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Wednesday, May 19, 2021

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Issue 20
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MISSING PERSON

Four-day search ends in tragedy



Island resident and academic Sinikka Elliott mourned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring resident Sinikka Elliott is being remembered for her warm personality and her influential academic research following her disappearance and sudden death earlier this week.

Elliott, age 51, was an associate professor of sociology at the University of British Columbia and the mother of two adult children. A massive search and rescue operation that was triggered when she went missing on May 12 ended tragically with the discovery of her body on the south side of Mount Erskine on May 15.

Sarah Bowen was a colleague and friend of Elliott's from North Carolina State University, where Elliott worked before UBC. Together with Joslyn Brenton, they co-authored the book *Pressure Cooker*, which is about food systems and inequity in the United States. Elliott and Bowen had also worked together on a longitudinal project on food insecurity.

As Bowen wrote about Elliott on Twitter: "I can't believe she is gone, and I will never forget her. Her mark on me is permanent."

"We have been working on several projects together this semester and just met (by Zoom) a few weeks ago," Bowen told the Driftwood on Monday. "I think that she was happy to return to Canada, where she had grown up, and happy to be building a home on Salt Spring Island with her partner. She often talked about how beautiful the island was."

Guy Stecklov offered a statement of condolence on behalf of UBC's Department of Sociology over the weekend. He noted Elliott had joined the department in 2017 and that her research concentrated on family, social inequality and social policy.

"As department head, I have had the honour of working with Sinikka and have gained, as have so many others, from her unwavering passion for both understanding and addressing longstanding systematic inequalities pervading society," Stecklov wrote.

"Sinikka was an exceptionally skilled and deeply engaged scholar with a deep-felt commitment to social justice and equality for all."

The University of Texas at Austin, where Elliott received her doctorate in 2008, similarly mourned her loss.

"A kind and generous person, Sinikka was a friend and mentor to many generations of UT students. She was deeply committed to social justice and brought empathy and sensitivity to everything she did," a statement from the Department of Sociology reads.

The search for Elliott was initiated last Wednesday evening after she failed to come home from doing errands that morning. SAR members discovered her car that night at the end of Southern Way (previously reported as Juniper Place) near the Mount Erskine trailhead. The search continued until 11 p.m. that night without success.

PHOTO BY JANE LIZOTTE/SSISAR

Salt Spring Search and Rescue volunteers, with Keith Cloete in the foreground, comb an area of heavy underbrush in the Mount Erskine area during a multi-day search effort to find Salt Spring resident Sinikka Elliott.

SEARCH continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"Tolerance is most often achieved by those not burdened with convictions."

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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	
19	1553	0.9	3.0	23	0143	3.2	10.5	
						0837	1.1	3.6
						1520	2.6	8.5
WE				DI	1955	1.9	6.2	
	ME							
20		0019	3.3	10.8	24	0207	3.2	10.5
	0736	2.2	7.2			0910	0.7	2.3
	TH	0936	2.2	7.2		MO	1633	2.8
JE	1654	1.1	3.6	LU	2050	2.2	7.2	
21	0051	3.2	10.5	25	0232	3.3	10.8	
	0745	1.9	6.2			0948	0.3	1.0
	FR	1158	2.2		7.2	TU	1736	3.1
VE	1757	1.4	4.6	MA	2146	2.5	8.2	
22	0119	3.2	10.5	26	0300	3.3	10.8	
	0808	1.5	4.9			1029	0.0	0.0
	SA	1352	2.3		7.5	WE	1835	3.3
SA	1858	1.6	5.2	ME	2246	2.7	8.9	

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From left, Salt Spring Island resident Sinikka Elliott, who went missing on May 12 and was found deceased in the Mount Erskine area on Saturday; search and rescue personnel from southwest B.C. get instructions at Portlock Park on Saturday morning.

SEARCH

continued from 1

Over the course of the next three days, a total 139 searchers from 21 search and rescue groups from Salt Spring, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland, plus four SAR canine teams, were on the ground trying to find her. Local RCMP, RCMP Police Dog Service, off-island RCMP support and RCMP air resources were also deployed each day.

Elliott's body was eventually discovered by a civilian on Saturday morning. Police were called to the end of Toynbee Road around 11 a.m. and a helicopter crew was active on the mountain during the early afternoon.

RCMP do not believe Elliott's death is a criminal matter. BC Coroners Service is now investigating to determine "how, where, when and by what means" she came to her death.

Searchers were supported by multiple island businesses and organizations, with local stores, restaurants and farms donating food and loaning or donating equipment, transportation and facilities. Commercial accommodations providers were flexible in housing all the off-island searchers for stays of unknown length.

"We are extremely grateful to the local community for all their support in our operations," said Salt Spring SAR search manager Zeke Blazecka.

Salt Spring RCMP also extended their thanks to all the volunteers and community supporters.

Messages from Elliott's colleagues hoping to spread the word during the search, and those expressing their love and condolences afterwards, are plentiful on Twitter. Many people spoke about Elliott's positive influence on their academic careers as well as her personal character.

"This is so devastating. Sinikka Elliott has been a role model for me since I started grad school," Katie Kaufman Rogers wrote in one tweet. "I did not know her well, but her approach to ethnographic research and feminist scholarship is an example for all of us. She will be missed."

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be part of the Driftwood's online community.

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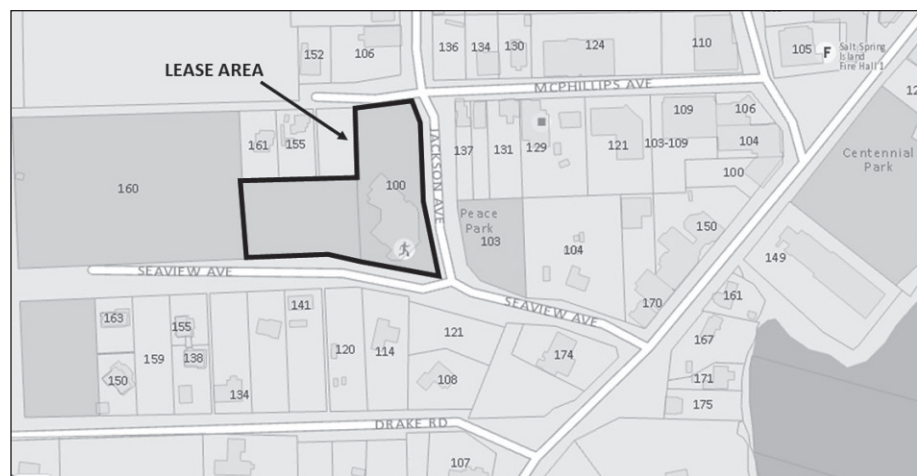
Capital Regional District



Notice of Disposition & Intention to Provide Assistance

Grant of Interest in Land:
100 Jackson Avenue, Salt Spring Island – Lease

Public Notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 286 of the Local Government Act, RSBC 2015 c-1, that the Capital Regional District ("CRD") intends to grant a leasehold interest to the Island Arts Centre Society (ArtSpring) ("Society"), a non-profit, in that portion of the property located at **100 Jackson Ave, Salt Spring Island** (the "Lands") and legally described as **PID 025-907-212 Lot A, Section 1, North Salt Spring Island, Range 3E, Cowichan District, Plan VIP76836 AND PID 025-907-221, Lot B, Section 1, North Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP 76836**, shown below in heavy outline and marked "Lease Area", to allow for the operation of the ArtSpring Art Centre Facility. The lease will commence April 1st, 2021 for a term of 10 years. The consideration payable to the CRD by the Society in exchange for the grant will be \$20.00 for the term.



In accordance with Section 272 of the Local Government Act, RSBC 2015 c-1, the CRD gives notice that the grant of the Lease to the Society for nominal consideration is a form of assistance that the CRD intends to provide the Society.

For more information please contact the CRD Real Estate Services at 250.360.3371.

MOTOR VEHICLE INCIDENT

Motorcyclist injured in crash

Sunday on North End Road

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A motorcyclist received multiple injuries and required medical evacuation off the island by helicopter following an accident on North End Road Sunday afternoon.

Salt Spring Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes reported the accident involved the motorcycle and another vehicle. As a result of the incident the motorcycle rider was thrown off the bike and landed on the side

of the road toward the lake.

North End Road was closed south of the St. Mary Lake beach access for around an hour while emergency services crews attended to the incident.

Holmes said 16 firefighters responded to the call, which initially came in at 5:11 p.m. Many of those members were required to secure a safe landing zone for the air ambulance at Portlock Park.

