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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, June 2, 2021

62nd year  
Issue 22  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**SO CUTE:** Jennifer McMillan, left, and Karen Tottman hold three of their charges: four-week-old Almond, Pistachio and Cashew, whose mother Peanut is a feral cat. All four cats will be spayed, neutered and vaccinated and have a better life thanks to the pair's new Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society, which is seeking financial and other support from community members. See story on page 12.

## COVID-19

# B.C.'s restart 2.0 plan underway

Local tourism sector looks forward to B.C. travel

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island business owners are looking forward to the return of travel between British Columbia's health regions, which is slated to take place as soon as June 15 if current trends in the fight against COVID-19 continue.

As B.C. Premier John Horgan and provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced last Tuesday, Step One of B.C.'s Restart 2.0 plan permits recreational travel within one's health region, indoor dining in restaurants and visits of up to five people to other households. If case numbers and hospitalizations continue to be manageable while the vaccination rate increases to include more of the eligible population, Step Two will allow significant further liberation from restrictions. In addition to inter-provincial travel, movie theatres are set to re-open in that phase and gatherings of up to 50

people will be allowed outdoors, among other changes.

The shift is welcome news that increased restrictions in the five weeks up to the end of the May long weekend appear to have had the desired effect, and that beleaguered businesses can start trying to make up for lost revenue.

"Ending of the COVID 'circuit breaker' restrictions is certainly welcomed by business operators on our island," reported Darryl Martin, who chairs the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce board of directors. "Those restrictions had severely limited business for many. Even enterprises that sell goods mostly to local residents depend on revenue from visitors to be viable, so the reduction of restrictions is very helpful."

Martin said the chamber continues to urge Salt Springers to "bend over backwards to shop locally" whenever possible to help keep island shops and cafes in operation, and to

reduce the environmental footprint.

"Our local enterprises are doing an excellent job of complying with the health recommendations, so this is a great way to avoid off-island COVID exposure," Martin observed.

Randy Cunningham, chair of the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society, said the easing of restrictions will help suffering accommodations, restaurant and recreation businesses. Although many of those business owners joined in recommending visitors follow provincial health orders and stay away during the worst of the pandemic, there is concern about the long-term effect.

Despite the increase in people visiting around spring break and Easter, Cunningham said most of them don't qualify as tourists. The largest group, according to SGITPS data, was actually people with second homes.

**RESTART** continued on 3

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## VACATION RENTALS

# Business licensing proposed to manage STVRs

Island trustees look to CRD for next steps

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust officials frustrated by an epidemic of illegal short-term vacation rentals across the southern Gulf Islands are thinking about business licensing as a potential management tool.

Trustees from each of the islands (aside from North Pender) and Islands Trust staff met recently to discuss the problem and brainstorm on possible solutions. The meeting ended in consensus that establishment of business licences through the Capital Regional District should be explored. The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee subsequently passed a resolution to that effect last Tuesday.

Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick, who organized the meeting, said the idea has been raised in the past but has

always been rejected by CRD officials. With the united position of five local Trust committees that the idea deserves further consideration, she's hopeful the feasibility could at the very least be studied.

"It's a long-haul project. It's not going to happen right away and it's a complicated process to get there," Patrick said. "But we have to at least see if there is a will for this."

Short-term vacation rentals (STVRs) are usually defined as the rental of an entire house or a self-contained unit in a house for less than 30 days. In many cases the owner does not live on the same property. They are managed in different ways

through the southern Gulf Islands and not legal on Salt Spring, although bed and breakfast businesses are permitted.

Randy Cunningham, who chairs the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership Society, said STVRs seem to have proliferated with online booking platforms such as Airbnb. They create problems for more traditional accommodation

providers such as hotels and resorts because they avoid costs those operations must incur and therefore can undercut pricing. For example, an STVR in a residential neighbourhood may avoid paying

commercial property taxes that are much higher than residential rates, and pay for lower residential home insurance and utility rates as well.

"I think business licences are always good for local governments as a way to manage those businesses. It doesn't mean they're going to manage them in a favourable way to the operators," Cunningham said.

The Salt Spring Accommodations Group has been suggesting the measure for some years. The organization's president Peter Lloyd-Jones made a delegation to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee in 2017 asking them to change their enforcement policies and to license compliant businesses instead. As he told the Driftwood this week, the tool would allow officials to ensure such businesses are located in areas with appropriate zoning, and that they meet fire, safety and health requirements.

"I think it's a positive move for sure and we've been calling for it for a long time, as long as it's done in consultation with stakeholders," Lloyd-Jones said, adding, "I think there's plenty of precedent out there. Other communities could be consulted about the challenges and how best to set it up."

The Salt Spring Community Economic Development Commission also supports the idea as a way to protect housing inventory and access for working island families, said commission chair Francine Carlin.

Patrick said there are good examples of the program in places like Tofino and Penticton. In addition to ensuring STVR accommodations are safe for visitors, communities can manage the total number of such businesses allowed.

"[The business licence] is a tool many areas use, because you can limit it, and it can also be removed if they're not following the rules," Patrick said. "A temporary use permit cannot be removed — if it's issued for three years, it's issued for three years."

Patrick said the trustees who attended the meeting agreed that a business licence program would work best if it covered the entire southern Gulf Islands region. Even if land use bylaws may be different on each island, officials could ensure compliance with the specific community rules.

Having the entire area united might also give the islands enough pull to secure agreement from platforms such as Airbnb not to run listings for unlicensed businesses.

"As a region, we're a powerful voice. As Salt Spring alone we're just one small island," Patrick observed.

Getting a CRD service established across the region would require support from two electoral areas. Salt Spring director Gary Holman said he supports the island's official community plan and its prohibition of STVRs, and he's concerned how business licensing could open the doors to them.

As well, Holman said, the policy, legal and financial obligations would need to be carefully examined. Financially, he predicted the program would require at least one full-time staff person plus administration support.

"This is not an insignificant cost," he said. "And if you're going to increase taxes to cover those costs, you have to think about the priorities the CRD has on Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands and if this is one of those priorities."

Holman does think the idea deserves a considered response. Discussion with Southern Gulf Islands electoral area director Dave Howe is the first step, and possible involvement of CRD and Islands Trust staff might come after that, Holman suggested.

**"It's a long-haul project. It's not going to happen right away and it's a complicated process to get there."**

LAURA PATRICK  
Islands Trust trustee,  
Salt Spring Island

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](http://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](http://www.crd.bc.ca/SGIHarboursAAP)

Given under my hand at Victoria, BC this 26<sup>th</sup> day of May, 2021

Kristen Morley  
Corporate Officer

# Vaccination rates high in Gulf Islands region

## RESTART

continued from 1

"We've kept such a low profile it's almost like we don't exist," Cunningham said. "It's a little worrisome, but I expect things will start to come back after June 15."

The chamber's executive director Jesse Brown said the Salt Spring Island Visitor Centre has already received many calls from future visitors coming from the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island looking for information on where to stay, where to eat and what to do.

"We are anticipating a busy summer that will hopefully carry over to the shoulder season, when our local community really needs the extra business," Brown said.

Cunningham agreed the summer months are not such a worry, but island businesses still need to recover missing shoulder-season

revenue from the spring.

"I don't know if we can make it up in the fall or not, but we will put our focus on helping local businesses as much as we can," Cunningham said.

**"We are anticipating a busy summer that will hopefully carry over to the shoulder season . . . ."**

JESSE BROWN

Executive director, SS Chamber of Commerce

Step Three of the restart plan, to kick in as early as July 1, will permit increased capacity at indoor and outdoor organized gatherings, fairs and festivals, Canada-wide recreational travel, and see liquor service restrictions lifted.

Bingo halls, casinos and nightclubs will be permitted to open at limited capacity.

The return to most aspects of pre-pandemic life is envisioned for September but will be conditional upon a successful vaccination campaign with at least 70 per cent of the 18+ population vaccinated with their first dose, along with low COVID-19 case counts and hospitalizations.

Island Health reported Friday that 65 per cent of the 12+ population in the health region had received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine and 29,773 people had their second dose. Around 67 per cent of Salt Spring Island adults had received a first dose as of last week, while the other southern Gulf Island were up to 87 per cent due to the whole community clinic approach. No new COVID-19 cases were reported on the Gulf Islands from May 16 to 22.

The window between doses for people receiving Pfizer or Moderna vaccines was

moved from 16 weeks to eight weeks as of Thursday since the available supply has increased.

