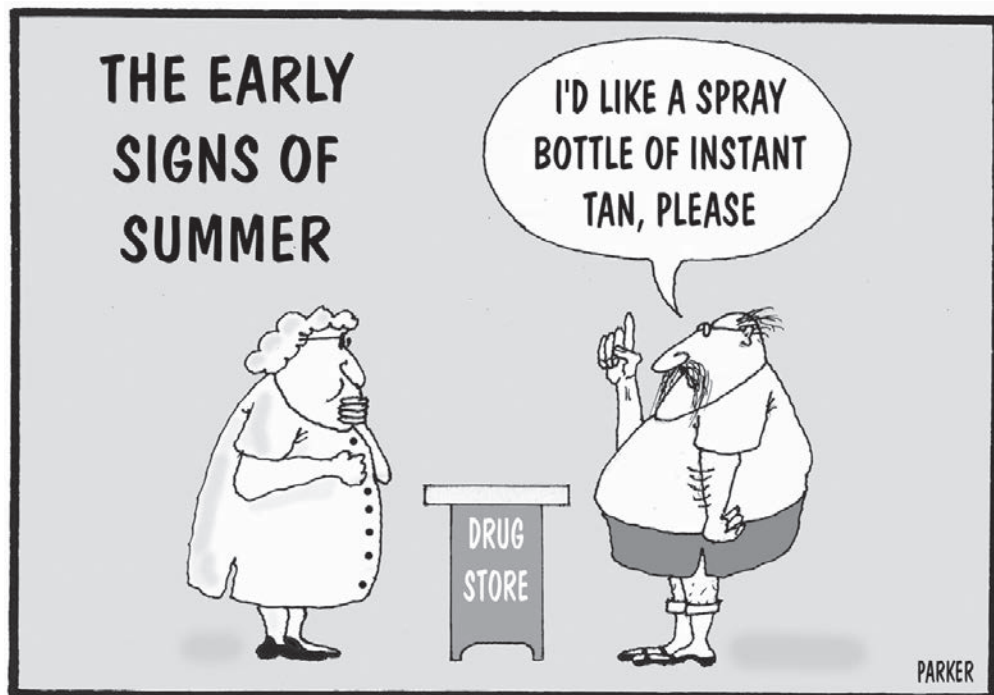
Many small events may serve to remind just how isolated island neighbourhoods can be. Areas with one road in and out are plentiful, and they can be cut off by something as simple as a car accident or hydro line servicing. More serious events like the infamous windstorm of December 2018, which brought down thousands of trees and dozens of power lines across the island, can

make places inaccessible by vehicle for days at a time. It's incredibly lucky that no one was seriously injured during that storm or suffered a major medical emergency immediately afterward, because in many cases ambulance crews would have been unable to get through. And while the memory of the legendary destruction has started to fade, climate scientists say such events could become more frequent. Catastrophic wildfire and even the "big one," an earthquake predicted to be coming to the coast due to our unstable seismic territory, are also possibilities.

Getting to know one's neighbours is another challenge at this particular time in history, which is where the Salt Spring Emergency Program and the pod system can help. They are the basis for creating neighbourhood-specific plans with phone trees, equipment lists, escape routes and leadership roles.

Many pod groups could probably use fresh volunteers, or maybe they just need their contact lists updated to capture all the new people who've arrived on the island. Getting involved now could be the crucial first step toward a positive future outcome.

Contact Salt Spring Emergency Program coordinator Charles Nash at 250-221-4444 or ssiepc@crd.bc.ca to find out more.



## Child limits help climate

BY PETER OMMUNDSEN

An individual climate action available to Canadians is to minimize the number of children they have.

The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change has stated that population growth is a "key impediment" to limiting climate change. Since release of the first Salt Spring climate action plan in 2011, Canada has added over one million people (in excess of those that died) through reproduction, cancelling out energy efficiency gains on Salt Spring and elsewhere.

In Canada, the birth rate typically exceeds the death rate, and the per capita environmental impact is among the highest in the world. A Canadian family with a single child has an energy footprint equivalent to that of a multi-child family in a lesser developed nation.

Currently, each day, some 200,000 people are added to the Earth in excess of those that die, which is equivalent to adding the population of a city the size of Calgary every week. This requires perpetual expansion of agriculture, forestry, mining, housing, transportation and manufacturing, while simultaneously we expect those industries to reduce climate-warming

### VIEWPOINT

greenhouse gas emissions to net zero! Ecologists have warned for decades that a sustainable future is possible only with a human population size that is a fraction of what we have today.

If, worldwide, there were an average of only two children born per family, the global population would still grow 19 per cent by 2050 and would grow 24 per cent by 2100 due to population momentum (the backlog of young people yet to reproduce), this according to the Millennium Alliance for Humanity and the Biosphere.

Meeting 2050 (net zero emission) climate targets will be a costly and intrusive venture under the best of circumstances, and failure to flatten the population curve will place a significant burden on transition to clean energy. Energy specialist David Hughes calculated that for Canada, the transition could involve building 100+ Site C-sized dams (assuming sufficient suitable rivers and dam sites even exist), 59 nuclear reactors, 36,996 windmills, 258 solar farms and 540 biomass plants. And industrial carbon capture is not

a panacea, it is a daunting challenge.

Renewable energy can have a land area footprint larger than that of fossil fuels, creating energy sprawl that displaces forests and wildlife. The Salt Spring appropriated clean energy footprint will be far-reaching, as when consumer goods are imported from afar.

Climate consequences of family size arise not just from the added energy load of children and their descendants but also from increased consumption by their parents. A recent survey in Sweden found that during child-raising, parents increased their own carbon footprint by some 25 per cent through use of high-carbon conveniences in support of their busy lifestyles.

Local climate action education and school programs can encompass population ecology, and student groups can develop sustainable population pledge initiatives. Supportive materials are available from such environmental organizations as Population Matters, World Population Balance, Population Institute Canada, Population Connection, and Our Carbon Footprint.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

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OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday to Friday  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:  
Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00  
Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST



Funded by the Government of Canada



Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782  
Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you concerned about invasive plants on the island?  
 Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does policing in B.C. need dramatic reform?  
60 YES 90 NO

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday at 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**“Keeping dollars in the community is better for the community.”**

JASON MCDUGALL, CEO, FIELDS HOLDING COMPANY

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *Which invasive species are you battling on your property?*

**ERIN HANSEN**



Definitely broom.

**ALLEN CUNNINGHAM**



Broom. It's a continuous battle, but I do have an instrument for pulling it.