Salt Spring RCMP and BC Emergency Health Services paramedics also attended the accident.

WEEKLY COVID REPORT

BY STAN DERELIAN & CURT FIRESTONE

This week's COVID report shows a continuing reduction of new COVID cases

in the southern sector of Vancouver Island, including the Gulf Islands. In only two weeks, the total number of new cases has dropped

from 189 to 95; a decrease of 50 per cent.

Fraser Health Authority area now accounts for 67 per cent of all active cases.

Second shot change

People should also know that if you received your first vaccination before April 6, you will need to register for an appointment for your second vaccination. This is true even if the person administering your first vaccination told you that you would be contacted for the second vaccination appointment.

If you do not have a vaccination appointment confirmation number or if you are unsure, you may call 1-833-838-2323 and talk with an operator. You may also register online at: the "get vaccinated" website.

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

	NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES			
	Week of 4/11-4/17	Week of 4/18-4/24	Week of 4/25-5/01	Week of 5/02-5/08
Southern Gulf Islands	0	0	3	2
Saanich Peninsula	18	16	5	3
Greater Victoria	103	74	67	53
Langford to Port Renfrew	50	41	20	7
Duncan Area	13	12	9	5
Chemainus to Nanaimo	39	46	44	25
Total	223	189	148	95

EDUCATION

GISS plans for quarterly timetable next fall

Staff offered front-line vaccination

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Uncertainty about how pandemic regulations will look next fall and the need to organize schedules and configure classrooms ahead of time means Gulf Islands Secondary School is looking at another quarter-system timetable this September.

"We're just not sure what's going to happen, so we're going to plan accordingly with the provincial health guidelines as they are today," GISS principal Lyall Ruehlen said during a presentation to the Gulf Islands Board of Education meeting on May 12.

Ruehlen reported results of a school community survey indicating just over 50 per cent of students preferred the quarter system, in which there are four sessions with just two courses taken at a time for a period of 10 weeks, over a timetable of two semesters with four courses each. Staff and parents preferred the semester system on the whole. The majority in all groups surveyed wished to see the return of "flex" blocks, which are used for labs and additional help or studying.

Although both students and staff found it could be difficult to stay engaged for an entire three-hour block under the quarter system, Ruehlen said some deeper learning opportunities were discovered and attendance was much higher.

"At our school, especially, we've been trying to tackle an attendance issue for a number of years and it was good to see it was up in the quarter system," Ruehlen said.

On the other hand, students who missed even a single class often found it difficult to catch up, as that equalled missing two days under the semester system.

While the results were mixed, Ruehlen said it would be easier to switch back to a semester-based timetable than going the other way if provincial health regulations change again. He also observed the quarter system greatly reduces

contacts and the potential for virus transmission in schools, since students and teachers stick within small learning cohorts.

He added that many students were having success with blended online and in-person learning through the SHIFT program and that more courses could be added there next year. This could provide opportunities to support outer island students, students who wish to upgrade their courses post-graduation and those wishing to take self-directed courses by distance, he said.

District Parent Advisory Council representative Caitlin Hertzman agreed that continuing blended programming going forward would be of great benefit to outer island students who are affected by water taxi cancellations, in being able to attend virtually when previously they would miss a day of school. However, she asked the board to ensure the use of SHIFT for outer island students does not set a precedent when making decisions around provision of transportation.

The impact of the level of COVID vaccination is another unknown variable at this point, as teachers are getting protection but the provincial plan for children has not yet been announced.

School District 64 director of instruction Boe Beardsmore reported the school district received information late in the afternoon on Friday, April 30 that district teachers and staff would be given a special registration code as front-line workers, and that their registration period would take the following day. Admin staff had to work hard to get that information out as quickly as possible, which they managed to do.

Salt Spring vaccinations were to take place as early as Monday, May 3. (Residents of outer islands had already had their first vaccine dose as part of whole-community clinics offered there in April.)

"We did have one blip because everyone went online to register at the same time, and it overloaded the system," Beardsmore said, adding health officials were able to add a

second code that helped sort out the problem.

Potential plans for the in-school vaccination of students was brought up by Hertzman, who asked the board if that might be possible since the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine was recently approved for children as young as 12. While the district was waiting to hear from public health officials about this possibility, Hertzman asked that they take the lead and reach out to public health first.

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FUNDRAISER

Larmour deadline looms



PHOTO BY RODNEY POLDEN

Forest on Lot F of Mike Larmour's estate, which community groups hope to purchase and protect from development. The deadline to make an offer on the property is May 31.

Lot F purchase hopeful

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

An attempt to preserve a second 20-acre lot forming part of the "Larmour Lands" is coming down to the wire.

A community-driven fundraising campaign saw Lot H secured last October with the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society agreeing to hold the land and place a conservation covenant on it. Efforts to also purchase nearby Lot F from the late Michael Larmour's estate have continued, with a May 31 deadline to make an offer now looming.

"We are hoping to have a purchase offer by the end of this month and we are hoping to bridge the gap in our funding, which is something like \$100,000," said Rodney Polden, who has been working on the conservation campaign in one way or another for well over a year.

One reason the goal is in sight is because of an offer from one generous donor to

match funds up to \$10,000. Charitable tax receipts are given for donations of \$20 or more.

Polden hopes islanders will be motivated to make a pledge for the purchase when they realize that it's something they can do to help reduce the risk of wildfire.

"Maintaining wetlands and forests are an excellent way to maintain the hydrology and level of moisture in the ground for the future," he said.

Lot F has stunning mature forests, three separate wetlands and even an area zoned for agricultural use. It connects to Lot H to create a V-shaped 40-acre area, and adds to significant lands already protected privately by Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Covenants through the Islands Trust.

To donate to the Lot F purchase by e-transfer or to get more information, contact ssiwps2020appeal@gmail.com. Polden can also answer any questions at penrod@saltspring.com or 250-537-5082. Funds will be returned to donors if the purchase does not occur.



Islands Trust

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Your
Say

Tuesday
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to follow CIM

Zoom Meeting
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Webinar ID Code:
661 1156 1140

Phone (Toll Free):
Canada: 833 955 1088
Int'l: <https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/gdBCvDpl3D>

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by the proposed bylaws

Enquires?
Brad Smith,
Island Planner:
250-405-5194
bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca

LUB Amendments for
Technical Revisions to LUB
Bylaw 278

PUBLIC HEARING

GALIANO LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is the bylaw about?

The purpose of proposed Bylaw No. 278 is to amend the Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127, 1999 (LUB) by making technical revisions to improve clarity and consistency of bylaw application. The proposed amendments include spelling, cross-referencing and formatting corrections, minor revisions to improve wording, and updated definitions.

The proposed bylaw amendments have resulted from a review of the LUB that has been undertaken by the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) since early 2020. The proposed changes are technical in nature and have little material impact on the intent of the bylaw provisions. The Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendments.

How do I get more information?

A copy of the electronic public hearing binder and details on connecting to the Zoom meeting is available on our events webpage:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/galiano-island-local-trust-committee-6/>

A copy of the bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available at the Islands Trust Victoria office from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, May 17 to 31, 2021, or online:

Land Use Bylaw Technical Review Project:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/galiano/projects/>

Written submissions?

Send by 4:30 p.m., May 31, 2021 to:

- Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC V8R 1H8, or
- Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca

Note: All submissions received become part of the public record.

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

Selfless searchers

Anyone who was out and about on Salt Spring on Saturday may have got a sense of the enormous emergency services effort underway.

Some 139 members from 21 search and rescue (SAR) groups from southwest B.C. answered the call for assistance in trying to find Salt Spring resident Sinikka Elliott, who went missing last Wednesday. Portlock Park was the staging and debriefing point for the highly visible effort. Sadly, Elliott was not found alive, but the response from both local and off-island ground SAR members was a reminder of how fortunate we are to have such a highly functioning search and rescue system.

SAR organizations in B.C. are comprised of well-trained, mostly volunteer individuals who have a desire to serve their community and save lives. On Salt Spring, our local group is also a key partner in any emergency response. Members are called on to do wellness checks as they did following the December 2018 windstorm that left numerous people stranded and without power for several days, and during serious snowstorms.

Community members, businesses and organizations also stepped up big-time to provide needed food, accommodation and material support to the searchers, attesting to the strong respect, gratitude and partnership the community feels towards the local organization.

The island's Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) group is similarly made up of volunteers who are trained to assist boaters in distress, to do shoreline and marine water searches and to provide various educational services. May 22 to 28 is Safe Boating Awareness Week in Canada. Its purpose is to bring attention to the need for safety check-ups and practices in order to minimize deaths during the recreational boating season in Canada. According to the Lifesaving Society Canada, some 400 people die in Canadian waters each year.

