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Wednesday, MAY 26, 2021

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ACTIVISM

Islanders rally for ancient trees



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Phil Vernon, kneeling, and Tim Kempe install a "Defending Unceded Ancestral Forests" banner at Saturday's rally in support of old-growth forest in the Fairy Creek watershed near Port Renfrew on Vancouver Island. Numerous Salt Spring residents are among those attempting to block access to logging sites.

Group urges government pressure and support for forest defenders

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

About 120 people lined the road in front of the Salt Spring RCMP station on Saturday to demand the halt to logging of old-growth forest on southern Vancouver Island.

They also rallied to express support for the Rainforest Flying Squad, the name adopted by people who started making camps and blockades last summer in the Fairy Creek watershed near Port Renfrew, where some of the last three per cent of old-growth forest in B.C. is located.

A number of Salt Spring Islanders have been participating in blockades, including Kim Murray, who updated Saturday's crowd on what is happening at six sites. Because media have recently been denied access by the RCMP, she said, it's impossible to get clear and unbiased information, but Murray described a "militarized" police presence and arrests of protesters taking place "as we speak."

"There's no legal support allowed in, so no lawyers, no police liaison. Nobody except a militarized police force, with helicopters — I don't

know how much we are spending on this as taxpayers — every camp is getting dive-bombed by helicopters. Right now there are people in tree platforms getting trees felled right beside them with no industry supervision, no RCMP supervision, and we are not allowed in to provide any support."

On May 17, police began enforcing an April 1 B.C. Supreme Court injunction granted to Teal-Jones Group of Surrey, which has a provincial government licence to log in the area.

Before last fall's election, the B.C. government accepted 14 recommendations from a report it commissioned on managing old-growth forests called A New Future for Old Forests, suggesting the resource would be treated differently than in the past. But the Fairy Creek watershed area was not included among those whose old growth would be protected.

Much of the land in question is in unceded Pacheedaht First Nation territory, and some is in Ditidaht territory, which adds to questions about what should happen there. First Nations leadership is reportedly not united on the matter.

Pacheedaht hereditary chief Frank Quees-to Jones and chief councillor Jeff Jones said in a written statement on April 12 that they were concerned about "increasing polarization over forestry activities in our territory" and that "decisions about the use of our forestry resources in our territory need to be made by Pacheedaht."

Tom Mitchell has been to the blockade camps seven times in the past several months, camping on four occasions and doing day trips for the other three. He estimates about 60 Salt Spring individuals have participated in blockades at various times, with small camping pods created to minimize interactions due to COVID.

"The Salt Springers are very well regarded as being creative and engaged," Mitchell said.

Brian Smallshaw has also spent quite a bit of time at Fairy Creek in recent months. He pointed out that it's less than an hour's drive from Crofton, so people can even just go for a day to bring food or provide support.

FAIRY CREEK continued on 3

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ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

CRD commission funds coordinator position

Securing rural status also in current business

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Community Economic Development Commission is seeking to fill a contract position to manage a number of capacity-building projects now on the books.

The commission voted at its May 17 business meeting to start the recruitment process. CEDC chair Francine Carlin said the role will be for a senior professional with experience in expediting projects. The budget has been revised to fund a \$50,000 contract, with hopes additional funding will bring it up to \$70,000. CEDC members and staff agree this is necessary to implement projects and initiatives, especially in the context of COVID recovery.

"We're excited, because we're the only Capital Regional District commission [on Salt Spring] that doesn't have direct staff support, and for years we've been surviving on the good will of volunteers," Carlin said.

While those volunteers have accomplished some major goals, such as the Rural Accelerator program that helped local

entrepreneurs improve marketing tactics and find efficiencies, the workload has become too large for all they still hope to accomplish. Carlin said having someone who is currently active in the workforce will also be a plus, since many of the commissioners have retired.

"We want to make sure we are serving the community appropriately," Carlin said.

Projects that are waiting for the coordinator include an interactive online regulatory roadmap for people who want to start businesses on Salt Spring. This project was underway but stalled during COVID. As well, Carlin said the CEDC plans to become the island's clearinghouse for shovel-ready projects that can apply for Island Coastal Economic Trust funding, and they want to pursue creating a "green learning lab" on Salt Spring as a site for green business demonstration projects. The coordinator will also be applying for grants and seeking funding opportunities to advance new and existing projects.

The coordinator will be responsible for organizing an economic leaders resiliency planning group that will recommend action steps to sustain Salt Spring's economic recovery and capacity across all

sectors, and will start work on creating an economic profile of Salt Spring with visualized data in numerous areas. The commission has connected with University of British Columbia researchers who are willing to participate.

"For years we've been surviving on the good will of volunteers."

FRANCINE CARLIN

Chair, Salt Spring Community Economic Development Commission

"The Salt Spring Foundation's Vital Signs report is a snapshot — we're going to go deeper," Carlin said.

The economic development coordinator position has been approved for one year only, but Carlin is hopeful that it could become permanent. The commission's annual tax requisition is currently set at just \$77,000. It could draw up to \$315,000 without needing public approval as long as the local director and CRD Board approve the budget.

In other business at last week's meeting, the commission resolved that CRD electoral area director Gary Holman write a letter to the CRD Board requesting its support to get a provincial Order in Council that would give Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands permanent rural status. While case-by-case exemptions have been made at times, the electoral areas have missed out on some COVID recovery funding opportunities, among other things, due to mis-categorization.

"Provincial government programs, like the BC Rural Home Owners Grant, which we were denied by the province, seem to have a different application of rural under their programs. We can't expect future programs to automatically include us because the CRD says we have 'rural' status," Carlin said. "It's time for this inequity to be rectified."

CEDC is also facilitating a platform for cross-sector information sharing and resilience collaboration on the island by having mini-updates from key sectors and advocacy organizations. Participants at the last session included representatives from the Salt Spring Arts Council, the Agricultural Alliance, Transition Salt Spring, Salt Spring Solutions, the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society and the Islands Trust.

Capital Regional District

CRD

NOTICE TO ELECTORS WITHIN THE SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS ELECTORAL AREA

Alternative Approval Process for Bylaw No. 4408 Borrowing for Improvements to Southern Gulf Islands Small Craft Harbour Facilities

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors of the Capital Regional District ("CRD") proposes to adopt:

- ▶ Bylaw No. 4408, "Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Service Loan Authorization Bylaw No. 1, 2021" to authorize the borrowing of one million one hundred eighty thousand dollars (\$1,180,000) for improvements to the Southern Gulf Islands small craft harbour facilities.

The intent of Bylaw No. 4408 is to authorize the borrowing of \$1,180,000 over 20 years to fund improvements within the Small Craft Harbour Facilities Local Service Area in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area in the Capital Regional District.

Take further notice that the CRD may proceed with Bylaw No. 4408 unless at least 523 electors within the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area indicate, by signing the elector response form, that the Board must obtain the assent of the electors by way of an assent vote (referendum) before proceeding to adopt Bylaw No. 4408.

The elector response must be in the form as established by the CRD and is available from the CRD on request or from the CRD website. The only persons entitled to sign elector response forms are electors of the area to which the alternative approval process opportunity applies. The Alternative Approval Process opportunity applies to electors within the Small Craft Harbour Facilities Local Service Area which is comprised of all the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area in the Capital Regional District.

The deadline for delivering the original signed elector response forms, in relation to Bylaw No. 4408, to the CRD is **4:00 pm on Monday, July 5, 2021**. Forms must be received by the deadline to be counted.

The CRD has determined that the total number of electors within the service area is 5224 and that 10% of that number or 523 electors must submit elector response forms to prevent the CRD from enacting Bylaw No. 4408 without the assent of the electors by referendum.

Questions regarding the proposed Southern Gulf Islands harbours improvement may be directed to Dale Puskas, Manager, Capital Projects, 479 Island Hwy, Victoria, BC, 250.474.9648, dpuskas@crd.bc.ca, from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from the date of this notice until July 5, 2021.

