

inside:



8 SSNAP art auction launches Thursday



9 Salt Spring Marina manager Lesley Cheeseman retires



9 Chris Humphreys releases new crime book

Arts and Entertainment.....	8
Classifieds	11
Editorial	4
Island Life	9
Letters	5
What's On	10

INSERTS:

- Country Grocer
- Thrifty Foods
- Pharmasave
- Home Hardware
- The Local Liquor St.
- Buckerfields

30% OFF SELECT KID'S MERCHANDISE

Salt Spring Books

GROW YOUR COMMUNITY

Buy Local



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, June 16, 2021

62nd year
Issue 24
\$1.50

Your Community Newspaper Since 1960 • gulfislandsdriftwood.com • 250.537.9933



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

HAPPY CIRCLE: Gulf Islands School District Indigenous learning support teacher Cheryl Ruff, in green dress, leads Salt Spring Elementary School students and staff in a friendship dance as part of Indigenous learning activities that took place at the school on Monday. This Monday, June 21, is National Aboriginal Day in Canada.

PROPERTY DAMAGE

Taggers bomb island surfaces

RCMP and PARC seek info on culprits

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Graffiti artists looking to make a mark on their environment have reached out-of-control status on Salt Spring, where tags have been applied to public property from Ganges village to opposite ends of the island.

Salt Spring Parks and Rec manager Dan Ovington said parks maintenance staff are at their wits' end after constantly removing graffiti from Centennial Park infrastructure over the past month or two.

"This is happening daily. We'd go and remove the tags inside the park washroom and then we'd go back the next day and it had been tagged again," Ovington said.

What started as tagging inside of the washroom has now spread to giant-sized letters covering that building's exterior wall. The "Snop" and "Saf" tags found there appear to be competing for space along with "Bonk," whose name most recently defaced a butterfly mural painted by Amarah Gabriel near Island Savings. Snop/Saf meanwhile hit numerous Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

road signs just north of Central last week. Graffiti has also covered trash cans at Portlock Park and the wall of a downtown bus shelter.

Ganges resident Sam FitzZaland posted a public message to the taggers this week condemning the damage to the butterfly mural and to a rammed earth planter that he and other community members made for Salt Spring Cooperative Preschool.

"The preschool is meant to be a place that fosters community spirit. I imagine the parents and preschool children feel less pride in the preschool now that it is tagged. The disrespect shown by this vandalism brings down the school as well as the community," FitzZaland said.

Both FitzZaland and Ovington point to the Kanaka skatepark as a place where graffiti art is permitted. PARC staff don't remove artwork or tagging there unless there it is something offensive, Ovington said.

"Take the time to plan out the piece and to execute it so that it looks good," FitzZaland suggested.

While Gabriel's mural is a victim of the

recent spree, graffiti artists traditionally respect other people's artwork. Project for Public Spaces is a nonprofit organization based in New York dedicated to creating and sustaining public places that build communities. They list sponsoring murals as one possible graffiti deterrent.

"Research suggests that painting multi-coloured designs or murals on surfaces will discourage graffiti, since tagging is more difficult," the organization explains on its website. "Such mural projects, especially when they involve local artists and high school students, have solved many graffiti problems. Furthermore, changing the mural a few times a year draws more community involvement."

Artwork for the exterior of the Centennial Park washroom was part of the original design plan, and \$10,000 was reserved in the construction budget for that purpose. PARC commissioners reconsidered the idea after the building was completed in 2019 and decided art was no longer a priority.

GRAFFITI continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"If you don't pray in my school
I won't think in your church."

GANGES AUTO MARINE • 250-537-9221

SERVICE & REPAIRS FOR ALL DOMESTIC & IMPORT CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS
#3 - 290 Park Drive Below Dagwoods, behind car wash • Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-4:30pm

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
16	0502	2.5	8.2	20	0008	3.3	10.8
	0620	2.5	8.2		0725	1.1	3.6
WE	1430	0.8	2.6	SU	1423	2.4	7.9
ME	2246	3.3	10.8	DI	1814	2.1	6.9
17	0541	2.2	7.2	21	0033	3.3	10.8
	0801	2.3	7.5		0802	0.7	2.3
TH	1517	1.1	3.6	MO	1549	2.8	9.2
JE	2315	3.3	10.8	LU	1921	2.5	8.2
18	0616	1.9	6.2	22	0100	3.3	10.8
	1012	2.2	7.2		0842	0.3	1.0
FR	1610	1.4	4.6	TU	1653	3.0	9.8
VE	2342	3.3	10.8	MA	2027	2.7	8.9
19	0650	1.5	4.9	23	0133	3.3	10.8
	1228	2.2	7.2		0924	0.1	0.3
SA	1709	1.8	5.9	WE	1748	3.3	10.8
SA				ME	2134	2.9	9.5

Full Service Marine & Equipment Repairs



248 Upper Ganges Road • Monday - Friday 9am-5pm
250-931-4020 • www.midislemarine.com

Coming Soon
Call now to advertise
250-537-9933

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 Fair draws tens of thousands of visitors from across the region every year.

Driftwood

250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Road
driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust motions get re-examined

Policy statement divide marks quarterly council session

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council will take another stab at confirming the organization's commitment to the environment during a special policy meeting on July 8.

Articulating the Trust's priorities for the next three decades continues to be a matter of huge concern to islanders and their elected trustees, who were back to debating how to balance people and the environment at Trust Council's quarterly meeting on June 8 and 9.

Trust Council vice-chair Dan Rogers, who introduced the notice of motion with Denman trustee David Critchley, noted Trust Council had passed two motions in March that affirmed its work on cultural heritage and healthy communities. That combined with the defeat of two other motions related to prioritizing the environment seemed to have produced anxiety about the Trust's future direction for many constituents.

"In a sense, that has created a wound, or divisiveness, thus the work to express the fact that ... while we defeated a couple of motions that referred to the natural environment, that was not intended to say we didn't value it or that work wasn't crucially important to what we do on an ongoing basis," Rogers said.

The Trust's programs committee is part-way through the process of updating the Trust Policy Statement under the Islands

2050 project. As evidence of the division produced, council received 42 new pieces of correspondence at the June meeting from people with grave concerns, both that the environment won't be put first and that fostering sustainable communities will be abandoned.

Shauna Doll of the Raincoast Conservation Foundation made a delegation to Trust Council on June 8 and provided extensive written recommendations around policy amendments, including the definition of the "unique amenities" to be protected under the Islands Trust Act.

As Salt Spring resident Maxine Leichter highlighted in support of Doll's submission: "The [Trust Policy Statement] needs to reflect the Trust's duty of care to implement the Trust Object. As such, a clear statement is required that prioritizes the needs of the natural environment over the built environment, and that this directive is made operational and enforceable at the local planning level."

Galiano resident Jim Henshall was just one of the other writers who asked the Trust to explicitly prioritize the natural environment.

"The Islands Trust was created to do one essential thing — put the environment first," Henshall wrote. "That it has not been doing so adequately is clear to many of us. Yes indeed, the Trust needs a re-set and it must make it abundantly clear through the TPS that the environment — ecosystems, water resources, species habitat, our endangered forests — will be given value and protection over any other considerations."

Writers on the other side of the issue have argued that contemporary environmental planning is not separated from social concerns. Transition Salt Spring president Bryan Young wrote to oppose any reversal on protecting healthy and inclusive communities, stating the focus needs to be on rewarding the kinds of development that will have limited impact to ecosystems and discouraging the type that does.

"People living in right-sized, appropriately located, low-embodied energy homes close to services, using grey water 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," Young wrote.

Also included in the agenda package was a summary of 111 letters intended for the March meeting session, forwarded by Salt Spring Solutions. The submissions were created using a base letter expressing strong support for Trust Council maintaining healthy and resilient communities as a priority alongside the natural environment.

Sue Ellen Fast, who is another of the council's vice-chairs, explained many of the letters were addressed to individual trustees, so it was not clear to staff they were coming in and were meant for Trust Council as a whole.

Council's special meeting on July 8 has been scheduled for reviewing the first draft of the policy statement amendment. Public engagement is planned for the fall.

RCMP investigating public graffiti incidents

GRAFFITI
continued from 1

Ovington said Parks and Rec did consider involving community artists to create something inside the washroom after tagging started to occur there and the idea for artwork in general may still come back to the commission. Staff are additionally in the midst of investigating lighting and camera options for crime prevention in the park.

"We've spent a lot of time and dollars trying to revive Centennial Park and we've done some long-needed upgrades, so it's disappointing to see it defaced," Ovington said.

Salt Spring RCMP detachment head Sgt. Clive Seabrook said police have an active investigation open. They are seeking help from local business owners who may have security camera footage, and from witnesses who can share any information.

Anyone who can help should contact the local detachment office at 250-537-5555.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Example of tagging on the Centennial Park washroom wall.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Books & Bling proceeds with modified plans

Collection dates set just prior to sale

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The Salt Spring Literacy Society (SSLS) is going ahead with its Books & Bling sale at the Farmers' Institute in November, but has changed its book collection method due to COVID-19.

Instead of collecting books at monthly drop-off events in the months leading up to the book and jewellery sale, volunteers will accept books at the institute from Nov. 6 to 10. The sale itself will take place on

the Nov. 12-14 weekend. (It had originally been set for Nov. 5-7.)

"Out of an abundance of caution for our volunteers, staff, donors and the general public, we have decided not to hold ongoing collections or drop-offs of books this summer," explained SSLS chair Joanna Whalley. "Instead, we'll be holding donation days at the Farmers' Institute in the lead-up to the sale."

Jewellery is currently being accepted in bins set up at Island Savings and Salt Spring Literacy's office and learning centre at 125B Rainbow Rd. While jewellery donations will be taken from Nov. 6 to 10, the preference is that

they be done in advance at the two bins.

People who have volunteered at the event in the past will be contacted later in the summer or early fall. As it's anticipated that more volunteers will be needed for the book part of the sale due to the different donation system, anyone who is interested is encouraged to contact Salt Spring Literacy at 250-537-9717 or info@saltspringliteracy.org to get on the contact list.

