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HEALTH CARE

Emergency room appeal launched



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Lady Minto Hospital staff show their enthusiasm for the new emergency department that will be constructed in the current hospital parking lot area where they are standing. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation is leading a community campaign to raise \$2 million this summer so the \$10.4-million project can get built as soon as possible.

Foundation sets target of \$2 million in community campaign

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring residents are being asked to contribute to a new emergency department for the island's hospital, as the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation kicks off a dedicated "Strengthen Our Lifeline" fundraising drive this week.

Plans to replace the current emergency room (ER) space have been underway for several years. While Island Health would not commit to capital funding for the project, when \$3 million in Capital Regional Hospital District funds were secured last October, the LMHF decided to raise and contribute the remaining funds.

As of today, the 240-square-metre (4,500-square-foot) facility comes with a \$10.4-million price tag. The LMHF is committed to providing \$7.4 million of that total and still needs to raise \$2 million from the broader community.

"We are asking the community at large to please get behind this and put us over the top so we can build the new ER, which we firmly believe will ultimately be of benefit to every single per-

son on this island," LMHF chair Dave Taylor told the Driftwood last week.

Anybody who has been in or around the current emergency department will know that the 63-year-old space is woefully inadequate, primarily due to its small size and configuration.

Carol Biely is a LMHF board member who is thrilled to be chairing the fundraising campaign committee for such an important project.

"Who hasn't been in there and come away with three comments . . . 'Oh boy, didn't have much privacy in there! Second, how on earth do those wonderful staff work in that cramped space? How do they do it day after day?' And then recently, of course, 'How are they really coping with infection control issues' because it is so small."

Taylor said the new ER plan was developed after consultation with hospital and Island Health staff, and the facility should be able to serve the island's population for the next several decades.

"It is a really good plan," he said. "It deals with the infection control problem in an effective way. It provides space for the medical team and their

equipment — safely. That is a real issue when you have an emergency trauma case: Just getting the equipment and the team around the patient to triage them and stabilize them and get them over to Victoria [if needed]."

The new emergency department will have a triage desk and waiting room, and the nursing station will have better sight lines so staff can keep an eye on all patient bays.

"There is a dedicated room for mental health and substance use treatment, which is at the front end of the issues we face on this island," Taylor added.

In addition to contributing more than \$1.4 million of LMHF reserve funds, fundraising team members have been working intensely for the past six months, directly contacting individuals and organizations deemed to be supportive. Among the \$4 million in pledges gathered to date are two \$1-million donations from individuals who wish to remain anonymous at this point.

LADY MINTO continued on 2

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Foundation aims to meet target by Thanksgiving

LADY MINTO

continued from 1

Biely said the foundation is delighted with the level of support shown so far.

"It just speaks to this wonderful community that really believes in this hospital. It has given us the confidence to move forward on this community campaign."

The LMHF team is also pleased that the Salt Spring Island Foundation has made a major contribution with \$100,000 from the Shaw Family Community Fund.

"We believe this contribution honours the legacy of the Shaw family, an island farming family that resolutely supported our community," said SSIF chair Brian Lawson. "The Lady Minto Hospital and emergency department are an essential and important service for our island com-

munity and one with significant benefit for all, now and into the future."

Kirsten Reite Architecture of Vancouver, which specializes in designing health-care facilities, is the contracted architectural firm. The project is currently at the detailed design phase, and should go to tender this fall. Once all approvals are received, actual construction is expected to take 15 months. A May 2023 opening is the goal.

Biely and Taylor are confident the expansion can be completed for \$10.4 million, despite the current climate of rising construction costs, with \$2.7 million of the total consisting of three significant contingencies. (As well, \$400,000 has already been added to last year's estimate due to rising lumber and other material costs.)



IMAGE COURTESY LADY MINTO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION

Rendering of the future emergency department at Lady Minto Hospital.

People who want to donate to the campaign can visit the website ladyminto-foundation.com/lifeline or respond to the brochure that should be in island mailboxes this week.

The foundation hopes the \$2 million

needed can be secured by Thanksgiving and encourages everyone to contribute what they can.

"We want everybody to feel it is their project, because it is their hospital and everybody cares about it," said Biely.

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ISLANDS TRUST

Policy update alarms islanders



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Myles Wilson, centre with microphone, expresses concerns about a proposed ban on future private dock construction in the Trust Area that has appeared in a draft revised Islands Trust Policy Statement, as well as the process involved in creating the draft to date, at an ASK Salt Spring session on Friday.

Trustee stresses public input period on draft just beginning

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Residents of many communities in the Islands Trust Area have become concerned about a project to update the Trust Policy Statement, but officials say any changes that have been proposed are far from the "done deal" some people have proclaimed.

Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick said Friday she had received many phone calls and emails from people who were upset Islands Trust Council is scheduled to consider first reading of a new draft policy statement without the public being invited to comment on it first.

"It is the right way to go forward," Patrick said regarding first reading. "It's going to be fair and transparent and out there, and this is the way to do it. Let's get a proper draft on the table, and then let's get feedback on it."

Patrick also faced questions about the issue from a crowd of about 50 residents at Friday's ASK Salt Spring session in the United Church meadow who felt the Trust was trying to push through major changes without proper public consultation.

Patrick noted the Trust's programs committee has produced an evolving document under the "Islands 2050" project, with two sets of amendments to date in order to present an initial version for Trust Council's consideration. At least two different versions of the draft have been circulating through social media since the programs committee's last meeting on June 15 and neither one is correct, she said.

Patrick said there are parts of the proposed amendments she doesn't agree with herself, but she is committed to the sequence of events. Many more amendments and editing can be expected before the statement gets to second reading, and even after that.

"I'm not blessing the policy — I'm blessing the process," Patrick said.

People who are concerned that massive changes are coming without any chance to stop them have listed several key issues of concern. Top of mind for some is a proposed amendment that would prohibit new private docks through the entire Trust area, along with seawalls and other hard surfaces at the shoreline. Changes to definitions about agriculture and forestry as valuable traditional activities have also been flagged. Due to new areas of focus on reconciliation and climate change, draft language proposes that small-scale sustainable agriculture that increases local food security be prioritized. Maintaining tree cover as a priority has also been added to one draft.

John Money, a Saturna resident who formerly served as an islands trustee for 21 years, has written to several provincial ministries to protest what he terms to be a "heavy handed" policy statement and "an abuse of power" that would negate a local Trust committee's ability to meet their community's unique situations. Money said the process should be paused until town hall meetings can be conducted in person.

"A major policy review that dictates to every community and their official community plans should be taken out to each and every community, to as many local meetings as it takes for residents to understand and come to some kind of consensus," Money wrote. "For the

Islands Trust to expect the residents of all the communities in the Trust area to go onto the Islands Trust website to find the huge number of changes being done with no consultation is unrealistic, undemocratic and very poor thinking; I would go so far as to say that a very limited number of residents even know that this is happening."

The Islands Trust issued a statement Friday assuring constituents the project is still in its early phase and that plenty of opportunities for input will be offered. The first formal opportunity will be a town hall session taking place on Zoom from 7 to 9 p.m. on July 7. The event runs the evening before Islands Trust Council considers first reading of the draft policy statement amendments.

"This is typically the stage where people get more deeply interested and comment on specific proposed policies," Trust Council chair Peter Luckham observed in the statement. "We invite everyone to read the document cover to cover to get a complete understanding about what is being proposed, the rationale and the commitment to reconciliation."

Luckham said people will have at least three months after first reading to provide feedback by email or letter, and there will also be a survey open for several weeks. Information about the draft bylaw will be provided on the Islands Trust website and at online open houses.