Qualifications for Resident and Non-Resident Property Electors

Resident Elector: You are entitled to submit an elector response form as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on the date of submission of the elector response form, are a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for 6 months and in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area for at least 30 days prior to signing the elector response form.

Non-Resident Property Elector: You may submit an elector response form as a Non-Resident Property Elector if you are 18 years or older on the date of submission of the elector response form, are a Canadian citizen, have resided in British Columbia for 6 months, have owned and held registered title to property in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area for 30 days and do NOT qualify as a Resident Elector. If there is more than one registered owner of the property (either as joint tenants or tenants in common) only one individual may, with the written consent of the majority, submit an elector response form.

To obtain an elector response form, or for questions about the alternative approval process, contact CRD Legislative Services, PO Box 1000, 625 Fisgard Street, 5th Floor, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6, email legserv@crd.bc.ca, telephone 250.360.3127 or toll free 1.800.663.4425 local 3127 from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays).

A copy of the elector response form may be downloaded from:
www.crd.bc.ca/SGIHarboursAAP

Elector response forms, a copy of Bylaw No. 4408, and a copy of this Notice may be inspected during regular office hours, 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) from the date of this notice until July 5, 2021 at the following CRD locations:

- ▶ CRD Headquarters, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria
- ▶ on the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca/SGIHarboursAAP

Given under my hand at Victoria, BC this 26th day of May, 2021

Kristen Morley
Corporate Officer

MARINE RESPONSE

Vessels meet distress

Fire and sinking attended to Saturday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue and Eagle Eye Marine Services and Vessel Assist crews were called to Ganges Harbour Saturday night when a fishing boat moored off Old Scott Road caught fire.

SSIFR Captain Ken Akerman reported the fire department was called out at 8:30 p.m. and 12 members were kept busy until 12:30 a.m. The 39-foot fishing boat was tied to a dock and was unoccupied when it caught fire by unknown means. It was already 40 per cent involved when firefighters arrived.

"We fought the fire from the dock and there was no extension [of the fire]. The dock was saved," Akerman reported.

Nick Boychuk of Eagle Eye Marine Services said he was called to pump out the vessel by the Canadian Coast Guard's environmental response team.

Boychuk reported the Coast Guard was busy because they were attending a boat that was sinking in Ganges Harbour at the same time. They assisted the owner to leave the vessel and towed the boat to the beach where it was awaiting repair.

PARKS AND REC

PARC rules for trees finalized

Guidelines approved following public concern about cutting

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission is hoping to minimize issues arising from the cutting of trees on park land the Capital Regional District owns or leases through use of a new tree removal guideline.

Commission members recommended adoption of the document after suggesting some modifications to it at their May 18 public meeting. As a result, trees will be removed for the following reasons:

- Tree health has declined beyond repair as confirmed by proper arboricultural methods.
- Public or worker safety is jeopardized by an unsafe structure that cannot be corrected by generally accepted arboricultural practices.
- Construction must occur that would require excessive root removal that would cause an unsafe condition.
- Any other valid reasons as assessed by a qualified arborist registered with the International Society of Arboriculture or an equivalent body.

The guideline also states that every effort will be made to avoid removing trees identified as having very high wildlife value. Mitigation methods could include creating no-work zones, relocating existing or planned works and modifying dangerous parts of the tree.

Special mention is given to trees containing birds nests, noting that a written permit from the provincial Ministry of Environment is required, as well as checking with federal regulations.

Guidelines also state that tree and brush cutting should not take place during nesting season from April 1 to Aug. 31.

In addition to suggested minor changes to the document's wording, some commission members were critical of the requirement to provide only 72 hours notice of a tree being removed through the posting of a sign on the tree. They



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Concerned islander Cathy Lenihan stands with the trunk of a large and apparently healthy tree that an arborist had felled at Mouat Park in 2020.

referred to past incidents where the public became alarmed when it became apparent trees were slated for removal.

Brian Webster observed that some communities will post a large sign that states the reason a tree is coming down and post it further in advance.

"It is problematic because of course a sign goes up and there will be a fuss, but that is better than what we've dealt with in the past, including in Mouat Park a couple of years ago where there was a big fuss, and maybe with some more communication beforehand there would have been less of a fuss.

"I don't think it will ever be zero [fuss] because there are some people who believe no trees should ever come down no matter what, and that is not something that is practicable due to liability issues, among others."

The 72-hour notice provision was not amended in the guideline, however.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

MAY/JUNE 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
26	0300	3.3	10.8	30	0236	2.8	9.2
	1029	0.0	0.0		0537	3.0	9.8
	1835	3.3	10.8		SU	1337	0.2
ME	2246	2.7	8.9	DI	2207	3.5	11.5
27	0333	3.3	10.8	31	0408	2.6	8.5
	1112	-0.1	-0.3		0627	2.7	8.9
	TH	1931	3.4		11.2	MO	1428
JE	2352	2.9	9.5	LU	2253	3.4	11.2
28	0411	3.3	10.8	1	0533	2.4	7.9
	1159	-0.1	-0.3		0734	2.4	7.9
	FR	2026	3.5		11.5	TU	1519
VE				MA	2335	3.4	11.2
29	0108	2.9	9.5	2	0638	2.1	6.9
	0452	3.1	10.2		0922	2.2	7.2
	SA	1247	0.0		0.0	WE	1612
SA	2118	3.5	11.5	ME			

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WEEKLY COVID REPORT

PREPARED BY CURT FIRESTONE & STAN DERELIAN

Each week the news gets better. The Gulf Islands are back to no new COVID 19

cases. Victoria had less than 20 new cases for the first time since February. The restrictions may be wearing some people's patience, but they

are working, along with the vaccinations. There were only 95 new COVID cases for the week in the entire Island Health area. For comparison the Fraser Health area had 2,134 new cases for the same time period.

Vaccination Info

Of the approximately 850,000 residents of the Island Health area, 429,528 have had their first vaccination and 23,043 of those received their second vaccination. As of May 10, 48 per cent of Salt Spring residents have had at least one vaccination, while 85 per cent of the residents on the other Gulf Islands have been vaccinated.

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

NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 4/18-4/24	Week of 4/25-5/01	Week of 5/02-5/08	Week of 5/09-5/15
Southern Gulf Islands	0	3	2	0
Saanich Peninsula	16	5	3	2
Greater Victoria	74	67	53	18
Langford to Port Renfrew	41	20	7	6
Duncan Area	12	9	5	4
Chemainus to Nanaimo	46	44	25	23
Total	189	148	95	53

Forest camp activity 'inspiring'

FAIRY CREEK
continued from 1

"I urge you to go there," he told Saturday's rally. "It is really inspiring to go there."

Tim Kempe, whose wife Grace Jordan is in the area, said people who are willing to be arrested are needed.

"I look forward to hearing more stories of

Salt Springers standing up for what is right," he said.

Since the rally, carpooling is being arranged to make it easier for people to make the trip.

Organizers also ask people to write letters to and phone the offices of Premier John Horgan, forests minister Katrine Conroy, environment minister George Heyman and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Islands Trust

Have Your Say

PUBLIC HEARING

GALIANO LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

LUB Amendments for Technical Revisions to LUB Bylaw 278

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.

Tuesday
June 1, 2021
CIM - 12:30 p.m.
Public Hearing to follow CIM

Zoom Meeting
Computer:
<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/66111561140>
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

OPINION



2019 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)
Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

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



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EDITORIAL

Tree hugging

The fate of large trees is an issue that inspires incredible passion for many B.C. residents.

Recent events at the Fairy Creek watershed near Port Renfrew prove there are citizens of all ages ready to be arrested if it means saving the last vestiges of old-growth forests, while a Salt Spring Island rally on Saturday produced 120 people or so who sought to end that logging and RCMP enforcement of an injunction against protesters. With all the action taking place amidst pandemic restrictions, the high participation rates at both sites prove the issue is just too important for many people to ignore.

