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FALL FAIR
2021 SALT SPRING ISLAND
ENTRY CATALOGUE • SEPTEMBER 18 & 19
Past, Present and Future
...a focus on Agriculture

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Congratulations to the Gulf Islands Secondary School Graduating Class of 2021



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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

HOT NIGHT: Salt Spring Fire Rescue sent all its apparatus and 20 members in 40-degree heat in response to a fire that broke out in a multi-storey structure at the Mineral Springs Resort Monday evening. Crews shuttled water from St. Mary Lake to contain the blaze. Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said the cause was unknown as of Monday night. The building was inhabited but no one was inside when the fire was detected.

WEATHER

Record heat blasts islands

British Columbia breaks Canadian temperature charts

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Swimming holes were crowded and businesses with air conditioning were in high demand over the long stretch of sweltering days beginning Friday, when a record-breaking heat dome clamped down over British Columbia.

Environment Canada reported Lytton, B.C., experienced the hottest temperature ever recorded in the nation on Sunday afternoon with a reading of 46.6 C. The previous record had been set in Saskatchewan in July 1937 at 45 C. New records were believed to be possible in Lytton for Monday and Tuesday as well.

Though not that extreme, heat records were also broken in the Gulf Islands. Environment Canada was predicting 36 C with a humidex of 42 at its Saturna weather station on Monday, June 28, compared to a previous high of 27 for that date in 1995 and an average high of just 19.4.

"An exceptionally strong ridge of high pressure over British Columbia has resulted in record-breaking temperatures," the federal department stated. "The duration of this heat wave is concerning as there is little relief at night with elevated overnight temperatures. This record-breaking heat event will increase the potential for heat-related illnesses."

Salt Spring Fire Rescue's Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said the department fortunately did not receive any calls over the weekend that stood out as being heat-related, or any tragic events such as lake accidents.

"I think people did a good job of staying cool, staying inside and hydrating and the things they were supposed to do," Holmes said.

However, at least one person looking to beat the heat in St. Mary Lake ran into difficulty. A vehicle with Ontario licence plates was stuck almost entirely over the side of a steep bank between North End Road and the lakeside over the weekend.

Public schools across the Lower Mainland were closed Monday due to conditions. Gulf Islands schools were still open, but a letter was sent to parents Sunday afternoon warning that a short-notice change could be needed, with possibility of an early dismissal.

HEAT continued on 9

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JUNE/JULY 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
30	0436	2.2	7.2	4	0735	1.1	3.6
	0745	2.4	7.9		1538	2.6	8.5
	WE 1441	1.0	3.3		SU 1827	2.5	8.2
ME	2234	3.3	10.8	DI			
1	0535	1.9	6.2	5	0009	3.0	9.8
	0936	2.2	7.2		0807	0.9	3.0
	TH 1524	1.4	4.6		MO 1635	2.8	9.2
JE	2301	3.2	10.5	LU	1948	2.7	8.9
2	0622	1.6	5.2	6	0033	3.0	9.8
	1153	2.1	6.9		0839	0.7	2.3
	FR 1612	1.8	5.9		TU 1718	3.0	9.8
VE	2325	3.2	10.5	MA	2107	2.8	9.2
3	0701	1.4	4.6	7	0101	3.0	9.8
	1407	2.3	7.5		0911	0.6	2.0
	SA 1712	2.2	7.2		WE 1756	3.2	10.5
SA	2347	3.1	10.2	ME	2215	2.9	9.5

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FIRE DISTRICT

Windsor Plywood fire reviewed

Investigation ongoing

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Fire Protection District is re-examining potential risks and its ability to meet them following the massive fire at Windsor Plywood on June 1, while extreme heat experienced over the past week has greatly increased overall fire risk on the island.

Salt Spring Fire Rescue joined with the rest of the Coastal Fire District in issuing a ban on open burning as of June 23. Small campfires are currently still allowed with a permit, but all high-risk work in the forests and grasslands is prohibited.

Questions around the risk posed by large structures downtown were raised by the fire district's board of trustees following a presentation on the Windsor Plywood made by Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes at the June 21 board meeting. Holmes shared multiple photos taken over 14 hours of firefighting and overhaul operations, revealing the fire's rapid growth once smoke and flames had filled the plywood store's vast interior.

Holmes described how crews focused at first on getting water inside the building but that did not help contain the blaze, because of the level of intensity it had reached on the bell curve.