Last year the society's annual "giant" book and jewellery sale had been rebranded as Books & Bling, but was obviously cancelled due to COVID-19.

FARMING

CRD adapts livestock compensation program

Services to three electoral areas separated

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

New bylaws that establish livestock compensation services for each of the Capital Regional District's three unincorporated communities were approved at the CRD's Electoral Areas Committee meeting last Wednesday.

The new bylaws, which must receive ministerial approval and then go through the CRD Board to be finalized, set up a funding mechanism to compensate farmers whose livestock has been killed by dogs when no specific dogs or owners can be confirmed to be responsible. The bylaws set a maximum annual compensation of \$3,000 each for the Salt Spring, Southern Gulf Islands and Juan de

Fuca areas, to be funded in each area through that community's tax requisition. The new program will go into effect in 2022.

"Basically it seems like a good approach," Salt Spring director Gary Holman said at the EAC meeting. "We're retaining the overhead aspects and still offering compensation, satisfying all concerns."

Compensation previously came through the animal control/bylaw enforcement branch, which collects dog licensing fees in the electoral areas. Staff had recommended ending the program since there was no budget assigned to compensation funds. The farming communities in each of the electoral areas wished to continue the program, but there was some concern about the levels of compensation required by different areas, especially in Juan de Fuca.

"I felt that Juan de Fuca didn't have any claims and we might be

paying for others," electoral area director Mike Hicks explained during the June 9 meeting.

Hicks suggested a maximum compensation amount of \$1,000 would be more than enough for his community.

The amount needed on Salt Spring was a more difficult question. Staff reported \$3,000 would be sufficient for most years on record, although there have been "peak" kill years with higher amounts needed in the past.

The Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute wrote a letter to Holman and CRD Bylaw Enforcement chief Don Brown earlier this month asking them to take action to prevent dog attacks on sheep, noting these had become particularly frequent and vicious over the past spring. The institute further requested the CRD address the compensation amount offered for livestock losses, which they say hasn't kept up to market rates.

"There is no compensation offered to the farmer for veterinary fees, loss of future income, [or] time spent caring for injured animals, to say nothing of the mental anguish. There needs to be a review of this compensation to properly reflect today's market value," Farmers' Institute president Marguerite Lee states in the letter.

The amount offered is 75 per cent of fair market value, up to a maximum \$750 per animal. CRD staff confirmed that amount had not changed since the compensation program was introduced in the 1980s, but they felt it had always been sufficient except once, when a horse was killed.

In response to Holman's questions around the potential need to increase the maximum compensation level in a bad year, staff said the maximum amount could be changed by amending the bylaw if approved by the CRD Board. It

would also be possible to run a deficit and recover that from the following year's requisition. Any unspent funds would go into an operating surplus for the following year.

From the perspective of farmers, there would be no need for compensation if there were no dog attacks, and for that to happen CRD animal control needs to be more effective. Lee said bylaw enforcement officers should be given more responsibility for follow-up and to deal with dogs that are known to be causing problems.

The Farmers' Institute letter concludes, "every effort must be made to prevent such attacks from occurring in the first place. Our members want concrete actions on your part to enforce existing policy and regulations. We would be more than happy to consult on policy changes that may be needed to resolve this problem."

EDUCATION

SD64 starts to address shortfall

"Seamless-day" childcare model also discussed at board meeting

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

School District 64 is making strides toward recovering a projected \$1.1-million annual deficit and expects to be 38 per cent of the way there after the next school year.

In a report to the Gulf Islands Board of Education last Wednesday, the district's secretary treasurer Jesse Guy submitted a budget bylaw of \$26,811,055 for the 2021-22 fiscal year. The budget includes a deficit of \$683,000 but ends with a surplus of around \$1 million after provincial funding protection dollars are applied.

"We're moving toward solving our structural deficit," Guy explained, and stated later in the meeting, "It's all to do with funding protection that we have this surplus, and that's because of the closure of Windsor House [in North Vancouver]."

Funding protection is supplied by the province if a school district's enrollment grant decreases by 1.5 per cent or more. Funds are supplied at a decreasing rate until the grant aligns with the number of students enrolled.

SD64 will receive \$2.2 million in funding protection for 2021-22. In addition to the structural deficit, \$350,000 of those dollars will go toward capital improvements for the district's new configuration model. Another \$175,000 will go toward the first phase of a required software upgrade.

According to a chart that Guy provided, the district will find \$114,000 in savings next year through the partial closure of Salt Spring Middle School, during which time just the Grade 7 cohort will remain at SIMS and only a portion of the facilities will be in use. In 2022-23, when the new configuration model is complete, there will be an additional \$336,000 saved through the closure.

There are also positive funding impacts related to making Pender's school the junior high location for outer islands students and the reduction of administration and school costs taking place over the next two school years. One school bus will be removed from the Salt Spring schedule in 2022-23 as a further cost-saving measure.

Gulf Islands Teachers' Association president Ian Mitchell reported that teachers had faced some anxiety around how staffing would be impacted by the configuration change. Many of the teaching positions that have been based at SIMS are now being moved to Salt Spring's elementary schools and Gulf Islands Secondary School, while others may be eliminated.

"We appreciate how well the process came together, with very little hand-wringing," Mitchell said.

Childcare pilot project explored

The board of education voted last week to take advantage of a Ministry of Education opportunity, if it proves feasible, that would introduce a "seamless-day" childcare pilot to one classroom on Salt Spring.

SD64 was one of 20 school districts invited by the ministry to participate in the pilot project. It would mean \$50,000 in funding to cover one early childhood educator (ECE) and supplies, to be added to one classroom with a maximum of 12 students in kindergarten to Grade 3. The ECE would provide childcare either before the school day starts or after it ends, along with spending some overlap time in the classroom with the regular teacher and educational assistant.

"I think this seems like a really obvious way to see if we can handle this model," commented Galiano school trustee Shelley Lawson.

Potential difficulties staff noted in accessing the pilot project include finding an ECE to hire and getting certification as a licensed childcare provider with the Ministry of Children and Family Development. Guy said SD64's StrongStart BC program coordinator Janet Hoag is working hard on these issues and expects positive results.

Fulford Elementary School has been identified as a possible location for the pilot according to needs and available classroom space. The ECE would be part of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), the organization representing provincial service staff, including educational assistants.

CUPE local vice-president Janice Shields wrote to the board last month urging them to pursue such opportunities. She said public childcare delivery by school boards "ensures high-quality care and oversight within an existing governance structure, and resolves major stressors for parents." Children also benefit from having fewer transitions during the day and enhanced education-focused care, she said.

"I think this is a great pilot and a great program for us to participate in," CUPE president Angela Thomas said during the meeting. "And if we can meet the qualifications, it will be a great asset for a lot of families in the district."

"I think this is a great pilot and a great program for us to participate in."

ANGELA THOMAS
President, CUPE Local 788

Active, Expert and Local Investment Management

Our **Equally Invested™** culture mandates that everyone at Pathfinder invests in the same funds as our clients.

If you would like to learn more about how we can help grow and preserve your wealth, please contact us:



NICK KARLIYCHUK, CIM, CFA
604 682 7312 ext. 303
nick@paml.ca



NIGEL ANDERSON, CIM
604 682 7312 ext. 230
nigel.anderson@paml.ca



We are **Equally Invested™**
www.paml.ca

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
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

Contact the BCSPCA at
250-537-2123

Brought to you courtesy
of the
Murakami family

OPINION



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

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



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by
 Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



 Nancy Johnson
 PUBLISHER
 njohnson@driftwoodgimedia.com


 Gail Sjuberg
 MANAGING EDITOR
 news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


 Lorraine Sullivan
 PRODUCTION MANAGER
 production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


 Johanna Walkner
 OFFICE MANAGER
 jwalkner@driftwoodgimedia.com


 Elizabeth Nolan
 REPORTER
 enolan@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


 Bonnie Steeves
 ACCOUNT MANAGER
 bsteeves@driftwoodgimedia.com


 Damian Richards
 CIRCULATION/DISTRIBUTION
 drichards@gulfislandsdriftwood.com


 Dennis Parker
 CARTOONIST
 news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Restart rewards

The phrase “light at the end of the tunnel” has been bandied about for months when it comes to talking about the COVID-19 pandemic.

As B.C. moved into Step 2 of its Restart Plan on Tuesday, it seemed as if some validity could finally be attached to those words.

British Columbians are now able to travel outside of their health regions for non-essential reasons; up to 50 people can gather outside for weddings, parties or sports events; and up to 50 people can go to a movie or live theatre show or attend a faith service if safety plans are in place. Indoor sports and fitness activities can resume (with safety plans) and liquor service will be extended to midnight. With indoor dining re-established and small personal gatherings allowed with Step 1 of the Restart Plan, some sense of normalcy has indeed returned.

THE ISSUE:

Step 2 of BC Restart Plan

WE SAY:

We're on the right track

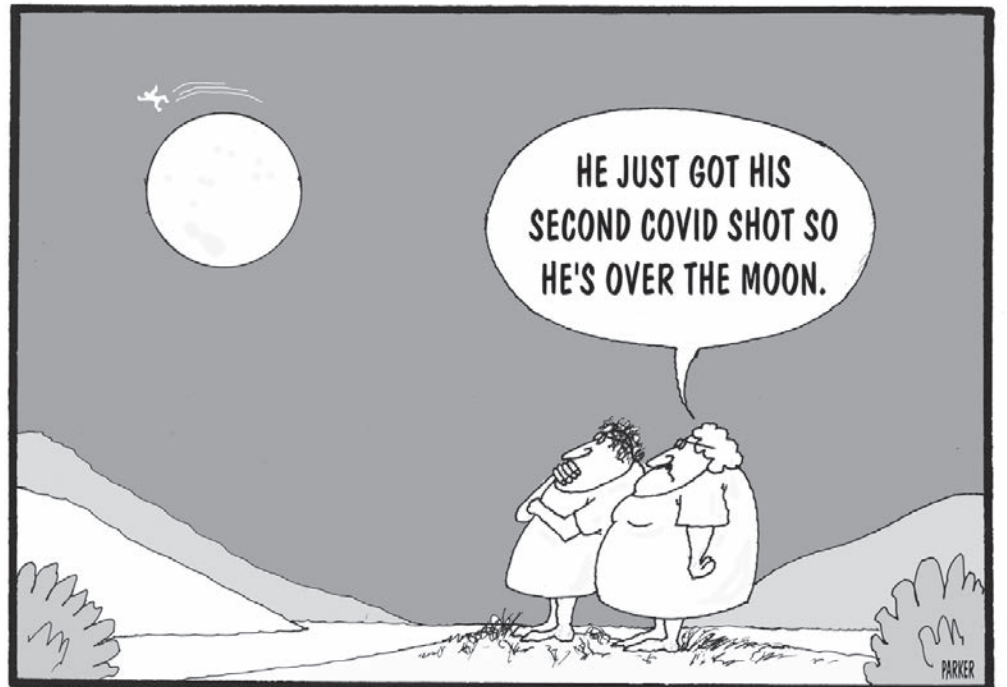
In addition to the Step 2 milestone, the most recent regional COVID-19 case data is heartening. It showed only 11 new cases reported in southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands from May 30 to June 5 — down from 47 the week before and 95 a month ago. The “rolling weekly average” for the whole province was down to 161 per day as of June 10. The record high was 1,130 per day only two months ago.