Despite British Columbia's historic resource economy and forestry's continuing place as a reliable way to make an income on Salt Spring, islanders' deep love for trees should come as no surprise. The evidence is clear every time the Capital Regional

THE ISSUE: Forest policies

WE SAY: NDP must follow election promises

District needs to remove trees deemed to be dangerous. Public outcry over planned or accomplished tree-work in local parks over the past few years has been swift and fraught. It was so loud, in fact, the CRD committed to creating a new tree-cutting guideline, which local park commis-

sioners approved last week. The CRD also made a huge effort to make up for lost trees by saving one beloved arbutus on its latest pathway. Salt Spring's largest trees are indeed rare and contiguous tracts of forest are growing smaller; the island has already lost all but a handful of old-growth trees and associated biodiverse ecosystems. That's not much different than the rest of the province, where only three per cent of the ancient forest is estimated to still be standing.

It seems inconceivable to many, then, that protection wouldn't be offered to what's left. Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen says his office has received more communication about protecting old growth than nearly any other issue — and he compares cutting the last trees down to issuing hunting permits for the southern resident killer whales.

The NDP government seemed like an instrument for change. They vowed to improve the approach to old growth during last fall's election campaign, and made a promise to enact all 14 recommendations in the Old Growth Strategic Review panel's September 2020 report. They must fulfill that promise or answer for their failure to do so — both to the people who elected them and to the world at large.



Trust issues show conflict

BY JENNIFER MARGISON

Anyone who wants the Gulf Islands to be protected from uncontrolled development should be very concerned about what happened at the March 9 meeting of Islands Trust Council.

The meeting turned out to be a pivotal moment in the review of the Islands Trust Policy Statement, the umbrella document that determines land use policies for all of the islands.

A majority of trustees approved a motion to make protection of First Nations cultural heritage a top priority, but defeated a motion to do the same for the natural environment. It was a strange contradiction given how closely tied Indigenous interests are to the natural world.

Furthermore, by failing to prioritize protection of the environment, community needs will be given equal standing when it comes to land use decisions. This is a worrisome trend for the future management of our fragile islands. Without strong, protective legislation, ecosystems, which have no voice of their own, are defenceless against human encroachment.

This broken system of

VIEWPOINT

governance has allowed Galiano's Local Trust Committee to sidestep environmental protection policies when it suits their purpose. For instance, it is shocking to see how residents' environmental concerns have been disregarded or downplayed in the shadow of a current rezoning application for affordable housing. The goal is laudable but the site problematic.

The proposed housing would require clear-cutting a two-hectare portion of the Galiano Heritage Forest. It is 4.7 kilometres from island services, which, in the absence of public transportation, means tenants with limited incomes will need a vehicle. Access to the site is 500 meters along an undeveloped road through a riparian area that, if developed, will see 50 to 60 new vehicle trips a day. Additionally, this development will add 48 new water consumers to an established neighbourhood that is less than 50 per cent built-out and already has documented water problems.

There are specific Trust policies on forest fragmentation, protection of water and climate change when

it comes to land-use decisions. Nevertheless, this rezoning application is continuing through various stages of the approval process and we are being told it is "generally consistent" with official community plan and Trust policies.

Sadly, we are seeing two issues in conflict, both of which matter greatly to many islanders: the desire to preserve and protect our environment while building a healthy community. But we can't build healthy communities without preserving and protecting the natural environment and resources upon which those communities depend. Last year's State of the Islands Report showed that Gabriola, Hornby and Mayne are already at or near the "acceptable threshold for ecosystem health."

If the needs of the community — which often result in increased density — are considered equally with environmental concerns and First Nations cultural heritage, my experience on Galiano foretells a future where Trust policies get lip service while development and ecosystem degradation march on.

The writer is a Galiano Island resident.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the government halt logging of Fairy Creek old growth? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you miffed at people who disregard COVID travel advisories? NO YES

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: }

"Reconciliation is not just getting over it. It's incumbent on all of us to work through this together."

MAVIS UNDERWOOD, TSAWOUT FIRST NATION COUNCIL

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What would you like to do when some COVID restrictions are lifted?

CAROL PENHALE



We would like to travel a tiny bit more in our region.

LUKAS BOOY



I just want to see my friends in Vancouver.

LANI SIMINOFF



We're looking forward to leaving Salt Spring. A change of scenery would be nice.

MALCOLM LEGG



We want to get our spring soccer academy going, and a summer league if possible.

MEL WILLIAMSON



Art openings!

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

Environment not a priority

In last week's Driftwood, trustee Laura Patrick falsely claimed in a letter to the editor that I took her words out of context when I wrote she wants interpretation of the Trust mandate to be "as broad as possible."

Perhaps the matter can be resolved if I quote more from the March Trust Council meetings where she helped defeat two separate motions to prioritize the natural environment.

In discussing social, economic and environmental goals, Laura asserted "the environment is what it is." She repeated her talking point that "everything is interconnected and interwoven" and

dismissed the debate about which aspect is more important.

This stance ignores the reality of human dominance, and the fact that a healthy environment is what makes all else possible. Indeed, the widely endorsed Doughnut Economics framework puts all of human existence inside the environmental circle.

Laura says "listening leads to understanding," yet disregards feedback from the Islands 2050 public consultation process showing the overwhelming majority of islanders are primarily concerned about environmental protection. She announces Trust Council's affirmation of healthy communities, but fails to mention the defeated motions on the environment.

In a separate letter, Jason Mogus points to the problem without recognizing it as a problem. Prioritizing both community and environment allows for just about anything.

Furthermore, making the environment a top priority would not preclude action on housing. It would simply serve as a compass for the Trust at a time when the natural environment is in decline.

Major changes are clearly afoot, and it's all happening without a full-scale review of our community plan. Where is the island heading and what are the long-term plans to limit growth? Given the way events are unfolding, those questions may never be asked, let alone answered.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

Makes sense

The May 19 "Two problems" letter written by Ashley Hilliard is completely logical.

Both consumerism and overpopulation are problems, but we must be civil in discussing how to solve the problems facing the planet Earth. As soon as one name-calls, the other person will not listen or read on.

In many places, the more people there are, the worse it is for nature. Generally speaking, the worse it is for nature, the worse it is for humanity.

We have the technology to limit population without suffering and bloodshed. Doing so is only common sense.

ROBERT BATEMAN,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Ferries' one sheet of one ply doesn't get job done

Dear Mr. CEO of the B.C. Ferry Corporation,

Far be it from me to tell an important and powerful executive like you how to run your empire. I know you are responsible for the maintenance and operation of dozens of passenger ferries, as well as the employment and supervision of thousands of ferry workers. You are the one who calls the shots that allow tens of thousands of passengers like me and our vehicles to travel back and forth through much of coastal British Columbia (even during these days of our Covid-19 circuit breaker).

In light of all the important duties that fall under your watchful eye, I'm afraid that I have to inform you that all is not right in the washrooms of your ferry fleet. Specifically, I have found gross design problems in the placement and operating mechanics of the toilet paper dispensers.

Let's first take a look at the position in which these dispensers are affixed to the wall beside the toilet seat. In many cases, the plastic toilet paper casing is so low that, if you are standing, it is nearly impossible to reach down to grab some paper should you need some. (The same genius who designed the placement of these dispensers would probably have fastened them to the ceiling to accommodate those who prefer to sit.) Even when sitting, you have to bend double to find the end of the roll, if indeed you are lucky enough to do so.