**JENNIFER WILLIAMSON**



Broom and thistle, big time.

**KEN CONRAD**



We've got broom and some giant hogweed and then just the blackberries.

**SARAH MORGAN-SILVESTER**



Broom is the worst. We fight a really hard battle with it.

## 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 EV dialogue

I read with Interest Rick Laing's letter entitled "Green Lies" in last week's Driftwood.

As an electric vehicle advocate living in Salt Spring, I am always interested in the EV topic and thought I would chime in.

Although I have not read the book he refers to — Bright Green Lies — it has been brought to my attention by others, and I will visit my favourite local bookstore and get a copy and read it.

Rick makes many points which might take a full Driftwood to respond. That said, I think I can comment on one of the most often-asked questions that has been asked of me over the years, and that relates to the recycling of those huge traction batteries (the ones that get you to Tofino, when Dr. Bonnie lets us go there). Whereas small cell-phone batteries are inexpensive and can end up in the landfill (grumble), the EV batteries are one of the most

expensive components of the cars and are very valuable in the aftermarket. But the aftermarket remains very small.

I am in touch with the 300-plus EV owners here that have owned their EVs from 2011 to the present. It is my understanding that we have never had a battery need to be replaced, so that one of the reasons that the battery recycling industry is just starting to happen: you need batteries to be available to be recycled. But the industry is chomping at the bit. Redwood Materials, a startup created by Tesla co-founder J.B. Straubel, has spent years developing a technology to recycle virtually all of the raw materials in the battery, making those valuable materials available to make more batteries. Because the business will produce a profit, I predict it will be a great success (think bottle recycling).

I encourage additional dialogue on the plusses and minuses of EVs. In the meantime, I am off to Salt Spring Books.

**JIM STANDEN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Shoppers infuriating

The last two times I have been in the Country Grocer I have observed two 20-something women shopping maskless.

I appreciate the effort Country Grocer has gone to in order to keep us safe, but unfortunately it is negated by these two maskless morons.

What part of 3,214,758 (and counting) deaths do these idiots not understand? I can understand the staff do not want to face some unreasoning diatribe directed at them when these clowns are told to mask up, but that does not preclude the customers from expressing their displeasure to these women.

As an erstwhile gentleman of a certain age with heart and lung problems I am not yet ready to depart this mortal coil and do not appreciate being put at higher risk by these idiots.

**KERRY BUTLER,**  
SALT SPRING

### Great job by flagger appreciated

Every once in while, you come across a person who just stands out and goes above and beyond the basic parameters of the job, and in the process adds to your day.

It's great that the path along Lower Ganges is being built, but it often means delays given the one-way traffic flowing back and forth, controlled by the flag persons. And when you're in a hurry it can be annoying.

Enter the flagger Abraham. He not only does an excellent job but his cheerful demeanour and waving hello almost makes me decide: "By golly, once I'm through I think I'll turn around and go back."

Great job, Abraham.  
**KEITH ALEXANDER,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 8

## Longanimity will pay off once pestilence is gone

Longanimity. It's a word I've often admired but never been able to use in a worthwhile sentence.

It's been around for centuries but seldom escapes the pages of the Oxford dictionary despite perfectly encapsulating the past year and a bit. Longanimity: the patient endurance of hardship, injuries or offence. Its close cousin, forbearance, gets a more regular airing but they are subtly different. Forbearance is simply to put up with stuff; longanimity is to put up with stuff cheerfully, a smile in place of a stiff upper lip.

Sometime, in the by and by, when we are up and running again, each of us vaccinated to the benefit of the rest of humanity, when this pestilence is a miserable memory, we will leave our bunkers, stumble blinking into the sunlight and hug our children and our grandchildren.

Our longanimity will have paid off and we will sit in the bleachers again and watch them swing bats, miss catches and we'll high-five them when they don't quite get home. Afterwards we'll get together around the table to eat a dinner barbecued on the back deck, father, son and grandsons shoulder to shoulder, poking sausages en famille. Later, we will fail miserably in our efforts to help them with their homework because we don't have the faintest understanding of what it is they're being taught in an ordinary day in an ordinary classroom. And when the COVID virus is genuinely and irrevocably put down we may even get on a plane to visit our children and grandchildren overseas or sit in the sunshine somewhere that isn't our own backyard.

Because, in time, this unhappy epoch WILL end, which is a bit of a worry because I will need to find something else to write about, some other issue to stir the juices because COVID-19 has been a godsend to a columnist, bereft of Donald Trump, on an island where not much really happens.



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER  
**THING**

I'm not complaining but, by and large, on the whole and all things considered, I don't really do issues per se. I'm not much stirred by many of the matters that exercise so many other islanders. I know I should get very, very cross about the historic mistreatment of native Canadians but honestly, it wasn't my fault. I only arrived comparatively recently and have gone out of my way to be sympathetic, but I'm just not up to waving placards and blocking logging roads, however worthy the cause. And I'm absolutely convinced that Black Lives Matter, that American gun laws are stark staring bonkers, that many American policemen are mostly gun-happy half-wits and that Brexit was a wanton act of political vandalism, but there really isn't much I can do about any of them.

Trees are another issue that I'd like to feel strongly about, but just can't summon the vitriol.

Now don't get me wrong. I like a tree as much as the next man but just not enough to get worked up about them. I know they are saving us all from a sticky end somewhere in the future and if I'm honest I don't want the planet to come to an end, sticky or otherwise, but I could only sigh when I read the recent letters complaining about the removal of 12 whole trees to make way for the foot and cycle path towards Portlock Park. I mean, really? Has anyone actually counted the trees on Salt Spring? You can't

move for them! Never mind that the new pathway makes life a damned sight safer for our touring cyclists and local strollers, someone had had the temerity to terminate a tree. I read somewhere once that there are more trees on Earth than there are stars in the universe. I've absolutely no idea how they came up with the figure but a short ride around Salt Spring is confirmation enough that there are an awful lot of trees doing their very best to save us all from a grisly extinction.

My first (and shortest-lived) job, on being kicked out of school without a qualification to call my own, was with Bucks County Council's forestry department, which essentially held dominion over every tree in the English county of Buckinghamshire that wasn't tended by the U.K. Forestry Commission. My vision of myself as a manly lumberjack, heavy boots, checked shirts and chainsaw lasted about 10 minutes when I discovered my actual function was to sit in an office and enter "tree preservation orders" on a map.

I never did get to fell a tree, but I could pin-point every rogue Robinia pseudoacacia within 50 miles of Aylesbury. In fact, one of my earliest forays into journalism was to respond to somebody whining to the local paper that the Forestry Department had prevented them from taking down a huge old oak that was turning up their patio with its roots.