As we do with the ground SAR group each year, in 2021 we give thanks on our Safe Boating page in this issue to all 32 of the RCMSAR Station 25 members who volunteer to serve the island and anyone who travels in surrounding waters.

Strong emergency services are a critical part of any society and they could not function without volunteer-based groups like our ground and marine SAR teams.

THE ISSUE:
Volunteer search and rescue groups

WE SAY:
Services much appreciated



Fire trustees give report

BY PER SVENDSEN, ROLLIE COOK, ANDREAS GEDEON, MARY LYNN HETHERINGTON, HOWARD HOLZAPFEL

VIEWPOINT

The last year has been one like none other, but the community's fire department has continued to provide Salt Spring with both exemplary fire protection and emergency support services.

Our firefighters responded to 155 calls during the first three months of 2021. About half of these were fire-related incidents and the other calls involved providing medical and other forms of community assistance.

We as trustees are proud of the professionalism with which our team, consisting of both career firefighters and more than 40 "on-call" community members, answered these calls and, as well, carried out a wide number of traditional fire safety-related activities in these COVID-challenged times.

As elected fire board trustees, our responsibilities include setting overall policy, providing financial direction, serving as employer of a unionized work force and making the decisions that will protect our community in the years to come. As employers we have been

involved in an admittedly long-running "binding arbitration" process. In the end, a number of union demands were accepted by the arbitrator but so was a key management demand: that our main fire hall be staffed 24-7, thereby providing a much faster response to any overnight emergencies.

As currently planned, this coming fall our community will vote on whether or not it supports the construction of [a] fire hall.

Also worth noting is the fact that this improved service is being provided without an additional increase in staffing costs.

Progress is also being made in providing Salt Spring with the new, earthquake-resistant fire hall, which will also serve as a community emergency

hub, so long needed on this island. A new, space-efficient design, one reflecting in large part the impact of a fire rescue advisory committee, is now under development.

As currently planned, this coming fall our community will vote on whether or not it supports the construction of such a fire hall. The community will learn at that time that far-sighted budgeting has resulted in substantial reserve funds already being available. This will greatly reduce the amount of any additional levy needed to cover the cost of construction. As for the current fire hall, it will be repurposed for community use, most likely as a public market.

There is a great deal more that could be said about what else is being done in areas such as equipment renewal, water availability for firefighting and meeting Fire Underwriters Survey requirements.

For now, however, we think it sufficient to say that considerable progress continues to be made in dealing with past shortcomings, responding to current needs and anticipating future requirements.

The writers are trustees of the Salt Spring Fire Protection District Board.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you miffed at people who disregard COVID travel advisories? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Would you hesitate to access mental health support?
 69 YES 103 NO

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 I'm playing music, everything's better."

SALT SPRING MUSICIAN MARK NORDINE

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What will you be doing for the long weekend?

ANDREW CLEMENT



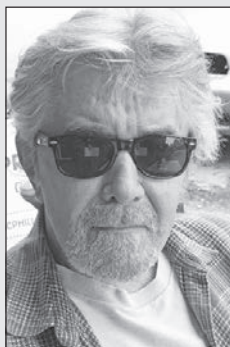
I won't be doing anything different because I'm retired — but I'll be outside gardening.

JENNIFER SHAW



I'll definitely be at work.

DAVE FORBES



Home in the garden or chopping wood.

TAYLOR MONTALBETTI



I will be relaxing a lot and hopefully spending a lot of time outside.

PETER STARK



Nothing much because I can't go to my family in Victoria. That is where I would usually go.

LETTERS to the editor

Listening leads to understanding

Once again my words are taken out of context by Frants Attop ("Death by a thousand cuts," May 12 Driftwood).

First of all, kudos to Frants for watching the three-day-long March Trust Council meeting. He should recall that I spoke of the critical importance of recognizing that we cannot separate people from the environment. In the March meeting, Trust Council affirmed its understanding that the mandate of the Trust includes the concept of, and protection of, healthy and inclusive communities, including (but not limited to) housing and transportation.

This affirmation is not a shift in direction or a reordering of priorities; it is a statement of clarification. I have always understood the mandate of the Trust to mean that I have a responsibility towards our constituency (people) AND the environment. The Trust is dif-

ferent from every other "local government" in British Columbia because we have a statutory legal obligation to the environment, in addition to all other obligations.

People and place are interconnected, and we need integrated solutions to address the issues and challenges we face. I am committed to place-based, multigenerational sustainability that addresses equity, diversity and inclusion in meaningful ways.

I understand that urgency is needed to address the various crises we face (e.g. climate, housing and biodiversity), but this island's tendency to take "sides" is one of the biggest impediments to any progress. If we truly want to move to action, the most important thing we can do is to start listening to each other. Listening leads to understanding.

I am a firm believer that understanding different viewpoints leads to creative problem-solving, integrated solutions and innovation.

LAURA PATRICK,
SALT SPRING ISLANDS TRUST TRUSTEE

Slow down

As a longtime resident of Beddis Road, I would like to commend Mary Laucks and Brian Swanson of Laughing Apple Farm for installing speed humps to deter speeding traffic.

Countless times I have witnessed people careening around my barn, often on the wrong side of the road. I've even had someone miss the corner entirely and drive right past my front door and down my driveway to end up back on Beddis.

I find it quite sad that neighbours didn't call Mary and Brian to voice their concerns. They could have all sat down together for tea and cake.

It's such a simple solution, really. What in the world is wrong with just slowing down?

LINDA KOROSCIL,
BEDDIS ROAD

Two problems

In his May 5 Viewpoint piece, Peter Ommundsen discussed the impact that world population growth is having on the

climate crisis. I found his point of view entirely reasonable.

The writer of a letter in response, published May 12, maintains that overconsumption is the problem, not overpopulation, but in doing so regrettably resorted to name-calling.

As I see it, it is both consumption and population. Humanity faces the immense technological and practical task of rapidly de-carbonizing energy use in order to limit greenhouse gas emissions. It must also halt the destruction of nature taking place throughout the world. Population growth and increasing consumption mean both tasks are that much harder.

We are in a hole, and we just keep digging deeper. If we do not find a way to limit both consumption and population, then our prospects seem bleak.

By all means, debate the issues. But please leave out the insults.

ASHLEY HILLIARD,
MEYER ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Safety enhancements raise variety of red flags

I cannot begin to tell you how much safer I feel now that I have a red flag to wave when I cross the road in Ganges.

I am so impressed I intend to radically improve the newest island safety measure by adding some ankle bells and a balloon on a stick to make absolutely sure that no one is mowed down by a speeding electric bike or an invalid scooter.

But as marvellous as the scheme is, I think the island's transportation commission shouldn't stop at a mere handful of bright red flags at crossings but should issue every islander with their own set of coloured flags.

Red, of course, for merely wandering out in front of cars in Ganges because they won't show the blood. In Virginia there is still a statute on the books that prohibits women from driving a car on Main Street unless their husband walks in front waving a red flag, which is blatantly sexist but is something I would personally extend to all Salt Spring drivers to avoid any disputes. I would also make it the law that the flag be waved more vigorously if the driver has a dog on their lap and a green tea chai latte in one hand.

I think I may have read somewhere that a number of places have adopted a crazy system of lights at especially hazardous corners. And not just any old light but three lights that are contrived to change colour at intervals and actually stop the traffic. Silly, I know, when a handful of red flags is just as effective. And cheaper.

I have to tell you that I've tried using the flags and felt so utterly self-conscious that I tried to hide it halfway across! And I don't believe I'm being overly sensitive. Halifax in Nova Scotia installed them several years ago, but a recent study (not an expression I'm especially fond of) found that only two per cent of pedestrians on the crossings used them.



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

And that begs the question: if I had been run over while NOT waving a flag would the driver have had a legitimate defence against careless driving? "Your Honour, my client saw no red flag, no robust waving or spirited arm flapping and only realized he had hit a pedestrian when he heard the screams."

The only thing sillier than the red flags and even less likely to prevent mayhem on the roads is a "Baby on Board" sticker.

Baby on board? So what? I'm less likely to sideswipe you because there's a sprog in the baby seat? Oh, wait! The sticker is in the rear window, so I'll need to make an extra effort not to rear end you.

Why not "Miniature Schnauzer On Lap" or "Week's Shopping in Trunk," since one is a warning of actual peril and the second is no more likely to illicit safe driving than "Baby on Board."