Whatever measures are being taken by most British Columbians to keep those numbers down are clearly working.

When the government and provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced on May 25 that it hoped further reopening was possible as of June 15, a minimum 65 per cent rate of adult vaccinations was one of the criteria. British Columbia has exceeded that target handily with 75 per cent of adults in B.C. having now received at least one vaccination. Second doses are being rolled out ahead of schedule.

While the news is mostly positive and the future looks bright, continued success depends on people continuing to be cautious: wearing masks indoors as directed by public health orders; following WorkSafeBC safety plans; practising strong hand hygiene and social distancing; and not going out in public if one is ill.

B.C. has come a long way and deserves kudos for faring as well as possible, but the journey towards that elusive light is not over yet.



Woods war not over yet

BY TOM MITCHELL

A number of islanders were part of a Salt Spring contingent and gathering of over 1,000 people at a rally at the B.C. Legislature on Friday, trying to protect the last of the old-growth forest in B.C.

Speakers included Andy McKinnon, who spoke of the vast array of life still to be discovered and as yet unknown that live in the canopy of old-growth trees and potential medicines yet to be developed.

Other speakers addressed the need for First Nations and settlers to work together, to preserve what's left of the lungs of our planet and address climate change.

Valdy was his usual mood elevator, with his song called Passing Through perhaps in reference to the short blip of a human life span compared to the forest giants.

You could be forgiven for thinking that after last Monday's announcement by the three combined First Nations bands — Pacheedaht, Ditidaht and Huu-ay-aht — of a two-year deferral of logging in Fairy Creek and Central Walbran, that everything is settled and there is no more need for rallies or blockades in the woods.

Sadly, that is not the case, according to Jens Wieting,

VIEWPOINT

senior forest and climate campaigner with the Sierra Club BC.

In his statement, Wieting claims that the initial round of deferrals included less than one per cent of the last old-growth forest with big trees. He also states that in May 2021, after a year of no action, independent experts showed a map that outlined the most endangered forest. The map showed 1.3 million hectares of forest that need interim protection, that is 2.6 per cent of all forest in B.C.

For comparison, the deferral announcements for Fairy Creek and Central Walbran add up to only 2,000 hectares, and almost all at-risk forests across the province remain open for logging, including thousands of hectares on southern Vancouver Island.

That leaves 99.85 per cent of the at-risk old-growth forest already mapped still on the chopping block.

It's ironic that Premier John Horgan uses all the right phrases in his statement supporting the announcement of the three First Nations bands, such as “working together, respect for First Nations decisions,”

yet only a few short months ago, armed soldiers with authority from him to use extreme force were dismantling the blockades of the unarmed peaceful Wet'suwet'en defenders in their efforts to stop the LNG pipeline.

Last fall, during the B.C. election campaign, Horgan promised to implement the recommendations of an old-growth strategic review panel led by foresters Garry Markell and Al Gorley. These recommendations called for a paradigm shift from regarding forests as only a source of lumber and not the living breathing ecosystem that it is, and a moratorium on logging old growth, amongst others.

His refusal to implement these and the other recommendations of the Forest Joint Review Panel, plus the other promises he has reneged on leave me with very little trust in John Horgan and his credibility moving forward.

So unfortunately the struggle in the woods has not ended yet, and I believe the bottom line is that for future generations and the health of our planet, we need every tree we have, especially the ancient, and no one should have the right to cut them down.

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933
 Email: driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com | Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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



Funded by the
 Government
 of Canada



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

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you use the new Salt Spring laundromat, shower & soap exchange facility? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you travel outside the health region when that's allowed next week?
 YES: 83 NO: 106

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: }

“We appreciate how well the process came together, with very little hand-wringing.”

IAN MITCHELL, GULF ISLANDS TEACHERS’ ASSOCIATION

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What movie would you like to see now that theatres can reopen?*

SEB EVANS



Back to the Future or The Goonies.

BECKA HECK



John Wick 4.

JOHN JOLIE-BOODRAM



Maybe Cruella if we can still get Disney movies?

BRONWYN MCMILLAN



Classic movie nights would be fun.

JIM WIGHT



Infinite. I don’t know what it is but I want to see it.

LETTERS to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Send your letters to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

STVRs bring benefits

And so the discussion goes round and round. After years of being involved with the accommodation group on Salt Spring as well as working internationally with hotels, I am continually amazed that the powers that be do not recognize the positive and increased revenue that short-term vacation rentals bring to a community.

In communities with a municipality, tourism accommodation generates a huge source of income that can be applied throughout the community for various projects, including marketing, improvement to services, etc. To continually say that there is no money to oversee a business licence program is quite misleading.

There are many people on the islands with extensive tourism experience who can provide leadership in developing a

rental program that will benefit everyone, instead of having the naysayers who continually say it won’t work. It will only work if people want it to work and to work together. Companies like Airbnb are very willing to work with communities and set parameters and policies. Why not engage with them rather than treating them as the enemy?

This is an opportunity for Salt Spring to provide decisive leadership within the Gulf Islands, which other communities can model.

The CRD and the Islands Trust should be working with the Chamber of Commerce, the Salt Spring Economic Development Commission and the Salt Spring Accommodation Group, attempts which have sadly failed in the past.

Perhaps it’s time to see the glass as half full and view short-term vacation rentals as an income-generating source.

SUSAN WETMORE,
SALT SPRING

Winning customers

I would like to let Fields CEO Jason McDougall know that I will be dropping into his store as soon as it opens largely due to his generosity towards Windsor Plywood in their time of need (“Fields imports recycled cottages,” June 9 Driftwood).

I am sure he has won a number of customers, even though the store is not open yet, as a result of his loan of a couple of cottages to Windsor.

In fact, he probably won some more good will by buying and bringing the cottages to Salt Spring. I am sure he will be offering some of them at some point to some employees.

I have heard that a number of businesses have been picking up homes and cottages for secure rentals for employees. A good move in a tough

rental market.

Regarding the Windsor fire, thanks to the firefighters who saved what they could and to the owners and staff at Windsor for working so hard to reopen. You are missed.

And I hope Ken Marr’s cat bite heals soon.

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING

Hilarious column

Kudos to Shilo Zylbergold for his May 26 column about the toilet paper situation on BC Ferries vessels.

It was hilarious, and oh so true. I live in terror of those paper dispensers, and haven’t laughed so much for a long time.

ELAINE MCCALLUM,
FORMER SALT SPRING RESIDENT,
OTTAWA

MORE LETTERS continued on 7

Flat Earthers prompt gravitational crisis of belief

There is no excuse for ignorance, not today. Stupidity certainly, but never ignorance, because the path to almost limitless knowledge is just a few keystrokes away.

There is so much easy awareness on the internet that it requires a very special kind of willfulness to get the wrong end of the stick.

It is impossible to understand for instance why the anti-vaccine brigade believes what they do because for every article promoting their mad conspiracy there are a thousand contradicting it with real science and common sense.

There is a case going through the courts at the moment of a militant and quite obviously unhinged anti-masker, which especially fascinated me because he had apparently been arrested on his way back from a Flat Earth Society convention. And man, this is a mob that is more delusional than the Fairies at the Bottom Of My Garden folk.

First, the geography, their alternative geography. The earth, according to the Flat Earthers is, er, flat, i.e., not a sphere. In fact, it is a flat circle with the North Pole at its centre while the South Pole forms a massive ice wall around its edges which prevents us falling off. That is fortuitous but doesn’t explain why the ice around it isn’t littered with crashed passenger jets and cruise liners. It’s just one of those inexplicable things the Flatties never bother with, as they don’t bother speculating what’s on the other side of the wall.

But the delusion for many doesn’t end at a wall of ice. They believe that the world is infinite and simply goes on and on, flatly. And they do mean forever, in an infinite direction north, south, east and west. Oh, and also below, which is where the fantasy goes into top gear because, to make things neater, the ice pack beneath the earth is so infinitely deep that it is impenetrable, just in case anyone was reckless enough to consider digging down to see what was on the other side.

As for what it’s composed of, many



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

believe it is not ice but “rocks” all the way down, which is one less conundrum but doesn’t quite explain volcanoes or earthquakes nor what the rocks are resting on since their world doesn’t have a molten core. Or does it?

But here’s the rub. The Flat Earthers are so immersed in their own fantastic science that they appear to have an answer for everything, however barmy. But the truth of the matter is that they can invariably out-argue the rest of us because we simply take the inexplicable for granted.

Gravity, for example. I’m pretty certain Einstein got it right when he explained that gravity was a consequence of masses moving along geodesic lines in a curved space-time caused by the uneven distribution of mass. Which isn’t entirely helpful and only one in a billion of us would have the faintest idea what he’s talking about let alone explaining it to a Flat Earther. But in the real world, if Einstein says that’s what gravity is, that’s what gravity is.