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen said his office has received a number of calls from constituents about the vaccine roll-out. Olsen reminds people that if they received their first dose before the online registration system was set up in mid April, they must now register for their second dose, which is contrary to what they may have been told at the time of their first dose.

"You can [register] either over the phone or online," said Olsen. "If you received your first dose after the online registration system was rolled out, then you will be notified either by email/phone/text when you can book your second dose."

Olsen said anyone who has COVID or vaccine-related questions should not hesitate to contact his office at adam.olsen.mla@leg.bc.ca or 250-655-5600.

## TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

# Baker Road safety concerns addressed

Series of motions passed by island's transportation commission

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Transportation Commission is taking steps to alleviate community safety concerns around its latest pathway and will investigate quick fixes as well as some bigger remediation projects.

The commission passed a series of three resolutions raised by Capital Regional District electoral area director Gary Holman during their business meeting Monday. As a first step, the commission voted to remove the top course of concrete blocks in a retaining wall in front of the Anglican cemetery, or else to move that retaining wall further back. CRD staff will investigate which option may be feasible to improve sight-lines at the Lower Ganges Road/Baker Road intersection.

The commission is also looking to staff for a recommendation on how to improve safety for cyclists south of Baker Road, where a high curb has been installed on the shoulder. They will explore how to either move or remove curbs to provide a wider cycling lane.

"The intent is to give staff broad direction with some leeway," Holman explained, adding staff will come back to the commission with various design alternatives and associated costs before any work takes place.

A third resolution seeks to implement some low-cost, short-term fixes as quickly as possible. Suggestions meant

to improve safety and visibility in the area have been made by Baker Road area residents and by Gary Lehman, who is Island Pathways' representative on the commission. Ideas that staff will explore and report back on include moving the stop line further into the intersection. Vehicles about to exit Baker Road would stop before the pedestrian crosswalk and then advance to that line once it was safe, explained the island's senior CRD manager Karla Campbell.

Other measures include possible installation of a convex mirror across from Baker Road or somewhere nearby and new signage alerting cars and pedestrians travelling on Lower Ganges Road that an intersection is coming up.

The commission has additionally requested that island RCMP increase monitoring and enforcement of speeds in the area.

In related business at Monday's meeting, the transportation commission considered Salt Spring CRD's new tree removal guideline with specific relation to pathway construction.

Members were united in expressing their view the main goal should be not to remove any trees unless absolutely necessary, and asked staff to strengthen language in the guideline to make that clear.

Campbell assured them that is the premise of the guideline, although when a certified arborist identifies dangerous trees, the organization has legal and insurance obligations to take action.

"We would always try to avoid taking out a tree if we don't have to," Campbell said. "Our usual approach is not to remove trees."

## GOVERNANCE

# Islands Trust picks consultant for review

Public process aims to help Trust fulfill mandate

The Islands Trust announced Friday that Great Northern Management has been contracted to conduct a governance, management and operations review.

"Great Northern Management will be assessing Islands Trust's current performance, practices, work processes and decision-making systems," explains a press release from the Trust. "They will review the organization's structure, policies and procedures; and will evaluate how effective and efficient the organization is at carrying out its mandate. The review excludes consideration of the Islands Trust Conservancy and Bowen Island

Municipality, and legislation that guides and limits the Islands Trust's authorities. Islands Trust selected the Great Northern Management team through a request for proposals process."

"Trust Council's goal for this review is to assess current performance and seek input on options for strengthening Islands Trust, so it can better fulfill its preserve and protect mandate into the future," said Trust Council chair Peter Luckham. "Great Northern Management has considerable experience in governance, strategic planning and organizational assessment, and is well-positioned to provide insight into how Islands Trust can better serve the Trust Area."

Charles Kelly, project lead for Great Northern Management, said

the company is looking forward to the review.

"Islands Trust is unique as a special-purpose government and faces unique challenges and demands as it strives to preserve and protect the beautiful Trust Area. We will focus on the effectiveness of Islands Trust's governance in determining the strategic direction of the organization as well as reviewing the land use planning services and advocacy activities."

The Trust Council Select Committee on Governance and Management Review, which holds meetings open to the public, will oversee the review process. Trust Council has budgeted \$75,000 from Islands Trust's surplus fund for the project.

The final report is scheduled for delivery in March 2022.

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## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

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
2	0638	2.1	6.9	6	0127	3.0	9.8
	0922	2.2	7.2		0851	1.0	3.3
	WE 1612	1.2	3.9		SU 1625	2.7	8.9
ME			DI	2016	2.4	7.9	
3	0011	3.3	10.8	7	0146	3.0	9.8
	0721	1.8	5.9		0917	0.8	2.6
	TH 1146	2.1	6.9		MO 1715	2.9	9.5
JE	1710	1.5	4.9	LU	2116	2.6	8.5
4	0041	3.2	10.5	8	0207	3.0	9.8
	0755	1.5	4.9		0944	0.7	2.3
	FR 1349	2.2	7.2		TU 1759	3.1	10.2
VE	1812	1.9	6.2	MA	2214	2.7	8.9
5	0106	3.1	10.2	9	0228	3.0	9.8
	0824	1.3	4.3		1012	0.5	1.6
	SA 1520	2.4	7.9		WE 1840	3.2	10.5
SA	1915	2.1	6.9	ME	2310	2.8	9.2

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# OPINION



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

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



## Driftwood

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### EDITORIAL

# Powerless words

Words can be mighty powerful things.

They can prompt social and political revolutions. They can irreparably harm, positively inspire and unduly confuse.

In the past few months, debates about words like “preserve and protect,” “unique amenities,” “healthy communities” and “prioritizing the environment” have rocked some corners of the Islands Trust and its elected trustees.

As trustees from 13 islands were talking about updating the Islands Trust Policy Statement at their last meeting in March, they were asked to support a series of motions that would have, if nothing else, signalled that the Trust means business when it comes to preserving and protecting the natural environment. The short story is that a majority felt the Trust’s commitment to the environment is stated loud and clear in its object and mandate. What effect would restating that in another way really have?

## THE ISSUE: Trust Council policy conflict

## WE SAY: Big disconnect between words and action

Despite the lofty words it was crowned with at birth almost 50 years ago, the Trust has been forced to operate within reality, where most of the land under its purview is privately owned and landowners are guaranteed the rights that existed when they bought that land. The Trust cannot “stop” development that is at present legally allowed. It can perhaps slow it down somewhat or manage it, just as any other land-use authority in B.C. can do. Too often provincial (and occasionally federal) government jurisdiction overrides local Trust committee authority. In many cases, moral suasion and community pressure have more impact than Islands Trust powers or actions.

Outside of having the Islands Trust Conservancy buy land for preservation purposes or convincing landowners to place conservation covenants on their land, prioritizing the environment on the islands doesn’t look any different than in any other place. That’s what makes the current heated debate about words in a policy statement quite absurd.

Talking about the need to preserve and protect the Trust Area is the easiest thing in the world to do. Being able to actually attach impactful action to those words is another matter entirely.

A just-announced governance, management and operations review of the Trust to be conducted by a consulting firm called Great Northern Management may (or may not) help ease that quandary. Hopefully it will produce some words with more meaning than the ones trustees and community members are currently wrangling about.



# Former trustees weigh in

Submitted to Trust Council by Graham Brazier of Denman Island and copied to the Driftwood for publication.

## VIEWPOINT

Comment excerpts:

To all current Islands Trust trustees from 12 former trustees who dedicated a combined total of more than 70 years service to the Islands Trust:

“As former trustees we were greatly saddened to learn of the defeat of a motion made at the March meetings that Trust Council affirm its understanding that the paramount object of the Islands Trust Act is preservation and protection of the natural environment.’ We ask that trustees reflect on the historical significance of that decision as well as its implications for the future and reconsider that motion at the next meeting of Trust Council in June.”

Signed: Sheila Anderson (Galiano), Louise Bell (Denman), David Borrowman (Salt Spring), Nick Gilbert (Salt Spring), David Greer (South Pender), Harlene Holm (Denman), Debbie Holmes (Galiano), Peter Lamb (Salt Spring), Roxanna Mandryk (Denman), Gisele Rudischer (Gabriola), Wendy Scholefield (South Pender), Christine Torgrimson (Salt Spring).

1) Louise Bell: “The Islands Trust is not here to promote residential land use and address social problems. Remember, it was increasing development that triggered the creation of the Trust in the first place.”