"While initial efforts were focused on containing the fire to the area of origin,

it became clear we were not gaining on the fire and tactics were changed to ensuring the fire did not spread beyond the main building," Holmes said in his report.

Crews were ultimately successful at ensuring the fire did not leap to other structures or the surrounding supply yard.

Responding to questions from trustees, Holmes reported the cause of the fire was still under investigation by insurers, but he noted it started somewhere deep inside the building. Initial investigations suggest it did not start in the paint supply area, he said, nor in the section where new offices were under construction.

In response to questions about water supply and whether an aerial apparatus would have helped, Holmes agreed more resources are always useful. North Salt Spring Waterworks District staff were extremely cooperative in making sure water flows were at the maximum rate, although the supply itself was limited. The main factor, however, was probably the length of time the fire had been permitted to grow unchecked before firefighters got to it.

Holmes said the Windsor Plywood building was not connected to a commercial alarm system, and smoke had probably triggered the intruder alarm that resulted in the first call to 911. Having sprinklers installed would have made a big difference by keeping the intensity

level on the lower side of the bell curve, Holmes explained.

Trustee Rollie Cook joined with the rest of the board in commending the fire department for their efforts and their results. He wondered if the organization should create a new report on high-risk buildings in Ganges before the next assessment by the Fire Underwriters Survey, and also whether the fire district could compel the use of sprinklers and alarms through bylaws.

Holmes agreed it would be timely to get a legal opinion on what powers the district has under its letters patent.

In other related business last Monday night, the board agreed to support purchase of a new SCBA air compressor, to be installed at the Fulford Fire Hall. District CAO Andrew Peat noted Holmes' request was to create back-up support, since the only compressor they own was in fact out of service during the Windsor fire. That compressor was being repaired, but the addition was deemed important for emergency needs. The unit is expected to cost around \$40,000 before taxes.

Monday's meeting was the first for two new members of the board. Winona Cook and John Wakefield were each acclaimed to their positions after a by-election nomination period last month. Cook will serve until the end of the 2021 annual general meeting and Wakefield's term ends at the 2022 AGM.

WATER

NSSWD considers 'hardship' watering cases

Future changes to bylaw also possible

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

North Salt Spring Waterworks District will consider allowing the hand-watering of gardens outside Stage 3 bylaw restrictions in cases where the timing poses a hardship.

The NSSWD board passed a resolution Thursday setting up the interim measure in response to a delegation from the Rainbow Road Allotment Gardens and two additional letters describing difficulty meeting the existing rules, which state watering must be done between 7 p.m. and 7 a.m. for a maximum of two hours, on alternating days. Members of the district can now make an application to alter the hours and staff will make decisions on a case-by-case basis, with opportunity for appeal to the board of trustees. The board additionally directed staff to come back with some options for possibly adapting the rules for hand-watered gardens.

"I really appreciate people coming forward and saying honestly, 'I can't meet those requirements; I'm telling you that now,'" said NSSWD chair Michael McAllister, who added enforcement is an issue

for the district. "I think rather than say 'Abide by the rules,' frankly, honesty should be rewarded. I like it when someone comes forward and says, 'This is a real tough thing for me to comply with because I'm old; because I'm disabled; because I'm a caregiver.'"

Water restrictions go into effect according to time of year and drought level. Previous rules for Stage 3 permitted hand-watering gardens between 5 p.m. and 10 a.m. According to a letter from one senior ratepayer, losing the flexibility won't result in better water conservation.

"I have always gone above and beyond to conserve water and abide by water restrictions as well as to encourage others to do so. I take my personal and community responsibility in this regard very seriously and have trusted the experts at NSSWD to guide me in this regard," stated the writer, whose name was redacted.

That person added they would not be able to follow rules that required them to water at 5 a.m. or 9 p.m. because of the impact to their quality of life, and more importantly, their health.

The Rainbow Road Allotment Gardens group has also cited the health of senior members as well as working people's schedules as potential problems with the new hours, while acknowledging the importance of conserv-

ing water. Speaking on behalf of the watering committee on Thursday, member Jason Youmans said the garden had managed to draw 11,000 fewer gallons from the district in the years after installing two rainwater collection tanks.

The gardeners were seeking permission both to fill their main tanks from the NSSWD connection outside of the restricted hours and to increase the window for watering.