Another problem with the dispensers is that the opening from where the paper is supposed to roll down is on the bottom, often inches from the floor. Frequently, even when the paper does tear off cleanly, static electricity causes the last few sheets of paper attached to the roll to cling to the rest of the roll so that there is nothing to grab hold of. You pretty much have to be a contortionist and get down on your hands and knees to be able to twist your hand up into the dispenser in order to wrestle with and grasp the loose end of the paper roll. Besides being awkward and time consuming, this act lacks the very basics of sanitation.

Then again, there are usually two rolls of paper in the dispenser at the same time and a sliding door which is supposed to allow you to switch from an empty roll of toilet paper



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

to the full one. God help you if you should ever be in need of a wipe when it's time to switch rolls. First of all, for some obscure reason, they have tinted the plastic window of the dispenser so that you can't see what you are doing when trying to make the switch. After several attempts at pushing the sliding door over to the other side, you discover that the only thing you have accomplished is to have severely pinched most of the fingers on one hand. It quickly becomes clear to you that you need an engineering degree if you ever want to see that second roll in operation.

And if you thought the toilet paper dispensers were the only problem, you should take look at the rolls themselves. Many of these suckers are the size of the turbines installed in the Revelstoke Hydro Dam. Imagine the inertia that must be overcome just to get the damn things rolling. Some of the diesel power that is supposed to propel the ferry forward should actually be diverted from the engine room just to help start the toilet paper rolls moving.

It's not just the size of the rolls, but the fact that the one-ply paper itself is probably only one molecule thick. It's impossible to know how many sheets there are on each of the humongous rolls as no one has ever lived long enough to count them all. Because the paper is so thin and the rolls are so gigantic and difficult to move, you are lucky if you end up with one whole single sheet of toilet paper that has torn away from the rest of the roll. Exactly what can you do with one sheet of one-ply toilet paper?

If you're not lucky, and this is much more likely, you will get little shreds and flakes of toilet paper tearing away from the roll and falling confetti-like to the washroom floor. The water that drips off your hands as you move from the sink to the paper towel

dispenser soaks this layer of confetti on the floor and eventually allows this toilet paper flotsam to stick to your shoes as you depart the washroom. As you pass other passengers on your way back to your vehicle, you can't help but notice that they too have bits of toilet paper stuck to their shoes. It's a bit of a bonding exercise as you wink at each other as if to say, "been to the loo, eh?"

I realize that this rant must be taking up too much of your valuable time, Mr. CEO, but I would like to mention one other issue of concern regarding ferry washrooms. I know of at least two of these rooms that have part of their original coat hooks either broken off or the hooks are missing completely from the place on the toilet stall door where they were once screwed on tightly. These are not recent occurrences, because the lack of repair or replacement of these hooks has gone on for months and even years. I realize that seasoned ferry riders should be expected to "suck it up" and use the facilities while fully clothed, but heavy outerwear can make toilet use quite cumbersome, especially during the rainy, winter season.

I must admit that I have been tempted many times to just go to the nearest hardware store and purchase several of these coat hooks, which I would then smuggle aboard the offending ferries. With these in hand, along with a screwdriver and a palm full of screws, I would stealthily replace the broken or missing hooks (remembering to flush the toilet several times during this covert operation so nobody outside the door suspects my nefarious activity). The only reason I haven't followed through on these intentions is that I know that if I were caught in the act of this subversive repair operation, I would probably be keel-hauled and then forced to walk the plank.

Nobody asked me, but wouldn't it be more economical and less wasteful if we didn't have to use thin toilet paper one sheet at a time and most of it didn't end up stuck to our shoes? Wouldn't passengers be in and out of the washrooms more quickly if the design was more human friendly? Surely, Mr. CEO, you can find time to rectify the situation. Please show us that you really do give a sheet.

Don't exclude communities in policy update

The following was sent to Islands Trust Council as input for the council's process of updating the Islands Trust Policy Statement document.

INDEPTH

BY BRYAN YOUNG

On behalf of Transition Salt Spring, I am writing to express our opposition to any update of the Islands Trust Policy Statement to exclude the protection of communities. It was only in March that the Trust Council affirmed its position that the Trust's mandate includes the protection of healthy and inclusive communities including housing and transportation.

Time would be better spent on the development of more sophisticated policy options that truly address the problems we face. Our world is in crisis. Human-induced climate change is ravaging the world's ecosystems, and the forecasts for Salt Spring Island as outlined in the Salt

Spring Island Climate Action Plan (CAP), published by Transition Salt Spring in March of 2021, show that the biggest climate-related risks to the island's ecosystems and their communities are drought and fire. To think that we can address this crisis by turning our backs on policy-making with respect to healthy and inclusive communities reveals an outdated and simplistic approach to climate action. Removing communities from the Trust's policy statement would result in negative outcomes for our ecosystems. As noted in the CAP, ecological restoration is key to mitigating the key climate risks faced by our ecosystems. These conclusions are based on sound science outlined and enumerated in the plan, based on global precedents.

This restoration will not happen without people. These people cannot be conveyed to our islands by helicopter every day. They will need to live here, taking part in ongoing work to steward forests and wetlands weakened by climate change and successive generations of clearcut logging and land drainage.

The islands under the Trust's stewardship are experiencing the effects of a globalized market economy chasing investment returns on land. Addressing these problems requires creative, inclusive and fair policy-making. We urge the Trust to focus its policy gaze on disincentivizing the development of large homes, land clearing and buildings with high environmental footprints and embodied energy.

Instead, focus your policy gaze on revenue-neutral mechanisms that punish undesirable development and reward development that minimizes impact on our ecosystems. That would represent substantial progress over the current situation where there are few controls for those with deep pockets to build what they want. Focus your gaze on

opting into the vacant homes tax, requesting that the generated revenue be used to advance a progressive vision that balances community and ecosystems in the context of a carbon-constrained world facing multiple climate risks. This will send the appropriate market signals, dampen the real estate market and enable us to pursue protection through restoration and regeneration.

People living in right-sized, appropriately located, low-embodied energy homes close to services, using greywater systems, rainwater catchment and composting toilets will deliver far better outcomes for our ecosystems than merely flushing communities out of the policy statement. These types of buildings, and their inhabitants, are not the problem. Will cutting communities out of the policy statement stop clearcutting and the development of uninhabited high-footprint homes in remote locations far from fire protection be somehow stopped? Absolutely not.

Instead, the onward march of gentrification will continue to hol-

low out workforces and make it increasingly impossible for nurses, doctors, emergency services responders, forest ecologists, wetland restoration experts, and their teams to live here. I assume that is not the outcome we want while we are working to safely adapt our ecosystems to prepare for the difficult decades ahead.

We understand the panic and helplessness that policy makers may be feeling in these troubling times. However, taking a cudgel to solve complex problems is short-sighted, wrong-headed and will result in unintended negative consequences for the very ecosystems you seem to want to protect.

Policy when deftly executed is nuanced, fair and durable. People can be part of the solution to the problems on our islands if we have vision. The intent to remove communities from the scope of the Island's Trust policy statement reveals a lack of vision, nuance, fairness and vision.

The writer is chair of Transition Salt Spring.



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Rants + ROSES



The high school shop would like to thank Ken Marr and Windsor Plywood for their continued support of the high school shop programs. Students' creativity and passion for trades development flourish through community support.

Thank you to the PARC crew for cutting back the grass on the sides of the pathways in the Ganges Village Pathway Network and for carefully cutting around all the poppies and daisies so all of the walkers can enjoy them. Well done and much appreciated. Island Pathways

The Spirit Point Dragonboat Team sends a bouquet of fiery red roses and brightly coloured snapdragons to the PARC crew — Kirk, Joe, Justin and David — who planted our memorial Japanese maple tree in Rotary Park on Friday. The tree is in memory of our founding sponsors and greatest fans, Nils and Sheila Christensen, for their love and support over many years. Thanks, guys, for finding a great spot for the tree and for your kindness in letting the team help with the planting!

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Missed point

I try to keep my public communications about the issues, not individuals. It is less acrimonious and more productive.