2) David Borrowman: “I very much hope that Trust Council will not now be distracted from the original, ringing mandate of the Trust. The relevance of the Trust mandate has been tried by the highest court in British Columbia, and found to be “no mere piety” by Mm Justice Southin.”

3) Harlene Holm: “Along with fellow trustees and Trust staff, I worked on the original text of the Trust Policy Statement . . . Human activities were and should remain seen as the greatest threat to the fragile island ecosystems. Either protecting the environment is paramount or creating inclusive communities is paramount. The two goals are not compatible.”

4) David Greer: “It’s pretty clear that of three components, environ-

ment got the short end of the stick in the past three decades, though there have been some laudable environmental protection initiatives.”

5) Peter Lamb: “This is not to say that such objectives as affordable housing, farming and transportation are irrelevant but that they must only be considered by trustees within the primary goal to preserve and protect ‘the environment and peculiar nature of the islands’ (as Minister James Lorimer pronounced on introducing the Islands Trust Act in 1974).”

6) Roxanna Mandryk: “The Trust’s mandate to preserve and protect has never been more critical to the islands as they face more and more pressures to develop.”

7) Christine Torgrimson: “Please do not alter or muddy the object and policies of the Trust. Although I certainly support and have worked for the provision of affordable housing, I firmly believe that creation and location of such housing must be shaped by a Trust object and policies centred around preservation and protection of the fragile and globally rare islands’ environment.”

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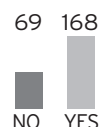
### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you comfortable with the Restart Plan in B.C.?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should the government halt logging of Fairy Creek old growth?



Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://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: }

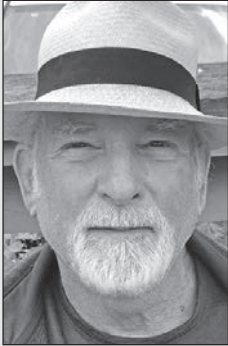
**"We've kept such a low profile it's almost like we don't exist."**

RANDY CUNNINGHAM, SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS TOURISM PARTNERSHIP SOCIETY

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *What do you think about Canada's plan to land a rover on the moon?*

**ALLAN BRUCE**



Using a rover for science and learning about the origin of the universe is a good idea. I'm not so into the idea of human space exploration.

**EMILY PUTZ**



It's kind of cool.

**HARRY POLIAK**



It's gonna be a hell of a journey.

**CHANTELLE POHL**



I feel like it's good to explore other places, but at what cost?

**TOM MITCHELL**



I think it's great: "To the moon and beyond."

## 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](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

### The whole doughnut

It was great to see someone mention Doughnut Economics in a recent letter (Frants Attorp, May 26 "Environment not the priority"). However, he only talks about half the doughnut!

A quick glance at the summary on the book author's website — [www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/](http://www.kateraworth.com/doughnut/) — shows us that as well as an "ecological ceiling" that we are already exceeding, there is also a "social foundation" that we are already falling below. This includes housing, social networks, social equity and a number of other areas that could be considered as "community."

I agree that Doughnut Economics: Seven Ways to Think Like a 21st-century Economist by Kate Raworth is a great read and good starting point, and it

explains exactly why all levels of government, including the Trust, need both environment and community in their mandates to succeed.

**DUNCAN ELSEY,**  
SALT SPRING

### History will judge our province

Imagine the international outrage if Stonehenge, the Roman Colosseum or the Egyptian pyramids were bulldozed so the bricks could be sold for profit.

B.C. doesn't have ancient buildings. Instead we have millennia-old middens, clam gardens and our silent ancestral forests, home to cathedral-like thousand-year-old trees supporting complex and unique terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems. By our governments' own estimates,

less than three per cent remains intact, most of which is currently unprotected.

On southern Vancouver Island we are about to see some of the last stands of our ancient old-growth forest turned into clear cuts in the Fairy Creek Valley. How can this be viewed as a viable political or financial prospect for anyone any more than uprooting Stonehenge and selling those iconic stones would be?

A friend just returned from the blockades near Fairy Creek brokenhearted, having witnessed first-hand the soul-splintering sight of the recent clear-cuts of amputated stumps the size of tiny homes. She also saw the remaining unmolested old-growth forest, which she described as an area of unimaginable majestic beauty and vitality, which defies description in words. Shouldn't we venerate what little remains of these forests as our shrines to history?

Surely it is a crime against us all to destroy what is left of them regardless of who stands to profit? There simply has to be another option than destruction of something so precious.

Yes, I know the issues on the ground are economically and politically complex in this ring of our collective tree of life. But looking through the lens of history as our children and grandchildren will do, who will they judge as the real offenders? Would anyone wandering through the Carmanah Valley today think that logging it would have been the best option or are we all richer now that it's preserved?

Visit [laststandforforests.com](http://laststandforforests.com) for more information or call our premier's office at 250-387-1715 to ask him to follow through on his election promise to protect our old-growth trees.

**GILLIAN ASHLEY MARTZ,**  
SALT SPRING

## Headline and poetry prizes better than an Oscar

Well, that's the Oscars over for another year and wasn't it exciting? I'm especially pleased for Sir Anthony Hopkins who, at 83, won the top prize for playing an old man.

I'll admit to not having seen the movie, nor am I likely to. Watching some old fella dealing with Alzheimer's sounds too much like a documentary to someone my age, but I suppose we can be grateful it wasn't a movie about prostate problems.

Speaking as someone who was recently cheated out of a prestigious literary prize, I'm personally better acquainted with the indignity of being a loser than I am of climbing onto the winners' podium, thanking my parents and holding aloft the trophy.

I'm not a total loser, though. I did once win a bottle of champagne as a Headline of the Year award, which in journalistic terms is a bit like winning an Oscar for having the shiniest shoes.

(You want to know what the headline was? Really? No, you're just trying to humour me . . . Oh, very well. It was to go with a picture of Harry Potter's first on-screen kiss, a momentous event in the annals of no one, and I gave them the headline "Snogwarts." I think it was at that point that I finally realized that while I was never destined to win a Pulitzer, I could walk away into contented retirement with my head held high. Headline of the year, no less. Hogwarts, Snogwarts, pure genius.)

Beyond that, my awards shelf is bare enough to be nonexistent, although I do have a placard declaring me Toastmaster of the Year, but I suspect I won that not so much for my eloquence but because I brought the coffee each week, rather like the creepy schoolboy who always had a bag of humbugs\* to share with his bullies.

But it's not all Mr. No Prizes. I won a tea towel in a door lottery at the Soviet



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER THING

embassy in Helsinki where I was among the guests celebrating the birth (or death) of some Hero of the Soviet Union. Or was it at the British embassy celebrating a royal something or other. Either way, any embassy party was always distinguished by enough booze to paralyze the entire Soviet navy and they'd have been better giving away replacement livers at the door. Parties at American embassies were usually more sober affairs since it seemed to me then that the U.S. Foreign Service mostly recruited from the Mormon church and they would invariably serve Coca Cola with dinner, a revolting habit, like drinking milk with a salad. In fact, it was at a dinner with an American diplomat that I was first introduced to meat loaf and a dessert salad with marshmallows and green Jello, a meal which made the much-maligned British diet in the '70s seem like haute cuisine. At least British food didn't glow in the dark.

And then of course there are my life-saving qualifications of which I am especially proud although if you are contemplating drowning anytime soon, don't expect me to save you. I'd like to help, but frankly my Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Cross, much like my body, is now well over 50 years past its sell-by date. I vaguely remember having to swim 400 yards (which today might as well be from here to Hawaii) in about 10 minutes, pulling a struggling teenager to shore and then administering the kiss of life, which at an all-boys school was not something

most of us relished but they wouldn't give us girls, even an inflatable one, to practise on, a problem that was even more acute in the dance club. And I don't do cold water, so unless you're going under for a third time in your hot tub, forget it.

Gosh, I almost forgot! I won a book at school for something or other. I forget now what the book was or even why I'd been honoured but I remember the occasion because a) it was presented to me by Sir Edmund Hillary, the Everest guy and b) because I was wearing an illegal shirt. I'd assumed I could skulk in the back row in my verboten buttoned-down collar, safe among the other uncelebrated churls, but ended up doing a walk of shame when my name was called, shuffling onto the stage like a burglar caught with his swag.

To make matters worse, my house master collared me later to complain that I had smelled of cigarette smoke when I'd sidled past him. As if!

Now that I think about it (and I haven't for more than 55 years) the prize was for poetry recital, not something a burgeoning young Philistine could boast of to his mates. Real men didn't read poetry, especially not out loud.