Which brings to mind Peter Ommundsen's cheerful little May 5 Driftwood Viewpoint-space essay on children in a recent Driftwood and how they are going to be the death of us in a couple of decades, especially if those elderly among us don't hurry up and die.

Certainly, I'm willing to do my part in saving the planet and will pledge here and now not to have any more children, but if it's OK with Peter I'll pass on the dying option at least until it's my time to make an unavoidable grand exit. If he thinks it will help, I will even hold my breath for a few seconds every

day, but checking out to protect the planet for the rest of you is above and beyond the call.

I do rather feel that his opening rationale that we could solve the world's problems by "minimizing the number of children we have" is a bit heartless. Which child to get rid of, eh? The lippy one? The teenager who refuses to get out of bed so you can change the sheets at least once a quarter? The 15-year-old who put his football cleats in the dryer? The screaming toddler throwing another tantrum in Thrifty's? There were certainly times, especially in their teens, when I could have cheerfully minimized all three of mine if I thought I would get away with it for the sake of my own sanity if not for the salvation of the planet. Had I only known then that I could have rid the world of a stropy teenager and earned brownie points for it . . .

Ommundsen goes on to point out helpfully that Canada added over a million people (in excess of those who had magnanimously died) by "reproduction," which they should stop RIGHT NOW. We know what you're up to and it's mucky and it's ruining the planet, so the next time you're exercising your conjugal, keep in mind the cost to agriculture, forestry, transportation and manufacturing that the pitter-patter of tiny feet will inflict on future generations, if there are any future generations.

But I think I have a solution to the children problem: Rent-A-Kid.

My scheme will differ from fostering or adoption in that the children for hire will have characteristics especially selected to put you off kids for life. Sulky, argumentative, bored and endlessly expensive. Your choice.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Safety tips

Roses to our heavenly spirit for protecting and keeping me safe when I was rear ended on Stewart Road last week. Gratitude for our Escape hybrid SUV for cushioning the blow and taking the hit for me. We will miss you.

Rants go out to large vehi-

cles having to turn around in the middle of the road regardless of whether you have someone directing your own vehicle. Please look at the terrain and assess the hazards. When doing this on a winding hilly road it is dangerous. Yes, vehicles stopped for you, but as vehicle numbers increased and began to creep up the hill, any driver coming over the crest had less and less time to respond to the scene. Carry orange

cones and place them strategically to warn drivers.

A rant also goes out to the gentleman who sped past myself and my husband when we tried to warn traffic that the tow truck was loading our vehicle in a precarious and unsafe place. You continued to drive around the tow truck on a blind corner while giving him the finger!

JACKIE HAYES,
SALT SPRING

Initiatives aim to reduce public harm

BY ROBERT BIRCH

Back in March of 2020, I became increasingly aware of the fraying of our island's social contract. A friend and long-time server who brought joy to morning commuters for over a decade bluntly stated, "I can't take people's entitled behaviour anymore. This is class-based violence. I quit."

Months later another waiter said he and his fellow workers were being verbally assaulted daily by challenging customers. "Not tourists, these are islanders, people I've known for years."

I next witnessed someone loudly demand the attention of three employees to explain why she should have paid full price for an organic grapefruit. (She had neglected to see the sticker on it.) Then I overheard an owner-receptionist at a health clinic explain to a peevish client, "I'm sick and tired of feeling like I'm being punched in the gut!"

Eight of us gathered last week online to bear witness to stories about abusive behaviour toward public employees. A manager, care worker, social educator, therapist, activists and caring citizens showed up to acknowledge the extraordinary efforts of those working in the public and make a call for action.

We're all needing relief from the pressures of these times. The concern is when we become one another's threat. Domestic violence is skyrocketing. Abusive behaviour on Salt Spring has, for some, become a daily norm. This includes our publicly engaged workers.

"It helps when the boss defends me. But, what boundaries are available to protect me and my fellow workers?" asked one person.

One owner said to my husband, "I'm not sure if we can handle this much longer. After 15 years in business we may have to close our doors."

Many of us have what is known as "pandemic privilege," while still feeling significant personal anxiety when we are often not in harm's way. Part of this privilege is to bear witness and leverage resources toward actions identified by those harmed, such as hazard pay.

"Many of us have been living so 'big' we have confused our privileges for our rights," said one participant. "We're in shock of losing these."

A local manager regularly has to ask customers to return later.

"I pride myself on helping someone having a bad day leave with a smile on their face. We used to have to ask someone to leave the premises once a year. Now, it's every other day. The swearing and stomping out... We're not here to police people's choices or behaviours. We're also not here to be your therapist. We just want to do our job and get home, too," said a store manager.

How we communicate influences outcomes. If someone sends out a childish message, many of us are conditioned to respond with a parentalizing message. Or vice versa. When working with youth I suggest, "If you want to borrow the car use adult-to-adult messaging." (More 16-year-olds have thanked me for this tip than any other in my career).

How well are Salt Springers communicating? Symptomatically, online hit and run belligerence has certainly infected social engagement. Given today's overwhelming circumstances, however, it is important to distinguish between entitled behaviour, where people act out their pent-up frustrations on others at home and work, and a genuine mental health episode.

We need more education to know how to be present and/or remove ourselves during

unsettling moments. As a bystander, if possible, apply calm. Step out of the way, take a quick risk assessment for physical harm, and take several deep, slow breaths. Once the incident has passed, acknowledge the person harmed with a simple nod that says "I see you," or, "I'm sorry that happened." Please leave and process elsewhere.

Increasingly we may all need support with skills that can diffuse, protect or deflect harm. Many public workers are already experts on their own coping strategies. Perhaps with the help of the Chamber of Commerce, workers, business owners and managers can think through more efficacious structural supports.

During our online forum, Restorative Justice volunteer and co-facilitator Laura Dafoe offered a brief meditation. "First, focus on our own anxiety and vulnerability. Listen to what is hard at this time, be it missing what fills us up — such as visiting family and friends or the pain of watching the news or social media. Notice how are we all sitting with collective grief."

How do we hold each other and ourselves with compassion? Laura invites us to imagine someone we see in public, say at the grocery store, and wonder what it might be like to be them, facing their own insecurities and anxieties, their own losses and struggles on top of their public service. Reflect on their capacity to show up, love. Be curious about what brings dignity and respect for them as well you. Also, extend care toward someone from a non-dominant group, someone likely experiencing significant added pressures. "While we can never fully know their pain, we can ask, 'what are their fears and feelings, what are they needing during this time?'" suggests Laura. "Facing this together we are showing up to the suffering in a healthier way by cherishing the lives of everyone, including our own people, with presence and whole heartedness."

While mindfulness techniques have been shown to be very beneficial, our practices and policies need to be placed within broader social constructs, such as the social determinants of health, i.e. supporting greater access to helpful resources.


"During crises, productive actions support wellness," reminds community advocate Darlene Gage. As a community, let's continue to discuss our collective mental health, acknowledging those of us at greater risk. Several new initiatives are in development.

Over the coming weeks, one offering will coordinate online facilitator training to co-develop circles of support where people can meet across class and other social divisions to grow capacity for emergency preparedness and related coping skills. Encouragingly, society has become more educated about personal and collective trauma and how this impacts physical, mental as well as social, economic and ecological systems, in many cases for generations. Learning about harm reduction models helps society better understand compensatory processes for self-soothing to regulate anxiety. Tragically, for the thousands who have died due to poor substance use policy that chose policing over upstream interventions, we have moved far too slowly. Let's advocate for change.

Humanity is pulling together. Salt Spring cares. Evidence of this is everywhere; people are making extraordinary efforts for us each day in many ways seen and unseen, cultivating grace under pressure.

"We're all undergoing a profound process. We're all experiencing a death and are looking for a rebirth," says Laura Dafoe.

The writer is a community counsellor and facilitator.



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I have been teaching Yoga for over 15 years, and the only constant I have found is that if we move in diverse ways, and encompass more inclusions in the body, we feel more whole. We move more unified in the world.

Capital Regional District



Skana Water Service Committee

Notice of Annual General Meeting Cancellation

In the interest of public health and safety during the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Capital Regional District Board has waived the requirement to hold Annual General Meetings for 2021.

Consequently, the Skana Water Service Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2021 is hereby cancelled.