"All feedback will be considered as we work towards a revised version for second reading," Luckham said.

More information, including the Islands 2050 project timeline, can be found at islandstrust.bc.ca.

For a story on Friday's ASK Salt Spring session, see the gulfislandsdriftwood.com website.

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
23	0133	3.3	10.8	27	0101	2.9	9.5
	0924	0.1	0.3		0436	3.1	10.2
	WE 1748	3.3	10.8		SU 1228	0.1	0.3
ME 2134	2.9	9.5	DI 2050	3.5	11.5		
24	0212	3.4	11.2	28	0214	2.7	8.9
	1008	-0.1	-0.3		0530	2.9	9.5
	TH 1837	3.4	11.2		MO 1314	0.4	1.3
JE 2241	3.0	9.8	LU 2128	3.4	11.2		
25	0257	3.3	10.8	29	0327	2.5	8.2
	1054	-0.1	-0.3		0628	2.6	8.5
	FR 1924	3.5	11.5		TU 1358	0.7	2.3
VE 2350	2.9	9.5	MA 2203	3.4	11.2		
26	0345	3.3	10.8	30	0436	2.2	7.2
	1141	-0.1	-0.3		0745	2.4	7.9
	SA 2008	3.5	11.5		WE 1441	1.0	3.3
SA			ME 2234	3.3	10.8		

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PARKS AND RECREATION

Kanaka maintenance yard rezoning paused

PARC seeks more info on Rainbow Road potential

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission has reconsidered a plan to rezone two lots on Kanaka Road as maintenance yards with their Rainbow Road recreation site newly raised as a possible alternative.

The Capital Regional District commission voted at their April meeting to direct staff to pursue rezoning of the adjoining properties at 210 and 220 Kanaka Rd., where a modular staff building and storage yards are currently located. That step would bring the existing use into zoning compliance and facilitate new building construction to replace the aging structure.

After discussing the matter again

on June 15, some commissioners agreed with staff that Kanaka Road is the best option under the circumstances. A small majority, however, decided more information was needed about Rainbow Road.

"I'm very concerned about a contentious rezoning application, how long it's going to take and what it's going to do to our reputation in the community," said commissioner John Gauld, who emerged as a strong supporter of the Rainbow Road option.

Some concerns that commissioners have raised with the Kanaka Road plan include bringing increased traffic through a residential neighbourhood, being adjacent to Gulf Islands Secondary School and a desire for more housing. The existing zoning and a historic density transfer from PARC to a developer, in which the conditions were never fulfilled, has led some to suggest the property would be an ideal location for an

affordable housing project.

Commissioner Randy Cunningham said his main concern was the rezoning process. Staff have suggested it may be changing the definition of the use to public services might be sufficient.

"Trying to get anything through the Islands Trust these days is a bear. So if it is just a definition issue, Kanaka would seem to be the better risk to take," Cunningham said.

Commissioners and staff mainly agree the third option of Portlock Park is not preferred, in part because it is already heavily used by a variety of different sports competing for space. A master plan for reconfiguration is being developed.

"I would hate to see the planning and opportunities at Portlock Park be constrained by having a substantial maintenance yard there," commissioner Drew Bodaly commented. "And it seems to me, having trucks and other industrial equipment and buildings is a bit incompatible with Portlock

Park as a recreational area, and would constrain what we could do in the public consultation process and the decisions ... We want bigger playing fields, we want bigger courts to play on. We want a lot of different things at Portlock Park in the future. If we put a maintenance yard there we tie one hand behind our backs before we even get started."

Salt Spring Parks and Rec manager Dan Ovington outlined a number of issues with the Rainbow Road property as well. The zoning allows maximum lot coverage of 25 per cent. It currently has an aquatic centre and a daycare building and a new multi-use room is under construction.

Gauld pointed out the Rainbow Road property is 7.82 acres in size and could therefore legally host nearly two acres of building, or 85,000 square feet.

"Basically you could build two new hockey rinks on that property, and you still wouldn't have 25 per

cent coverage ... so it really doesn't make sense to me to rile up the neighbourhood when we have a property that has all sorts of built area permitted," Gauld said.

Ovington said another problem with Rainbow Road is construction would likely need to be located in the forested area, but that forest is a former heron rookery and laws state any nests must fall down naturally before the trees they are in can be removed.

"One of the concerns there is it is the only property zoned for indoor recreation," added commission chair Sonja Collombin. "Portlock is our biggest outdoor recreation property — Rainbow Road has the future of any indoor recreation. And second to that, we have to consider that cutting down trees for a maintenance yard is not optional. We have to consider that is just as contentious for the public."

Ovington will report back at an upcoming meeting.

COVID-19

'Near normal' return to school expected in September

Province ends learning group requirement

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

School District 64 administrators are shifting gears to produce school timetables for this fall that will closely resemble pre-pandemic days.

B.C. Education Minister Jennifer Whiteside and provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry announced Thursday that schools won't have to use the learning group model to keep students and teachers in small cohorts come September. That means timetables with more movement between classrooms and other activities will be permitted as long as COVID-19 transmission rates in the province stay low.

Henry said provincial data shows schools were not significant sources of COVID-19 transmission, and with high vaccination rates throughout B.C., those measures will no longer be necessary.

"This was a very different school year for everyone, and school communities have done an exemplary job adapting to the challenges we all faced," Henry said during the announcement. "Now, as we transition to a new phase and continue with immunizations throughout the province, students and educators can look forward to returning to a school environment that will be much closer to what they are accustomed to."

At Gulf Islands Secondary School, the announcement means the quarterly timetable used for the current school year will be replaced with the more usual semester system.

"Administration would like to personally thank our entire school community (students, staff, parents and community) for their resilience and ability to adapt to the quarter system," states a message sent out Thursday. "Continuing to support student success at GISS is at the heart of what we do, and it was evident all year long in our classrooms, around the school grounds, in our hallways and even at the Farmers' Institute."

Ian Mitchell, president of the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association, said teachers are so busy wrapping up the end of the school year that he hadn't had time to digest what the shift back will mean. However, he's found teachers and students alike are especially exhausted this June and COVID has added a new dynamic. In general, he feels optimistic about leaving the learning group program behind.

"We the teachers were not big fans of the cohort situation anyway," Mitchell said.

SD64 superintendent of schools Scott Benwell agreed the news is optimistic.

"I get the sense that students, staff and families are all looking forward to a more normal September," Benwell said. "I think it's fair to say people are weary of the pandemic and anything that points to normality in our lives is a good thing, and that is equally true of education."

Benwell further noted the Gulf Islands district had fared well, with no reported transmission of the coronavirus at school or on district transportation.

"Staff should be recognized for a very safe operation during the pandemic," he said.

According to the provincial announcement, guidance on wearing masks in school settings

will be confirmed later this summer in alignment with broader provincial direction for the fall and winter.

"Students will continue to be required to complete daily health checks, stay home when feeling sick and practise diligent hand hygiene. Public health teams and school health officers will continue to closely monitor cases of COVID-19 in schools and the community, and will continue to provide support and guidance as schools return in the fall."

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~ GYLE AND SAM

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OPINION



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

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



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EDITORIAL

Lifeline leadership

Few facilities or institutions on Salt Spring Island touch all residents' lives.

Of the ones that do, Lady Minto Hospital probably tops the list for impact. And within our much-loved community hospital, the emergency room (ER) may be the most important corner of the place.