"Trees," I wrote, "were to be treasured," which was as disingenuous as it was poetic since I'd already resigned from the forestry department because they wouldn't let me cut any down. Or rather, I like to think I resigned, but I suspect I was pruned, topped and dropped as a sapling who was never likely to flourish into a mighty oak. "E glande Quercus," as my school motto had it: From the acorn, the oak. Or not, as the case may be.

NEIGHBOURHOOD PODS

# Baker Road neighbourhood revitalizes emergency pod activities

Neighbours sign on for monthly radio check-in events

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's large geographic area and its wide-spread rural population are two realities that can make emergency planning and response a challenging proposition.

As neighbourhoods can easily be cut off by trees and power lines if they come down over a single entry road, and major disasters such as fire or earthquake would make access even more difficult, having the lines of communication established and some local resilience is ideal.

Residents of the Baker Road area are some of the islanders who have been keeping emergency planning top of mind even while the COVID-19 pandemic has made in-person connections difficult to maintain, and thoughts of any additional emergency likely just too much to deal with.

"We're trying to get people conceiving the unimaginable during unthinkable times," observed interim pod leader Ken Jackson.

Jackson and neighbour Bob Lynch have been supporting the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program by working to bring the Baker pod up to readiness. They're hoping to include all 60 households on the contact list, have monthly radio check-in sessions and are mapping out a set of viable escape routes in case the neighbourhood is ever cut off.

During the windstorm of December 2018, for example, Baker Road was blocked by trees in 17 different places with power lines down over top.

"As we learned after every one of our bigger storms, a little cooperation goes a long way to making life easier for all of us. We're determined to see if we can help bring together an even better local network that will surely benefit all of us should circumstances require," Jackson explains in an information letter to residents.

Jackson stepped up to be the interim pod leader when he noticed no one else had volunteered during an emergency program debriefing after the windstorm. He has a lot of relevant leadership experience, including emergency evacuations at international sites where oil and gas extraction was taking place.

He is hoping to have initial escape route mapping for the Baker Road area completed before this summer's peak wildfire season hits. The contact list is also in good progress, with the area split into three smaller neighbourhoods where notifications can go out by telephone tree.

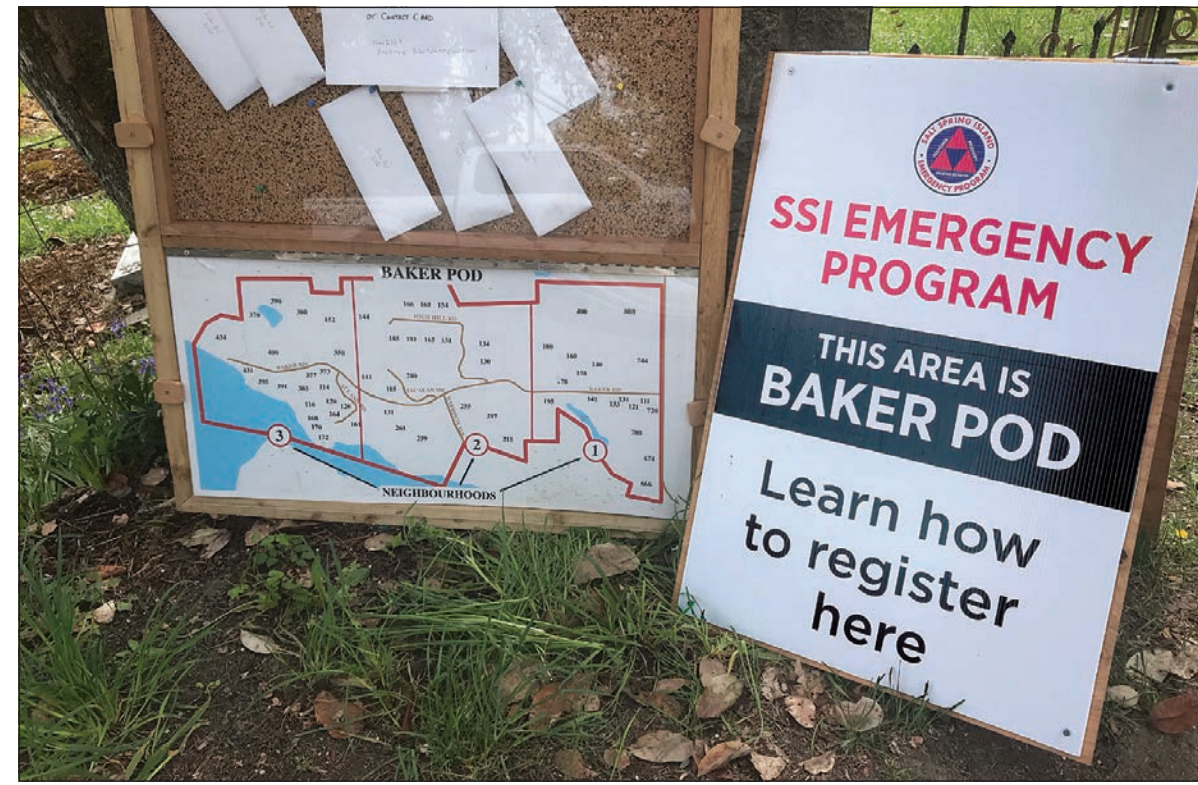
As Jackson points out, the island has finite firefighter, paramedic and rescue personnel, who will probably be called to multiple areas in a major emergency.

**"We're building a community when there may not have been many opportunities for connecting in the past, and that's encouraging."**