"If I were Lord of Tartary, myself and me alone . . . blah, blah, blahdy blah . . . Their fins athwart the sun." Really? Hands up anyone who ever used "athwart." "Would the owner of the black Honda please move it. It is athwart the loading bay . . ."

\* Humbug: A striped British candy made mostly of sugar, mint and premixed concrete, which, along with gobstoppers and aniseed balls, are largely the reason for an entire generation of Brits having teeth like a forgotten graveyard or no teeth of their own at all.

[paulmcelroy@shaw.ca](mailto:paulmcelroy@shaw.ca)

# Celebrate Salish Sea during World Ocean Month

BY ANNE PARKINSON  
TRANSITION SALT SPRING MARINE STEWARDSHIP GROUP

"... in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is the story of the earth." *Rachel Carson*

How true this phrase is when exploring the coastline around Salt Spring Island. From rock to sand to shell, shallow bays to steep cliffs and many streams cutting into the intertidal, Salt Spring has 183 kilometres of coastline telling the tales of glaciers up to two-kms thick carving the shape of the island, lifting and lowering the land and ocean over millions of years. First Nations put their hands to work for thousands of years shaping the shoreline, lining up rocks into clam gardens, clearing canoe launches and creating middens. Today this shoreline has been a relief to many of us during the past year of pandemic living — a place to explore, plenty of room for all, full of peaceful energy surrounded by the Salish Sea.

Time to celebrate! June is UN World Ocean Month (including June 8 designated World Ocean Day). Here is a summary of the issues and what we can do to celebrate.

## Our Superhero

Some wonder why we call our planet earth when 70 per cent of its surface is ocean. The salt waters of the earth absorb over 90 per cent of the heat and approximately 30 per cent of carbon dioxide emissions produced by human activities, distributing heat across the globe, regulating temperature and weather. The oceans are our rain cycle, food and recreation and they stitch land and freshwater together into one whole earth. The Salish Sea is a spectacular bioregion of inland marine waterways of British Columbia and Washington state, a myriad of watersheds, 419 islands and eight million people. But even superheroes struggle sometimes. The Salish Sea needs help . . . a lot of help, and now.

## The Deep, Dark Side

There is a storm raging in the Salish Sea. For-profit resource extractors are removing populations one by one ... going, going ... herring, rockfish, salmon, orca ... gone ... Stellar sea cow, sea otter, forage fish (eulachons, anchovies, sardines), eelgrass and kelp beds. Freighters anchor and scar the bottom, leaking oil, invasive species and noise

throughout. Every day, humans add more effluent, plastics, lost fishnets, derelicts, private docks and breakwaters. The oceans work hard to absorb the CO2 from fossil fuels that humans dig up and burn, but can't keep up and are becoming more acidic.

## Rays of Light

A tsunami of non-profits, citizen science and education groups are working around the clock to sound the alarm. Literally hundreds are based in the Salish Sea, throwing lifelines across borders in unprecedented trans boundary cooperation. From Friends of Cortes Island to the University of Washington report State of the Salish Sea, from Discovery Aquarium in Campbell River (re-opening on World Oceans Day) to the Mosquito Fleet kayaktivists blocking oil tankers, the wave of energy is impressive. Some whale populations are rebuilding, marine protected areas and parks are established, and threatened species such as rockfish are being protected in conservation areas. Federal governments on both sides of the border are researching, listening and acting — slowly.

The Tribal Canoe Journey traverses the length of the Salish Sea each year, affirming the deep connection First Nations have with this spectacular bioregion through their ancestral highway. The Salish Sea Marine Trail for non-motorized "blue" travel loops 27 km from Victoria to Jericho Beach. On Salt Spring Island, both the Salt Spring Marina and Sailing Club are voluntarily achieving eco-certification in the Georgia Strait Alliance Clean Marine BC program, including no longer using uncontained EPS (Styrofoam) flotation. Schools are participating with SeaAquria to learn about local flora and fauna in classroom aquaria, giving the next generation better knowledge of the environment they see every day.

## World Ocean Day

Although Salt Spring Island is but a drop in the total area of the Salish Sea (180 km<sup>2</sup> vs 118,000 km<sup>2</sup>), there is still so much we can do to celebrate, enjoy and ensure the healthiest marine waters possible. For the love of the Salish Sea, here are some steps to contemplate:

- Live blue. Take every little and big step to lower your carbon footprint. Monitor how you move about, consume, shelter and interact with your



PHOTO BY CHRIS MARSHALL

**PREPARING FOR WORLD OCEAN DAY:** Volunteers pull the remains of a boat out of the Fulford Harbour mud near the ferry terminal on Friday morning. Clean-up events in the cove and near Drummond Park were organized by John Roe of the Dead Boats Disposal Society with funding from the Capital Regional District's Community Clean-up Fund. Waste was removed on land by Laurie's Garbage & Recycling and by sea by Salish Sea Industrial Company barge.

environment. Every impact we make on land and freshwater increases the weight on the Salish Sea. Join the circular economy.

- Participate. Learn about local efforts to mitigate and adapt to Climate Change. Join Transition Salt Spring and review the Climate Action Plan. Read the State of the Salish Sea report. Sign petitions and contact our MPs, MLAs and Islands Trust folks about issues of concern.
- Donate. Support organizations in the Salish Sea working towards ensuring long-term health. Some notables are West Coast Environmental Law, Georgia Strait Alliance (June is Orca Month), Raincoast Conservation Foundation. Help protect the Fraser River that feeds the Salish Sea. Support your neighbours: International, First Nations, Washington state, your emergency pod, those on your street.
- Adopt. Visit your favourite corner

of the Salish Sea regularly in whatever way you can. Breathe. Enjoy a lungful of clean air generated by the Salish Sea and surrounding forests. Take a bag and pick up trash. Join a clean up day put on by the Dead Boat Disposal Society. Be the eyes and ears of a guardian angel and report infractions.

- On June 8, take a moment to send some love to the Salish Sea. Give future generations the gift of walking the shoreline of Salt Spring Island so they too may understand that in every curving beach, in every grain of sand there is the story of the earth.

## More information

- info@transitionsaltspring.com
- UN World Ocean Day visit: [www.worldoceanday.org](http://www.worldoceanday.org)
- Send photos of your day spent loving the Salish Sea with a #worldoceanday hashtag and share them on Facebook.



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## SALISH SEA FACTS

<https://www.seadocsociety.org/about-the-salish-sea>

- Coastline length, including islands: 7,470 km
- Total number of islands: 419
- Total land area of islands: 3,660 square kilometres
- Sea surface area: 16,925 square kilometres
- Maximum depth: 650 metres
- Total population: more than 8 million
- Number of different marine animals species estimated: 37 species of mammals, 172 species of birds, 253 species of fish, and more than 3,000 species of invertebrates (See Gaydos & Pearson 2011 and Brown and Gaydos, 2011.)
- Number of species listed as threatened, endangered or are candidates for listing: 113 (See Brown and Gaydos, 2011.)
- Check out some of the biggest and oldest species in the Salish Sea on the SeaDoc Society website.



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### MOTION PICTURES

# Island filmmakers scoop up Leo nominations



PHOTOS LEFT AND CENTRE COURTESY MR. JAMES IS DEAD. PHOTO RIGHT COURTESY LUCID.

Leo-nominated film creators at work. Left: Mr. James is Dead co-directors Josh Aries, left, and Daniel Irving. Centre: best male actor and screenwriter nominee Peter Hoskins. Right: Lucid cast and crew take in a scene. From right are screenwriter Claire Robertson, director Deanna Milligan and cinematographer Ramsey Fendall.

## Awards celebrate best in B.C. film and television

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As the official award of the Motion Picture Arts & Sciences Foundation of British Columbia, getting nominated for a Leo is like being on the list for the provincial Oscars.

Getting ready with their gowns, tuxes and acceptance speeches for the yet-to-be announced presentation this year are the creators of two short films tied to Salt Spring: Lucid and Mr. James is Dead.

Lucid, written by Claire Robertson and directed by Deanna Milligan, received four Leo nominations. Filming was done both on Salt Spring and in Victoria, where Milligan now lives. Along with best short film, Leo nods include best directing for Milligan, best musical score for Salt Spring musician Marta Jacubek-McKeever and best cinematography for Ramsey Fendall (Victoria).