Anyone who has been in the ER will know that the space is no longer adequate for the demand, and that's been the case for a long time. The few available beds provide no privacy whatsoever, and hospital and ambulance service staff must work in an extremely tight space. The ability to deal with emergency mental health and substance use issues is severely handicapped, something that will be addressed by dedicated space for that purpose in the new ER.

Knowing the hospital's importance to community members, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF), which provides funds for equipment purchases, staff training and other needs, decided to take the lead on fundraising for a new ER. When the Capital Regional District Board agreed last fall to contribute \$3 million through its hospital district function, the goal seemed attainable.

Through use of \$1.4 million of its reserves, and \$4 million already pledged, the \$10.4 million total required is in sight for the hospital foundation. To gather the remaining \$2 million, the LMHF has created a community campaign with a tag line of Strengthen Our Lifeline. A brochure with a donation form has gone out to all Salt Spring Island mailboxes, and the ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline page has more information and can accept donations online.

It is true that the foundation could use more of its reserves to fund the rest of the project, but as foundation chair Dave Taylor and capital campaign chair Carol Biely point out, the hospital has many other needs requiring foundation funds in the near future.

As well, a dedicated community campaign gives islanders a sense of ownership in the new facility. When the ER opens sometime in 2023, everyone who has contributed in the coming months will feel they have helped build something truly meaningful for Salt Spring.

Lady Minto Hospital has never felt like a soul-less healthcare institution. It really is the beating heart of our community, and a new emergency department will keep it that way for decades to come.

THE ISSUE: Emergency department campaign

WE SAY: Worthy of support



Power struggle continues

BY FRANTS ATTORP

The spirit of Machiavelli lives on. For proof, look no further than the review of the Islands Trust Policy Statement, the umbrella document that is supposed to preserve and protect the Gulf Islands into the future.

The saga of the review started in the fall of 2019 with an extensive — and expensive — public consultation process called Islands 2050. That exercise, which involved 24 events and generated input from about 1,500 people, confirmed that the vast majority of respondents valued nature and were concerned, above all, with protection of the natural environment.

Given these results, one would think Trust Council would immediately make environmental protection its top priority, but not so! The March 2021 meeting saw the defeat of two separate motions to do just this.

Those who voted down the motions have given various reasons. Salt Spring's Laura Patrick repeats her sustainable development mantra even as environmental indicators flash red across the Trust Area, while Gambier trustee Dan Rogers pushes the faux argument that prioritizing the environment would preclude all development.

VIEWPOINT

Despite this tragic turn, the draft policy statement now lists the following as a guiding principle: "Trust Council commits to place priority on preserving and protecting the integrity of the environment and Indigenous cultural heritage in all decision-making." Huh? Wasn't the environmental part just defeated?

A second guiding principle says "the primary responsibility of Trust Council is to provide leadership for the preservation and protection of the unique amenities and environment of the Trust Area." This contradicts the above guiding principle since Trust Council decided in 1994 that "unique amenities" includes community needs. How can the Trust prioritize both the natural environment and the forces that damage it?

Nothing makes sense, but there's an even greater conundrum: the policy statement on its own is toothless without the policy statement Implementation, a totally separate document that instructs local Trust committees how to comply with the policy statement.

Unfortunately, that document contains various escape

clauses allowing local Trust committees to circumvent the policy statement, including when there are problems "balancing two or more components of the policy statement that cannot be achieved simultaneously." Could there be a more blatant admission that social, economic and environmental goals are conflicting?

But there's more. Even though the implementation document is supposed to reflect the contents of the policy statement, it does not currently identify anything as a priority. "Policy statement implementation" is considered an in-house document and, as such, is not open to public discussion during the policy statement review. So much for transparency and public process!

If you are wondering what's going on, be aware there is a massive power struggle taking place within the Islands Trust and it's causing great confusion. Some have likened it to an identity crisis.

In the end, protection of the islands will depend on who we elect as trustees, but having a clear policy statement along with implementation directives that reflect the will of the people can't hurt. Send your comments to Trust Council at execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca.

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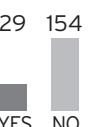
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Do you feel Trust Council will heed public policy statement feedback?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

“Trying to get anything through the Islands Trust these days is a bear.”

RANDY CUNNINGHAM, SSI PARC MEMBER

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What's your strategy for dealing with the heat wave?*

SHANE WILSON



Jump in the lake.

JESSICA HILL



Get some forest time and probably make some watermelon slushies.

SHELDON HEPPNER



Having a hot coffee in the shade.

TERESA WHITEHOUSE



Doing as little as possible and wearing lots of sunscreen.

THOMAS JOHN



I guess kayaking. That's my afternoon plan.

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

Firefighters get kudos

On behalf of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board of trustees, I am writing today to thank our Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue members for their excellent work at the Windsor Plywood fire on June 1.

The fire was called in by a member of the public and identified as alarm bells at Murakami Gardens. Thanks to our new 24/7 staffing model, a fully equipped fire engine was on scene within minutes and the call was identified as a commercial structure fire at Windsor Plywood.

Historically, a duty officer would have responded to the scene from their home in a vehicle without water and it may have taken that officer

up to 15 minutes to get there, depending on where they lived. This case shows the new staffing model is unquestionably improving response times.

While the main building was lost, the fact that the surrounding buildings and materials were saved is remarkable, especially given the massive fuel load within the main building and the radiant heat from the resulting fire. An investigator had said during his review that he had anticipated the surrounding buildings and materials would have been destroyed.

Our fire department used strategic water placement with limited resources to achieve this save. The single most important fact is that there were no injuries, either to the public or among the 26 members that responded with eight appara-

tus in the over 16 hours it took to control the fire. This speaks to the fantastic management of such a dangerous event.

We would like to extend a special thank you to our paid-on-call volunteers who showed up and worked to the point of exhaustion. I would also like thank the employers of those members for allowing them to be of service to the community when they were needed. Our community depends on their availability and willingness to act in these times of crisis.

We would also like to put on record our appreciation for all the efforts by individuals and local businesses to support Windsor Plywood and its employees in these challenging times for the firm.

PER SVENDSEN,
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES,
SSI FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

Don't delay federal climate bill

I don't think they get it . . . the Liberal Party of Canada that is.

Hurrying to break for the summer they wish to leave Bill C-12, Canada's climate law, on the table.

Oh yes, now I see it, there is a part of the bill that will legally bind them to emission targets. That would be an uncomfortable fit for the Liberals. Delay and inaction on this nation's most pressing issue, climate change, is where they're at.

This is no way to win the votes they crave.

We can't afford to wait.

KATHLEEN MASER,
SALT SPRING

On-island water and forest practices prove sound

BY DIANNE CLEMENT

Over the last months we have been presented with many letters and opinions on water resources and forest practices, which I have read with interest and incredible distress. As a senior who has owned land on Salt Spring Island since the 1960s I feel I must comment on both the conclusions and lobbying that has taken place to reach these conclusions.

Several years ago, the Trust hired a well-respected consulting firm, Golder and Associates, to do a study of wells and water resources on Salt Spring Island. I sat in on several community information sessions and I was impressed with the organization and presentations. The impression I was left with was one of an island where the water resources were plentiful, and I believe they concluded that the water resources were sufficient to support a much larger population. They talked about recharge rates of existing wells, and overflow being much the same as it has been for years.

At the conclusion of the study, I felt confidence in the water resources on Salt Spring, so imagine my surprise when I discovered that this was one of many water studies done since 1995. Many do not have definitive conclusions, but only suggest new things for the next study to investigate. It appeared to me that the Trust did not get the answer they wanted and went looking for a new consultant to tell them what they wanted to hear.