KEN JACKSON  
Baker Road emergency POD

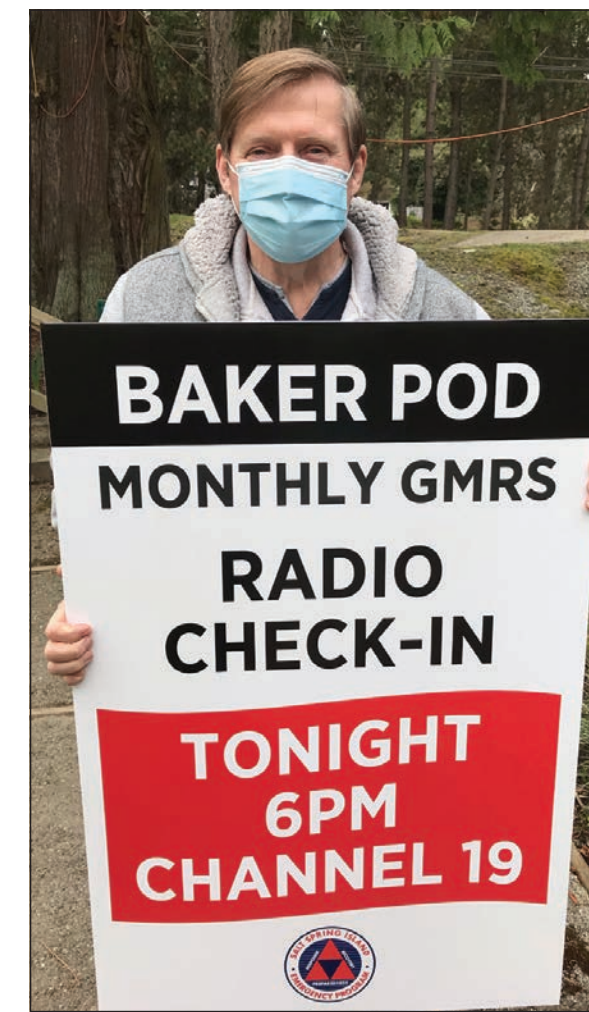
"We have limited resources in a formal sense, so the more we can do in our neighbourhood or pod, the more we're helping the rest of the island and not just ourselves," he said.

Under Lynch's leadership, the radio check-in initiative has seen establishment of a network using GMRS radios (walkie talkies). Neighbours and people who are able to reach them from other pods are invited to check in using Channel 19 at 6 p.m. on the first Wednesday evening of each month. The entire exercise takes around 15 minutes, and while not everyone participates every



Baker Road pod information signs set up at the mailbox bank near the Lower Ganges Road intersection.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN



Interim pod leader Ken Jackson with signage for one of the pod's volunteer efforts.

PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

month, Jackson said there are usually a couple of new people for every session.

The benefits of the two-way radios are they are easy to use, can be relatively inexpensive, and they have an astonishingly long battery life. Jackson said people who turn them on just for the check-in time could go several months before needing to charge them. During an actual emergency, Lynch will broadcast situational updates three times a day from his more sophisticated system.

Jackson has purchased extra radios to lend out to people who want to try them, and many more people in the neighbourhood are getting their own.

"Depending on what sort of emergency we have, this could be really useful," Jackson said.

In addition to building local resiliency in case the unimaginable does ever happen, the work of updating the pod's contacts and functions has already helped bring people together.

"We're building a community when there may

not have been many opportunities for connecting in the past, and that's encouraging," Jackson said.

## EMERGENCY PREP

# Wildfire preparation should be number-one local priority

Webinar coming up on June 8

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

With Emergency Preparedness Week running across Canada from May 2 to 8, the current priority for islanders should be wildfire preparation, says Salt Spring Island Emergency Program coordinator Charles Nash.

"It's always on our minds," he said last week.

Residents can get assistance on what to do in a variety of ways. One comes in the form of a June 8 public webinar on the subject hosted by the Emergency Program, with more details available soon.

The program can also facilitate FireSmart assessments, providing specific advice to property owners about how to safeguard their home in the event of a wildfire. The general rule is to create a 30-metre "safe zone"

around the home.

Nash notes that does not mean every tree needs to be cut down within the safe zone, but that all brush should be up off the ground and wood piles located away from one's house, for example.

Salt Spring's fire department website has dedicated FireSmart information at [www.saltspringfire.com/fire-smart/](http://www.saltspringfire.com/fire-smart/) and the B.C. Wildfire Service's [bcwildfire.ca](http://bcwildfire.ca) website also has solid resources, including a downloadable homeowners' manual.

Nash lived in the Salmon Arm area during the Silver Creek fire that occurred in 1998. Unlike the devastating losses suffered due to some other wildfires in B.C., Alberta and

California since that time, the Silver Creek outcome was better due to foresight and planning, he said.

"We didn't lose any houses because we were well prepared."

"The other thing I encourage people to do is to join the Public Alert Notification System (PANS)," Nash said.

Sign-up can be done through the Capital Regional District website and it ensures people can be notified as soon as possible in the event of an earthquake, tsunami, wildfire or other natural disaster.

"It there's a tsunami warning or something, PANS will push out a notification on your cell-phone or your laptop."

**"The other thing I encourage people to do is to join the Public Alert Notification System."**

CHARLES NASH  
Salt Spring Emergency Program coordinator

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# Slower roads desirable for other island areas

BY BRIAN SWANSON AND  
MARY LAUCKS

We would like to respond to the April 28 Driftwood article ("Petition seeks end to private road") concerning the portion of Beddis Road passing through Laughing Apple Farm.

We have owned Laughing Apple Farm and maintained this section of road for 24 years. We farm on both sides of the road and we have to cross the road with tractors and other farm vehicles.

About six years ago we installed signs requesting people to drive 30 km/hr through our farm. The traffic did not slow down. So, four years ago we installed speed humps. We can now safely cross the road at our driveway with farm vehicles.

We maintain the road such that the sides of the road are green and some trees stretch out to provide a cool canopy for summer walks in the shade. We often see people walking or bicycling because now it is a quieter, slower road thanks to the speed humps.

## IN RESPONSE

The Driftwood article calls attention to a petition submitted to the B.C. Legislature. However, according to the Clerk's office of the B.C. Legislature, the petition was presented by MLA Adam Olsen, but was not accepted because, "it was out of order" and contained "many errors." Here are some of the errors that we found:

1) The petition asserts that our installation of the speed humps along Beddis was "illegal." This is not true. This section of road is not public road. We have had discussions with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and there is agreement that our portion of Beddis Road is private property.

2) The petition claims the Transportation Act Section 42 deems this portion of the road a public road. This is not the case. While we appreciate the ministry may have

documentation setting out that chip sealing was undertaken about 10 years ago, this work was undertaken in the face of our objections and behind our backs.

It is clear from case law that an expenditure on a road must be more than trifling. Our portion of Beddis Road was created by the previous owners and has existed as an access route for the resident farm owners in our area for over 100 years. Historically, informal agreements governed its usage. The chip sealing did not constitute a substantive expense in either maintaining or upgrading this section of Beddis Road such that it would meet the Section 42 criteria.

Recent case law suggests that intention plays a part in the analysis of the application of Section 42. We continue to exhibit our intention to maintain this road as a private road by signing the road, setting a modest speed limit, and continuing, as did the previous owner, to incur costs removing fallen trees and branches, mowing

the shoulders, picking up litter, and maintaining the road surface.