The Flatties, on the other hand, are unencumbered by sound science or good sense and explain gravity more simply: things don’t fall, the earth moves upwards at a constant speed to meet them. (Come on, keep up at the back!) Which begs the question . . . at what point do we accelerate beyond the speed of light and what exactly are we accelerating in?

One of the chief cruxes of this band of loonies is that everyone else is lying. Governments, NASA, the media, anyone in fact

who is foolhardy enough to offer proof that they are talking through their trousers. Goodness knows WHY they are lying, although the suggestion is that in the early days of the space race neither the U.S. nor the Soviet Union ever actually got off the planet and merely guessed that the world is round because that’s what science had taught them. And now they simply maintain the lie and pocket the money governments give them to continue the space race.

But here’s the thing. The more you check out the Flat Earthers and sniff and sneer, the more you begin to wonder at your own beliefs. Look, I don’t accept a single syllable of the Flat theories and consider them all to be either entirely barking mad or insanely paranoid, but what these apparent nutjobs have made me do is question my own possibly naïve acceptance of everything I believe to be true.

Gravity, for instance. Newton and Einstein defined and refined our understanding of it, but that is not to say I actually understand any of it. I’m a hack, not a physicist, and can only take their word for it. Viscerally, I know they are right but I’m not entirely sure their explanation makes any more sense to me than the Flat Earthers’ upwardly mobile planet.

I’ve seen pictures of the earth from space, and it is quite obviously a sphere and for the life of me I cannot conceive of NASA or Roscomos, the Russian space agency, lying about it for more than half a century. I mean, why would they?

But I’ve never actually been up there, so again I’m happy to take their word for it that the photos haven’t been Photoshopped.

In the end I am perfectly content to accept that there are people — clever, highly educated, brilliant people — whose word you have to take as the truth.

To do otherwise invites madness.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

Regenerative forest management should be goal

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN

TRANSITION SALT SPRING

The old-growth conifers of B.C. are the botanical equivalent of iconic animals like the Bengal tiger, or closer to home, the humpback whale. It's no wonder the charismatic "megafloora" found in ancient temperate rainforests get mystical sounding names like Cathedral Grove on the way to Port Alberni, or Eden Grove, west of Fairy Creek.

From a climate change perspective, all forests matter, but do some forests matter more than others? Simply put, the older the forest, the more substantial a role it plays in storing carbon and precious water. Next time you are standing on the Erskine trail (while trying to catch your breath!) consider for a moment that second-growth forests — which make up the majority of Salt Spring's 14,000 forested hectares — sequester three to five times more carbon than newly planted forests.

Big Lonely Doug, a 23-storey fir left standing in the midst of a clearcut, is emblematic of how we romanticize giant trees while matchsticking the rest of the system that fostered such magnificent growth.

B.C.'s industrial silviculture promised that clearcuts could be simply replanted like corn in a field. Aside from the obvious irreparable damage to once salmon-bearing streams and soil health, replanting clearcuts with a monoculture will not come close to matching the carbon-sequestration services provided by mature mixed forests. Nor will it deliver the climate change protections we need, like reduced wildfire risk, and the water retention we get in healthy, diverse forests. Eliminating clear-cut logging, and incentivizing landowners to adopt regenerative forestry practices, will.

"My mentor, Merv Wilkinson,



sustainably logged his forested acreage for 60 years," said Michael Nickels, owner of Seven Ravens Ecoforestry, in a recent interview from his home close to the Fulford Valley. "In the end, he was left with more standing timber than he started with."

Regenerative forest management, which is the type of forestry practised by cutting-edge foresters like Nickels, involves the interplay between science and Indigenous knowledge, with the generation of rural livelihoods that actually build the land. This type of forestry nurtures human and non-human communities alike.

Zooming out from our little island, a robust market in carbon offsets — worth \$5 billion per year and growing — has emerged globally and is beginning to offer economic opportunities for carbon storage. Communities like Salt Spring where forests create many types of livelihoods — from hospitality to forestry — stand to benefit.

When we start to think of standing forests as an investment with real monetary value, it changes the equations we use to weigh the benefits of keeping trees standing versus chopping them down.

Ascribing value to the carbon that's removed from the atmosphere and stored by standing trees, this new market makes preserving forests more economically viable. Says Katherine Bergeron, who works with the B.C.-based organization Taking Root, "People can earn money from planting

trees, and if they are committed to long-term maintenance and monitoring of their forests they can also potentially earn money from the carbon these trees sequester over time."

But paying for the future carbon that a tree stores over time requires a monitoring system to make sure the trees actually survive and thrive. Otherwise, it's like having a bad inventory management system in a grocery store. Taking Root has developed a software system called FARM-TRACE that allows farming organizations around the world to collect the data required to facilitate the process of carbon certification.

Transition Salt Spring is advocating for the development of carbon revenue as a means of financing forest restoration on Salt Spring Island.

"Our monitoring processes bring transparency to carbon markets while tying revenue to the health of forests. The emerging carbon market is as hungry for legitimate projects as farmers are eager to earn additional income streams from maintaining and building forests," says Bergeron.

According to the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan, keeping more forests standing is the number one priority to protect future generations from drought, fire and runaway climate change. To get there, we need to start deploying not only smarter forest stewardship practices, but also



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Trees at Michael Nickels' Seven Ravens Farm in the fall of 2019.

data solutions that can quantify the "worth more standing" claims made by environmentalists.

Transition Salt Spring is advocating for the development of carbon revenue as a means of financing forest restoration on Salt Spring Island. With a federal carbon price slated to rise from \$30/tonne this year, to \$170/tonne in 2030, the financial feasibility of mass carbon storage projects in healthy forests and oceans is suddenly becoming more feasible.

Says Nickels, "Almost nobody wants to cut old growth. So, we need to figure out a way to manage second-growth forests to allow for a real economic return that nourishes communities."

Nickels believes that the right approach involves maximizing the value of every single tree. "Over 35 years, I've removed about 60 truckloads of logs from my 38-acre property. Every single piece of wood felled is milled on the property. The majority stays on Salt Spring and is used for edge-grain trim wood for baseboards, doors and windows, as wide plank slabs for furniture and flooring, and making posts and beams for houses. My forest today has a far greater volume of wood than when I

acquired it."

With the right tools, islanders can balance private property entitlements with the urgent need to lower emissions and adapt to a hotter, drier future. To get there, islanders need to be rewarded for enhancing forest ecosystems through sustainable forest management practices.

People are invited to check out this upcoming joint Transition Salt Spring and Salt Spring Island Conservancy fundraiser event: What's Happening to Our Forests and Trees? It's set for Wednesday, June 30, 7:30 p.m. Join acclaimed B.C. forest ecology scientists Andy MacKinnon and Richard Hebda for an engaging and timely discussion of forest ecology and the effects of climate change.

Tickets are at www.tinyurl.com/SSForesses. Students can participate free of charge.

One Cool Island is a regular series produced by Transition Salt Spring on how we can all respond to the climate crisis, together. Andrea Palframan is a TSS director and communications lead. For more information on how to support climate action on Salt Spring, visit transitionsaltspring.com.


Islanders Working Against Violence
SAFE • FREE • CONFIDENTIAL

Salt Spring Transition House & Help Line
250-537-0735 or
toll-free 1-877-435-7544

Women's Outreach Services
250-537-0717 or
toll-free 1-877-537-0717

Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women
250-538-5568

Program for Children and Youth Experiencing Violence
250-538-5569

Transitions Thrift Store
#119-109 McPhillips Ave.
OPEN TUESDAY TO SATURDAY

www.iwav.org

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Show us what you see ... ON FRIDAY, JULY 9TH

A DAY IN THE Life
SALT SPRING ISLAND 2021

We invite people to send us their photos for our 2021 Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island publication.

• Photos must be taken between 6 a.m. on Friday, July 9th and 6 a.m. on Saturday, July 10th.

• Register in advance by sending an email to editor Gail Sjuberg at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com for deadlines and details about how to submit.

 250-537-9933
241 Fulford-Ganges Road
driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Natural environment deserves Trust primacy

BY GREG SPENDJIAN

There has been a flurry of opinion and editorial pieces in this paper recently regarding the defeat at the March Trust Council meeting of a proposed motion to affirm that the paramount goal of the Trust was the preservation and protection of the natural environment.

My understanding is that those who voted against it, including Salt Spring Island trustees, did so because they did not want the reference to preserving and protecting "communities" to be dropped, or any inference being made that the priority given to "communities" should be secondary to that given to the natural environment.

It is not surprising that there will be differing opinions on the matter. Some may see this as just another example of our island communities being a bunch of

INDEPTH

"opposing opinions surrounded by water." In fact, I see something quite positive in this open exchange of views about the criteria which trustees use in making their policy decisions.

My own view is agreement with the intent of the motion as proposed, and with the concerns raised by former trustees with its defeat in the June 2 Driftwood.

Experience has shown that, historically, whenever decision makers have to choose between environmental protection and short-term economic gain, the latter almost invariably wins out. There are standout exceptions of course, such as what resulted after the Thomas Berger report, but these are rare.

The reasons for this are obvi-

ous. The "environment" or "nature" has no voice of its own to defend its interests, nor can it act to defend its integrity. Those who want to exploit natural resources for their economic benefit do have a voice and these are frequently loudly heard. They can act, usually with impunity and with serious negative impacts on the environment, because they have "the law" on their side.

What is good for humans in the short term is not necessarily good for the environment.

The "environment" does not vote in elections. It cannot make contributions to or lobby politi-

cians to swing policy in its favour. Regrettably, in most cultures, nature is not assigned an intrinsic, non-utilitarian, value. Instead, it is viewed as little more than a repository of resources to be used for human benefit, and as an endless sink for the by-products of human action. Our species is not euphemistically called homo economicus for nothing.

The reality is that ensuring a healthy and resilient natural environment is an absolute precondition for having viable and sustainable communities. You can have healthy environments without the presence of humans, but you cannot have healthy human communities without a healthy natural environment. What is good for the environment is good for humans. What may be good for humans in the short term is not necessarily good for the environment. That is why primacy should

be given to preserving and protecting the natural environment.