About the same time, I was contacted by the Ministry of Environment with a concern about a "pond" which my family had filled in the 1950s. Several dams throughout the province had ruptured, causing significant damage and resulting in the ministry looking at all ponds with the intention of getting rid of them or having them completely deconstructed and rebuilt at the owner's cost. After hiring an engineer (as required by the province), who I must say concluded that our pond was one of the safest he had ever seen, I approached the Trust for support in keeping our pond. I was turned down and in short order decommissioned the pond, dumping an estimated five million gallons of water, destroying the habitat for a few beaver families and many owls who lived and

INDEPTH

bathed in the pond. It also affected the water table for all the surrounding homes and the community well for Scott Point as previously the seasonal stream would dry but the water continued to seep from the pond into the ground throughout the summer and fall.

But the most ridiculous water situation is very recent. A good friend, who lives close to but not adjacent to St. Mary Lake, applied to build a garage and harvest the rainwater. She was told that she could not harvest the water but must let the water run into a water garden, complete with swales, so that it will become "ground water." Please explain how this is different than watering a vegetable garden and letting the water become "ground water."

The same level of foolishness has infected discussion of our forests. Most Salt Spring residents are very protective of our forests. This is not to say that trees are not cut down for many reasons, but most of us want to be surrounded by the natural forest and the wildlife in it. Occasionally, we see a large clear cut, which many of us regret, but if you drive down any residential road on Salt Spring, you cannot help but be impressed by the towering trees, fir, hemlock, cedar, maple, arbutus and other varieties, which dwarf the homes built in the shadows of the trees. Most of these trees are second growth as the island was substantially logged in the early 1900s. We do not need to have endless regulations passed to protect these trees; the residents have demonstrated by their actions that they are up to the task. Some home builders remove the largest trees from a building site knowing that the smaller ones will fill in the gaps in a few years.

If it is necessary to prevent clearing a large acreage, develop a regulation which accomplishes that rather than the outrageous regulations suggested in the Douglas-fir ecosystem paper, which look like they could impact every homeowner on the island.

I wonder how many islanders realize that the Douglas-fir ecosystem covers a large portion of southwest British Columbia, including

Vancouver Island, the Gulf Islands, much of the area around Whistler and Sechelt and Vancouver-Surrey-White Rock. I believe this zone also extends into the northwest United States. How many other areas are covered by this cut restriction? None that I am aware of!

I am concerned that many of the advisory groups are lobbies for a specific goal. Whether it is to diminish farming on the island, or to control the shared water supplies or simply gather power into the hands of a few non-elected bureaucrats I do not know.

What I do know is that Salt Spring Island is a community of approximately 12,000 persons situated in a world of almost eight billion. If you chase all the residents off the island and let it completely return to nature, it will have essentially no impact on climate change. We are already one of the spaces with a clean and green mentality. We are efficient recyclers and composters, have more green vehicles and heat pumps per capita than almost anywhere in Canada and many of us try to practise a 100-mile diet or even Carolyn Herriot's The Zero Mile Diet to support local growers and limit long-distance trucking.

I am a firm believer in the science behind climate change. Moreover, I believe that each one of us must do our part in fighting this climate war, but that we do not all have to make the same changes. Many small changes can have a large effect. For example, think how many shoppers now carry reusable bags, an idea which was unthinkable 20 years ago, but which has saved a lot of plastic from the streets and landfills, as well as saving many trees from becoming paper bags. Governments need to be encouraged to support the transition from fossil fuel heating systems and vehicle fuel in a timely manner, but equally we all need to buy fewer disposable clothes and electronics, and use less cement and asphalt, all high on the emissions scale. There are many actions that each one of us can take voluntarily which will aid in the fight far more effectively than passing more government regulations.

The Islands Trust was put in place with a mandate to "preserve and protect," not to encourage extreme lobbies to overthrow the cherished way of life desired and protected by Salt Spring residents.

National Indigenous History Month marked

June is National Indigenous History Month, and it is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge all the children who lost their lives in the residential schools that were a pivotal part of the federal government policy to assimilate Indigenous people starting in the late 19th century and running until the 1990s.

In May, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Kukpi7 (Chief) Rosanne Casimir announced the preliminary findings of the bodies of 215 children on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. There were 18 such schools in British Columbia and many of the survivors, who have courageously shared their experiences in those schools, warn us to expect more stories of unmarked graves.

The federal and provincial government policy can be summed up in the statements of Duncan Campbell Scott, who was the Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs from 1913-1932. He said, "Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department."



Adam Olsen
MLA'S
REPORT

As we unpack the colonial history of British Columbia, our eyes are opening to the deplorable treatment of Indigenous people by European settlers.

Those Europeans claimed the land in North America was empty, that there were no humans living here. This is called the doctrine of terra nullius, meaning "nobody's land." Paired with the Doctrine of Discovery, going back to the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, which resolved non-Christian lands could be colonized, it resulted in Europeans asserting sovereignty to the land.

We now see these doctrines as racist. However, what many British Columbians do not know is that they are the foundation of our province, and they

are still at the heart of the laws, policies and practices of our government today.

On Oct. 7, 1763, King George issued the royal proclamation, which was the first legal recognition of aboriginal rights and title and is recognized in the Canadian Constitution. Now, 258 years later, the question about rights and title over the land remains at the centre of the protests and disputes that have occurred over the past decades.

To be clear, the conflict does not come from honouring human rights, it comes from denying and violating them.

It is important to acknowledge positive change. In recent years there has been an important evolution in Canadian society, following Idle No More (2012), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015) and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019).

In November 2019, the provincial government unanimously passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. This law ensures the entrenchment of the declaration, developed by the United Nations, over the next decade through a democratic

process.

British Columbia was the first jurisdiction in North America to pass such a law and included the commitment of government to develop an action plan and annual report.

These are critical accountability measures that allow us to understand the objectives of government and track their achievements. On June 11 the consultation draft of the action plan was released. It is the result of a collaborative process with Indigenous leadership organizations and represents the bare minimum of what government commits to accomplishing over the next five years.

We all have an individual and collective responsibility to reconcile the horrific history of how our Crown governments treated and continue to treat Indigenous people and nations.

I am thankful for all the people in Saanich North and the Islands who have reached out with love and compassion. I encourage you to continue to learn about our history and to demand that all orders of government do everything possible in advancing our commitments to a more just society.

COVID-19 IN BC

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Old growth poem

BY LIADAN FORD

FULFORD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL NATURE 4/5 CLASS

Old growth.

Our world is a beauty, all daisies and rue.

The wise old growth trees, strong and true.

The ancient remnants, from a time long ago,

The world of tree giants that sway to and fro.

Our great past was viewed and seen,

By the eldest of trees, they know everything.

All of the lives they cradle up there,

Held by their palms that dance in the air.

They know the way of the squirrel, the way of the bees,

The cultures of frog, the song of the breeze,

Trees cannot speak with gesture or word,

They are the keepers of secrets unheard.

Those who don't make a sound can sing like a bird.

To those who sit by trunk, nest in the tree,

With the perspective the old growth see,

The tree of the wood, the creature, the lake,

are all the world in the breathtaking view.

They can enlighten, with knowledge known few.

The loss of these trees is the loss of such wisdom.

The silent trees can mentor anyone who is with them.

Being with trees, being up in a tree, by the roots of the tree,

But mentally with the tree as well.

Look at the lofty branches, the strong guardians against the rain.

It's great trunk, scattered with it's children, the seeds.

Quietly mourning the deaths of it's hundreds of brothers and sisters,

Who once all stood tall, watching time through a soft sway with the breeze.

Murdered by the horrid greed of those who would not even flinch at the chopping of a great ancient tree.