To respond to a letter in last week's Driftwood and to make my position clear, I agree with the writer that suites and cottages are not providing housing for middle-class wage workers. That is one reason, among many, why the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee should not make more widespread, across the island, increases in density. That was the point of my letter.

Housing for islanders who provide the services we need is likely a priority with most islanders, but there are legal barriers to overcome. I will keep advocating that our local government agencies prioritize this particular housing gap.

MAXINE LEICHTER,
SALT SPRING

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FIRST NATIONS

Trustees back Tsawout in subdivision delay

James Island claimed as unceded territory

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Subdivision of one of British Columbia's highest valued properties is not in the public interest, according to the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee, which has recommended the province end an application for James Island in order to respect First Nations interests.

As overseers of the land-use bylaw on James Island, the North Pender LTC voted unanimously last month to advise both the provincial subdivision approving officer and the Lieutenant-Governor-in-Council on its position. They observed Tsawout First Nation is opposed to the subdivision and the Islands Trust has committed itself to a path of reconciliation with First Nations in the Trust Area.

"We are really glad to have the community getting behind us," said Tsawout Council member Mavis Underwood, who is also one of the WSANEC Leadership Council co-founders. "It helps us a lot to have people stand up with us; that other people are saying, 'That is right, that is just.'"

BC Assessment valued James Island at \$57.98 million this year, making it the third most valuable property in the province. It has been owned by Seattle-based tech billionaire Craig McCaw since 1994, officially as J.I. Properties Inc. The Arizona-based Discovery Land Company announced a partnership for its development in August 2020, naming the island its latest luxury residential community project.

Rezoning in advance of the bare land strata subdivision was completed in 2008, allowing for up to 80 residential properties (since dropped to 79). The island is also zoned for commercial areas, conservation zones and agricultural use — the latter permitting the island's Jack Nicklaus golf course.

For Tsawout First Nation, James Island is a cherished part of their homeland. It is part of Saanich group land claims and is the subject of an open lawsuit that Tsawout launched against the governments of British Columbia and Canada in 2018.

Question of aboriginal title dates back to 1852, when Colony of Vancouver Island governor James Douglas enacted two treaties with local Indigenous groups for purchase of the Saanich Peninsula. According to Tsawout's legal claim, "The purported purchase of lands by Governor Douglas under the treaty did not include James Island. James Island has never been surrendered by Tsawout."

While the island was not identified in the treaty, Tsawout believe it should have been protected even if it had been. Policy was that First Nations' villages, enclosed fields and burial places would be reserved for their continued use even after lands were sold, and that their rights to fishing and to hunting on unoccupied lands would be maintained.

The 315-hectare (780-acre) island is located just 2.5 kilometres away and directly across the water from the Tsawout village reserve. Legal counsel John Gailus said it's significant that no other First Nation has made claim to the island, which has two extensive settlement sites, including burial grounds. Tsawout members say along with hunting and fishing, they traditionally husbanded medicinal plants and food resources such as berries, camas bulbs and potatoes.

"What we see is a culturally modified landscape. Our people were meant to come back to continue our way of life and to be surrounded by our ancestors who died there," Underwood said.

James Island was not set aside as reserve land when parts of Salt Spring, Mayne, Saturna and Pender islands were reserved for the Tsawout. Instead, British Columbia allowed it to be subdivided and pre-empted in the early 1870s. Crown grants to five lots were



DISCOVERY LAND CO. PHOTO

Promotional photo of James Island published by Discovery Land Company, an Arizona-based firm that specializes in creating luxury residential communities. The island is claimed by Tsawout First Nation.

issued from 1874 through to 1905.

The island was then turned into a private hunting reserve stocked with fallow deer and other non-native game. Then in 1913, Canadian Industries Limited purchased the island to establish an explosives manufacturing plant.

"Much of the island was cleared to make way for the explosives plant and a village to house workers and their families," the Tsawout's legal claim states.

The lawsuit states Tsawout had maintained a permanent presence on James Island until the early 1870s when the provincial government forced the remaining members off the island. Underwood said the First Nation stayed connected to the land and surrounding waters, however, and members believed the island would be returned to them after the need for explosives ended with the Second World War.

According to Tsawout, there were several times when the provincial and federal governments could have purchased the island, or large parts of it, and returned it to First Nations. Both governments deny any such obligation in their responses filed in court.

If government were to purchase the island for return to First Nations, the compensation price tag would be high. British Columbia spent \$5.45 million to protect Grace Islet in 2015. The amount

comprised \$850,000 for the land and \$4.6-million for the previous owner's lost investments and future enjoyment.

The Tsawout lawsuit for James Island is still in its discovery phase, and Gailus said it will likely not reach the point where matters can be heard in court for another four or five years, never mind reach a conclusion. There are concerns about how J.I. Properties' subdivision could prejudice the case, and ultimately, Tsawout want the land returned as is, without further development.

The First Nation rejected a settlement offer from J.I. Properties that would extend some capacity funding for environmental and archaeology studies and other research, and some access to the island, in exchange for not opposing the subdivision.

"We did not wish to compromise our case for recognition of our protected rights, and history of use and occupation," Underwood explained. "Our position remains that cooperative efforts supported war efforts but the land should not have been privatized. The island should have reverted back to Tsawout."

The North Pender LTC's decision not to advance some steps necessary to the subdivision, and to advise provincial authorities against it, was an unwelcome surprise for the current owners. J.I.

Properties representative Brett Rasinski said at the April 1 North Pender Local Trust Committee public meeting he had "never been more blindsided" than by the proposed motions.

"Beyond that, is the Islands Trust's consideration of the public interest limited only to consideration of First Nations interests?" he asked.

In a previous meeting Rasinski outlined the extensive environmental remediation his family had undertaken to restore the land from the explosive manufacturing days, as well as his own attachment to the island through decades of visiting.

The trustees agreed J.I. Properties has been a good environmental steward, and that the owners have made an effort to consult with First Nations. They did not agree that a rezoning completed in 2008 meant they should advance a subdivision today.

"My concern is this is a different time and a different era than when this subdivision was originally approved. And given [the B.C. Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act] and the [United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People] more generally, there are concerns that we have about our responsibility as a local Trust committee around reconciliation," trustee Deb Morrison said. "It's about not getting between the province and the federal government and the First Nation in this moment and not moving quickly in a way that potentially causes long-term harm to First Nations, so I feel the need to slow everything down a little bit."

Underwood said she finds the attitude all too often is that Indigenous people should just "get over" past harms. Actions like those of the North Pender LTC represent an important shift away from colonial thinking.

"Reconciliation is not just getting over it. It's incumbent on all of us to work through this together," Underwood said.

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FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

Artist seeks help to build ceramics school

Julie MacKinnon expanding island opportunities

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An acclaimed ceramics artist and teacher is planning to expand the facilities on Salt Spring where local clay talent can grow and is looking for community support to make that happen.

Julie MacKinnon has been making her living as a ceramic artist on Salt Spring for the past 20 years, and has integrated teaching into her practice for the past 15. Her small studio has overflowed with students seeking her enthusiasm and skill in teaching, reaching 1,000 students this year.

Until now she has accommodated students and emerging artists as well as possible in her personal home studio. The surge in demand means she has turned her attention over the past two years to how she can support their growth with a purpose-built teaching studio capable of year-round programming.

"The need has changed," MacKinnon explained. "My local students, who now have solid skill sets, need a different model moving forward."

MacKinnon views the future school as a social enterprise that will fill gaps in island arts education, community-building and professional development opportunities, and will benefit women in particular. She notes she has always made time for anyone who wanted to learn, squeezing in lessons and clay advice while producing her signature porcelain tableware for the retail market.

"In no time at all, my space turned into a community hub," she said. "I'm friendly



PHOTO BY JULIE MACKINNON

Jenessa Lenore works on a wheel during one of Julie MacKinnon's clay workshops.

and I like people, and I'm really, really interested in people's projects. And so it's come into this communal area, where it's not just about me, it's about the community that is created."