3) The Driftwood article gave the impression that most households living south of us on Beddis Road object to our management of the road and want the speed humps removed. This is not the case. We've been in contact with many people living south of us on Beddis and Creekside Road that are in support of our efforts to reduce the speed of traffic on Beddis Road.

The petitioners want this section of road to be maintained at "highway standards," which would mean a faster road with a more suburban look, which is contrary to the heritage status of Beddis Road. We have a different vision for Beddis Road and several other small rural roads on Salt Spring (e.g. Cusheon Lake Road, which is also a heritage road). We think some roads should be maintained in a more nature-friendly and "democratic" way such that walkers, bicyclists, horseback riders and

cars all have equal rights of access, enjoyment and safety. We would like MoTI to allow speed humps on several other smaller roads. (Speed humps would be funded privately so no taxpayer funding would be required.) Also, we would like MoTI to allow hedge rows and trees to grow up along the sides of these roads so animals and birds can find shelter.

We continue to hope our efforts to slow our section of road will be inspiring to other neighbourhoods and will initiate thoughtful discussion in the community about the character of our heritage roads.

By way of starting the discussion, we have a petition at our farm stand (900 Beddis Rd.) that you can sign if you agree with the type of environment we have created along our section of Beddis Road. Later we would like help drafting a petition to change MoTI's management of some rural roads to allow speed humps and hedge rows. Please stop by if you support such a petition.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

### Tribute to Moya

Loyalty, dedication, knowledge and compassion. These are words that can be used to describe Moya Doherty.

Moya is the woman who many of you have known for years and whom you expect to see when you go into Island Savings Credit Union. In fact, as of May 5, she will have been employed there for 40 years. Moya has in fact outlasted at least 15 branch managers and is currently working in ISCU's fourth location here on Salt Spring Island. To look at her, you would think that she must have begun her career at age 12!

All Moya's working career has been about the Island Savings members, her fellow co-workers and the community in general. How often would Moya be seen heading out to the parking lot to assist a member who was unable to attend the branch themselves, making hospital visits and especially giving advice and moral support to members who had just lost a loved one. Moya has trained the vast majority of employees who start their careers at the credit union as tellers. Her knowledge and patience persisted and resulted in well-trained staff and long-lasting friendships.

As far as community involvement is concerned, Moya would lead the pack when it comes to supporting new businesses and becoming involved with events that draw

the community together.

Here's to our Moya celebrating her 40th anniversary. Well done, Moya!

**CARRON CARSON,**  
SALT SPRING

### Peace officer approach

Regarding the subject of policing reforms, Canada urgently needs to revisit the goals of modern policing as enunciated by Sir Robert Peel in the first modern policing act, the 1829 Metropolitan Police Act for the City of London.

It was clear that a bullying model was not acceptable and a genuine peace officer approach that enables harmony within the population by enabling the police to help prevent violence was the sort of evolution of law enforcement that the public needed.

I believe that B.C. has descended into a pathetic state where the police claim everything to be "civil" and they only deal with crimes ex post facto. The public needs to refute this nonsense, and we need our "cop watch" groups throughout the continent to organize for policing based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. We are currently tolerating "criminogenic regulation" that undermines Section 15 of the Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Everyone should be protected equally by all laws.

**ALAN BLANES,**  
SALT SPRING

## Rants + ROSES

### Rants

While our island gets cleaned up, the dog park on Rainbow Road has also been cleared of copious amounts of dog doo and other debris. Thank you to responsible dog owners. But to those refusing to make use of bags provided, may you find a great big flaming bag on your doorstep. U. Hopping

### Roses

A tidy bunch of roses to the Driftwood for sponsoring the "Let's Pick it Up" project. We walk in many areas where there is often some garbage, so we try to remember our bags. This week we walked on Long Harbour Road just after the mower had come along and found a ground-up builder's level. Let's continue to pick it up. Fiona & Amanda

A bouquet of well-varnished roses to Kirk and his great PARC crew for taking the time and effort to remove and refurbish (again!) my mother's beautiful bench at the Wildwood and Sharp Road intersection. Thank you all for your good work! Caroline

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### ART REVIEW

# Printmaking group reveals craft

Two exhibitions on tap

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of the Salt Spring Painters' Guild printmaking group are demonstrating the vast potential for different tools, technique and creativity within the medium at two different shows this month.

Impressions 6, the sixth annual show of new work by the group, was scheduled at the Salt Spring Public Library for April and was held over for an additional month. A retrospective show featuring 16 printmakers is also running at the Salt Spring Gallery to Wednesday, May 12.

Some of the seemingly endless ways to press an image onto paper are helpfully laid out in the library's lobby display case, where group members exhibit prints alongside the materials used to make them. These range from soapstone to rubber to natural wood. Imagery can be carved in reverse form using sharp tools or burned into the surface with acid or fire.

The exhibition in the program room may not be huge, but even still gives a good taste of the possibilities, including a cute sample piece that includes mini prints by eight participating members.

Prints can be simple or infinitely complex, depending on how much carving and layering the artist wishes to do. Several of the works on exhibit for this show prove that sometimes a single colour can have the most visual impact. Jeanne Lyon's work *Not Forgotten*, for example, references the Red Dress Project honouring missing and murdered Indig-

enous women and girls using a deep red ink as the only pigment. Lyon's composition with a winding highway twisting through the space divided by landscape on one side and empty dresses on the other is powerful. She skillfully chooses how to balance negative space, as well as areas with more definition and those in solid colour or bare paper.

Leslie Corry is another artist who makes good use of the visual impact of deep red ink on white paper. Her unnamed imprint of a flower over an inverted teardrop-shaped vase makes great use of the framing, while tacky ink has produced areas of texture and softness. The imagery also has the gift of duality. With its shape and colouring, there is a hint of the sacred heart motif.

Pami Sira makes a striking contrast with a cerise ink over a mottled watercolour background in *Koi Fish*. He uses the yin-yang type positioning of the two fish as the central hub for a circular swirl of ripples for a winning combination of elements. Another untitled block print by Sira creates an abstract, almost floral pattern in multihued ink to produce a nuanced contrast to an expanse of rich cream background.

Working with a more complex layering of elements to delightful effect is Suzanne Prendergast. Her piece *From the Garden* somehow recalls Japanese paper artforms and kimono silk through the careful stacking of contrasting colours, patterns and different sized rectangular blocks.