By those who disrespect the lives of the squirrels, birds, trees, and count less others,

By those who think a tree is below them, that they are above all other walks of life.

The trees, unlike us human beings, are grand.

They are endlessly generous, in ways we never could be.

They are wise. Knowing and living longer and better.

These trees that are quiet and strong, yet we disrespect them.

At times we take and take insatiably, without giving back.

The trees are our superiors, our friends, relatives, and supporters.

The slaughter of these trees is a betrayal, for they have always been kind.

Great trees, stand strong till the end. Do not ever give in, defy the injustice.

To the trees we have lost, remembrance of your wisdom, majesty, and guidance.

All of them defenceless, forever rest in peace.

To those who are right and strong, protesting and speaking for the great trees, forever remember,

The courageous, the strong, the good,

Are kind.

Editor's note: Teacher Alison Bain said her student Liadan Ford wrote the above poem spontaneously after a presentation on the Fairy Creek issue and discussion about activism.

Self-interest, not charity, at play

BY GWYNNE DYER

At the recent G7 summit, U.S. president Joe Biden promised to distribute 500 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines free to the poorer countries by the middle of next year. That's more than a drop in the bucket, but not much more. A tablespoon in the bucket, perhaps.

And the other six "Gs" (Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom) have pledged around the same number of free jabs for poor countries on the same timetable. So around a year from now the seven richest Western countries will have given out around one billion free doses of COVID vaccines. Pretty generous, no?

No. China leads all the G7 countries combined in the number of doses it has delivered to poorer countries in Asia, Africa and Latin America. Most are sold at close to cost price, and sometimes, for the poorest, with cheap credit as an added attraction. Around half of all the doses going to the less-developed countries are Chinese.

China is not sacrificing its own people for this: it has already vaccinated about 40 per cent of its population, roughly the same ratio as the United States. Yet its share of the vaccines used in developing countries is likely to rise even further.

Well, good for China. Sure it's buying influence with its generosity, but what's wrong with that? If the G7 countries want to counter it, they shouldn't resort to cheap propaganda about Chinese vaccines being ineffective (they're not), and they shouldn't claim that they have to vaccinate all their own people first. Instead, try being equally generous.

But "generous" is actually the wrong word. "Self-interested" is a better word, because leaving large populations unvaccinated anywhere guarantees that new variants will arise, some of them more infectious and/or more deadly, and will spread into the countries that think they have made themselves safe.

Take India, for example. It had a quite good "first wave," with appar-

GUEST COLUMN

ently low COVID casualties. Everybody knew that there was some undercounting of fatalities, but the worst-case estimate was that the real Indian death rate might be five times higher, which would still be no worse than France.

Only three per cent of Indians are vaccinated, but Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government got so cocky that it authorized all sorts of crowd events like election campaigns and religious festivals, and then in early 2021 the "Indian variant" arrived. (Modi doesn't like that phrase, so we're now supposed to call it "Variant D.")

The first Variant D infection was only detected in England in April, but already accounts for 90 per cent of new infections there, and the U.K. has just extended its lockdown measures for another month.

The new variant swept through India like a scythe, with daily death tolls as high as Brazil or the United States in their worst moments. But of course India has four times as many people as the United States, so it wouldn't really be all that extraordinary even if its true death toll from COVID-19 were up to five times higher.

Recently, however, an enterprising Indian data journalist called Rukmini S., [who was] writing for online news site

Scroll.in, checked out the official statistics in the state of Madhya Pradesh. It turned out that total recorded deaths from all causes, known or unknown, had tripled in April and May.

Since there was no war, no natural disaster, no other plague striking Madhya Pradesh at that time, it makes sense to assume that the huge surge in deaths was mostly due to COVID-19. But on that assumption, COVID deaths in Madhya Pradesh in May were not five times higher but up to 42 times higher than the recorded COVID mortality figure.

Rukmini S. did a similar investigation for the state of Andhra Pradesh, and got similar results (34-fold higher). This is what happens when you have a still largely unvaccinated population and you take your eye off the ball. The virus mutates, and it spreads like wildfire.

Even a half-vaccinated population is not safe. The first Variant D infection was only detected in England in April, but it already accounts for 90 per cent of new infections there, and the U.K. has just extended its lockdown measures for another month.

Only 10 per cent of infected Americans have the Indian variant, but that just means they are six weeks behind the British. And while this variant, though much more infectious, is only a bit more lethal, other mutations of the virus may be less accommodating.

Nobody is safe until everybody is safe. Relative safety would require having 40 per cent of the world's population vaccinated by January, and 60 per cent by mid-2022, at a total cost, according to the International Monetary Fund, of around \$50 billion.

The billion doses promised by the G7 for mid-2022 just don't cut it, and even an extra billion from China is not enough. Two doses each for five billion people is what's needed. Or we can choose to live with the killer variants instead.

Gwynne Dyer's latest book is *Growing Pains: The Future of Democracy (and Work)*.

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DR RON REZNICK
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Rants + ROSES

Roses

From the happy camas, blue-eyed Mary and sea blush wildflowers — a patch of wild roses to all who tackled broom recently, and gave us space to grow. Wendy Hilliard

Wheelbarrows full of mixed roses to the Legion executive and especially Bruce Angus. He moved and stacked a cord of wood on his own time in very hot weather. That is community service to seniors "par excellence." Thank you isn't sufficient, but . . . Mollie Colson

Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society would like to thank everyone who came out to support our bottle drive and fundraising event on June 12.

Thanks to Emcon services, our road maintenance team, for quick and thorough work on the drainage ditches and culverts on Roland Road last week. Opening these has been needed for several years and they worked quickly, with great rapport and minimal wait times. Thanks too for whoever got this work facilitated. Dan Dickmeyer

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AGRICULTURE

Youth win big at island poultry show event

Second annual American Poultry Association event held on Salt Spring

SUBMITTED BY SSI POULTRY CLUB

The Salt Spring Island Poultry Club has continued to make an impact both on the island community and in the national poultry world with its engaged and growing club.

With more than 100 paying members and almost 350 participants in its online group, the club supports, educates and encourages poultry enthusiasts on the island and across Canada.

This past weekend the club was able to hold its second official American Poultry Association (APA) event where poultry of all shapes and sizes was brought to be judged by APA judge Ramona Tremblay.

With exhibitors from Kelowna, the Fraser Valley, Saanich, Coombs and Cobble Hill, Salt Spring was able to offer a competitive show, but it was an island teen who took the top title.

Izzy Nowell is a Gulf Islands Secondary School Grade 9 student who won Champion Junior and Champion Bantam titles for her Rhode Island Red bantam pullet last year, but this year won the show with another RIR hen. Nowell first started entering poultry at the 2014 Salt Spring Fall Fair under the wise eye of Michael Hogan, and with support of judge Tremblay and over the years has continued to improve her flock and her knowledge of the breeds she shows.

Nowell walked away with Grand Open Champion, Junior Champion, Champion Bantam and more for her one hen, and received Junior Reserve Champion honours for her white Serama pullet.

It is not common for a junior to take the show, so this was a huge win for Nowell, who will go on to show her birds across B.C. as the events open up this year.

Reserve Champion went to Bruce Bickle of Coombs with his white call duck, who also took the Champion Waterfowl prize. Bickle dominated the waterfowl category and took home Reserve Waterfowl with his East Indie drake. Bruce was also able to support some growing island poultry keepers by offering various show-quality birds to the community for sale and we are excited to see these birds back at the fall fair in September.