The squeeze to support others' work was not just a matter of available time, but also space. MacKinnon somehow found room in her 300-square-foot studio for one or two others to work alongside her. Eventually she extended her teaching space outdoors.

MacKinnon had already incorporated an annual workshop schedule into her business model, mainly outside of the busy tourist season, before the pandemic hit. The appetite for her weekend-long and four-day teaching workshops only grew after that. With limited space and only outdoor classes possible, these have been so popular they sell out far in advance.

Of those people who have taken workshops so far, 80 per cent have been local to Salt Spring and 95 per cent have been women. MacKinnon said the sessions have built a much-needed sense of community and have been the seed for some of those students to embark on professional art journeys of their own. Five Salt Spring women to date have moved on to advanced techniques and then on to selling their work professionally, while around 30 per cent of first-time students go on to take continuing classes.

Workshops are often booked by entire family groups, and MacKinnon also offers sessions especially for children a few times each year.

Along the way MacKinnon has found ways to include everyone regardless of means. Advanced students may transition into paid internship positions, and she has a work-trade system for lower-income clay enthusiasts. She often gifts free workshops to women in the community who are undergoing hard times, whether from grief, recovery from trauma or exhaustion as front-line workers. She recently developed a program with Islanders Working Against Violence to offer free classes to women and children staying in IWAV's Transition House or secondary housing, or accessing their support services.

"The conversations in my workshops

have exposed me to many social and financial gaps in our community for women needing creativity and companionship," MacKinnon said. "For years it has been my studio's goal to create more access to the healing and empowerment clay offers."

During the first year of the pandemic MacKinnon was able to offer outdoor classes until the weather turned in October. She then distributed her studio for the winter by renting out her wheels and providing clay and tool packages on island. Her kilns have been kept busy firing all of those people's work, and MacKinnon offers glazing services with a line that she's personally created.

The outdoor classroom is now gearing up for a second year, but MacKinnon is also hard at work trying to ensure a permanent option for incubating the island's growing talent is realized. The school will include drop-in times for self-sufficient workers and an ongoing community/social source for sharing ideas. She has already invested in most of the equipment and materials needed; a building permit to add the new building to her home property has been approved and an all-local build team has been assembled.

In addition to her own contribution, MacKinnon is hoping to find a major donor or four major donors who could bring \$50,000 each to the social enterprise project.

A short video about her work made by Amelia McCluskey called Julie MacKinnon Ceramics — Clay in Community was accepted to represent Canada for the Ceramics Congress this month, and can be viewed on YouTube.

Further information about the project is available upon request to juliemackinnon-ceramics@gmail.com.

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Financial Advice

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Teamwork saves juncos during tree removal



PHOTO COURTESY LITTLE RED PRESCHOOL

Little Red Preschool students and staff, who worked to preserve an Oregon junco nest and hatchlings in an area where trees were slated for falling.

Little Red Schoolhouse kids learn valuable nature lesson

BY MARCIE LARSON-FOSSEN

LITTLE RED SCHOOLHOUSE

At Salt Spring's Little Red Schoolhouse, a disheartening situation found a silver lining in a most surprising way.

The educators and children at our preschool were saddened to learn numerous trees from adjoining Beaver Point Park needed to come down. The forest is a favourite playground for the nature-based schoolhouse and surrounding south-end community.

Days before the work was to be done, a child discovered a junco nest built into the brush below the dangerous conifers. It was thought the nest could be relocated, but when staff went to make the move, they were greeted by two tiny hatchlings. Due to their inability to call out, the parents would most likely have abandoned their young if the nest were moved. The schoolhouse, which takes pride in being environmental stewards, sprang into action, and with the guidance of the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre and the help of faller Kevan Brown, a plan was hatched.

On the day of the work, Island Wildlife temporarily relocated the hatchlings after covering the nest with a plank and risers. The fallers moved swiftly and had the trees down and the space cleared with a couple of hours. They took note of the parents while the work was being done and were happy to report they stayed in the area. The baby birds were fed every 15 minutes while they were away from their home and kept warm in an incubator. Their needs are extraordinarily consuming during the first days of their lives.

When the hatchlings were returned the parents hardly skipped a beat. It was an incredible first for Island Wildlife. People often call needing a nest moved; it's rare for one to be left where it was found. After observing the family and checking for other habitats that may have been affected, the operation was deemed a success.

The Little Red educators and children were thrilled to hear the junco family made it through unscathed. The children found it particularly interesting to know that even baby birds go to daycare.

The schoolhouse is incorporating the experience into their program. As part of their new "garden project," which focuses on regenerative agriculture, the school will plant a tree for each one that had to come down, a policy that will be kept in place for the future.

RECREATION

Dragonboat group plants tribute to Christensen family

Rotary Marine Park tree planted Friday

BY DONNA COCHRAN

SPIRIT POINT DRAGONS

Salt Spring's dragon boat members wanted to show our love and respect for Nils and Sheila Christensen who sponsored the team from its start in 2006.

Their home was located on Spirit Point, Long Harbour and the team adopted the name Spirit Point Dragons in their honour. For over a decade the Dragons had seasonal mooring at the Christensen dock for bi-weekly practices and dryland storage space during the off-season. Nils and Sheila were our biggest fans and supporters, travelling to

many regattas with us over the years. Their daughter, Marit Christensen, was a valued member of the team until the family sold the property and she moved with her parents to Abbotsford in 2016.

Sadly, Nils passed away in 2017 and Sheila in 2020. Spirit Point Dragons got permission to plant a beautiful Japanese maple in Rotary Marine Park in their memory. On Friday, the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation crew invited the team to help with the planting. A commemorative plaque will be added at a later date.

The team hasn't been able to paddle since March 2020, but when we can get back on the water we will do an honorary "paddles up" for Nils, Sheila and Marit Christensen, whom we miss and love so much.



PHOTO COURTESY SPIRIT POINT DRAGONS

Spirit Point Dragon team in front of a memorial maple tree planted at Rotary Marine Park.

2021 SALT SPRING ISLAND

FALL FAIR

SEPTEMBER 18 & 19

Past, Present & Future

125th Anniversary

Driftwood Gulf Islands Media will publish the official Fall Fair Catalogue on June 30, 2021.

This magazine contains the official entry forms, category lists and information for all Fall Fair competitors. The Salt Spring Fall Fair is the largest community event of the year.

FUNDRAISER

Treasure Fair seeks donations for virtual event

Visit ArtSpring website to offer special items

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

What's your connection to Treasure Fair?

There are many ways this fundraising event has involved Salt Springers over its 20-year history. Catherine Griffiths has been a shopper, donor, volunteer coordinator and now Treasure Fair coordinator. Similarly, after spending 10 years on the acquisitions team, Kate Merry is now team leader.

What is the same for everyone, though, is how much we missed the event in 2020. Lockdown saw the loss of one of ArtSpring's primary fundraisers, bringing in around \$55,000 of vital operational funds annually.

The good news is that Treasure Fair is back in 2021. The exciting news is the silent and live auction events are online only. And the important news is that you can help this event bounce back by donating quality items for the catalogue.

Griffiths and Merry both report donations are off to a great start, but we still need your help. So, do you have recyclable treasures to offer? Maybe a piece of furniture that just doesn't fit anymore; household items such as glassware or kitchen appliances? Hobby items — something you've mastered or outgrown?

Gift certificates for goods, services and adventures are always popular. Griffiths knows the past 12 months have been incredibly hard on our local businesses, but we want to help support them and get people back over their doorsteps.

Merry feels the strength of Treasure Fair is the eclectic nature of the donations, and the team is excited about items of considerable value already coming in: a three-night Yukon package; artwork including a Carol Haigh print; a helicopter ride over Salt Spring; a Don Conley private concert; an art consultation with Bill Mayberry; and a Howard Fry photo shoot.