Committee Membership Opportunity

In lieu of the AGM, and pursuant to Bylaw No. 3133, real property owners or residents in the Skana Water Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner, resident or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing July 1, 2021.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, three (3) real property owners and one (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following two (2) vacancies:

- One (1) real property owner.
- One (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Skana Water Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, June 4, 2021.**

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 3133 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the *Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act*, for the purpose of administering the Skana Water Service Committee nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Tanya Duthie, Administration Manager, Integrated Water Services at Phone: 250-474-9606 or email: tduthie@crd.bc.ca.

SAFE BOATING

Stay safe while on the water

The Canada Boating Safety Council has some key messages for Safe Boating Awareness Week in 2021:

- **Wear Your Lifejacket** - Over 80% of Canadians who drown while boating were not wearing their lifejacket or not wearing it properly.
- **Boat Sober** - Whether it's prescription drugs, alcohol or cannabis, the use of intoxicants is both irresponsible and illegal while operating a boat.
- **Be Prepared, You and Your Boat** - Make sure you are knowledgeable about your upcoming trip, your boat is

properly equipped with the required safety equipment, the weather is suitable for the voyage, you have sufficient fuel and you have filed a trip plan.

- **Take a Boating Course** - If you are operating a powered recreational vessel, you should have your Pleasure Craft Operator Card or some other proof of competency. Consider taking some advanced courses.
- **Be Aware of Cold-Water Risks** - No matter your swimming ability, the best chance of surviving an accidental cold-water immersion is to wear your lifejacket!

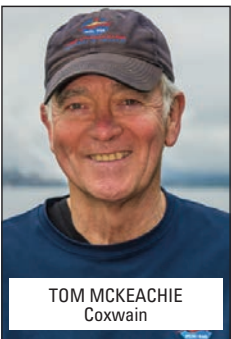
During Safe Boating Awareness Week – from May 22 to 28 – we join the community in thanking the volunteers of Salt Spring Island's Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (Station 25) group for their service!



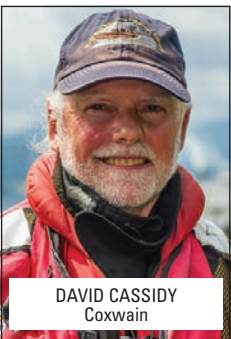
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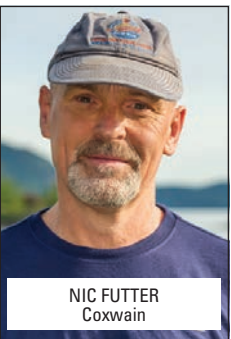
ANDREW ROSS COLLINS
Coxwain / Dep. Station Leader



TOM MCKEACHIE
Coxwain



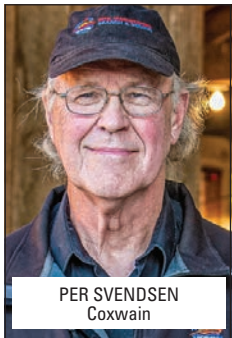
DAVID CASSIDY
Coxwain



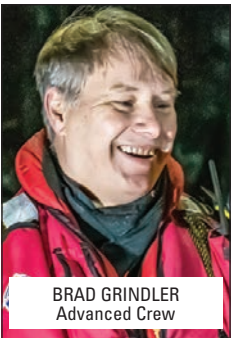
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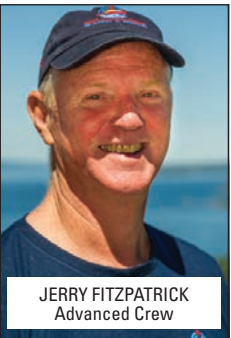
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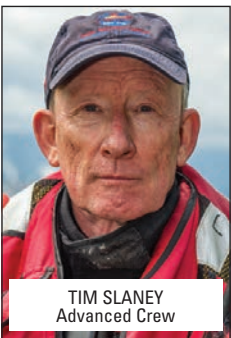
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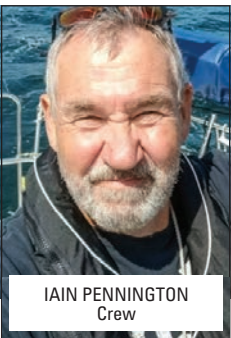
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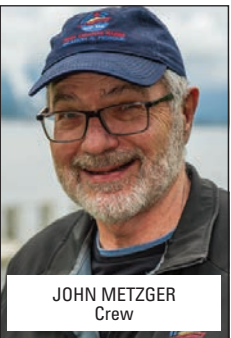
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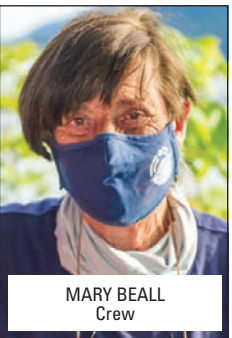
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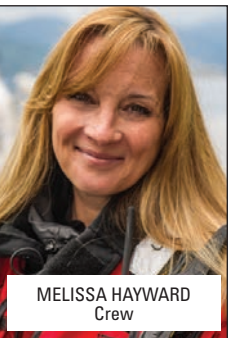
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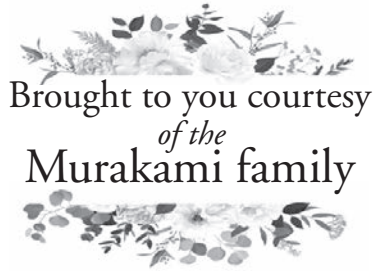
Play safe this summer

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Alternative views appreciated

BY MIKE STACEY

Rick, Rick, Rick . . . Methinks you have touched a nerve (Rick Laing's April 28 "Green lies" letter and longer May 12 opinion piece).

You know as well as I do that people don't want to hear that sort of stuff! They want to hear and repeat the selective "happy bits." Like they used to say in the newspaper business, "Don't let the truth get in the way of a good story."

There can't be anything wrong with electric vehicles because we don't want there to be anything wrong. It's true that some of the very first cars were electric, but the batteries were a problem, and that was the end of it. For many years, electric trams, trains and city buses have run cleanly on electric power, but they draw directly from the distribution system, no batteries involved. Maybe someday cars will be able to do the same by induc-

tion or some other magic. We have a ways to go before we claim it as a clean alternative. And how much electrical energy will be required to feed these things? I'm sure that question was on the minds of all the Site C protesters who drove to the meetings in Teslas.

One good thing from all this is that B.C. is sitting on some really good copper deposits, so that will all get blown out of the ground for the millions of miles of wire required for the motors.

Recycling also reared its ugly head, so the cat has now clawed its way almost all the way out of the bag. The concept of reusing materials has been around for millennia, and certainly always worked well with metals, rag and bone, or anything for which there was a market. If nobody wanted a certain thing, you probably would not be recycling it.

I have been hauling solid waste for 20 years, mostly garbage but also tons of recycling. Sometimes you get paid for the stuff, sometimes you have to pay them to take it. Sometimes it is needed somewhere and becomes something else. Sometimes it ends up in the United States buried in a landfill. Many times I have seen large trucks dropping tons of clean, baled and recycled material at the Hartland Road dump in Saanich, which was the only home that could be found for it.

"Recycling is free," some people say. No, it costs a lot, especially in transportation. Imagine a truckload of plastic bottles on their way to be processed. The material itself is

worth just about nothing, weighs very little, but requires hundreds of dollars in fuel and truck time, plus ferry costs to get it gone. The exhaust from that truck does no good to anything. The CRD subsidizes it with money made from Hartland dumping fees, and then people howl about the cost of garbage disposal.

The target is to make Hartland last as long as possible, and I can understand the CRD's concerns, having watched the steady stream of trucks going in there every day. It's amazing to watch how fast the pile is expanding. The view from the top of the heap is spectacular: all of Victoria and the Olympic Peninsula.

We have international students staying with us and from time to time they discuss affairs of the world in the way they have been taught: There is one way to view things, and one only. We point out that one must look at the whole picture, warts and all, before making a call. Your mind may be changed. It may not. There is no harm in doing a little research, even if you have to look where you have been told you are not allowed to look.

In matters of our world's future, we should not be telling kids to carry on as normal, but that what we are doing ain't working, and they better start working on a system that does. Different materials, standardized packaging, biodegradability, whatever it takes. We have to clean up our mess, but we can't make another mess in the process.

The philosopher Kermit D. Frog said it best: "It's not easy being green."

Capital Regional District



Volunteer Opportunity with Honorarium Salt Spring Emergency Program



Deputy Emergency Program Coordinator

We are looking for two motivated and passionate people who want to give to their community in a unique and interesting way! These volunteer positions will give you the chance to participate in training opportunities and work collaboratively with first responders and emergency management stakeholders on the Island and beyond. This is an opportunity to get involved with assisting individuals, families, and businesses impacted by small or large disasters. Experience in emergency management is preferred but not required.