The island's juniors were welcomed, many as first-time entrants, and were supported throughout the event by the seasoned keepers. The Salt Spring Island school hatching program produced five champion birds from local juniors. The poultry club hopes to continue this program in the fall, hatching out more quality chickens, ducks and, new to the island, bronze turkeys.

And no Salt Spring show would be the same without recognizing Best Pet or Best/Craziest Hair. The Best Hair award went to Anezka Sikora for her fabulous Silkie Frizzle. Sikora entered a great variety of Silkies as she continues to develop her flock.

The show was a success in inspiring juniors across the island, and spreading "poultry fever" to local families and farms.



PHOTOS COURTESY SSI POULTRY CLUB

Winning entries at Salt Spring's second official American Poultry Association event, held Saturday at the Farmers' Institute grounds are, clockwise from top left: Tilly Buck with her Silkie pullet, Reserve Pet class winner; Izzy Nowell's Rhode Island red show champion and a group of winners: from left are Oliver Thring, Hannah Rowthorne, Bryn Pyper, Maya Acevedo-Mallard and Tilly Buck.



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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

FRESH PAINT: Fernwood Elementary School students experience being in their first public art show with their painted driftwood sculptures displayed outside Mahon Hall. Students created the artworks with Artist in the Classroom teacher Janice Parker. The installation will be up as part of Artcraft until August.

CELEBRATIONS

Canada Day activities set

Classic cars and live music among ways to mark the holiday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island will have a taste of Canada Day festivities next Thursday as the gradual lifting of COVID-19 safety precautions continues to roll out across British Columbia.

The next stage of reopening expected to begin on July 1 will include increased numbers of people gathering outside and the lifting of restrictions on liquor service. Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 is taking advantage of the new rules to offer an outdoor family-friendly event with live music. The Salt Spring Cruisers car club will meanwhile once again play it safe this year by offering a drive-by cruise instead of its large-scale show and shine event.

Legion branch manager Drew Underwood said his organization recently purchased two very large event tents and can host around 120 seated people plus a stage outside. The day will feature live music starting at noon, a barbecue and membership sales.

"I think the executive, staff and our members are looking forward to being fully open. The pandemic has been hard on a lot of people and it's a good way to bring community back together," Underwood said.

The band schedule is Two Point OH! at 12 noon, Everyday People at 2 p.m. and Table 25 at 4 p.m. Underwood said things usually wrap up for the night between 7 and 8 p.m.

Salt Spring Cruisers' Canada Day Rod Run will leave from the Gulf Islands Secondary School Rainbow Road parking lot at 11 a.m. on July 1. Their route



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Two of many cars in last year's Salt Spring Cruisers Canada Day Rod Run. The event starts at the high school parking lot at 11 a.m. on July 1.

takes specialty car drivers through downtown's side streets, past Lady Minto Hospital and through the Leisure Lane neighbourhood over to Robinson Road and Walker's Hook. The cruise will continue over Maliview to North End Road. Then it's south to Central and a turn toward Vesuvius and the Mobrae-Woodland neighbourhood before heading back through town. The cars will then travel to Fulford village over Beddis, Stewart and Beaver Point roads before looping back to town on Fulford-Ganges Road. The total time estimated for this 51-km journey is one hour and 16 minutes.

See the full route at saltspringcruisers.com/canada-day.html.

Other potential activities will be announced in the Canada Day feature and the What's On calendar in the June 30 issue of the Driftwood.

ISLAND CLUBS

Salt Spring Toastmasters salute two special club members

Club continues in online format during COVID

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Two Salt Spring Toastmasters members were honoured at the club's last online meeting on May 16.

Laura Patrick and Karen Kobierski

received certificates for their "tireless efforts to keep Toastmasters alive and active on Salt Spring Island, B.C., Canada."

As a news release from the club explains, both were feted "for their unrelenting support and dedication to their roles as they indefatigably worked to ensure that each meeting was a success in that it was well-organized, well-planned and those plans well implemented. In their own unique

ways, both Laura Patrick and Karen Kobierski left their indelible mark on the meetings, as they are held even today as the club now attracts members from overseas."

The current incarnation of Salt Spring Toastmasters has existed on the island for more than 17 years. Like many groups, the island club shifted to holding online meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic period.

Current club president James

Falcon views the change as beneficial.

"We have made new friends and we have expanded the size in global reach of our family," he told the Driftwood. "It's hard to imagine what Toastmasters was like before COVID. It has really pushed us into the 21st century . . . The ability now is to connect and grow stronger; to be truly a multinational club of diverse cultures around the world."

Earlier in the year, two Salt Spring club contestants reached the "division" level of international competition, which Falcon said had not been done for several years.

Shawaz Baluch of Lahore, Pakistan and Zaid Kaliya of Karachi, Pakistan earned that distinction, with Kaliya placing third.

For more information about the Salt Spring club of Toastmasters International, see saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org/.

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Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for individuals to serve as Marriage Commissioners for Salt Spring Island. The individuals will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the Agency. Applicants must reside on Salt Spring Island in order to be considered for these positions.

For information and an application form please visit our website at: gov.bc.ca/becoming-a-marriage-commissioner



CLIMATE CHANGE

Local forest issues dissected

Top climate scientists give Zoom presentation on June 30

BY DAVID DENNING
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Two of B.C.'s top forest ecology and climate change specialists will address the health of our island trees and forest ecosystems next week in an online virtual Zoom event.

The event, called What's Happening To Our Forests and Trees?, will begin at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 30. It is co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Island Conservancy and Transition Salt Spring (TSS).

The speakers, Richard Hebda and Andy MacKinnon, each bring an incredible array of research, experiences and scientific perspectives to the discussion.

"We are very excited to have not one, but both, of B.C.'s most sought-after authorities on the effects of climate change on trees and forest ecosystems," said Deborah Miller, a TSS board

member and coordinator on the TSS Education Committee.

Hebda studies pollen grains in lake sediments to unravel the mysteries of past climates and "ancient" history. He has written hundreds of scientific and popular articles about the history of B.C. forests and how they have changed over time.

A recently retired curator of botany and earth history at the Royal BC Museum, Hebda is in high demand by all media for his knowledge and insights.

MacKinnon is the co-author of eight popular B.C. natural history guidebooks, including the invaluable local volume, Plants of the Pacific Northwest Coast. He is a trained mycologist who worked for 30 years as a forest ecologist in the Forest Research Branch of the B.C. government.

MacKinnon's research interests include natural disturbance and climate change, old-growth forests, non-timber forest products, and native plants, fungi and lichens.

This event presents a unique opportunity to help us understand what is happening now with our forests, and what is likely to be in store for the future.

Tickets for this online event (\$10) are available at <http://www.tinyurl.com/SSFForests>.

Salt Spring Island Transit Seasonal Service Change

Effective June 30, 2021

- Reinstatement of route **9 Ruckle Park** connecting Fulford Harbour with Beaver Point and Ruckle Park

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what's on this week



Wed. June 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gordo. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Thur. June 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sarah Osborne. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Fri. June 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Marianne Grittani. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

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 CRD director Gary Holman. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Outside at the United Church Meadow, or the Portlock Park Pavilion if it's raining.

Sat. June 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John Gogo. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sat. June 26

ACTIVITIES

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

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

VIA ZOOM

Kyeren Regehr Poetry Reading. Kyeren Regehr is the 2021 Raven Chapbook winner with her collection of poems *Disassembling A Dancer*. Regehr's first collection, *Cult Life* (Pedlar Press), was shortlisted for the 2020 ReLit Awards. A Salt Spring Public Library event. 7 p.m. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.

Sun. June 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Peter Prince. Music that moves body and soul. Shipstones patio. 5 to 8 p.m.