Why should you donate your treasures? As Merry says, ArtSpring is an extraordinary community asset: people even move here because they can see talented performers from near and far take to our stage.

Donations are gratefully accepted until June 18. Visit treasurefair.artspring.ca.

ArtSpring's Virtual Treasure Fair will run Wednesday, July 14 to Sunday, July 18.

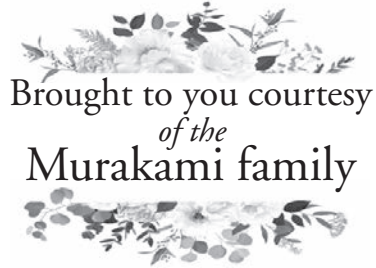
ADOPT A PET TODAY!



Kitten season is almost upon us. If you are interested in adopting a kitten or becoming a foster parent please contact the shelter and speak with a staff member.

BCSPCA
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Contact the BCSPCA at
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IDEAS

Conversations on Racism on tap

Panelists of Asian heritage discuss issues

The third in a series of online events exploring racism runs next Wednesday, June 2 featuring islanders who are of Asian heritage.

Conversations on Racism: Where are you Really From? begins at 7 p.m. and is part of a series presented by the Salt Spring Japanese Garden Society. Panelists are Moonie Garner, Kenneth Austin Lister and Lavonne Leong. The evening is moderated by Kisaie Petersen.

Press material notes that the "Where are you really from" question is familiar to many people of Asian heritage, regardless of how long they and their families have been making Canada their home.

"Underneath the question, there is an assumption that you don't belong here, even if it is innocently asked," states the society. "It is a very personal question, maybe coming from genuine curiosity, but it is also a reflection of the systemic and institutional structure of the society. For people of Asian heritage, there is this

thing of being made into perpetual foreigners."

The society notes that reported hate crimes against Asian Canadians in B.C. have increased by more than 700 per cent in the past year during the pandemic. Salt Spring is no exception from that trend.

Next Wednesday the panelists, "as people of Asian heritage, will share their stories of being who they are in the Salt Spring community and beyond, and explore the impact of this question on their sense of belonging."

Garner was born in Victoria as a Canadian-Korean and raised in Tokyo, Japan. She then moved to Belize in Central America to help her mother start an organic farm and also ran a tour and film co-ordinating company catering to Japanese clientele in Belize. During the pandemic, Garner moved back to Canada and currently lives on Salt Spring Island on an organic farm.

Lister was born in Trinidad in 1967. His Canadian-born father Leroy was a Welsh/Quebecois/Metis mix and his mother, Kimchoy, is of Chinese/Creole/Arawak origins. He moved to Edmonton at the age of three and has lived

in B.C. for 32 years now, mostly on the coast, where he makes a living as a stonemason, carpenter and farmer.

"Lister's West Indian family is made up of many different shades of folks, which is an accurate reflection of Trinidad as a whole: home to such a wide diaspora of cultures and races."

Leong was born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii and has lived in New York, the U.K. and Idaho's panhandle. She moved with her family to Salt Spring Island three years ago. Lavonne is a journalist and academic, and is working on a master's degree in strategic foresight. She also serves on the Salt Spring library board.

Petersen has lived on Salt Spring for 22 years and is an active community member and mother of two sons. She has ancestors from Japan, Denmark, Ireland and England, who all came to Canada seeking greater opportunity and freedom from oppression and poverty. Petersen volunteers for many local organizations and is the executive director of Islanders Working Against Violence.

The link for the June 2 event is on the saltspringjapanesegarden.com website under Anti-Racism Forums.

what's on this week

What's On - the go! Scan this barcode with your smartphone to download, instructions below.

Wed. May 26	Fri. May 28	Sun. May 30	Tue. June 1
<p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Author Event: Gail Glode. Salt Spring's Gail Glode reads from first book in her Amore Trilogy called Rapture. 7 p.m. A Salt Spring Public Library Zoom event. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.</p>	<p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Ask Salt Spring. This week's topic is Salt Spring roads, with MoTI area manager Jake Roder and Emcon manager Andrew Gaetz, local roads maintenance contractor. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Send an email to ask@asksaltspring.com to get the link.</p>	<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Invasive Plant Drop-off Day. Bring broom, gorse, holly, ivy, blackberry, spurge laurel to Fulford Community Hall parking lot from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. No roots, no dirt, no rocks! A project of the Transition Salt Spring Native Plant Stewardship Group and Salt Spring Fire Rescue.</p>	<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Rotary Shredder Day. Fifth annual fundraising event. Bring papers for shredding by Best Shredding mobile truck service to Lions Hall parking lot from 8:30 a.m. to 12 noon. More info: ssirotaryshredderday@gmail.com.</p>
<p>Thur. May 27</p> <p>VIA MICROSOFT TEAMS</p> <p>North Salt Spring Waterworks Trustees Meeting. 10 a.m. See the northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website for the link or email tammy@nsswaterworks.ca.</p>	<p>MP Elizabeth May Community Meeting. Elizabeth May holds a virtual community meeting to provide an update on her work and to discuss issues of importance to her constituency. 7 to 8:30 p.m.</p>	<p>Mon. May 31</p> <p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission. Regular monthly meeting. 1 to 3 p.m. To get a link, contact Shayla (sburnham@crd.bc.ca) before 10 a.m. today.</p>	<p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>A Conversation with David Williams. Seattle-based natural history writer, naturalist and educator David B. Williams talks about comparative environments and histories between the U.S. and Canadian sides of the Salish Sea. 6:30 p.m. A SS Conservancy event. Preregistration required by emailing debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.</p>
<p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Sacred Geometry, An A-Z Reference Guide: History, Beliefs and Practices. Presented by professor Marilyn Walker. 7 to 8:30 p.m. More info and registration at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Sat. May 29</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Saturday Market in the Park. Saturday market runs with COVID-19 safety protocols in place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Introduction to Nonviolent Communication. A free session by the Community Alliance. 7 p.m. RSVP for Zoom link: ssi speaks@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Wed. June 2</p> <p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Conversations on Racism: Where Are You Really From? Questioning the Question. A conversation about the experience of people of Asian heritage, with Kenneth Austin Lister, Lavonne Leong and Moonie Garner, moderated by Kisaie Petersen. 7 to 8:30 p.m. See www.saltspringjapanesegarden.com for the Zoom link.</p>

Impressions 6

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

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EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Gallery presents Two Tides - Romantic, Plein Air and Abstract works by Nathalie St-Amant from May 28 to June 16.
- 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.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

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

EXHIBITIONS

- Gallery 8 presents a Spring Exhibition featuring the work of Corre Alice in the upper gallery through June 5.

MEDIA

CRTC hears radio pitch

Comments on station application accepted until June 7

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Anyone who supports having a community radio station on Salt Spring return to the FM dial has until June 7 to submit their comments to the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission.

The commission will hold a closed hearing in Gatineau, Que. on July 8 to consider the Gulf Islands Community Radio Society's application for a broadcasting licence.

"This is a very positive step and we look forward to getting a speedy answer from the CRTC. This hearing is the culmination of five years of hard work by a dedicated team of volunteers. Our dream of launching a community FM station, based in Ganges, is a step closer to reality," said radio society president Damian Inwood.

The station proposes to operate at 107.9 MHz (channel 300A) with a rebroadcasting transmitter operating at 102.1 MHz (channel 271A). The applicant proposes to broadcast 126 hours of programming per broadcast week, of which a minimum of 105 hours would be devoted to local programming.

The online link for submissions can be found at <https://crtc.gc.ca/eng/archive/2021/2021-165.htm> under "interventions." Click on "submit" and then check off privacy statement to continue to the submissions page.



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Obituaries

Obituaries


In Memoriam Gifts

Coming Events

Coming Events

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.