The Deputy Emergency Program Coordinators (DEPC) will assist the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program Coordinator (SSI EPC) by assuming responsibility as Acting SSI Emergency Program Duty Officer as required, assisting with program administration, communication, and the management of the neighbourhood POD program. Additionally, the DEPC will take a key support role in the Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) during a disaster or emergency event.

Volunteer Position with Honorarium, at a rate of \$500/month (\$6000/year). Commitment equates to an average of one day per week.

To further explore this exciting opportunity, please visit www.crd.bc.ca/careers.

The Emergency Program thanks all applicants for their interest and advises that only candidates under active consideration will be contacted.

Wrong scapegoats

I want to point out two inaccuracies in opinion articles published last week in the Driftwood.

To Frants Attorp, the motion recently defeated at Trust Council was one that would have in effect made the environment the ONLY priority of the Trust. The environment remains the priority of the Trust, along with community, as it long has been.

Modern conservationists have integrated human issues of justice, race and class into their environmental values, and the Trust is trying to catch up with the rest of the world in doing the same. To

suggest the defeated motion means the Trust will somehow stop protecting the environment defies all logic and is verging on disinformation.

To Maxine Leichter, thank you for your tireless work on water protection. Unfortunately, despite many efforts to engage with you on the data behind today's growth pressures, you keep erroneously blaming mythical small homes for threatening our sustainability. There are literally no suites or cottages being built on Salt Spring for people who make working or middle-class wages. None. The only affordable new homes are at Croftonbrook and Salt Spring Commons — non-profit efforts that

took decades to be approved and built, and already have lengthy waiting lists. These are a drop in the bucket, and every month the island loses more teachers, nurses, farm-workers and grocery store clerks.

On Salt Spring today what is being built are many new mansions, with no mandated water, energy or forest protections. I would love to see this island's formidable conservation warriors unite with the social justice crowd and do something about that.

Please stop making the vanishing working class the scapegoat for the development pressures that threaten this wonderful place.

JASON MOGUS,
SALT SPRING

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MUSIC

Landscaper debuts initial album

Mark Nordine's Just Breathe now available on Youtube and Spotify

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

COVID-19 downtime has led to new creative output for one Salt Spring Islander, whose songwriting abilities are being released to the world beyond the local community for the first time.

Landscaper Mark Nordine is now also recording artist Mark Nordine, with a complete album of original songs called Just Breathe available on Spotify and YouTube.

"When I'm playing music, everything's better," Nordine told the Driftwood. "For me, everything's perfect. Whether I have aches and pains — I could have been sore, I could have been in a bad mood — when you're playing music all the pains, all the stress goes away."

Nordine describes his album as "kind of easy listening, singer-songwriter stuff; songs to have your morning coffee by." As a 49-year-old family man whose kids have recently finished high school, he deals with themes of breaking out of old patterns, finding peace and coming into acceptance of oneself.

Playing music is indeed a fairly new pattern, since Nordine has been focused on his labour-intensive business for many years. He bought his guitar around three years ago and was strumming on his own until his wife Mardon Dary bought him a guitar lesson. According to Nordine, it took his teacher around five minutes to declare the student was hopeless — but he was impressed by Nordine's songwriting skills and suggested he focus his time in that direction.

"I thought, 'That's a great idea, because it would be fun to have something to offer in the context of a band, because I'd rather play with people.' I thought, 'Well, I can't play guitar that well, but let's say I can sing and write some of my own songs, I could have something I could share with people.'"

Nordine's live performance experience started at the Salt Spring Legion's open mic night, which he decided to try after reading about it in the Driftwood. He found himself right at home with a group of fellow "middle-aged wannabe rock stars" and was soon sneaking in a song or two at the end of the night while everyone else was packing up.

"It would be generally met with a laugh and a smile and a couple of claps," he said.



PHOTO COURTESY MARK NORDINE

Mark Laberge, left, and Mark Nordine record an album of Nordine's songs at Dave Vollrath's studio earlier this year.

After a couple of years of this, the experience morphed into a band after Nordine overheard the Legion's booking manager was looking to fill a Friday night slot. He immediately volunteered his (non-existing) group and then went on to create Rough and Tumble, bringing in his friends Mark Laberge, Theodore Trout, "Bongo Jerry" Jones and "Big Al" Lyons.

"Once a month we'd wow packed audiences with our zesty renditions of '70s 'dad rock.' Then COVID hit and everything ground to a halt," Nordine said.

It was Laberge, a professional musician, who suggested they record some of Nordine's original songs for something fun to do in their downtime. The album was recorded under COVID rules at Dave Vollrath's studio, which meant only two musicians were allowed in at a time. Nordine plays rhythm guitar and sings, while Laberge plays lead guitar, dobro and some back-ground slide guitar.

"I named the album Just Breathe after Mark saying that to me every time before I had to sing, to calm my nerves," Nordine explained. "I also thought the title reflected the spirit in which the songs were written."

"Writing and singing has brought me a lot of peace over the years, and I hope listening to the songs can bring a little peace to others," he added.

In addition to digital platforms, Nordine also has some physical CDS available. Call him at 250-537-4245.

BOOK READING

Author shares first of trilogy

Gail Glode novel celebrates Italy

Salt Spring Island author Gail Glode will read from her new book called Rapture on Wednesday, May 26 through the Salt Spring Public Library Zoom program.

"In my heart, I am Italian," said Glode, adding that it is something she has said repeatedly over the years since she first went to Queen's University Summer School in Venice to study the Italian language and culture. Since then, she has visited 17 of the 20 regions of Italy, has lived part of each year there, and now speaks and teaches Italian, along with her native English and French. Glode was born in Quebec City and has lived on Salt Spring for almost 20 years.

She describes Rapture, the first book in her Amore Trilogy, as "a book within a book, a love affair within a love affair."

"When the protagonist, a psychic named Margaret Gabriel, discovers that her self-help book entitled Thank God for Red Shoes has become a huge success in Italy, Margaret goes on a promotional tour which takes her from top to toe of the most famous boot ever. Margaret's book, which she has channelled, is about a new understanding of the human psyche as an energetic system, and which sets up a new paradigm for how we see ourselves, one another and the world. It is included in its entirety within the novel. Rapture, the larger novel, is about Margaret's voyage of discovery about herself, about men, and about love of all kinds — from sisterly love, to finding herself in love with two people at the same time, to self-love — all set against her passion for all things Italian."

The second book in the Trilogy, Adagio, which is set for release in the fall of 2021 and set on Salt Spring Island, continues the story of the relationships begun in Rapture and includes another self-help book entitled Hug Your Demons.

To register for the library event, which begins at 7 p.m., and get the link, email programs@saltspringlibrary.com or phone 250-537-4666, ext. 228.

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ISLAND LIFE



COMMUNITY ARTS

New survey to examine impacts of the arts

Regional data to help meet future needs

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Arts Council is hoping to get every person on the island on board for a survey demonstrating how the arts impact their lives.

The local organization is one of six arts councils in the region that have come together to form the Digital Innovation Group (DIG), which seeks to empower artists and arts organizations through accessible digital technologies and shared resources. One of their first big projects is an assessment of how the arts impact people living on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, through a survey that launched this week. The assessment is being conducted by international consulting firm Nordicity, and is funded by the Canada Council for the Arts.

Salt Spring Arts Council (SSAC) executive director Yael Wand said the organization knows its members very well and can make sure they know

about the survey, but they also want to make sure the voices of other artists are heard, as well as those of audiences.

"We're looking for artists and non-artists to do the survey, as wide a range as possible," Wand said. "My goal is to have everyone on Salt Spring participate."

DIG formed in 2019 after the Arts Council of Ladysmith and District hosted an online seminar exploring the proposition that "Vancouver Island is a powerhouse of the arts." Formation of the group that included SSAC, Valley Arts, Hornby Island Arts Council, The Old School House Centre and the Cowichan Valley Arts Council was followed with a Canada Council funding application and its success.

The survey will try to determine the arts' impact in the region in three areas of interest: the economy, local tourism and the general well-being of individuals and the community.

In addition to the regional data, Wand said local organizations should be able to access the results specific to their communities.

"We don't have data to talk about the importance of the arts in the Gulf Islands. As arts organizations we know inherently that they're important, but we don't have the data to show that," Wand said.

The information collected will be instrumental for post-COVID recovery efforts and strategic planning.

The hope for the DIG survey is that it will uncover information to allow arts councils to encourage audiences and make sure artists have a sustainable livelihood.