A cyan blue with finely etched lines resembling wood grain is



Above: *Waiting for Summer* by Nora Layard, part of the retrospective show at Salt Spring Gallery. Below right: Suzanne Prendergast's new work *From the Garden*.

the base layer, with perfectly contrasting soda pop orange over top. This layer has a more limited pattern of tiny horizontal waves. Then comes a thin layer of rice paper embedded with dried stems and leaves that Prendergast has printed on in black, and a final layer of a printed chickadee to crown it all. It's a wonderful example of how far one can go with the medium even without employing a complicated carving reduction scheme.

The printmaking group has been active for eight years and it welcomes new members. See [www.sspaintersguild.ca](http://www.sspaintersguild.ca) under Programs/Printmakers or contact Johanna at [johoskins@telus.net](mailto:johoskins@telus.net).



### POETRY

# Reiss is Open Mic guest poet

Salt Spring writer to read from work in progress



MURRAY REISS

On Thursday, May 6 at 7 p.m., the Salt Spring Island Public Library will host Poetry Open Mic on Zoom with featured poet Murray Reiss.

A longtime Salt Spring resident, Reiss has committed civil disobedience in front of a nuclear missile base in Quebec and a pipeline construction site in Burnaby, experiences that figure in *Extinction's Sixth*, the manuscript-in-progress he'll be mostly reading from on May 6.

"By turns garrulous and gnostic, playful and foreboding, tender and raucous, Reiss's poems plumb our daily contradictions and divided natures while engaging some of the most pressing issues of our time," explains press material from the library.

"Treading a taut line between bemusement and despair, they dissolve the distinctions between heartbreak and humour, the political and the personal, revealing our inner and outer worlds as — thrillingly — the same."

To register either for the open mic portion or to watch, people should send an email to [programs@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com).

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**RACISM**

## 'Conversations' series enlightens

Japanese Garden Society hosts series on racism

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Through the tide of awareness that has risen through the Black Lives Matter movement and other events in the past year, a local discussion series about racism is making its debut this spring.

Conversations on Racism features people with lived experience of racism that has been organized by the Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring

Island, with the first three events presented via Zoom.

"People are much more open to look at the situation and eager to explore," said the society's Rumi Kanesaka during the first session, held April 20, which focused on the history and experiences of Salt Spring Island's Black and Japanese residents and saw 79 people attend. "The society felt that we would like to use this opportunity to create a safe space for people to talk about racism, listen to people's experiences, share stories and learn from each other."

The next Conversations on Racism event, called It Takes a



PHOTOS COURTESY JAPANESE GARDEN SOCIETY OF SSI

From left, Salt Spring Islanders Shamana Ali, Molly Murphy and Sharyn Carroll, who will lead the Conversations on Racism: It Takes a Village event via Zoom on Wednesday, May 12.

Village, is on Wednesday, May 12 from 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Shamana Ali, who has been a gender and race activist since the mid 1980s and was a lawyer for 25 years, will moderate a wide-reaching conversation with islanders Sharyn Carroll and Molly Murphy about the impact of systemic and historical racism in their childhoods and as adults and parents on Salt Spring Island.

"They will explore how the events and movements of the past year have created internal shifts and led to a deepened activism," explains press material about the event. "Sharyn and Molly will speak about their work challenging racism, including a focus on their involvement with a BIPOC committee addressing racism in the school district and the recommendations in the committee report. The panelists will share their hopes and their thoughts about how islanders can contribute to a dismantling of racist society."

The Zoom link for the event is under Anti-Racism Forums at [saltspringjapanesegarden.com](http://saltspringjapanesegarden.com).

For the April 20 event called Bridges of Love, two couples — Kanesaka and Brian Smallshaw, and Evelyn White and Joanne Bealy — were guests for an event moderated by Maggie Ziegler.

Kanesaka was born in Japan and came to Salt Spring Island with her Canadian husband Smallshaw and their son Leh.

Kanesaka described how she became keenly interested in the internment of Canadians of Japanese descent during World War II after hearing Rose Murakami's 2003 talk about her family's experiences of being interned and the loss of their Salt Spring lands.

"I really felt my heart literally sink," she recalled, adding that she also felt gratitude towards them for making it possible for her to live on Salt Spring.

"I feel it is my turn to stand up for people who faced injustice," she explained.

Smallshaw became so interest-

ed in the story of the dispossession that he did a masters thesis on the subject at the University of Victoria. Further research and writing led to the just-released book called *As If They Were the Enemy: The Dispossession of Japanese Canadians on Salt Spring Island*, published by University of Victoria Libraries.

Evelyn White, a Black journalist and book author originally from Indiana and her partner Joanne Bealy, who moved from Salt Spring to Halifax in 2012, spoke about their experience of writing and photographing *Every Goodbye Ain't Gone*, a photo narrative that contained profiles of Black people living on Salt Spring around the time it was published in 2009.

**"People are much more open to look at the situation and eager to explore."**

RUMI KANESAKA  
*Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island*

At the event, White shared that she was diagnosed with clinical depression at one point while living on the island.

"I came to understand that part of the depression was encountering these people of African descent who were not joyous about being Black. It came as a huge shock to me."

She gave one example of directly experienced racism on the island: one day in a grocery store parking lot she was approached by a white woman who asked her if she knew any local house cleaners.

The third event in the Conversations On Racism series is set for June 2 at 7 p.m. Called *Where Are You Really From? Questioning the Question*, it will be a conversation with Asian Canadians living on Salt Spring. More discussions are in the works for the fall.