Elizabeth "Libby" Jutras (nee Langford)
1940 - 2021



With great sadness, our family is announcing the death of Libby. Libby Jutras, was born November 15, 1940 in Toronto, Ontario. After a short but determined battle against cancer, Libby died peacefully with her family present on Thursday, May 20, 2021 at her home in Arbutus Ridge, BC. Libby is survived by her husband Ray Kocher; her daughter Robin Herron and husband Trevor, grandchildren Jeremy, Micheal, and Melissa; her son Donald McClellan and wife Louisa, grandchildren August, Sawyer and Holden; Stepson Kevin Kocher; brother Robert Langford; and sister-in-law and good friend Claire Reynolds. Of all the places Libby had lived, Saltspring Island was clearly her favourite. It was here she found a place for her artistic talents to flourish. Libby loved to teach, as well as, to learn from the many talented local artists. Libby developed many friendships in the community, through her bridge club, book club, Mah Jongg club and the arts community. At Libby's request there will be no funeral. In lieu of flowers, Libby asked that donations be made to a charity of your choice.

Looking for GRIEF SUPPORT?
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 250-537-2770 • saltspringhospice.org



Salt Spring Island CONSERVANCY
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
 Thursday, June 10, 7:00 pm

SSI Conservancy members, please note that the AGM will be online with access via computer (Zoom) or telephone. Please RSVP to debra@saltspringconservancy.ca by June 3 with your choice of access (Zoom or telephone). Access instructions and reports will be posted at <https://saltspringconservancy.ca> by June 7. For members without internet, call 250-538-0318 by June 3 and we'll mail the info to you.

The Full Moon on May 26 occurs at 6 Sagittarius 29 and it is a Lunar Eclipse. Because the Moon is symbolic of the past, roots, ancestry and history, when it is eclipsed it tends to point to the future, yet whereas Solar Eclipses tend to manifest as outer events, Lunar Eclipses usually occur as internal, subjective shifts. We know the sign and degree of the eclipse, but the other main factor is to decipher what house is being activated in your Natal Chart and whether or not it is making any strong aspects to other planets and angles. The degrees most affected will be from 4 to 9 and the signs most strongly affected are the Mutable signs: Sagittarius, Gemini, Pisces and Virgo, and Taurus and Cancer. Yet, any planet or angle within this range of degrees will at least undergo subtle shifts. Mercury turning retrograde for its usual tri-annual, three-week cycle begins on May 30 and continues until June 21, Summer Solstice. It occurs in Gemini which, generally speaking, is the most favourable of all the signs.

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Coming Events

Coming Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SALT SPRING SENIORS SERVICES SOCIETY
 June 15, 2021 • 11am
 at the Salt Spring Seniors Centre
 - 379 Lower Ganges Rd.
 OR
Join us on Zoom
 Call the Seniors Centre at 250-537-4604 for the Zoom address.
 SENIORS CENTRE IS OPEN
 10am - 12 noon, Monday to Friday in June

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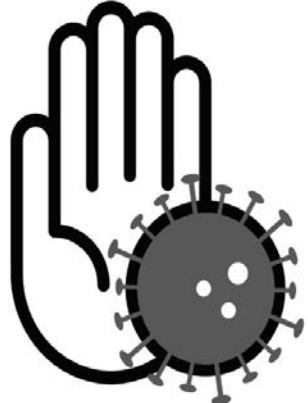
Help Wanted

Salt Spring Island Foundation seeks a new Board member to Chair our Governance Committee
 The Salt Spring Island Foundation has supported charities on our island for over 36 years. Our Mission is "To inspire philanthropy for the enduring benefit of our community" to achieve our Vision of "A Healthy and Caring Community."
 We are looking for someone to join our dynamic and committed Board of Directors and take on the position of Governance Committee Chair. You would be supported by committee members, a strong board and capable staff.
 Do you have experience with best organizational practices, effective policy and strategic/operational planning?
 Do you have experience as a Board member?
 Do you have time to volunteer for this position?
 Would you like to make a positive difference in the lives of Salt Spring islanders?
 If you answered yes to these questions, you may be the right person to join our Governance team. You would have an important role in developing and maintaining the capacity of the Foundation, in terms of the commitment, skills and resources necessary to serve the purpose and mission of the organization. For more information, please email our Board Chair, Brian Lawson, at brian@ssfoundation.ca

Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.

NOVEL CORONAVIRUS

PROTECT YOURSELF



A thought of sweet remembrance from one who thinks of you.



Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

This eclipse will activate the urge for freedom. This may manifest simply as an impulse to retreat and get away from it all for a while. Projects may be set aside for a time. Meanwhile, a flood of new perspectives has been coming in all week and this will continue. Some of these could even prove life-changing. You will ask questions and want answers, cross-referenced.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

This eclipse will trigger some rather deep changes. Positively, you will feel moved to exercise a whole new level of discipline. As well, it could trigger a rebellious urge to break through whatever you deem to be blocking your way. It could also manifest as an industrious period. With Mercury retrograde, the bigger challenge will be to overcome bull-headed pride.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Changes on relationship fronts will likely be activated by the eclipse. These will be linked to your perceptions and priorities. While your focus will be sharp, you could find yourself reconsidering previously held opinions and interpretations. One way or another, you will push to get to the bottom of things and this could prove upsetting, yet liberating.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Shifts and adjustments in your daily routine will be activated this week. At worst, these could prove awkward and complicated yet, positively, they will lead to needed improvements. This is an extra strong instance when getting out of your comfort zone could prove necessary. Philosophical and spiritual inspirations are featured and you may even undergo some measure of enlightenment.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

You may fair better than most from the impact of this eclipse. Creative inspirations are likely, yet your whole chart has to be considered. The influence of Mercury retrograde could produce high ideals, yet these may also manifest as wishful thinking. Some measure of inner work will help if only to reconsider prior notions and interpretations. 'Think with your heart and feel with your mind.'

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

Your home, family and living situation, in general, is likely to undergo some changes due to this eclipse. Positively, these will lead to expansion of some sort due to the influence of Jupiter in Pisces. So, what may at first appear negative could come around as a positive impulse. Besides, anything less will be met by a rebellious drive welling-up from within.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Many new thoughts, ideas, beliefs and philosophies will come to your awareness over the coming weeks. In some respects, you could take a complete 180 regarding prior-held perspectives. At worst, due to Mercury retrograde, you could feel lost and confused for a while. This will activate a drive to take inventory of your assets, resources and options.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Taking account of things could have an all-encompassing influence on your life starting this week. Beyond finances, your very self-concept could undergo some review. An already existing urge to rebel activated a few weeks ago will go to the next effective level. Beyond thoughts and theories, now you will push for real answers and solutions.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

This eclipse occurring in your sign will activate some pioneering initiatives. Expect your ambition levels to deepen. Contending with an urge to escape or to deny certain realities will prove counter-productive. If ever there was a time to access your inner confidence and determination to make important inner changes regarding your usual mode of approach, it is now.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Since this eclipse is occurring in your solar 12th house, it may go unnoticed since governs your subconscious mind. On the other hand, it could trigger many new realizations and epiphanies, thoughts and ideas that have been waiting for their opportunity to come to your conscious attention. Set your intention for this latter outcome and co-create new realizations.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

This eclipse will have an extra strong impact on your overall sense of individuality. It will also likely activate philosophical thoughts linked to truth and justice. Yet, you will also feel a fresh impulse to do something about it, to make extra efforts that you would not otherwise. Mercury retrograde will prove complicated as well, challenging you to not take things too personally.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Your public and professional life will feel the impact of this eclipse. Yet, it could prove to be the exact boost of inspiration, woven with necessity to activate a needed pioneering push to expand beyond existing perimeters. Mercury retrograde could also activate some complex waves yet these too may best be harnessed to lead you to brainstorm and outline the possibilities regarding new streams of income.

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