Wand said SSAC may learn that artists are having to leave the island because they can't afford to live there or can't find housing and/or studio space, or perhaps that the artistic community is aging out.

"Salt Spring is known for having a creative community, and we need to know these things so we can ensure we remain a creative community," Wand said. "We may get back information that verifies what we think — and we may get back something completely unexpected."

Being part of a larger group with similar goals and challenges that can share resources is a good start to strengthening the island situation, Wand said.

"The regional connectivity, that really increased over the past year. And I think our community is going to really benefit from that. We're kind of breaking down the silos," she said.

Everyone is encouraged to participate in the arts impact assessment online at digarts.ca/survey. The survey will be open for approximately four weeks from May 17. Participants will have the chance at the end to join a contest to win a cash prize, plus more chances to win by sharing the survey on Facebook and Instagram.

what's on this week



Wed. May 19	Fri. May 21	Tues. May 25
VIA ZOOM Author Event: Susan Lundy. Salt Spring's Susan Lundy will read from and talk about her new book called <i>Home on the Strange: Chronicles of Motherhood, Mayhem, and Matters of the Heart</i> . A Salt Spring Public Library event. 7 p.m. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.	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.	VIA ZOOM SS Local Trust Committee Meeting. 9 a.m. Search for Salt Spring on the islandtrust.bc.ca meetings page for the agenda and link.
Transition Salt Spring Food Security Event. Join three Salt Spring agri-food leaders to discuss solutions to lowering Salt Spring's carbon footprint through improved food and agricultural systems called Let's Beef Up Our (Food) Security: Building a Healthy Abundant Food System for a Low Carbon Future. With Pat Reichert, Anne Macey and Kaleigh Barton. 7 p.m. Sign up to attend this free-by-donation event at: www.tinyurl.com/SSIAgriculture	VIA ZOOM Ask Salt Spring. This week's guest is Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Send an email to ask@asksaltspring.com to get the link.	Wed. May 26 VIA ZOOM Author Event: Gail Glode. Salt Spring's Gail Glode reads from first book in her <i>Amore Trilogia</i> called <i>Rapture</i> . 7 p.m. A Salt Spring Public Library Zoom event. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.
Thurs. May 20 VIA ZOOM Ganges Village Planning Task Force. 10 a.m. to noon. Search for Ganges Village Planning Task Force on the meetings page of the islandtrust.bc.ca website for the link.	Sat. May 22 ACTIVITIES Saturday Market in the Park. Saturday market runs with COVID-19 safety protocols in place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.	THE FRITZ CINEMA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closed until further notice due to COVID-19 regulations. See thefritz.ca for info about weekend concession sales.
Salt Spring Housing Action Program Task Force. 1 p.m. Search for task force on the meetings page of the islandtrust.bc.ca website for the link.	Sun. May 23 ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.	EXHIBITIONS <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gallery 8 presents a Spring Exhibition featuring the work of Corre Alice in the upper gallery beginning Friday, May 21 and continuing through June 5. • 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.
Thurs. May 27 VIA ZOOM Ganges Village Planning Task Force. 10 a.m. to noon. Search for Ganges Village Planning Task Force on the meetings page of the islandtrust.bc.ca website for the link.	Mon. May 24 ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.	Impressions 6 Show of work by island printmakers Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. Until the end of May



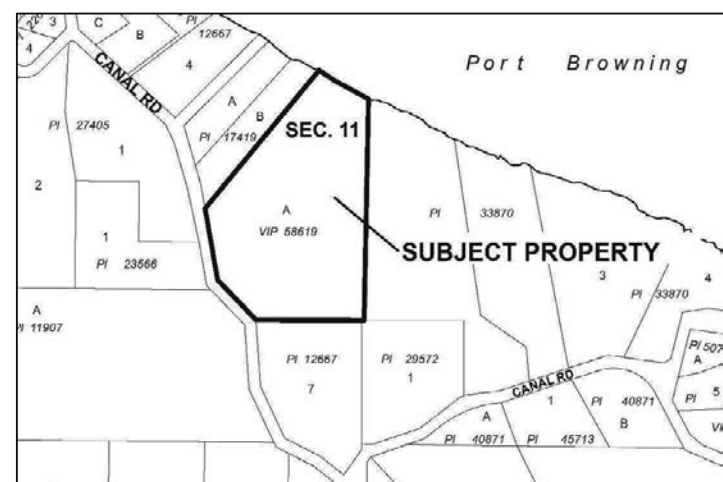
NOTICE NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NP-TUP-2021.6

NOTICE is hereby given that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit pursuant to Section 493 of the *Local Government Act*. The proposed permit would apply to a portion of Lot A, Section 11, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP58619 (PID: 018-696-988). The property is located at **5706 Canal Road**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit **Gravel Storage** for Capital Regional District upgrades to the Magic Lake Sewer System.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached permit. The permit would be issued for one (1) year and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years.

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



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **May 14, 2021** and continuing up to and including **May 26, 2021**.

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

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandtrust.bc.ca before 4:30 pm, **May 26, 2021**.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the electronic business meeting starting at **9:00 a.m., May 27, 2021**.

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

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

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Obituaries

Sheila Gordon Harrop (nee Pirie)
March 17, 1928 – May 9, 2021

Sheila passed away on May 9th, Mother's Day, at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island with her family by her. A wife, sister, aunt, mother, grandmother and great-grandmother, she was loved by all. Sheila was the hub of a large extended family. She is survived by her husband of 70 years Trevor, her four children: Jim (Jen), Catherine (Bill), Ian (Judy) and David (Kaoru), 12 grandchildren and 7 1/2 great-grandchildren, and her sister (Netta McNab and family in Scotland).

A lover of the outdoors, a world traveller, an avid tennis player and most of all an incredible loving and caring person. Sheila cared for her family and the extended circle of friends including the DeRosa family (New Denver), Arlene Bastion (Singapore), Alan Murphy (Japan), Richmond Tennis Women's league and UBC Faculty Wives Hiking Club.

Born in Motherwell, Scotland, Sheila immigrated to Vancouver with her fiancée Trevor. They married in 1951, then moved to New Denver, B.C., followed by Halifax, N.S., and then back to B.C. (Campbell River). In 1961, it was off to Iowa (USA) for graduate school and Sheila for Taxidermy training. They returned to B.C. (Vancouver) in 1965, where they lived until 1989. Sheila and Trevor retired to New Denver, the base for many worldwide travel holidays. In 2017, they moved to Vancouver and finally to Meadowbrook on Salt Spring Island to be closer to family.

Sheila passed away after a brief illness, at peace with her world. Zoom enabled the family to share and support her in her final days. Thank you to all the staff at Lady Minto Hospital and our wonderful support workers. No service or flowers by family request. Donations may be made to the BC SPCA, in honour of all her dog friends.

Obituaries

EDWARD DE BOER
December 23, 1942 – May 5, 2021

Ed de Boer passed away peacefully in his sleep on the morning of May 5th 2021 on his cherished Salt Spring Island where he resided for over 20 years. He fought many medical challenges over the past few years and passing away on Cinco de Mayo was truly appropriate due to his love of his time on the beaches of Sayulita.

Ed leaves behind his loving wife Margaret, of over 40 years. His beloved children Camilla (Eric), Oliver (Nikki) and Amanda (Cable) and his adoring 8 grandchildren will all miss his amazing stories and infinite wisdom. He also leaves his sister Marjo (Derk), brother Ronald and nieces and nephews in Holland. He was preceded in death by his parents Maria and Sjoerd and his beloved son Joris.

Ed was truly a man of the world, from his childhood to the end of his days he traveled the globe over. Ed was born in Hilversum, Holland and grew up in post war Europe where he learned how to be tough and self-reliant. He spent his formative years in Holland and Venezuela as a child, eventually immigrating to Canada in the summer of 1966 with his young family after earning his degree in Engineering. In the early 80's he moved to the U.S. as his successful business career continued to grow. His job as CEO at Fortune 500 companies took him around the world where he was respected and admired for his intellect and hard work. The stories he could tell from his travels were spell bounding.

After retiring from corporate life and moving to Salt Spring Ed decided to become an entrepreneur owning Orca Electronics and Barnyard Grafix. This was a rewarding experience for Ed. Ed designed and helped build his house on Salt Spring with logs from his property. He also developed a love for horses. In the last couple of years Ed enjoyed volunteering at the Visitor's Centre in Ganges and his daily trips to the local coffee shops to read his paper.