Some segments of the community have been quite upset, justifiably in my opinion, at the impotence of the local trustees, acknowledged by them, to confront wanton clear-cut logging on private lands purely for profit.

In conclusion, while being aware of the nuances surrounding the issue, and being fully supportive of policy decisions promoting social justice and economic equity, I believe that primacy in the Islands Trust Act should be given to preserving and protecting the natural environment. Within that context, and with some creativity, many good decisions can nevertheless be taken to meet reasonable, though not limitless, individual human and community needs.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Big pain, little gain

Business licences for short-term vacation rentals (STVRs)? This is not a good idea. Here are some reasons:

1. There are many businesses on Salt Spring Island now operating legally without a business licence. Applying a licence requirement to only one sector would open a can of worms.

2. As CRD director Gary Holman has pointed out, this would be an expensive process, no doubt to be borne by the taxpayers. Our property tax just went up by 20 per cent with the biggest chunk going to the CRD.

3. Business licences are required by municipalities with the licence fees generated directly benefitting the municipality. Here they would go into CRD coffers.

4. This is unlikely to provide increased affordable housing. Folks renting out their house for part of the year are unlikely to turn it into a full-time rental. In fact, it might encourage more absentee landlords to go down this route if it can be done legally, thus increasing the number of STVRs.

5. STVRs are already illegal here and we already have a complaint-driven bylaw enforcement mechanism for that.

Seems like a lot of pain for little gain. I wonder if it would be worth it for the reasons listed above.

SABINE SWIERENGA,
ISABELLA POINT

Court system racism

While provincial politicians mouth pious platitudes about "reconciliation," B.C.'s justice system, in the words of Jim Leyden, "appears to most Indigenous people to be merely a candy coating that hides the razor blades of racism, genocide and white supremacy."

Leyden should know. On June 7, B.C. Supreme Court Justice Shelley Fitzpatrick sentenced the Indigenous Elder and land defender to 45 days in jail and a year of probation for engaging in ceremony at the gates of the Trans Mountain Pipeline site in Burnaby.

This in spite of Leyden's serious, chronic health conditions, including pancreatitis and a heart condition, which would commonly persuade the court to impose a non-custodial sentence. And in spite of being scheduled for an ophthalmological operation on June 21, in the midst of his jail sentence. Medical procedures, Fitzpatrick ruled, can be performed while people are in jail.

And in spite of a B.C. government policy, adopted just months earlier, that directs prosecutors to use "principled restraint in all

sentencing matters" related to Indigenous defendants, and says "custodial sentences, particularly those under two years in duration, should be seen as a last resort." That policy was ignored by Crown prosecutors during Leyden's May hearing.

Leyden's case, along with that of other Indigenous land defenders, shows how the RCMP and Crown prosecutors have targeted Indigenous peoples and cultures — even as heightened awareness of institutionalized police racism and anti-Indigenous violence has mounted in Canada.

Leyden ended his statement at his trial with these words: "I prayed that this court could see past the inherent racism which is intertwined with the targeted, selective arrest and prosecution I faced for conducting my chanupa ceremony and fulfilling my role as a traditional watchman. There have been shining moments when the integrity of the court is upheld — for example, Judge Affleck's previous decision that acknowledged and recognized Indigenous ceremony. I would hope that these shining moments were the rule rather than the exception. That requires (judicial) courage, which, regrettably, has been all too rare in a colonialist system. But the road forward always requires the courageous action of honourable people. We welcome all people, including those wearing the black robes of the judiciary and Crown, to break that 'thin black line' and to join us in this journey to move beyond blind obedience to the barbarism of white supremacist oppression."

MURRAY REISS,
FULFORD

Support our hospital


The Lady Minto Thrift Shop is open again. It is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, from 10 to 11:30 a.m. for donations and from 12 to 3:45 p.m. for shopping.

This amazing little shop is entirely staffed by volunteers. All proceeds go to the Lady Minto Hospital for the care and comfort of patients, serving all residents of Salt Spring. Vital equipment is regularly purchased. In addition to contributing to the hospital, the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary provides significant funding for Greenwoods and Braehaven, and has, when needed, helped the outer Gulf Islands.

So Salt Springers, remember that Lady Minto Thrift Shop exists only because of your generous donations of good clothing, jewelry, shoes, books, household items, unique pieces, paintings and educational toys, which are just a few of the accepted items.

Support our hospital. Thank you.

JEAN WILLIAMS,
LMHA VOLUNTEER



ONLINE YOGA *with* LYNDSAY SAVAGE LAMB!

Join me online with a varied selection of Yoga classes. Upon subscribing and payment, you will receive 2 classes to start right away, and each week will add 1 class on to your viewing field.

savagelambbyoga.ca
lyndsaysavage@shaw.ca
Call me for for information
250-538-0177

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

Practice your subscription classes any time and as many times as you wish. You have the benefit of completing whole classes or breaking them down to suit your time needs.

In Person classes starting soon!
Wednesdays at 2pm & Saturdays at 10am
Preregistration required as space is limited!
Email for inquiries.

Send us your PET PHOTOS!



Send your favourite pet photo* along with their name, to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com by July 15th for publication in a special feature on pets! We'll choose the best ones for publication in **All About Pets** coming in July.

250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Road
driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

*Photos must be minimum of 200 dpi





ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

SALT SPRING INN

Cozy indoor or Garden Patio Dining & Take-Out too!

★★★ Mon-Fri 11am - 8pm and Sat/Sun 9am-8pm★★★

250-537-9339

FUNDRAISER

SSNAP season kicks off with Exquisite Corpse

Fundraiser show and auction hosted at Gallery 8

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People getting excited about the return of the Salt Spring National Art Prize biennial this fall can enjoy a taste of the upcoming exhibit season and help support SSNAP at the same time during a special fundraising event this week.

Launching this Thursday, June 17, the Exquisite Corpse Art Show & Auction runs for one week only upstairs at Gallery 8. The mixed live and online event features a selection of historical and contemporary works and a unique collection of 12 new collaborative pieces produced by 36 local artists.

It's the latter element that gives its name to the show. Exquisite Corpse is a game or an exercise created by the Surrealists in 1920s Paris. It involves different artists working to create a single figure in individual sections, with each artist working blind to most of what the others have created. The exercise inspires a freeing up of usual techniques and often produces delightfully bizarre compilations once unveiled in their totality.

"They're really a lot of fun. Some artists have stepped right out of character from what you'd expect from their traditional work," said SSNAP's founding director Ron Crawford, who coordinated this part of the show.

While Exquisite Corpse often involves a large sheet of paper that gets folded over to cover each completed section, this version is based on a one-by-three foot panel. Each finished piece features three different artists who worked on a 12-by-12-inch area, and were assigned to create either head, body or legs/feet. They were able to see one inch at most of the adjacent section to flow their



IMAGE COURTESY SSNAP

Salt Spring Landscape (2017) by Diana Dean is one of the artworks that will be available at the Exquisite Corpse Art Show & Auction. The Salt Spring National Art Prize fundraiser runs online and at Gallery 8 from 1 p.m., Thursday, June 17 through to the end of June 24.

work from.

Crawford recruited some "big name" established island figures as well as members of the Salt Spring Painters Guild and several people who were part of SSNAP's youth exhibition in 2019. The wide range of artists participating in turn employed a wide range of materials. In addition to painting they have applied collage, glasswork, sculptural pieces, weaving and encaustic wax to the panels. And while the works are nominally divided into sections of the body, what the artists chose to place there may not correspond to human bodies, or to bodies at all as normally understood.

Some artists thought it would be fun

to work together on the same project and others were put together more randomly. In all cases, buyers will have the unique opportunity to own work by three different artists by purchasing one piece.

Exquisite Corpse pieces will be revealed live and online starting this Thursday. They will be available to purchase by non-live auction that closes with the show at the end of Thursday, June 24. Bids start at \$150 each.

SSNAP supporters will additionally have the opportunity to bid on a number of fine historical works donated by collectors and to purchase outright new works on consignment from local galleries. The collection of 25 pieces

assembled by Anthony Matthews features artists such as Norval Morrisseau, Diana Thorneycroft, Diana Dean, Michael Robb and Hugh Leroy and includes a dynamic pair of prints by the Inuit artists Josie Papialuk and Paulosie Kanayook.

What binds this collection together is Matthews' keen eye for quality work, an eye he's honed over many years as a curator, collector and collectors' consultant.

"I've chosen the art that really

"Some artists have stepped right out of character from what you'd expect from their traditional work."

RON CRAWFORD
SSNAP founding director

appeals to me, and I encourage people to come to the gallery and talk to me personally," Matthews said, noting he will be on site each day of the show.

Some of the works selected are those he felt would have broad appeal. There are also pieces by known artists that haven't been seen before — such as a pure landscape without narrative elements by Diana Dean.

"Something like that would be really exciting to collectors," Matthews said.

The Exquisite Corpse show is available for in-person viewing at Gallery 8 from 1 to 5 p.m. on June 17 and then from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through June 24. COVID safety protocols will be in effect.

Find the link for online viewing starting at 1 p.m. this Thursday at www.saltspringartprize.ca.

Here's My Card

Check out the businesses below for great products and services.



GET YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR SPRING DRIVING

Items geared toward winterizing:
Tire chains • Batteries • Antifreeze • Wipers • Headlight upgrades
Battery Chargers • Led Lights • And more...

Bumper to Bumper® Saltspring
CANADA'S PARTS PEOPLE
106 JACKSON AVENUE 250-537-5507

Dan Hardy Denturist



Salt Spring office located at the **Gulf Clinic**
241 Lower Ganges Rd.

- New Dentures
- Reline & Repairs
- Home & Care Facility Visits

For appointments call 1-250-710-1884

The numbers don't lie

It pays big dividends to have a reliable accountant

SERVICES OFFERED INCLUDE:

- Tax preparation (personal, corporate, estate)
- Tax planning
- Auditing not-for-profits charities/stratas/corporations
- Consulting for buying/selling/starting a business



MLW
MCLEAN, LIZOTTE, WHEADON AND COMPANY

340 Lower Ganges Road
250-537-9742



Your "clear" choice for glass.