Peter Hoskins and Daniel Irving, two Gulf Islands Secondary School graduates now based in Vancouver, form the creative partnership behind Mr. James is Dead. The action-spy-comedy earned eight Leo nods, the second highest total of any short film this year. Their nominations include best short film, best screenplay and best male actor nods for Hoskins and best directing for Irving and his co-director Josh Aries.

Hoskins, who has an important cameo in Lucid as well as starring in his own film, was thrilled to see so many nominations for both projects.

"I love Deanna Milligan; I love Claire. Amelia McCluskey, Claire's daughter, worked on our film, and Deanna's been a huge help to me," Hoskins said. "They're doing amazing work and it's awesome to see Salt Spring represented at the Leos. It's just really cool."

Both projects have already proved to be winning ideas. Mr. James is Dead was produced as a result of the Crazy8s festival in Vancouver. The event was created to foster support for emerging filmmakers who have little or no access to funding for short films and to train crew and cast.

Every year over 100 teams apply to have their story idea made, initially presented in a three-minute video. At the end, six win-

ning projects receive \$1,000 and a production package to make their short film in just eight days. Mr. James is Dead was one of the six winning films in 2020. Since then, it became one of 21 short films selected by Telefilm Canada to represent the nation at the Cannes Short Film Corner.

Similarly, Robertson took her screenplay for Lucid through Victoria's Cinespark Screenplay Competition in 2019, which involved a live pitch in front of an audience and a jury. The project won and received a small grant and a loan of equipment to create the film. (This was supplemented with an Indiegogo campaign that raised \$10,000 with much community support.)

Hoskins said he and Irving would love to know what the winning formula is, so they could reproduce it in their current projects.

"The success we have had in certain avenues I think comes from a lot of dedication and hard work from not just ourselves but a massive team that helped us along the way," Hoskins said. "I think we got really, really lucky, and also we got really excited. We were pitching something that was our own, and was unique, and I think the Crazy8s people got excited about it as well."

Having graduated from Capilano University's Motion Picture Arts diploma program in 2017, Irving loves the specific tools that filmmaking includes. He is now working in Vancouver's film industry in the lighting department and has definite plans to direct his own feature one day. In fact, he and Hoskins are currently shopping around a full-length script written by Hoskins with hopes of securing funding. The pair also made the hilarious and beautifully filmed "Untitled coffee short" during the height of the pandemic to show what they could produce without needing a 100-member film crew.

"I think if we had more access and more funding, we'd be making a lot more stuff," Irving said.

Hoskins and Irving are thankful to everyone on the island who nurtured their growth as young artists. They agree going through the creative programs at Gulf Islands Secondary School — including the music and drama departments and the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts — had "literally everything" to do with their creative development and current artistic paths.

For Hoskins, being part of the national champion improv team coached by Jason Donaldson was another huge influence.

"The foundation that I, and I believe Daniel, work off of was built primarily and almost exclusively on Salt Spring," Hoskins said. "There are people on Salt Spring who are amazing, passionate, awesome teachers and loving individuals who [have time for] a lot of angry teenage art people."

"And then a lot of the storytelling I pivot towards comes 100 per cent pretty much from improv teachings. You get it really well bashed into you that you're making story on the fly and then you take what you have at the beginning and use it. That's the toolkit you have and so that's always been a staple of the stories I like to tell now. And I think that aided in the story we have now coming out so 'successfully' as it did."

Milligan and Robertson's creative partnership began on Salt Spring with Milligan's first short film, Cascadia. Robertson came on as a producer and art director after her young daughter Lily McCluskey was cast in the lead role. Fendall first joined the team for Snug, their next short film. The two women co-wrote and Milligan directed.

Lucid, their third project, features highly stylized storytelling and a richly artistic visual landscape, both of which underscore the narrative around protagonist Mia, an art college student struggling to find her voice. When instructed by her teachers to create work "with heart," Mia (played by professional actress Caitlyn Taylor) is pushed to an absurdly literal interpretation.

The Salt Spring scenes feature some well-known local faces such as Georgia Acken, Keith Picot, Christie Roome and Metta Rose. In addition to the Leo nominations, the black comedy has been named as an official selection at the Short Circuit Film Festival in Victoria as well as Frostbiter (Iceland) and Midwest Weirdfest (Wisconsin).

Robertson set the film in the early 1990s, "at a time when artists, designers and musicians such as Damien Hirst, Cindy Sherman, Alexander McQueen and Nick Cave were fascinated with the horrific and the grotesque . . . when a whole generation was hooked on grunge and disintegration after the glitzy pop-fuelled '80s."

Robertson based the harsh words of

Mia's teachers on her own experience of bringing her portfolio to be assessed by a consultant when she was trying to get into art school, and taking away only the negative aspects of the criticism. But an art school experience isn't necessary to be engaged.

"While not everyone will relate to the need to find a creative outlet, the theme of the search to find a valid place in the world where your voice is heard is universal," Robertson pointed out.

Milligan started her professional screen acting career at age 12, and can relate to the feeling of not measuring up to someone else's standards.

"You're always being told, 'You're not this, you're not that.' You always feel a little bit lacking, and you can lose yourself in that," she said.

Lucid is the third film project on which musician Jacubek-McKeever has collaborated with Milligan. She said she sometimes feels they share the same brain when creating ideas for how music can help tell the story. She responded strongly to Lucid's theme as well.

"For me personally, as a singer-songwriter musician for 20 years, I got a lot of that from the producers and labels I was trying to work with," Jacubek-McKeever said. "Back 20 years ago, being different wasn't good. And I know that really resonated with me."

When it comes to the look of the film, Milligan and Fendall were inspired by 1970s Italian horror movies with their hyper-stylized colouration and sound.

Lucid indeed moves quickly into horror territory, and Milligan concedes the high blood quotient isn't for everyone.

"Some people don't like the horror elements, but every one of our decisions was heart-felt. We couldn't be concerned about people liking it or not because that makes your decision-making quite muddy. You have to trust yourself," she said.

Milligan and Robertson report receiving tremendous island support for their film projects, from local businesses to the Salt Spring Arts Council.

"We're so grateful to the people who sponsored us and the incredible talent we have to pull from as actors," Milligan said. "That's the thing about Salt Spring: they're such great supporters of the communal art project."



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**VISUAL ARTS**

# Artists wanted for mural projects

Calls open for library and elementary school concepts

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island institutions are in the market for new two-dimensional work to enliven their exterior walls, and calls for artists have recently opened for projects at the Salt Spring Public Library and Salt Spring Elementary School (SSE).

School District 64 and the SSE Parent Advisory Council are inviting artists based in the Gulf Islands to submit concept proposals for creating 10 to 15 shapes on recycled plexiglass, to be mounted together as part of one design. A general theme of nature has been chosen to adorn the side of the school facing Rainbow Road, which is 60 metres long and three stories high.

"The front face of Salt Spring Elementary has previously been home to two-dimensional artwork, which brought warmth to the building," information from the school explains. "As the previous art installation

had become weathered, it opened a new opportunity to create something exciting and inspirational for the community. There is hope that once we turn the corner in our current pandemic we can re-use some of the plexiglass which has been a barrier between us to create artwork which will bring us together."

A single artist is being sought for this project, which has a submission deadline of Monday, June 7. Up to three of the top applications may receive \$200 as finalists. The winning artist will receive \$3,500 in phased payments, inclusive of all expenses for design, editing supplies and facilitation of the artwork.

SD64 will provide the plexiglass material and will be responsible for cutting out the shapes and installation. Shapes will be painted by the winning artist and students from Salt Spring Elementary.

Submission requirements and email applications should be sent to Ryan Timms at [rtimms@sd64.org](mailto:rtimms@sd64.org) with "SSE Mural Project" in the subject line.

Also this month, the library is seeking mul-

tiples Indigenous youth artists to work on a mural project with Charlene Johnny, a Coast Salish artist from the Quw'utsun Tribes of Duncan. The plan is to produce "a creative, visible presence of Indigenous culture in Ganges village."

This call aims to work with Indigenous youth artists ages 13 to 19 to increase awareness of local First Nations' cultural presence on Salt Spring. Youth artists will work for one to two weeks with Johnny, with daily stipends provided. Billets in the form of private camping are available for youth travelling from other communities, and rides will be provided to and from the library.

Applicants are asked to submit a short biography and three to five samples of recent artwork to [khudson@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:khudson@saltspringlibrary.com) by 5 p.m. on Friday, June 11.

The project is being funded by a Salt Spring Island Foundation grant, with additional support from community partners Salt Spring Arts Council, School District 64's Indigenous Education Department, the Xwaaqw'um project and MLA Adam Olsen.