Tom Hooper. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Mon. June 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Peter Prince. Music that moves body and soul. Shipstones patio. 5 to 8 p.m.

Hownd. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.
Salt Spring Transportation Commission. Annual strategic planning session at the Salt Spring Public Library program room. 9 a.m.

Tues. June 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live music. TBA at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

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.

Tues. June 29

VIA ZOOM/ONLINE

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Regular monthly business meeting. 9:30 a.m. See the islandstrust.bc.ca website for the link and agenda.

Tech Cafe: Digital Media Collections. Learn how to check out ebooks, audiobooks and movies from the library. Join library information technicians on Zoom to learn the tips and tricks of checking out electronic items with your Salt Spring Island Public Library card. 7 p.m. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com to get the link.

Wed. June 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vaughn Fulford. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

What's Happening to Our Forests & Trees? Join acclaimed B.C. forest ecology scientists Andy MacKinnon and Richard Hebda for a discussion about forest ecology and the effects of climate change. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at www.tinyurl.com/SSFForests.

CHARITY

GIFTS and hall floor benefit

Island's two "100" groups disburse funds

Two more local charities have benefited from Salt Spring Island's 100 Men and 100+ Women Who Care groups.

"Salt Spring Island is a place of dreams. It's where you can think big — the sky is the limit," states a press release from the 100 Men's group. "But there are times when it's wise to take care of down-to-earth practicalities: floors and foundations need as much care as wild visions."

Accordingly, at its most recent meeting on June 2, Salt Spring's 100 Men group members voted to provide the rest of the funds needed to purchase and install new flooring for Beaver Point Hall, which was more than \$5,000.

The previous month saw the 100+ Women Who Care group decide to give \$17,500 raised at its meeting to the Gulf Islands Families Together Society.

"Each member pledges \$100 per meeting and the money raised is sent immediately to the project chosen by the majority of members at the meeting," the 100 Men explain. "It's local. It's quick and it's open to the small things that no other agency or government will fund."

People can search for the Salt Spring chapters of the women's and men's groups for more information on how to participate.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

- A Night at the Louvre with Leonardo Da Vinci.** Presented by National Theatre Live. Thursday, June 24, 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.
- Nomadland** shows at 7 p.m. Friday, June 25 through Tuesday, June 29, plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. COVID-19 protocols in place. See www.thefritz.ca for updates/more info.

EXHIBITIONS

- The Exquisite Corpse Art Show & Auction** is a Salt Spring National Art Prize auction available for in-person viewing at **Gallery 8** and online daily through June 24. COVID safety protocols in effect. Online link at www.saltspringartprize.ca.
- Taking Flight**, new original prints by the **SS Printmakers**, is at **Salt Spring Gallery** from June 18 to 30. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- 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. See the Showcase exhibit: *Persons of Interest* and *Material Witness*: sculptures by **Gary Cherneff** and textiles by **Joanna Rogers**.
- 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.

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SS Photography Club
Annual Exhibition

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Obituaries

Obituaries

In Memoriam

Help Wanted

Help Wanted



Sharon Reynolds
July 12, 1942 - April 26, 2021

Sharon passed away at home in the loving care of her husband of 60 years, Bernie.

Sharon and Bernie lived on Salt Spring for most of their married lives. Sharon and Bernie owned and operated

Reynolds Carpet and Upholstery Cleaning since 1964.

Sharon was predeceased by her daughter Mary and is survived by her husband Bernie, her daughter Karen (Tom) and son Paul (Cara); grandchildren Anna, Tessa, Karli, Krysta (Graham), Ereka, Cayden and Ethan; great grandchildren Farah, Kalia and Trissa.

Sharon was loved by all and will be dearly missed by her family and friends.



JOHN MYERS
MAY 25, 1933 - JUNE 26, 2012

Gone... but forever in our hearts.

Salt Spring Island Public Library VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES


The Salt Spring Island Teen Volunteer program is looking for new volunteers, aged 14-18, where they can gain fantastic work experience and pursue topics that interest them. Shifts are flexible and can happen in person and/or digitally. The program offers valuable work experience and can expand resumes.

To start volunteering or to find out more email: jwagner@saltspringlibrary.com or visit salt.spring.bc.libraries.coop/holds.teen-volunteering/.

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Livestock

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GEOFFREY DAVID LEVY



Geoffrey passed away peacefully surrounded by his family on Salt Spring Island as he had wished.

Geoffrey was born in Montreal to Aldyth and David (d. 2006) Levy, attended Elementary School in Ottawa, High School in Belgium and Queen's University in Kingston where he graduated with a BFA in 1988.

Following university, he apprenticed as a traditional lithographic printmaker at The Printshop in Amsterdam, Netherlands, where he worked alongside many of the COBRA (Copenhagen, Oslo, Brussels, Rotterdam, Amsterdam) artists' group honing his printmaking skills and broadening his creative vocabulary.

After completing his apprenticeship, he moved to Dublin, Ireland, and headed up the Open Studio printmaking department. He flourished as an artist and teacher there for many years before his health took a turn for the worse as a result of a chronic kidney disease, Alports Syndrome, which forced him to move back to Belgium at first and eventually to Salt Spring Island where his family had relocated after leaving Belgium.

He opened his own lithographic printmaking studio, Aerolith Press, soon after arriving on Salt Spring, where he printed not only his own work but other artist's work as well. He continued printing until his health worsened and he had to begin dialysis treatments due to his kidneys failing.

Despite his ongoing health challenges, Geoffrey was able to learn and eventually teach Taoist Tai Chi which was one of his life's great passions.

He had an incredible zest for life, a curious, engaging mind, a love for cooking and great food, art, music, film, friends and family. We will miss him greatly in the days and years to come but are relieved that he is now far beyond the suffering that he endured for many years.

He said his final farewells on his own terms and went gently towards his death with open eyes and an open heart.

He is survived by his mother, Aldyth and siblings Carolyn, Barbara and Michael who all wish to thank Dr. Ron Reznick and Dr. Gayleen Hargrove for their tireless efforts over many years to keep Geoff in as good health as possible. We all wish to thank the staff of Lady Minto, Royal Jubilee, St. Paul's and Vancouver General Hospitals for their extraordinary care, as well as Marion Village Assisted Living in Victoria for providing a home, excellent care and a loving environment for Geoffrey's final years.

In lieu of flowers, please consider donations to VIKPA (Vancouver Island Kidney Patient's Association) or the Taoist Tai Chi Club of Canada.

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

www.sunstarastrlogy.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrlogy@gmail.com
TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Summer has finally, officially begun. Its first gift is the fact that Mercury in Gemini has also turned direct after 3 weeks of retrograde motion. Because Mercury was in its own ruling sign, it may not have proven to be as difficult as usual, yet it probably still produced real reversals and turnarounds for some, for better or worse. Now, we are in what is called the 3-week 'shadow period,' which is the time period during which time Mercury retraces the 'degrees' it went over while retrograde. What this also indicates is that those degrees were 'transited' by Mercury three times: first while direct, second by retrograde, and third when by direct motion again. This is always true of the planet-retrograde-process and can be understood as a triple stitching of key themes of destiny. So, the Sun in Cancer marking Summer Solstice as of June 20 and Jupiter in Pisces turned Retrograde the same day, Mercury Direct as of June 22, Neptune Retrograde on June 25 and Venus enters Leo on June 26.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
Now that summer is officially here, balancing your time between work, home, family and fun in the sun has also returned. Despite the ongoing plight of the human condition, you are determined to weave in some playtime. Some final touches of the finer details may continue but they too will yield to quality time shared and this trend will continue for a while.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
While others are reaching out, you may find yourself digging in. Taking projects to a deeper level is implied. These may reach to your living environment, yet may also be focused on your most intimate locale - your body, mind, heart and soul. Self-awareness and positive self-regard are the preliminaries. Beyond that, bonding with family and friends has become a priority.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)
The new perspectives stimulated by the recent eclipse have now passed their germination phase and are beginning to take root. If you have not opened your mind to consider new interpretations, you may find yourself feeling moody, pouty and perhaps impatient with others whose views differ from yours. This is your invitation to re-imagine what you deem to be true.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)
As though a bright light has been switched on in the basement of your mind, synchronistic events are serving to awaken you. Whether you are happy or not with what you are now exposed to is another matter. It is up to you whether you choose to turn the lights back off and ignore what was revealed. Of course, the consequences of denial and evasion will also be yours with which to contend.