## what's on this week

<p><b>Wed. May 5</b></p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Restorative Justice Discussion: Island Workers Deal With Pandemic Stress and Public Harm.</b> 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 <a href="mailto:ldafoe8@shaw.ca">ldafoe8@shaw.ca</a> to register and get the Zoom link.</p>	<p><b>Sat. May 8</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>StoryWalk.</b> See Friday listing.</p>	<p><b>Wed. May 12</b></p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Conversations on Racism: It Takes a Village.</b> A wide-reaching conversation with Sharyn Carroll and Molly Murphy, moderated by Shamana Ali. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Get the link through the Anti-Racism Forums page at <a href="http://www.saltspringjapanesegarden.com">www.saltspringjapanesegarden.com</a>.</p>
<p><b>Thur. May 6</b></p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Poetry Open Mic.</b> With featured poet Murray Reiss and hosted by the Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m. To get the link email <a href="mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com">programs@saltspringlibrary.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Sun. May 9</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>StoryWalk.</b> See Friday listing.</p>	<p><b>THE FRITZ CINEMA</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Closed until further notice due to COVID-19 regulations. See <a href="http://www.thefritz.ca">www.thefritz.ca</a> for info about weekend concession sales.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Fri. May 7</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>StoryWalk.</b> Self-guided family activity from SS Public Library through Mouat Park toward the Rainbow Road Pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Mon. May 10</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>StoryWalk.</b> See Friday listing.</p>	<p><b>EXHIBITIONS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Gallery 8</b> celebrates its 12th anniversary with the <b>Symbolically 8 Exhibition</b> upstairs in the gallery until May 14.</li> <li>• <b>Salt Spring Gallery</b> features <b>RETRO</b>, a retrospective show by the <b>Printmaking Group of the Salt Spring Painters Guild</b> through May 12.</li> <li>• <b>Impressions 6</b>, new original prints by 15 artists from the <b>SSI Painters' Guild printmakers group</b>, runs in the program room at the <b>Salt Spring Public Library</b> until the end of May.</li> <li>• <b>Leslie Corry</b> has artwork on display at <b>Salt Spring Coffee Co.</b></li> </ul>
<p><b>Sat. May 8</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> This week's guest is MLA Adam Olsen. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Send an email to <a href="mailto:ask@asksaltspring.com">ask@asksaltspring.com</a> to get the link.</p>	<p><b>Tues. May 11</b></p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Celebrating Aging.</b> First of a two-part series on aging as a catalyst to meaning, purpose and self-transformation, facilitated by JayaLynda Cole on Zoom. 1 to 3 p.m. (Second session on May 25.) For more info and to register, email <a href="mailto:staroftheseassi@gmail.com">staroftheseassi@gmail.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>Impressions 6</b></p> <p>Show of work by island printmakers Salt Spring Public Library Program Room Until the end of May</p> <p><b>THRIFTY FOODS</b> Ganges, Mouat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm • Customer Service 250-537-1522</p>
<p><b>Sat. May 8</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Saturday Market in the Park.</b> Saturday market runs with COVID-19 safety protocols in place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Poetry in Translation — Exploring Poetry from the Non-English-Speaking World.</b> A Star of the Sea event facilitated by Brian Day on Zoom. 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more info and to register, email <a href="mailto:staroftheseassi@gmail.com">staroftheseassi@gmail.com</a>.</p>	

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**Obituaries    Obituaries    Computer Services    Work Wanted    Work Wanted    Help Wanted    Help Wanted**



**Obituaries**

*Carol Ann Fowles*

Carol Fowles passed away in Royal Jubilee Hospital on Friday, April 23rd, 2021 at the age of 67. She died peacefully with her daughters by her side. Carol is survived and dearly missed by her husband Noel; her daughters and sons-in-law Kathryn, Autumn, Roland, and Colin; her grand children Annabelle and Jamie; and her brother and brother-in-law Bruce and Franco.

Born in Scarborough, Ontario to Jim and Inez Armstrong, Carol also lived in New Brunswick and Fort McMurray, before settling on Saltspring Island in 1980. She was a realtor for over 20 years, active in the Lions Club, running Pioneer Village and serving as club president; and a Salty Sweaters fitness instructor. Carol was an avid marathon walker, enjoyed gardening, and made a mean caesar salad and cheesecake! We will all miss her gorgeous smile.

Due to COVID-19 restrictions, no service will take place at this time.

If you wish to donate in her memory, you are invited to direct your generosity to the BC Alzheimer's Society or Greenwoods Elder Care Society.

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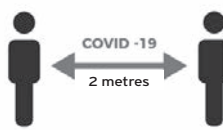
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**Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue SUMMER STUDENT WANTED**

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue has received approval for a grant to employ a summer student. We are looking for a student enrolled for this upcoming fall semester to work over the coming summer in the Fire Hall to help properly digitize and organize our historical records. If you have excellent computer skills and are good with people, we would like to hear from you!

The position is full-time at 35 hours per week. The start date is flexible with the end of May as the preferred start. There is a possibility of working a compressed work week of four days. Compensation is \$20.00 per hour.

Spend the summer right here on Salt Spring working in the fire hall!  
 Application period closes May 15, 2021.  
**For more information and to apply, please visit: <https://saltspringfire.com/job-opportunities/>**

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**Advertising Deadlines Change**

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, May 24 - Victoria Day and will reopen for usual business hours on Tuesday, May 25.

**Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday May 26 edition will be as follows:**

- Display Advertising deadline: **Wednesday, May 19, 12 noon**
- Classified Display Deadline: **Wednesday, May 19, 12 noon**
- Classified Word Deadline: **Wednesday, May 19, 12 noon**

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

**TIP OF THE WEEK:** May days are here. These are generally deemed precious in light of the annual, seasonal round. The Taurus side of these has been strongly activated this year. As it is, this year's Taurean influences indicate an especially creative theme and one which also will be coloured by sudden and unexpected turns and events. These can be recognized to have begun two weeks ago and will continue all month and well into June. Positively, these are contributing to bringing the world closer together. Negatively, they include change, transformation and even death. Yes, the world is changing and there is no "going back to normal." That humanity as a whole is fully in the process of taking such a hard turn will continue and this month will prove especially powerful as it is a Universal 1-Month in Numerology, which symbolizes and will synchronize with many new initiatives and the seeds of "new norms."  
 The New Moon in Taurus occurs on May 11.

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
 A creative work cycle continues. Digging deep can refer to many things, but it is a central theme. Perhaps you are building an addition to your house or garden, or doing renovations, or plumbing the depths of your psyche to clear limiting beliefs and self-concepts... However you do it, be ready to go deeper and harder than you might have imagined.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
 Your energy levels are spiking. These will lend to your overall mode of perception and interpretation. At worst, you could come on strong in a defensive and abrasive manner. Positively, you will be able to harness your emotions and direct them to get a lot done and quickly. This may prove to be a career-advancing time if other factors of destiny are also aligned. Go hard, conscientiously.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**  
 A time of retreat for you, continues. One way or another, however, themes of security are featured. Circumstances may lead or even push you to see through and beyond your dreams and ideals, your illusions and denials. This will require will and courage to admit to the possibility that you were wrong about someone or some relationship or popular social belief.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)**  
 The Sun in Taurus symbolizes a rebellious time for you. With the Sun conjunct Uranus cycle now underway, along with last week's Mercury/Venus conjunction, thinking critically may feel more important than ever. This trend will continue. With Mars now in your sign where it will remain through to mid-June, you may find yourself pushing harder than you have in a very long time.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)**  
 Shifts, starts and new initiatives in your public and professional life will become increasingly evident this week. Next week's Taurus New Moon will activate even more, measurably so. Generally, this is an expansive time for you and requires your deepened commitment to make sincere efforts to do what you feel you must to succeed. Be willing to innovate for best results.