Other than his family his other true love was the ocean. Ed was an avid sailor and always had a boat one way or another. In recent years his happiest times were spent on the beaches of Sayulita with his toes in the sand or body surfing the waves of the Pacific Ocean.

He lived an incredibly full life and we are all better for being a part of it.

Our family is sincerely grateful to Dr. Gummesson, and all his caregivers at Lady Minto Hospital for the extraordinary care provided to him over the years and particularly the last few months. Thank you to Hayward's for their incredible support.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the B.C. Kidney Foundation or Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.

ROSEMARY BRENDA IDA CORNWALL
October 3, 1935 - May 11, 2021

Brenda passed away at Greenwoods Eldercare on Salt Spring Island.

Born in London, England, marrying Frank Cornwall in 1953. They moved to Canada in 1956 and over to Salt Spring in 1973.

She was predeceased by her husband Frank Cornwall who passed in 1999.

Loved and survived by her 5 children; Lewis (Beth) Cornwall, Tracey Cornwall, Dorothy Cornwall (Dean Read), Dean Cornwall and Rosheen (Mark) O'Donnell along with 10 grand children, and 2 great grandchildren.

Brenda was a realtor in Richmond BC and Salt Spring Island. She was fun loving, enjoyed choir, church, line dancing, tennis, hiking, exercise classes and world traveling.

Brenda was a frequent shopper at the Lady Minto Thriftstore, the Lions and garage sales. She left behind a heck of a lot of stuff.

Brenda loved eccle cakes from Embe's Bakery, coffee at Dagwoods, pies from Jana's and treats from Penny's.

The family would like to thank all of the wonderful Greenwoods Eldercare staff, doctors and support caring for mom.

A celebration of life will be held at a later time.

Donations may be made to the Greenwoods Eldercare Society.

Obituaries

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

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TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Gemini time begins under the light of the waxing Moon, seeded in Taurus. This reveals the usual seasonal themes of people spending lots of time in their gardens. The influence of Mars in Cancer is synchronizing with renovations and other projects which will bring about transformational outcomes. The Sun joins Mercury, Venus and the Lunar North Node in the sign of the twins which will manifest as increased dialogue and communication ranging from which flowers to plant and where to what is really going on in the world. Jupiter travelling slowly through the early degrees of Pisces will be, by now, synchronizing with some of its destined synchronicities, ranging from heightened spiritual aspiration to rising reason for mass hysteria. Gemini encourages flexibility and adaptability.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
Doing the rounds not only continues, but the pace is accelerating. Digging deep and getting right down to the roots and the bottom of things remains a central theme. Weaving fun-in-the-sun into your otherwise industrious mood is likely. A yearning for retreat and peace and quiet is there in the mix subject to Jupiter in Pisces' influence on you – heed its call.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)
When it comes to knowledge and skill, you are ever keen to learn new angles and techniques. This is not just interesting; it makes you feel confident that you will always have the opportunity to earn money. As the sign of 'multiple streams of income', this may prove especially appealing to you at this time. Fortunately, your desire to learn is running high as are your energy levels.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)
The Sun entering your sign and joining forces with your ruling planet, Mercury, and Venus and the North Node altogether suggest that you are in a restless mood. You want to go where you have not before, to gain new knowledge and perspective from your experiences. Jupiter in Pisces may prove expansive in your public and professional life, but cautions against over-imaginative thinking.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)
Despite the inviting weather, you yearn to retreat more than usual. Jupiter in Pisces is destined to activate philosophical reflection and perhaps spiritual aspiration. In short, you may find yourself praying more. Sometimes it is good to know, while at other times not knowing feels best and this time it may be the latter that wins out, especially in terms of the daily news.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)
You have entered a punchy and revolutionary cycle. The deeper purpose of it is to awaken you to new perceptions, self-concepts and aspects of your overall sense of individuality. The process may feel disruptive, yet as you awaken to realize the purpose of it and not just brush it off as a moody period, you will be able to make the necessary adjustment to embrace the destined shift.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)
Fresh starts in your public and professional life continue. These began early in the month and will continue well into June. Perhaps you are embarking on a new career path or feel it is time to assert yourself to gain the earned recognition you feel you deserve and to perhaps push for a promotion. One way or another, you want to be seen and heard!

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
Stepping back to see a bigger picture is likely now. Yet, in this posture, having binoculars would apply as you also want to see the details from this wide-angle perspective. A sense of commitment to your future is featured and is directly related to your health, specifically, and to the overall quality of your lifestyle, generally. Yes, this theme continues.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
You have arrived at yet another time or place requiring careful considering. Should you go left or right, south or north, in or out? These and other such decisions may require some measure of discernment. It is worth noting that one direction leads to your true destiny, while the other likely reveals ego desires that lead you away from it.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
The Gemini factor has and continues to stimulate your relationship life. With the Sun now involved, the energy levels involved will be measurably higher. You likely yearn for harmony and the inner lesson to learn is that it must come more from within than is expected to come from without. In this regard, it is up to you to take the diplomatic lead.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
Tending to unfinished business is likely now. In this regard, you may find that you are busy on a variety of fronts. It is probably better that you complete than initiate at this time. The time to pursue new leads will arrive in about 4-6 weeks. So, this gives you plenty of time to make sure that yesteryear and today are on the same page, leaving you feeling whole, complete and up-to-date.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
You have entered an extra creative cycle. It includes new initiatives and variety. Hopefully you will feel inspired to bring the playful enthusiasm it implies to the fore. Mars in Cancer does imply the need for extra efforts. These may be more about working on you, yourself, than doing outer work. Focus to integrate some changes in your usual approach with the goal of making it the new norm.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
A busy cycle close to home continues. In fact, the emphasis is even stronger than it was. A central theme includes stimulating new streams of income. These could be as basic as planting a garden. Not all 'income' need necessarily be equated to monetary reward and could generally be regarded as 'returns'. Yet, you will want to feel as though your efforts will prove rewarding.

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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



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Program for Children and Youth Experiencing Violence
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Two activities enjoyed over the weekend

Blossom Picnic in our Heart



PHOTOS BY CHIGUSA SAITO

From left, Mana Nakata and Kumiko Bruecker hang a beautiful orizuru, or paper cranes mobile, at the gate to Heiwa Garden in Ganges on Saturday, with some of the cranes seen close up in the photo above. The art installation, made possible by a Salt Spring Island Foundation Neighbourhood Small Grant, helped fill the gap left by cancellation of the annual Blossom Picnic this year.

Capital Regional District



Surfside Park Estates Water Service Committee

Notice of Annual General Meeting Cancellation

In the interest of public health and safety during the global COVID-19 pandemic, the Capital Regional District Board has waived the requirement to hold Annual General Meetings for 2021.

Consequently, the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Committee Annual General Meeting (AGM) for 2021 is hereby cancelled.

Committee Membership Opportunity

In lieu of the AGM, and pursuant to Bylaw No. 3131, real property owners or residents in the Surfside Park Estates Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner, resident or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing July 1, 2021.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, three (3) real property owners and one (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following two (2) vacancies:

- One (1) real property owner.
- One (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, June 4, 2021.**

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 3131 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Committee nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Tanya Duthie, Administration Manager, Integrated Water Services at Phone: 250-474-9606 or email: tduthie@crd.bc.ca.

Invasive Plant Drop-off Day



PHOTO BY DAVID DENNING

An Emcon employee loads broom dropped off by drivers of some 65 vehicles into a DL Bins container at the Invasive Plant Drop-off Day held this year at the Community Gospel Chapel parking lot. The Native Plant Stewardship Group expressed thanks to Emcon, who donated the backhoe services, to DL Bins, Fisher Road Recycling, Salt Spring firefighters and Community Gospel Chapel. The next and last drop-off day is May 30 at Fulford Community Hall.

SAILING

Youth sailing lessons offered

Free sessions this summer

The Salt Spring Island Sailing Club has launched its inaugural Sailing Scholarship Program, with the aim of providing 16 young people with sailing lessons at no cost this summer.

The program is for Salt Spring youth between the ages of 10 and 18, with lessons running from July 4 to Sept. 3. All equipment will be supplied for students.

Free lessons are made possible thanks to gold sponsor Country Grocer and silver sponsor Island Marine Construction.

"Living on a small island means that we are all connected to the water and its special role in our environment, and that relationship will be emphasized in all our courses this year," said club commodore Chris Cheeseman. "For various reasons, including the challenges presented by COVID, some students may not otherwise have the opportunity to gain this experience, but we are elated that these sponsored spots will make it possible."

Applications are accepted online at www.saltspringsailing.ca with a deadline of May 28.