**LIBRARY ACTIVITIES**

# Fresh art and poetry emerge at library

Linda K. Thompson, Pierre Mineau and Salt Spring's Baha'i community

Salt Spring's library continues its promotion of arts and literature with three events this week.

On Thursday, June 3 at 7 p.m., the library will host Poetry Open Mic via the Zoom platform with featured poet Linda K. Thompson.

According to a library press release, Thompson's debut book of poetry called Black Bears in the Carrot Field is "loaded with personalities from small towns and long ago days. Growing up in the isolated Pemberton Valley in B.C., her characters are full of imperfection and humour."

Acclaimed B.C. poet Lorna Crozier is a Thompson fan.

"Whoever is talking in these poems is someone I want to sit down with at the kitchen table, potatoes boiling on the stove, cherries on the oil cloth gleaming in the electric light. Every character Thompson brings so brilliantly to life will stay with you forever."

People should email [programs@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com) for the Zoom link.

Two new art displays are also up at the library for the month of June.

Pierre Mineau will showcase a collection of his photography

called A Black and White Retrospective. It will be his first solo show on Salt Spring Island and includes works from his film period when he shot in 35mm, medium and large format, as well as new creations from the digital era.

Mineau specializes in black-and-white print making. He has exhibited as a solo artist in Ottawa galleries and in group shows on the island. His work has found its way into several private collections.

A constant through his 50-plus years of photography has been his love of shapes, texture and contrast to be found in natural subjects.

In the library foyer display case this month is a presentation from Salt Spring's Baha'i Community titled Baha'i Faith . . . at a glance.

"This visual and written portrait highlights the faith's sacred writings, its guiding principles, global service projects, its role in international administration and a revered Baha'i prayer. The prayer, written in Coast Salish Lekwungen language, is featured on the First Nations Unity Wall Mural at Ogden Point in Victoria."

Salt Spring's Baha'i community was established more than 50 years ago and has welcomed people from around the globe. Through the decades, focus on community service has been a priority. Currently, Baha'is volunteer with the spring and fall clean-up of Ganges Community Cemetery and organize seasonal Food Bank drives.

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# ISLAND LIFE

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COMMUNITY BUILDING

## Skateboarders help outfit Zeballos youth

Grassroots donation campaign achieves fantastic response

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A tiny community near Nootka Sound is sustaining an enthusiastic skateboarding club with help from fellow enthusiasts on Salt Spring Island.

The Zeballos area has a minute population — the village proper was counted at 107 people in the 2016 census — but it does have a community skatepark. When a group of high school students got interested in skateboarding and started encouraging others in younger grades to get involved, it meant a significant slice of the school community wanted to join in.

“Zeballos is a rural, isolated community, so even stringing together a basketball team that could compete would be really hard,” said Monique Comeau, a part-time Salt Spring resident who teaches school in Zeballos and Kyuquot Sound. “There are only 44 students from kindergarten up to Grade 12. It’s a really small community.”

Comeau said the skateboarding trend started as a girls’ club with a core group of around five Indigenous youth. They didn’t have much gear to use, and the nearest big centre of Campbell River is difficult to get to in the best of times. That’s been even more challenging during COVID-19, when non-essential travel restrictions were implemented. Zeballos also suffered an outbreak that caused many of the students to be further isolated.

Comeau was therefore happy to support the students’ yen to get active outdoors. She was confident that she could find some grant funding to support Indigenous recreation, but she also wanted to help get the kids up and running sooner than that. She decided to turn to her community on Salt Spring, where she gradu-



Zeballos students Amalee Hanson, left, and Christina John with complete new skateboard sets from Salt Spring’s Axe and Reel Outdoor Emporium.

PHOTO BY MONIQUE COMEAU

ated in 2009, for help.

Comeau said she put out an online request for used gear donations, but didn’t think she would get much traction.

“I just kind of threw it out there. I was really blown away by the community response,” she said. “We had helmet donations and old decks donated from every corner of the island.”

One donation site was set up at Ray Colleran’s classroom at Gulf Islands Secondary School. Islanders also donated funds toward new gear to Axe & Reel Outdoor Emporium.

Shop owner Angelo Scaia said he heard about the campaign from islander Tristan

Scarfo, who asked if Scaia wanted to work with him to put together some boards. Ryan Smith and other skaters in the community were also big donors.

“It just seemed like a really cool project,” Scaia said. “I’ve seen a lot of people pick up skateboarding in the last year, and with the amount of time that kids aren’t able to do their usual things they were able to do before the pandemic, it’s really great to see this many kids picking up skateboarding — and fishing, and other outdoor activities. Because there’s a world of screens they could be getting into.”

“I think COVID has doubled our skateboarding population on Salt Spring, and if

it’s doing that in other communities, I feel good about supporting that,” he added.

Comeau has done a lot of skateboarding herself. In addition to the fact it’s a bonus to get any recreational program established in a small remote area, she sees a lot of value in the sport.

“I think skateparks are youth-regulated space. The nature of the sport and even how you interact in the space breeds independence, and it’s kind of got that edge that I think is really good for kids,” she said.

**“It was definitely a highlight of my year that people still wanted to give to a place they may not have heard of.”**

MONIQUE COMEAU  
*Zeballos skateboarding club sponsor*

The donation drive wound up attracting enough for five complete new sets (decks, trucks and wheels) delivered at cost and two sets comprising used components. A couple of longboards also entered the mix, and have become the boards of choice for some of the users. All the boards are now housed at the Zeballos school and available to be signed out.

“We succeeded in getting all the gear we needed for the kids who didn’t have it,” Comeau said. “They absolutely love the decks from Axe & Reel, and there’s just a lot of excitement. Lack of equipment is no longer a barrier.”

“It was definitely a highlight of my year that people still wanted to give to a place they may not have heard of and to people they don’t know.”

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## WILDLIFE

# Annual bat count planned

Volunteers welcomed

The Salt Spring Island Community Bat Program is gearing up for B.C.'s annual summer bat count and welcomes people to join in.

Volunteers count bats as they emerge in the evening from bat houses, barns, out-buildings and tree cavities. The exercise helps determine population trends and assists with bat conservation.

Coordinators with the program report that province-wide, there were 997 counts in 2020, and 4,098 counts have been done since 2012. Each year at least one count is done between June 1

and 21, and another between July 11 and Aug. 5, after the pups are born.

"Salt Spring is home to 10 kinds of bats, and bat species can be identified from a guano sample collected below a bat roost, or a bat detector can be left overnight. Biologists are also available to assist with bat habitat improvement, such as wetland restoration," information from the group states.

Bats are valuable predators of crop pests, but they have a low reproductive rate and are vulnerable to habitat loss, climate change, wind farming, pesticides, disease and free-ranging cats. Half of the bat species in B.C. are considered species at risk.

The Salt Spring Island Community Bat Program can provide mechanical tally counters (clickers) to anyone who knows of a bat roost and would like to participate. Instructions and forms are available at the Counting Bats website at <https://bcbats.ca/get-involved/counting-bats/>. Bats are protected under the Wildlife Act and should never be handled or captured.

The Salt Spring bat program can be contacted at 1-855-922-2287 ext 16, or at [saltspring@bcbats.ca](mailto:saltspring@bcbats.ca).

The program is supported by generous donations from community members and by the Government of Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program, the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation and the Forest Enhancement Society of British Columbia.

## SAILING

# All-local sailing race adds charity element



PHOTOS COURTESY SSISC

At left, Jim Raddysh dares Round Salt Spring race competitors to duel with him and his crew aboard Battle Axe, while Salt Spring Island Sailing Club president Chris Cheeseman passes a symbolic \$750 cheque to Lady Minto Hospital Foundation capital campaign committee chair Carol Biely for the new emergency department fund.



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## what's on this week



Wed. June 2

VIA ZOOM

**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 Kisae Petersen. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Hosted by the Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring with assistance from the Salt Spring Island Foundation. See [www.saltspringjapanesegarden.com](http://www.saltspringjapanesegarden.com) for the Zoom link.

Thurs. June 3

VIA ZOOM

**Poetry Open Mic.** Linda K. Thompson, author of *Black Bears in the Carrot Field*, is the featured poet. 7 p.m. Email [programs@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com) for the link.