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)**  
 You are in a philosophical mood. It may be supporting you to see more widely, deeply and clearly. Prior held notions and convictions may, therefore, be countered and adjusted. It does remain that you must contend with a mix of low-lying concerns, anxieties and outright fears, especially regarding your welfare and those of others you love.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)**  
 The powerful Taurean influences should be apparent by now. These will prove quite stimulating for you, true to the spring season, inspiring all measure of creative expressions and explorations. The contributions of Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius will likely manifest as inventiveness. Meanwhile, a powerful push on social and professional fronts is also featured.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
 The strong influence of Taurus is directly impacting your relationship life. Changes are implied and some of these may emerge as from left field. Themes of freedom form part of the plot. A mix of confidence and fear is also indicated, which has probably been true all year. Positively, you are on the eve of a very creative push.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
 Lifestyle themes continue to emerge. The emphasis is on cultivating new habits. These will invariably require you to take the initiative. Breaking negative habits or routines that simply are no longer satisfactory is featured. To break a bad habit, see through and beyond its implications and associate as much pain to it as you can. Do the opposite for new and better habits.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
 An extraordinarily creative cycle has begun for you. This cycle will actually continue throughout May. So, tune-in and answer the calls of inspiration sounding in your mind. This overall process may require you to clear the clutter, both literally and figuratively. With a clean space and/or state of mind, you will likely feel much more confident and enthusiastic.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)**  
 The Aquarian Age is very much associated with the information superhighway. That is why there should be no doubt that we are indeed in the Age of Aquarius. In any case, circumstances are pushing you to engage your imagination as positively as you can. This means exercising a wider scope of relativistic thinking and not succumbing to conclusions, assumptions and negative hallucinations.

**Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
 Taurus time is one during which your intellectual juices flow very strongly. Yet, it is also a time when you yearn to be outside in nature even more than usual. With awareness, you can respond to both with full satisfaction. The secret is to avoid extremes on either front. In both regards, you will notice that new experiences, or at least fresh starts, hold greater appeal than usual.

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DEALER # 11018

## ENVIRONMENT

# Invasive plant drop-off set

Weeds accepted at Community Gospel Chapel May 15

BY JANE PETCH

NATIVE PLANT STEWARDSHIP GROUP, TRANSITION SALT SPRING

That broom is sweeping into island consciousness is more than just a pun.

As broom goes into flower, more and more islanders are cutting broom on their properties and along the roadsides. The Salt Spring Fire Department describes this very flammable invasive plant as a “fire accelerant” and “pyrophytic” and its firefighters assist at annual invasive weed collections.

And community support is growing. New partners this year include Fisher Road Recycling, Emcon Road Services, Island Savings, Fulford Community Hall and the Community Gospel Chapel on Vesuvius Bay Road.

The first Invasive Weed Drop-Off will be held on Saturday, May 15 at the Community Gospel Chapel. Broom, holly, blackberry and ivy (but not gorse) will be collected from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. when it will be loaded by Emcon and trucked off island by Fisher Road Recycling to be composted.

Gorse, broom, blackberry and holly are welcome at the Sunday, May 30 drop-off event at Fulford Hall, for chipping by Ben Barter and Ron Cook. Organizers request that roots be removed because the earth and stones damage the chippers.

Spurge laurel, also called daphne laurel, is not accepted at either drop-off. See the WorkSafeBC website for info on this poisonous invasive weed.

A donation will be requested to cover costs of both events. Last year costs of chipping were over \$2,000, a sum nearly covered by donations from generous islanders, according to Jean Wilkinson from the Native Plant Stewardship Group (NPSG), the non-profit that organizes the events.

For those who are new to broom cutting, the recommended practice is to cut the plant as close to the earth as possible. Research shows that pulling disturbs the soil and exposes the many seeds

to light, causing them to germinate.

Cut broom in bloom, as the yellow signs say. Flowering is an optimum time to cut broom, as the plant uses all its resources to set seed, then can't survive the subsequent summer drought. Transporting broom in spring is safer as well, as there are no seeds.

A useful web resource for more information on cutting broom effectively is broombusters.org.

Gorse is more difficult to control as it flowers several times a year. The one rule is remove it any way you can. Pulling or cutting the root below the root collar is one way to permanently remove the plant, with yearly vigilance for new seedlings. Cutting the stem and covering the stump with light-proof material can also be effective. Tarping gorse helps prevent reseeding along the roads.

A spiny, flammable cousin to broom, gorse spreads rapidly in sunny spots and has become a scourge on the islands. It out-competes native plants, grows from the centre outwards and then dies in the middle, leaving an inaccessible haven for rodents.

The NPSG hopes that current mapping of the spread of gorse on Salt Spring with an app called iNaturalist will form a basis for a community strategy to stop this noxious weed.

The Salt Spring Conservancy, another partner, lends out loppers for invasive plant removal. Its website also contains valuable information on non-native invasive plants.

The drop-offs are not the only way to dispose of invasives. Goats eat green broom and ivy, and both are welcomed by EcoReality Coop. To arrange delivery of material, call Jan Steinman at 250-653-2024. According to Steinman, broom contains as much protein as alfalfa and also acts as a dewormer.

The NPSG is part of Transition Salt Spring and has been organizing the invasive weed drop-offs since 2010. This community non-profit group thanks its many partners, including CRD director Gary Holman, neighbourhood pods and the people of Salt Spring who work to make our island a more fire-safe community.

For more information, call Jane at 250-537-0880.

**VIRTUAL**

# AGM

2021 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, May 25th, 2021 at 6:00pm

Registration to attend is from May 6th to 21st, 2021 and must be completed through our website at [www.midislandco-op.crs](http://www.midislandco-op.crs).

Only members on the record date of April 25th, 2021 are eligible to vote, and pre-registration is required.

A detailed AGM member package will be shared electronically ahead of the meeting, with members who have registered. This package includes the AGM Rules of Order, Agenda, Reports and New Business.

The following is a summary of the text of the resolutions being brought to the Mid Island Co-op 2021 annual general meeting. To review the complete proposed resolutions, please go to [www.midislandco-op.crs](http://www.midislandco-op.crs).

Resolution #1 through #5 – Housekeeping changes to Rules 54, 70, 94, 106, and 117 to update language related to communications technology

Resolution #6 – Change to Rule 77 to update director requirements to ensure regulatory compliance

Resolution #7 – To review and update director compensation to align with co-operative standards