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 recent activation to your career and/or public life should be evident by now. Positively, you are responding consciously and deliberately. If you find yourself feeling stressed or guilty due to procrastination and not listening to your intuitions or missing the outer signs of synchronicity, this is your cue to wake up! Sober, strategic, disciplined action is probably required.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)
Mercury now direct may feel like you have emerged out of something of a soul-searching journey and have emerged with a new quality of clarity and understanding. The host of planetary shifts is likely serving to bring you back to reality now. The cycles activated could prove advantageous in your career life.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
Planets in Gemini have the effect of triggering some form of transformation for you. This has been the case over the past several weeks and continues for another few. These processes tend to swing between practical and spiritual considerations. The two meet when our choices and actions align with our destiny and produce meaningful contributions.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
Activations in your relationship life continue to evolve and will now shift to a deeper level of change and transformation. Specifically, these reveal a subtle process of tuning in to inner guidance. Logic guided by wisdom is your basic soul path. The shift does include an inspirational ignition thanks to Venus and Mars in Leo.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
A whole new round and level of critical thinking has been activated. It is causing you to discern and differentiate between what you perceive to be reality and fantasy, or fact and imagination. Realism is your guiding light yet deciphering what it is and constitutes in terms of actual choices is part of the plot. Meanwhile, your passions and ambitions are rising.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)
The creative inspirations seeded by the Gemini Solar Eclipse have now shifted to the nitty-gritty work required to make them manifest. This implies the need to get your imagination working for you as opposed to dwelling in it. The Leo influence will activate your relationship life and probably for the better, yet you will require a bit more freedom too.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
A creative cycle has begun. Yet, it is one that requires more effort than idle fun. It comes on the heels of the eclipse that likely produced shifts close to home. These may have the effect of altering your priorities. Now, the focus is on responding to these activations, which will require a sporting approach, as in, 'the game is afoot'.

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ISLAND ARTS

Arts Council strives to add Indigenous voices

Artists with ancestral ties to Gulf Islands featured at Artcraft

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands are known for their thriving artistic communities, but visitors may often be left wondering where the work by local Indigenous artists resides.

The Salt Spring Arts Council (SSAC) has been asking itself the same question for a number of years, and what it could do to redress historic wrongs with continuing modern-day ramifications. With support from a multiculturalism grant from the Province of B.C., the council initiated a pilot project this year that hopes to address both points. It extends Artcraft's usual artist criteria to include Indigenous regional artists for whom the southern Gulf Islands are traditional territory.

The 2021 summer art show and sale, which opened on June 11, includes works by printmaker and storyteller Eliot White-Hill, carvers Doug LaFortune, Perry LaFortune and Bear Cat Sam, potter Faye Oakes, and visual artists Chazz Elliot and Charles Elliot.

Two key collaborators the arts council engaged for this work are Rose Spahan, an artist and curator from Tsartlip First Nation who has 30 years experience showcasing Indigenous art, and Sarah Jim, an emerging artist from the Tseycum village.

"Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands were the ancestral territory of the Sencoten and Hul'q'umi'num' speaking peoples. We went there as our summer homes. That was common back then, and right now it isn't common with Salt Spring. It's a missing link," Spahan told the Driftwood.

"There are a lot of artists on Salt Spring that aren't Indigenous," she added. "This inclusion [in Artcraft] is so important, to hear our voices and share stories, and it's important to bridge the gap."

The arts council has recognized the history of colonialism on the southern Gulf Islands means Indigenous peoples were removed from their ancestral lands. Artcraft manager Sarah Hyams said there are just a few Indigenous artists living on the islands today, which is why the show's participation guidelines needed to be expanded.

To research how to best include Indigenous artists, Hyams and SSAC executive director Yael Wand consulted with local

MLA Adam Olsen, who is a member of Tsartlip First Nation, and with Salt Spring-based Ojibwe beader Krysta Furiosa of Only Child Handicrafts. Ellie Langford Parks, who coordinated the Indigenous Arts & Craft Market on Salt Spring in 2019, was another local resource.

Following on that beginning, Hyams made efforts to contact every First Nation with ties to the southern Gulf Islands, and every artist listed on the WSÁNEC Leadership Council website, which is how she got in touch with Spahan and Jim.

"I was concerned about doing a good job and setting the tone as best I could as a settler, but having Indigenous jurors and working in consultation with them felt really good," Hyams said.

Spahan was recently guest curator for the Reconciliation exhibition at Prince George's Two Rivers Gallery, among other projects. She worked to encourage Indigenous artists to submit to Artcraft and was named senior Indigenous juror. Jim came on board as junior Indigenous juror and offered suggestions for removing participation barriers. She shared her passion for the proper acknowledgment of Coast Salish art.

"Salt Spring is located on traditional Coast Salish territory. The art is informed by this place and the culture and teachings are based around the natural laws of these lands and waters," Jim said. "Many Salish artists were sleeping after colonization, so it's important to showcase the resurgence of Coast Salish art practices because the art is representative of who we are and what we believe. The resurgence of this art practice is to be celebrated."

Acting on suggestions from Spahan and Jim, the arts council worked to remove the 35 per cent sales commission for participating Indigenous artists this year, and waived the usual membership fee. They discovered some other barriers for participating related to artists living off-island at the same time COVID restricted travel, so the arts council allowed photo submissions for jurying for the first time. Hyams said there were additional issues for some older, less tech-savvy artists, so she offered to complete their application forms if need be.

Hyams noted the high-quality artists working in both traditional and more contemporary formats that have joined Artcraft this year. Doug LaFortune's carving can be seen at the University of British Columbia and The Butchart Gardens, as one example.

"That's the level of work we have," Hyams said.

All of those involved hope the pilot will turn into a continuing project. The arts council is seeking funds to create a



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Artcraft manager Sarah Hyams shows work by Eliot White-Hill, whose ancestry includes the Penelakut Tribe.

position for Spahan, who is hoping to bring in more female artists in the future as one goal. Wand said there are other ways to shift regular practises to decolonize art institutions, as well, such as the simple step of extending the participation requirements.

"I think we really have to change the way we do things to make these things possible," Wand said. "There is probably lots more that we can do to make things more accessible."

Artcraft is open daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. with COVID safety protocols in place.

In related news, the arts council is also working with the Salt Spring Public Library to bring Indigenous art to the island, together with School District 64, the Stqeeye' Learning Society and MLA Olsen. A call for Indigenous youth artists (ages 13 to 19) to work on a mural project at the library in August has been extended. Applicants are asked to submit a short biography and three to five samples of recent work to khudson@saltspringlibrary.com by end of day on June 30.

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

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

A DAY IN THE Life
 SALT SPRING ISLAND 2021

- 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.

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