Fri. June 4

ACTIVITIES

**Ask Salt Spring.** This week's guest is MLA Adam Olsen. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Send an email to [asksaltspring.com](mailto:asksaltspring.com) to get the link.  
**StoryWalk.** Self-guided family activity from SS Public Library through Mouat Park toward the Rainbow Road Pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat. June 5

ACTIVITIES

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

Sun. June 6

ACTIVITIES

**StoryWalk.** See Friday listing.

Mon. June 7

ACTIVITIES

**StoryWalk.** See Friday listing.

Tues. June 8

VIA ZOOM

**Poetry as Heartbeat.** Star of the Sea Zoom event facilitated by Lolla Devindisch. Is there a poem that either stirs your heart to action or, like a lullaby, calms its anxious beating? We will explore the energy and healing power of poetry. Bring a poem to share or simply join in the discussion. 7 to 8:30 p.m. More info and register at [staroftheseassi@gmail.com](mailto:staroftheseassi@gmail.com).

Wed. June 9

VIA ZOOM

**Let's Grow Together! Victory Gardens for Climate Resilience.** Come hear from the island's best and brightest green thumbs to help us all grow more food in ways that are nourishing for body, soul, pocketbook and planet. With citrus pioneer Jane Squier, permaculture expert Brandon Bauer, and beloved local backyard bounty maven Linda Gilkeson. 7 p.m. Sign up to attend this free by donation event at [www.tinyurl.com/SSgrowsfood](http://www.tinyurl.com/SSgrowsfood).

### Eclectic Visions

SS Photography Club  
Annual Exhibition

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## Wooden International dinghies among highlights of event

BY GREG TAYLOR AND GREG SLAKOV  
SALTSRING SAILING CLUB

The May long weekend saw 30 Salt Spring Island sailboats compete in the annual Round Salt Spring Race. Race participants ran the gamut from 12-foot International dinghies to an 11-ton catamaran, and most every type of sailboat in between, including Derek Lundy's beautiful Bristol Channel Cutter. Participants' experience ranged from long-time competitive sailors to those who had never raced a sailboat.

The race was run under the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club COVID protocols, meaning only local boats were allowed to race, and all boats were sailed either single handed, with family members, or within each skipper's bubble. In addition, if crews were not able to finish the race in daylight hours on Saturday, they were required to pause their racing at sunset and resume on Sunday to prevent nighttime accidents.

This year all entry fees were donated to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation in appreciation of all our health-care workers during the pandemic. The race raised \$750 towards the capital campaign for the Lady Minto Hospital Emergency Department project.

This edition of the race was run counter-clockwise around the island. It was particularly exciting to follow the race between the two dinghies, skippered by Nicky Arnoldus and Robert DeRoos. These modest

wooden sailboats, which were designed in 1912, completed the 42-mile race (including sailing through Sansum Narrows against the current!) within minutes of one another, and in under 17 hours. Both stopped at Musgrave Landing and went home for the night, due to the modest (non-existent) accommodations in the boats.

Conversely, Martin Herbert, aboard his 20-foot Kay D, threw out his anchor in Deep Cove at the north end of Saanich Peninsula, and slept aboard. Kay D may be eight feet longer than the International dinghies, but it is still an open boat, and Herbert was not well rested in the morning. He finished the race in a combined (Saturday and Sunday) time of just under 14 hours. The rest of the racers enjoyed a beautiful and restful night at anchor or at a dock, scattered from from Burgoyne Bay to Russell Island in Fulford Harbour.

Two boats completed the race before sunset on Saturday. Paul and April Faget, aboard Poco, completed the race with three and a half minutes to spare before the 9 p.m. cut-off. And John Tulip, with crew Terry Bieman, on his aptly named Pturbodactyl, finished near 8 p.m. in a remarkably fast time of just under 11 hours. In the end, the race was won on handicap by Jim Raddysh on Battle Axe.

Although it was a big change from pre-COVID races, there was a general consensus that this edition was perhaps the most enjoyable Round Salt Spring race in recent memory. The fact that there was a significant donation to such a worthy cause was icing on the cake.

## THE FRITZ CINEMA

• Closed until further notice due to COVID-19 regulations. See [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca) for info about weekend concession sales.

## EXHIBITIONS

- **Salt Spring Gallery** presents *Two Tides - Romantic, Plain Air and Abstract works* by **Nathalie St-Amant** until June 16.
- **Gallery 8** presents a Spring Exhibition featuring the work of **Corre Alice** in the upper gallery through June 5.

## EXHIBITIONS

- **The Salt Spring Photography Club** presents **Eclectic Visions**, an online exhibition accessible at <https://ssphotog.ning.com/page/eclectic-visions> and open for viewing until Aug. 31.
- **Pierre Mineau** presents a **Black & White Retrospective** at the **Salt Spring Public Library Program Room** until June 28.
- **Salt Spring's Baha'i community** has a display in the **library's foyer display case** through June.

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*Richard Grant Ashall*

**November 27, 1932 - May 21, 2021**



Grant, the beloved husband of Isabell Ashall for 55 years, passed away at home peacefully on Salt Spring Island.

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**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.

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10am - 12 noon, Monday to Friday in June

**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](mailto: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.

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*Beatrice Kaeppli*

February 21, 1937 - May 20, 2021  
Switzerland



A heartfelt thank you to all the people who so warmly welcomed our mom to the island. We are grateful for the love and support so many extended her and our dad Jakob. After raising 5 kids, coming to the island in 1989 was a grand adventure. At 52, she learned to speak English, drive a car, and little cultural differences that confused her and we still laughed about years later.

A special thank you to all the Burgoyne United Church ladies with whom she shared so much joy, laughter, and tiny adventures. She forged deep and lasting friendships that continued once she returned to Switzerland in 2001.

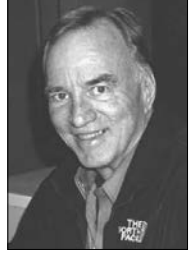
We greatly miss her joyful sparkle, unconditional love and compassion...and of course her amazing cooking.

The Kaeppli Family

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**LEONARD LUCIAN SOKOL**  
1945 - 2021



Leonard passed away on May 8th, 2021 hours after his return from his bi-annual trip to Guatemala.

Len was born in Melfort, Saskatchewan on January 16th, 1945. Following in his father's footsteps, he graduated with an education degree from the University of Saskatchewan. He quickly made his way west, teaching in Calgary, Penticton, and Merritt before finally settling on Salt Spring Island, British Columbia. In 1979 he established the Adult Graduation Program designed to help students of all ages return to highschool to complete their certificate through tailored syllabi. The oldest graduate of this program was 86; a student and achievement that Len was particularly proud of. He ended his career teaching and inspiring advanced highschool English students. His retirement was spent expanding on his lifelong search for beauty, spirituality, and meaning in life; a journey which took him to all corners of the world. He loved the mountains, to travel, to read, and to write poetry. Most of all he loved people and had established friendships the world over. He was kind, generous, funny, and highly intelligent. His complex and enigmatic nature was loved and will be greatly missed by those that knew him.

He is predeceased by his parents, Anna and Walter Sokol, and niece, Anne Junk. He is survived by his two siblings: sister, Bernice Junk (Gerald), and their children Greg, Maureen, Kevin, Paul, and Karl; brother Denis Sokol (Peggy) and their children Ellen, Phillip, and Camille; and great nieces and nephews.

Thank you to those special people who helped Len with the trying times of his life. You know who you are.

In his memory: write a poem, sing a song, dance a dance, become a "student of the universe". As Len often quoted:  
"Beauty is truth, truth beauty--- That is all ye know on earth, and all ye need to know" • JOHN KEATS, Ode on a Grecian Urn

**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.

This week begins at the mid-point between the May 26 Total Lunar Eclipse and the June 10 Solar Eclipse, which occurs at 19 Gemini 47. As well, Mercury is retrograde in its own sign at 20 Gemini 41, less than one degree away. So, this Gemini theme will remain strong throughout June and even dip well into July. The main theme reveals communications shared. Venus in Cancer adds to this theme in terms of people wanting to feel secure. Uranus in Taurus plays a special role as does Saturn in Aquarius in this scenario, producing a strong, if indirect, Aquarian theme, thus activating a rebellious impulse to 'get the facts', beyond the mainstream narrative. Thus, the social dialogue will include a powerful surge of intrigue and debate, all of which could prove quite polarizing. Mars entering Leo the very day after the New Moon Solar Eclipse will also add hot sauce to this portrait as more and more people seek true answers and justice.