- Auto Glass • Residential & Commercial
- Aluminum Fabrication • Custom Skylights
- Mirrors & Shower Doors
- Custom Sunrooms • Free Estimates



TROY KAYE

Kapa Kai Glass 250-653-4148



Dave Phillips

"We don't stand behind our work, we stand behind a tree!"

OFFICE: 250-537-2618 • CELL: 250-537-7481



ISLAND LIFE

GROW YOUR COMMUNITY
Buy Local



PHOTOS COURTESY SS MARINA

CELEBRATION TIME: The retirement of 34-year Salt Spring Marina manager Lesley Cheeseman was celebrated outside at Moby's Marine Pub on May 31. From left are musicians Charlotte Priest and Laughlin Meagher, and marina maintenance person Rolf Hildred, Cheeseman and friend Chris Budd. Marina owners Bonny O'Connor and Jerry Parks said Cheeseman was great with people, developing relationships with returning boaters and having connections with so many islanders, and also ensured moored boats were as safe as possible through inclement weather at the marina. Meagher, who is also known on the island as a carpenter, is the new marina manager. O'Connor and Parks said they were looking forward to regional tourism opening up again as COVID restrictions are eased. A 12-year process to rebuild the marina had just been completed when the pandemic hit last year.

FICTION

Humphreys goes noir with latest book release

Signing event for One London Day this Saturday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People who are compiling summer reading lists should be sure to include the latest book by Salt Spring's Chris Humphreys, whose new release *One London Day* is the ideal fast-paced crime adventure for the deck or the beach.

Humphreys, who often writes as C.C. Humphreys, has brought to life wide-ranging subject matter from fantasy realms of his own invention to historical settings like Constantinople under siege and Vlad Tepe's Romania. While he has veered into crime fiction in the past — *Plague*, set in 1665, won the 2015 Arthur Ellis award for best crime novel — this is the first time he's set a story both in

the present time and wholly in the known universe.

One London Day revolves around a crime syndicate hit and begins on July 30, 2018, during the hottest summer in 50 years.

"I think it's one of the best things I've written — partly because it's so different," said Humphreys, who now has 20 published novels under his belt along with a couple of plays. "It would make a cracking movie or a British crime series."

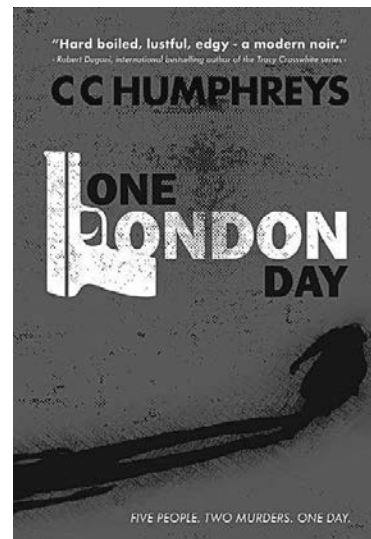
Reviews that have come in to Good Reads so far agree, with one reviewer naming *One London Day* "a must-read of 2021." Another notes the author's wry wit and scabrous (read as salacious) plot line with great admiration.

Humphreys said the novel actually had a long gestation period before the writing began. The plot stems from a real incident a friend of his witnessed a couple of decades ago, during which her

tenant was shot to death in the street before her eyes. The victim was a mild-mannered accountant and the event took place in a quiet, affluent neighbourhood.

"This accountant turned out to be an accountant for a London crime family, and he'd been hit by the Yardies, who are a Jamaican crime syndicate," Humphreys said. "So to me, [the fascinating part] was there's a very ordinary street, and a very ordinary man. I was interested in who the person hit would be, what had led to his execution."

The book is based in North London's Finchley neighbourhood, where Humphreys used to live, with characters and places also based on those that he knew, brought up to date. After establishing a backstory in the five days before the hit, the second half of the novel is entirely set on the day that event takes place, beginning that morning in Finchley and



ending "in violence and betrayal on the steamy night streets of Portobello."

Instead of London crime families, Humphreys has transferred the source of the action to a group of upper-class Oxford alumni who

were recruited by MI5, became a rogue unit known as the Shadows, and use their spy knowledge for financial gain.

Unusual for a crime novel, the story is told from the perspective of five different characters impacted by or involved in the hit. As promotional material states, Humphreys' treatment is a modern-day update of classic noir motifs: "Like that genre's '40s origins, this story has its hood, its moll, its femme fatale, its fancy boy. Everyone is both protagonist and antagonist. No one gets out unharmed — and some don't get out at all."

One London Day is available at Salt Spring Books and Black Sheep Books and can also be ordered through Amazon. A book signing event will take place at Salt Spring Books starting at 1 p.m. this Saturday, June 19.

For more information, see Humphreys' website at www.authorchrishumphreys.com.

Here's My Card

Check out the businesses below for great products and services.

Anniversary Sale

for July

at Gulf Island Picture Framing

25% off all wood mouldings in stock AND special orders!

Please call 250-537-1299 to book consultation appointments

3203 Grace Pt Square • gabriellejensen@shaw.ca



Vince Smythe

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

SMYTHE ROOFING

Ph: 250-213-6316

Fax: 778-746-7310

info@smytheroofing.com

"Quality Workmanship - Reliable Service"

Deborah Osmanich TAX CONSULTING

147 Main Street, Salt Spring Island

250.537.2618

CELL: 250.538.7389

dcosmanich@gmail.com

Your Paper Maze Jungle is my Delight!

Residential & Commercial Glass

Shoreline Glass

Julian Cronin

250-537-7858

juliancronin@icloud.com

UNITED Floors

Serving the Island since 1975

101-2700 Beverly St. Duncan, 250-746-4851

www.unitedfloors.ca ucuncan@shaw.ca

Open Mon-Fri 8:30 to 5, Sat. 9-3

- Area rugs
- Laminate
- Hardwood
- Vinyl
- Luxury vinyl plank
- Carpet
- Ceramic
- Vinyl decking
- Window coverings

REMINISCENCES

Simplicity and innocence marked folk music era

Concerts and guitars fuelled passion

BY CHRIS RIDEOUT

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

There was a time when we all were singing. It was called the folk revival and it seemed like everyone had a guitar.

Folk clubs were everywhere and all the old songs were being re-discovered: old Delta blues tunes, madrigals from 18th-century Britain, songs from slavery, and union songs calling to action.

Through no particular ability of my own I was swept into the company of a host of almost-forgotten singers and pickers. Names like Pete Seeger, Odetta, Bert Jansch, the New Lost City Ramblers and Huddie Leadbetter, better known as Leadbelly, emerged along with the instruments that had existed only in faded bars and back rooms.

Banjoes and autoharps, six- and 12-string guitars, recorders and mandolins suddenly were all over

the place and in the air.

The Kingston Trio woke us up to a new kind of music. It was new and at the same time it was old. We had survived the Elvis at Sun Records era and then left him behind when he went to Las Vegas. I got hold of an old six-string with F-holes and played tunes from my grandfather's time like Carolina Moon over and over in D. Or was that a D-7th?

When the Kingston Trio played Massey Hall in Toronto I was in a front-row seat and went backstage to see them. I remember being startled by how old they were and how they were wearing stage make-up. I owned all their records and played them on my Grommes tube amplifier and old Swiss turntable. It was a good thing that my room was in the basement.

I got a Swedish classical six-string for Christmas that year. It was the best and the last gift I ever got from my parents, who did not believe in spoiling their kids. I did not play it til my fingers bled, as Bryan Adams claims in one of his songs, but only

because it is pretty hard to cut yourself on nylon strings.

The folk clubs like the Village Corner and the Bohemian Embassy introduced me to names like Ramblin Jack Elliott, Ian and Sylvia, Patrick Skye and music so new and so intoxicating. It seemed innocent and real and simple. No band-style back-up, no overdubbing and no electric that I remember except for microphones.

We sat and watched and tried to pick up new chords that we could learn, and new types of finger-picking. In summer we sat around after the shows on the steps outside trying to figure out how to pick like that. What was that chord change? And speaking of innocence and simplicity: once, after a Pete Seeger concert, Pete came down into the audience to us eager young folkies and showed us some magic on his big 12-string. It's hard to believe.

I never got really good at the guitar, but good enough to get some attention and good enough to figure out, by ear, most of the

current songs. And there were so many songs to learn. I wanted to be a folksinger even though I was not sure what that was. Like the Trio, most of the folksingers were very commercial like Burl Ives and the Brothers Four. It wasn't until Joan Baez's first album, the one with the black and white cover, that we got an inkling of what was really going on and what was genuine. She sang at Massey Hall too, barefoot, with a big Gibson dreadnought that looked as though it weighed as much as her. I still hear Silver Dagger when I wake up at night.

It was sincere music, it was peaceful music and it walked in the face of "hit parade" tunes. But of course it was not to last. It struggled along in clubs like the Purple Onion in Toronto and the Yardbird Suite in Edmonton, but it was nudged aside by Bob Dylan who had little regard for folkies. Although he began as a tribute to Woody Guthrie, before long it was Desolation Row and A Hard Rain's Gonna Fall and on to

the Nobel Prize. Most of us folkies who were the first to hear him knew he was bound for glory.

When Leonard Cohen came to our university English class we folkies decided that he was not a good guitar player, but then he wrote Sisters of Mercy for two women friends of ours in our class so we shut up.

My old six-string sits quietly in the living room now, beside the 12-string, just daring me to pick it up.

Here on Salt Spring we have Valdy, who will never be nudged aside. Valdy and I and Glen sang a verse of Sonny's Dream together, loudly, at the hardware desk of Mouat's one day in the "before times" and the customers just accepted it as just another example of the very special quality of island life. And it is.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident whose recollections of times past appear occasionally in the Driftwood.

what's on this week



Thur. June 17

VIA ZOOM/ONLINE

Ganges Village Task Force.

Meets at 10 a.m. See Islands Trust website for link.

Salt Spring Housing Action Program Task Force.

Meets at 1 p.m. See Islands Trust website for link.

Briony Penn and Adam Olsen.

Author of *Following The Good River*, the major biography of Cecil Paul (Wa'xaid), and other acclaimed books, in conversation with Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen. A Salt Spring Public Library event. 7 p.m. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the Zoom link.

Fri. June 18

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

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

Ask Salt Spring.

This week's guest is Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Outside at the United Church Meadow, or the Portlock Park Pavilion if it's raining.

Sat. June 19

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park.

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

Chris Humphreys Book Signing.

Local author signs copies of new novel *One London Day*. Salt Spring Books deck. 1 p.m.

StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

Sun. June 20

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

Mon. June 21

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

VIA ZOOM

SS Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting.

Regular business meeting at 6:30 p.m. See www.saltspringfire.com for the link.

Tues. June 22

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market.

Weekly market of fresh produce and food/drink products at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m. With COVID safety protocols in place.

VIA ZOOM

EV - Ask an Expert Course.

The topic is electric vehicles in general with Julian Sale of Motorize Electric Vehicles. Presented by the Transition Salt Spring - EV Group. 7 p.m.

Eclectic Visions

SS Photography Club
Annual Exhibition

Online now at:

ssphotog.ning.com/page/eclectic-visions

THRIFTY FOODS

Ganges, Mouat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm
Customer Service 250-537-1522

PHOTOGRAPHY

Online show boosts club photography

Eclectic Visions available to view through summer months

The Salt Spring Photography Club is once again presenting its annual show virtually during 2021, when 21 members will share some of their best images online in Eclectic Visions.

The local photography club started in 2009 with a discussion over coffee as four people recognized that Salt Spring was home to a large group of people united by a common love of photography, with an enthusiastic willingness to support and encourage each other.

"Each year the club has prospered; it has grown; it has given to the community and the beauty of the photography has become more and more artistic," club president Pierre Mineau stated in a press release.

The Driftwood observed in 2010 the club had matured in just one year to "inspire a wealth of images in a variety of techniques," and the annual exhibition reveals how the growth has continued since then.

"Each year as Eclectic Visions has moved from the ArtSpring galleries to Gallery 8 to COVID-required virtual presentations, the quality of artistic photography has developed. Many of the local photographers have developed into very accomplished artists with exceptional skills in using modern technology as an art platform," Mineau said.

Wendy Rosier is the show's curator and an accomplished artist in her own right. Mineau marvels at Rosier's technical work, stating "with her cutting edge wizardry, the show will be hanging in a virtual gallery. Visitors worldwide will be able to take in a whole room at a glance or 'move' around the space to inspect the works."

This year, four deceased members of the club are being honoured with the inclusion of their artistic photography in the show.

Eclectic Visions is open for viewing until Aug. 31 at <https://ssphotog.ning.com/page/eclectic-visions>. Visitors can choose to "Enter Exhibition" for a self-guided tour (recommended by the club) or "Start Guided Tour." After entering the gallery there is a menu in the top right corner with navigation options. The members recommend using the full-screen option as the best viewing option.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• The Fritz reopens on Friday, June 18 at 7 p.m. with *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* — singalong version. Shows continue at 7 p.m. through Tuesday, June 22, plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. COVID-19 protocols in place. See www.thefritz.ca for updates.

EXHIBITIONS

• **The Exquisite Corpse Art Show & Auction** is a Salt Spring National Art Prize auction and sale available for in-person viewing at Gallery 8 from 1 to 5 p.m. on June 17 and then from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through June 24. COVID safety protocols in effect. Online link goes live at 1 p.m. this Thursday at www.saltspringartprize.ca.

• **Artcraft**, the summer-long show and sale of work by Gulf Islands artists and artisans, runs at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

• Today, June 16th, is the last day to see **Two Tides** - Romantic, Plein Air and Abstract works by **Nathalie St-Amant** at **Salt Spring Gallery**.

• **Taking Flight**, new original prints by the **SS Printmakers** and inspired by Patrick's bird sculptures, is at **Salt Spring Gallery** from June 18 to 30. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• **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.

DRIFTWOOD Classifieds ^{CALL} 250-537-9933

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com OR 1-855-310-3535 • OVER 20,000 CLASSIFIEDS ON-LINE UPDATED DAILY

Obituaries

Obituaries

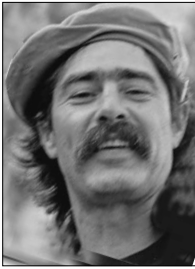
In Memoriam

Computer Services

Concrete & Placing

JOHN MACDONALD PICKERING

February 12th, 1948 - June 5th, 2021.



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of John. He is survived by his loving wife Jenny, son Wesley, daughter Emma (Clayton), two beautiful granddaughters Layla and Lilia, sister Susan, niece Robyn and nephew John.

He was a humble, kind, loving husband, dad, grandad and friend who loved music, his cars, cooking great food, having a good chat, reading about history and so much more. He will be greatly missed by everyone.

We would like to send a special thanks to Jill & Ted, Wendy & Joe and Rob & Sally for being the greatest neighbors ever. And to Doctor Kesh Smith and Jan Hartwig, no words can express the gratitude we have for the compassion that you showed to John these last few months.

There will be no service and in lieu of flowers please donate to the BC Cancer Agency.



Looking for GRIEF SUPPORT?

Hospice offers 1-on-1 and group help.

Call for info 250-537-2770

250-537-2770 • saltspringhospice.org



Home Care

Mature, experienced registered BC Care Aide available for live-in position. I have my own car and I am a great cook. jane@victoriacare.ca or 250-217-6947

Financial Services

GET BACK ON TRACK! Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend! If you own your own home - you qualify. Pioneer Acceptance Corp. Member BBB. 1-877-987-1420 www.pioneerwest.com

Building Supplies

INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008. Built with concrete posts. Barns, shops, riding arenas, machine sheds and more. Adam.s@integritybuilt.com. 1-250-351-5374. www.integritybuilt.com

Misc. for Sale

Gabriola Taxi for sale. Profitable business. Solid customer/tourism base. Priced for quick sale due to owner health. Willing to train/finance. Live the gulf island lifestyle. Email gabriolataxi@shaw.ca

CALL BOB'S COMPUTER

Service for troubleshooting, software & networking support. Remote desktop support available.

250-537-2827 or cel. 250-538-7017 rcmtech@shaw.ca

Please back-up your important data now!

Drafting & Design

LET'S GET STARTED

Bring your sketches & ideas & together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.

HELSET DESIGN 250.537.1037 Ask for Jim



Serving the Gulf Islands

- Concrete
- Concrete Pumps
- Sand/Rock
- Colour & Sealers

Call to schedule material.

All payments to be made by credit card over the phone.

345 Rainbow Road 250-537-2611

Retail

MID Island Co-op is looking for full-time and part-time Customer Service Representatives For our Salt Spring Island Gas Bar. \$17.05/hr. Please send resume to hr@midisland.crs or drop off in person at 135 Rainbow Rd.

Be kind, be calm and be safe"

~ DR. BONNIE HENRY

Introduction Service

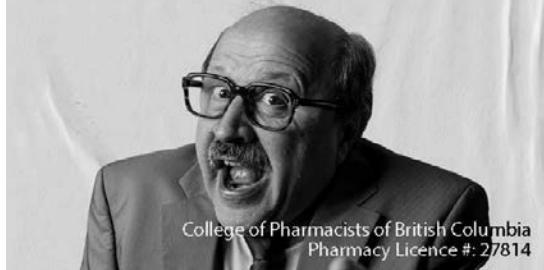
Introduction Service



VIAGRA PRESCRIPTIONS

Order yours online through a Licensed BC Doctor at ManUpHealth.ca.

DISCREET. DELIVERED. GO TO MANUPHEALTH.CA



College of Pharmacists of British Columbia Pharmacy Licence #: 27814



Say Happy Birthday... Happy Anniversary... Congratulations on your New Baby... you name it, we can celebrate it! **\$62.52 includes photo!!**



250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Road driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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

www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com

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

Last week's Solar Eclipse comes to its First Quarter phase, or half moon, this week. By now, the impact of it should be evident, but sometimes there is a delay and it comes to objective clarity at the Full Moon, and/or it manifests as a series of synchronistic events, again coming to fuller awareness within the first two weeks. Without the astrological knowledge of what these synchronicities imply, it is common for people to chalk them up to coincidences subject to the circumstantial flow of outer events and, thereby, miss out on understanding the deeper synchronicities implied. In other words, the ego-mind relegates the events according to lower-minded perspectives.

The higher mind awareness reveals clarity regarding our destiny and offers valuable insights to understanding the synchronicities of life as opportunities for evolutionary growth of the soul. In short, we can either live in the lower mind of random circumstances as we tend to our ego-centric perspectives, or we can awaken to live life consciously and with vision in accordance with the purpose of our incarnation. This is the wisdom that astrology can provide.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

As Summer Solstice fast approaches, you find yourself focused on completing projects started earlier in the season to make room for some fun in the sun. Yet, creating a beautiful home is a feature of your desire to contribute to a happy family life, so you are willing to make the extra effort. In the background, you are beginning to see things more clearly and precisely.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

A busy time continues. Multi-tasking may seem to be the new norm for you. Yet, in as much as you deem your efforts to be creative, you are happy. Where others are completing renovation projects, you may be just getting started or are launching new projects. Positively, your focus has been strong, yet you should focus and be aware to not lapse into inflexibility, especially now when versatility is the key.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Many new perspectives have been activated by last week's Solar Eclipse. It indicates an invitation to think critically at a whole new level of depth. At least this was its potential, but it does depend on your willingness to be receptive to see and interpret yourself and reality differently. A rebellious impulse is either pushing you to greater defence or to question popular opinions.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Some measure of retreat or turning inward to meditate and contemplate more deeply upon what is true and what you have come to believe will be activated by this eclipse. The compelling fact is that just because you believe something does not mean it is true. Courage and resolve is required to see truly and denying it won't help much either, at least not in any genuinely spiritual sense.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

A boost to your sense of originality and/or individuality is now underway. With Mercury retrograde, it could lead you to wishful thinking or over-idealistic interpretations regarding others. Therefore, avoid assumptions and listen more as you communicate. Consider that objective reality is the illusion that we partake in since we all experience it subjectively.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