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
The Gemini influence will strongly activate you to put on your strongest thinking cap. You will enter into dialogue with a sporting attitude and one in which you want to win. You will score points by getting facts outside the mainstream box and by offering intel to others of the same calibre. Seeking solace from it all will lead you also to desire quietude and retreat to meditate and reflect upon it all.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
You tend to be a busy bee and this will prove especially true over the coming weeks. You will go harder and dig deeper than you perhaps have for some time. Creating a whole new level of beauty close to home could be a strong focus. Yet, the emphasis may be more specifically directed towards security. Fortifying foundations is featured in this overall theme focus.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**  
Strong emphasis of planetary activity in your sign will activate pioneering initiatives of some kind. These may include new perceptions and interpretations of what you previously regarded as fact. Awakening to imagine realities that you previously did not consider could prove unsettling. Mars entering Leo will activate increased energy levels and some measure of drama too.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)**  
The Gemini factor could push you behind the scenes for a while. Meanwhile, Venus in your sign could manifest as the urge to express yourself creatively and artistically with beauty guiding your focus. Mars in Leo will contribute by firing your engines for the sake of financial returns. Investment thinking could gain more attention as you assert with added revolutionary fervour.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)**  
The themes of rebellion in association to this eclipse are strong in general and this will prove especially true for you and this trend will continue and deepen this month and well into July. Still, you may find yourself treading softly for the better part of this month so as not to get blasted by backlash by anyone unable to think outside of their conditioned, comfortable perceptions.

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)**  
This eclipse has and may still produce changes close to home. Some of these may seem small and relatively inconsequential, yet will be measurable just the same. On the other hand, changes over the past several weeks and over the coming weeks and possibly months, as well, could be much more noticeable and you will learn about these very soon.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)**  
New visions are dawning. This trend will continue throughout June. Like an upgrade to your operating system, you may feel a little lost with it for a while. Recognizing that you did not see reality as it was before and you do not now either — because no one does, not in any absolute sense — but that you are learning to see it differently should suffice. Awaken to new perceptions and interpretations.

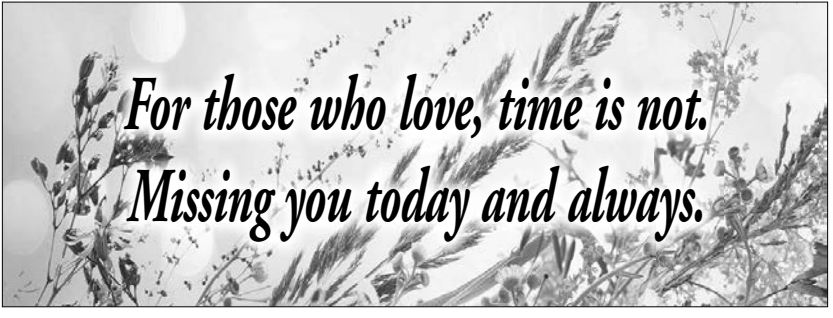
**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
Changes on relationship fronts continue to roll-in. The fuller realization of who is involved should have culminated or at least become stronger at the time of the recent Lunar Eclipse. If it is happening but you are not aware of the reasons or implications in terms of your own destiny, you probably have some work to do. Positively, new partnerships are dawning.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
Subtle shifts in your lifestyle and or daily rhythm and routine continue. Due to Uranus' influence some of these may seem counter-intuitive. Positively, a new wave of confidence and peace has found its way in. This is due to Jupiter in Pisces. It will be there until late July before it re-enters Aquarius until it re-enters Pisces again in late December, so make the most of it.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**  
A creative impulse was activated at the last New Moon. Shifts in your perspectives, perhaps especially related to relationships, were featured. Outer events underway now will activate the next phase of the destiny cycle. These may catch you by surprise and you may feel a little overwhelmed by the array of activities triggered by it. This trend will continue so keep your imagination in check.

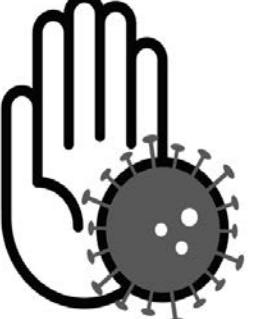
**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)**  
A new level of peace has entered your consciousness. Perhaps you have come to new realizations that allow you to transcend the depth of drama unfolding in the world, or perhaps you have simply surrendered. Either way, it is probably the result of inner work you have done. Enjoy it now and prepare for a new round of creative activity that will include outer instigation.

**Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**  
Slowly but surely, some of your perspectives have changed. These have likely culminated as shifts in your public and professional life, as well. Positively, you have entered an expansive mode and you feel inspired and enthusiastic to participate. Purges, cleaning, clearing the clutter and making way for the new could range from new appliances to new perspectives altogether.



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ANIMAL WELFARE

# New Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society launched

Volunteers share passion for feline friends

BY GAL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's feral cat population and the people who care for them now have specialized support with creation of the Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society.

Jennifer McMillan and Karen Tottman met in January and discovered their common interest in trying to help island cats that are more "challenging."

"We both have a lot of knowledge and experience with cats that have medical issues and behavioural issues and cats of all temperaments, so it seemed like the right thing to start our own rescue organization," said McMillan.

Tottman both worked and then volunteered at the Salt Spring branch of the BC SPCA after closing her much-loved Stitches Quilt Shop in 2015. McMillan worked full-time at a cat shelter that handled 250 cats per year in New Jersey before returning with her husband Dave and several four-legged charges to Canada last fall. They had purchased a Mountain View Drive property five years ago and it now has facilities to temporarily house a number of cats and kittens.

The original plan was to start offering services through the non-profit society this fall. But then McMillan and Tottman learned about a colony situation with a pregnant cat and saw an opportunity to help, and informal networking has so far done the rest.

"Now we have one pregnant cat and two nursing moms," Tottman said last week. "And we haven't really started. But I guess we have. . . we started with a bang, I guess."

Since then the pregnant cat gave birth, which means six more cats won't be living in the wild and facing a more difficult or tragic life.

Tottman said 80 per cent of feral kittens



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Four-week-old Almond, Pistachio and Cashew, who are three of 12 kittens currently under the care of the Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society.

don't survive, and the life span of a wild adult cat is quite a bit shorter as well.

"We are really passionate about the feral population and the colonies and getting a handle on the births and the losses," said Tottman.

As of Monday they were caring for three adult cats and 12 kittens. The kittens will eventually need good homes.

"We really wanted to be responsible to the cats on the island and the needs of their owners and caretakers," adds McMillan. "There are a lot of people who care for colonies and feed the cats, but they don't know what to do beyond that. And they don't necessarily get them fixed and they give away the kittens and the kittens don't get fixed and so on and so on. So we are really trying to be much more actively involved in colony management and that means working with caretakers and owners to trap, spay and neuter and vaccinate on the property."

They have developed a network of resources, including the BC SPCA, in order to be as

responsive as possible and develop strategies to fit each situation.

While outdoor or feral cats will naturally demand most of their time, they also offer support for people whose domestic cats have behavioural issues or have become lost, often due to a move.

"You do have to take some time and get them anchored at the new place. It takes a few months," said McMillan, who has a number of ways to help people get their cats back

or stop them from wandering.

So far Tottman and McMillan have paid for all expenses themselves, but are going fully public in hopes of getting donations to offset the cost of food, medicine and vet services. A GoFundMe page has been set up (see below), and a bottle drive is set for Saturday, June 12 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 127 Rainbow Rd. with COVID safety protocols in place. Yes, they will bring some kittens that day and are looking forward to meeting community members and expanding their network further.

Their society is incorporated and the board is working towards becoming a registered charity, but that is not a quick process, so broader community support is needed until charitable status is achieved and more funding options are available.

Foster homes are also needed to care for cats and kittens.

McMillan and Tottman are volunteering all of their time, but are absolutely passionate about the cause, not hesitating to visit a property at 10 p.m. last week in order to collect the pregnant feral cat who had been trapped using their equipment and advice. They laugh when describing how they responded to the same property the night before when a different cat was inadvertently trapped.

For Tottman and McMillan, all efforts leading to a better life for any cat, whether wild, domestic or in between are worth it.

## How to Support the Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society

- Donate on the GoFundMe page: Support Cat Welfare on Salt Spring.
- Bring refundable containers to the June 12 bottle drive at 127 Rainbow Rd. between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. and meet the team.
- Learn how to become a foster family.
- Like their [www.facebook.com/saltspringcat](http://www.facebook.com/saltspringcat) page.
- Follow their saltspringcat Instagram account.
- Connect with them through [info@saltspringcat.com](mailto:info@saltspringcat.com) and 236-508-2287.

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