The influence of this eclipse is slated to continue until the next eclipse season in six months. So, during this time and starting now, you will experience activation in your public life and professional arena. Mars in Cancer at the time of the eclipse will push you to a rebellious and/or revolutionary assertion, and now in Leo, requires courage.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

The air element factor of this eclipse aligns well with your air sign nature. However, Mercury is destined to play a role at this time, leaving you feeling a little lost and confused. This is a temporary factor, but it could last a while, months even, yet with increasingly less potency. Other factors point to a drive to get to the bottom of things, yet may require new tools and guidance.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

You have entered a complex cycle. It was anchored with the eclipse, and will linger for a while, as long as several months in extreme instances. However, other more favourable cycles are serving to soften some of the edge. Positively, these impulses can be harnessed to increase your power and influence in the world. Free your mind and the rest will follow.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Fresh starts in your relationship life have been activated. The pursuit of new kinds of knowledge is featured. You will have to discipline your focus to achieve this successful piece. With your confidence levels rising, this is probably a good time to start. Your energy levels and with heightened ambitions, combined, makes this a good time to reach for your dreams.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Many new thoughts regarding what you deem true and important are running through your mind. At worst, you feel overwhelmed with information and scattered in your perspectives and focus. Positively, your powers of critical analysis are stronger than usual, yet so too is your susceptibility to be influenced. So, you may want to direct your vigilance to what you are learning and the reliability of the source.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

You have entered a creative cycle. Yet, Mercury retrograde is contributing layers of complexity blocking you from interpreting reality as clearly as you might believe. This influence will be alleviated over the coming weeks, albeit possibly slowly. Circumstances may be requiring you to give more, yet you may feel reluctant to do so. In fact, you are more inclined to rebel and even fight than to idly yield.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Changes close to home in close time proximity to this Solar Eclipse — perhaps a bit prior or perhaps coming to full consciousness soon — is a central theme now. It probably has already activated a strong resolve to make some measurable changes to your usual approach. This trend will continue throughout the summer season, so tune in to get a lot done.



HAROLD CONRAD BLANES

April 3, 1920 - May 22, 2021



Harold died rather suddenly from an Aortic Aneurysm. He walked to Lady Minto on the Wednesday, and whilst in Emergency complained of chest pains, finding out he had an Aortic Aneurysm Dissection from a CT scan on the Friday, and he died on the Saturday. He was 101 years old.

Harold Conrad Blanes was one of 11 children born to Norwegian parents, Inge Helene and Edwin Conrad, who eventually settled in the Peace River Country of Alberta. Harold was very proud of his homesteading family and their self-sufficiency, which included building their house from logs cleared from the land they farmed, and growing or foraging/hunting most of their food. The only money they had was from the sale of butter made by his mother, turkeys sold at Christmas to pay for presents; and pelts from their hunting and sold to the Hudson Bay Company. Harold amusingly continued to refer to the shops he liked to frequent as his "Trapline". Harold was as sharp as a tack and everyone, of all ages, loved to hear his stories and recollections.

A proud veteran of WWII, Harold received numerous medals, including France's highest honour, the French Legion of Honour, for his participation in the liberation of France. After the War, Harold worked for Mannix on coal mining in the Crowsnest Pass, then on the Trans Mountain Pipeline in the late 1940s to the early 1950s, then for the Canadian Western Natural Gas Company in Calgary for 26 years, retiring in 1981. He spent his last 32 years in British Columbia, first in Peachland, and for his final 3 years on Salt Spring Island, spending 2 1/2 happy years at Heritage Place, where he was loved by residents and staff alike, and many of his final wishes were granted, including being served the BEST liver and onions made by the manager, Sandi Muller.

An unfulfilled wish was to finally have a resolution to the corruption he was a victim of by the investment industry of BC and Canada, where he was mistreated by two investment companies as well as the government appointed regulators. He was tormented by this injustice to his dying day.

Predeceased by his beloved son David in 1981, and wife Gladys in 2007, Harold is survived by his sons Alan and Gary (Nina); daughter Alda; grandchildren Hue (Shessy), Alena, Derick, Alex (Lucy), and Zena (Gord); as well as great-grandchildren, Gemma and Boden. He will be truly missed.

The family wishes to thank the staff and residents of Heritage Place for their love and kindness, and to nurse Rebecca, Dr. Butcher, and Dr. Reznick, for the compassion shown to Harold at his deathbed.

Harold was laid to rest with David and Gladys in Okotoks, Alberta. Messages of remembrance may be left for the family at www.southcalgaryfuneralcentre.ca

WE ARE #1

Your Gulf Islands Driftwood has been honoured with a Gold Award for General Excellence in this year's Ma Murray Awards celebrating the best in community journalism in BC and the Yukon.

A heartfelt thank you to our readers, contributors and advertisers for supporting us in so many ways!



MEET THE TEAM

 Nancy Johnson PUBLISHER	 Gail Sjuberg MANAGING EDITOR	 Lorraine Sullivan PRODUCTION MANAGER	 Johanna Walkner OFFICE MANAGER
 Elizabeth Nolan REPORTER	 Bonnie Steeves ACCOUNT MANAGER	 Damian Richards CIRCULATION/DISTRIBUTION	 Dennis Parker CARTOONIST

Driftwood GULF ISLANDS
250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Road
driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com • gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Ma Murray
COMMUNITY NEWS MEDIA
Awards 2021

PHILANTHROPY

Spring grants shared

Foundation funds wide range of projects

The Salt Spring Island Foundation recently announced the approval of \$101,930 in spring grants to island charities. The 2021 spring grants support essential programs and services, including three capacity-building grants to foster significant organizational improvement in areas of board development, operations and strategic planning.

Institute for Sustainability Education and Action partnered with Transition Salt Spring Society: Capacity-Building for Climate Action

- \$7,082 for a capacity-building grant to build organizational capacity as the island's climate action leader and to spur achievement of a 50 per cent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

Stqeeye' Learning Society: Tending Our Roots

- \$7,500 for a capacity-building grant to undertake strategic planning and board development to build policies and procedures for this organization to be a leader addressing pressing community and global issues such as reconciliation, ecological restoration, land stewardship and climate change mitigation, and preserving Indigenous history on the Island.

Islanders Working Against Violence

- \$7,500 for a capacity-building grant to work with expert consultants at operationalizing diversity, inclusion and equity principles into IWAV's team and programs and to support a communication strategy that reflects these changes.

Gulf Islands Families Together Society

- \$5,000 for creative expression sessions with a certified art therapist for individuals and groups from GIFTS and Choices with a celebratory art show recognizing the makers. Sessions will be held weekly with some breaks for most of 2021 either virtually or safely at in-person gatherings.

Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary

- \$5,400 for design and construction of renovations to the existing thrift store in order to enhance the flow of patrons, volunteers and second-hand goods as well as providing a relocation of the administrative office for the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society.

Big Brothers Big Sisters

- \$2,000 for mentoring on school property during school time to boost confidence and self-esteem for vulnerable students (ages six to 11 years) matched with secondary students (ages 14 to 18 years) who gain valuable leadership, relationship-building and volunteer experience in their community.

SSI Community Services

- \$750 for projection equipment to be used in the newly revitalized Core Inn space for youth mental health and social programming.

Salt Spring Arts Council

- \$5,000 for a community engagement process to create a Cultural Facilities Framework informed by a multi-generational lens, local demographic shifts and best practices in facilities planning. The project aims to build on the feasibility study completed by Graffiti Theatre in 2020 and will explore potential at the middle school building as well as look beyond at local cultural and arts facility needs.

SSI Farmland Trust Society

- \$5,000 for consulting assistance to strengthen its management and administrative systems, and planning and policy structures in support of addressing pandemic recovery needs and the new services it will be providing in the coming year, including operation of a community composter and introduction of new programming with the opening of The Root.

Salt Spring Literacy: Computer Access Program

- \$2,500 for a management pilot to distribute technology for tutoring (laptops and tablets) that will be made available to seniors and families in need, as identified through the Salt Spring Literacy Program.

Cooperative Preschool: Garden Fencing

- \$4,872 towards fencing newly acquired back yard space to expand the area for learning and play at the preschool.

Capital Regional District: Emergency Prep

- \$6,141 for new CREST radios to serve every POD neighbourhood and to replace outdated GMRS radios as well as a portable automated external defibrillator for use by the island's emergency program.

KidSport: So All Kids Can Play

- \$7,500 to directly support sports registration grants for children and youth on Salt Spring Island whose families demonstrate financial need, thus requiring funding assistance for youth participation in organized sport. Salt Spring Island comprised 11 per cent of total requests for such assistance across the region in 2020.

SS Historical Society: Tech Upgrade

- \$2,600 towards computers and accessories for the Salt Spring Archives workstations to replace out of date hardware and software.

Beaver Point Hall Association

- \$10,000 towards the project to replace the 85-year-old floor of this heritage building and community hub.

Viva Choral

- \$3,500 to purchase recording equipment for choir rehearsals that will enhance at-home learning and participation by members who are unable to participate in person for health reasons. The grant may also contribute toward amplification equipment for outdoor concerts and may be made available for other community groups, as well.

Little Red Schoolhouse

- \$1,300 for plumbing and potable water treatment to address levels of lead that exceeded the Canadian Drinking Water Guidelines.

School District Projects

- **Phoenix Elementary Outdoor Learning Improvement** - \$3,885 for a new mural by an Indigenous artist that reflects the core elements of the school's Indigenous Education Enhancement Agreement, as well as key landscaping and revival of the school garden areas for enhanced learning environments.
- **Gulf Islands Secondary School Laptops** - \$5,000 to help reduce the digital divide and provide more frequent access to technology; with the goal of moving towards technology for every student at all times in the classroom.
- **Fulford Elementary School Garden** - \$4,000 for deer fencing to provide effective enclosure against deer browsing and to remediate the learning environment at the garden.
- **Gulf Islands Secondary School Robotics** - \$5,400 towards new field of play equipment and design components for enhanced youth participation in state-of-the-art STEM learning and virtually adapted robotics competitions.