Allotment gardens chair Jane Petch further stated in a letter to the board that having all gardeners arrive simultaneously at 7 p.m. would likely put significant strain on their pump.

NSSWD office manager Tammy Lannan explained the bylaw had been changed in May 2020 in order to relieve some of the harsher watering restrictions previously under Stage 4.

"Just to lift that up a little bit, we restricted Stage 2 and 3 a little bit more. It was actually an intentional change to match the drought-guide curve," Lannan said.

The district didn't ever reach Stage 3 in 2020, so the start of that level on June 11 this year means people are just newly getting used to more limited watering times.

Operations manager Vaughn Figueira added the new watering window was created based on science

around evaporation. He suggested the evening time would be especially important to maintain since temperatures don't drop until 7 p.m.

Staff further noted that people using micro or drip irrigation systems are permitted to water during any time of day and for a period of three hours instead of two hours (although still on alternating days). However, trustee Chris Dixon observed such systems can be expensive to install.

Dixon agreed the morning limit would be better suited for adding flexibility. Noting he had made a living growing plants, Dixon said morning is the best time to water anyway. He supporting moving the end-time up to 10 a.m. Trustee Sandra Unger also voiced support for a later window in the morning but only when gardeners have mulched beds and undertaken the same water-use specifications as micro/drip irrigation.

As Figueira reported at another point in the meeting, recent hot weather has reversed any gains in lake levels from recent rain, so the watering restrictions are important.

"We're asking the public to follow Stage 3 because there's a big chance we'll be getting close to Stage 4 this year if the weather doesn't turn around," Figueira said.

RACISM

Anti-Asian incidents prove island not immune

Vesuvius Cafe owner latest target

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A startling rise in verbal and physical attacks on people appearing to be Asian has been recorded in Canada over the past year, and while Vancouver is the hotspot for such attacks, Salt Spring Island is no safe haven either.

Vesuvius Store and Cafe owner Natsuko Inaba is one of the most recent people to be told to “go back to her country” during an unsettling confrontation that took place outside her business on the morning of June 18.

“I was verbally assaulted by two middle-aged men for reasons I still don’t fully understand,” Inaba told the Driftwood.

Unfortunately, her experience is becoming common for many living in or visiting the community.

The incident at Vesuvius Store started when Inaba was working alone in the cafe’s kitchen. As she described it, one of the men came up to the window and she asked over her shoulder if he needed help. The man said no and left, but then came back to tell Inaba that she was rude and she should have removed her mask to greet him.

Although the situation was tense, Inaba hurried after the man and his friend who was waiting outside as they walked toward the ferry terminal. She said both men started screaming at her and told her several times that newcomers were ruining the island and that she should go back to “her” country. One of the men identified himself as a born-and-raised islander.

Inaba said she followed the men outside because she wanted to understand their problem.

“That was a mistake,” Inaba said, explaining, “I thought I could solve this issue.”

At first Inaba kept asking the men, “Guys, what’s going on?” She finally tried to de-escalate the situation by speaking in a very calm voice and letting them know she has to wear a mask because she is pregnant and COVID-19 therefore poses a greater risk. She had also been thinking about her baby, she explained, so maybe she hadn’t paid the first man the attention due to a customer.

Although Inaba does not want charges pressed, she did report the incident to police so that it’s on the record. While she was upset by the confrontation — the first she has experienced during 15 years on the island — Inaba was not sure at first that it counted as racism because neither of the men directly called her an Asian slur. She also wondered if she had done something wrong to cause the attack.

Such responses are extremely common among Asian-Canadians experiencing racism, according to the EliminateHate campaign. The initiative launched last year after anti-Asian racist incidents began to rise during the pandemic, and is a partnership between Project 1907 (named after Vancouver’s anti-Asian riots of that year) and the Asian Film Festival. The aim is to build a more coordinated effort in understanding the impacts of rising anti-

Asian racism and to create one centralized place for victims to report their experiences of racism, hate and violence.

Data collected through these reports will be used to develop strategies, design interventions, raise awareness, advocate for policies and improve outcomes for the targeted communities.

The project’s initial report in September 2020 found that 600 incidents had been reported since the start of COVID-19. Canada has a higher number of anti-Asian racism reports per Asian capita than the United States, they found, and B.C. has the most reported incidents per Asian capita of any sub-national region in North America, followed by California, New York and Ontario.

Women are impacted the most, reporting 60 per cent of all incidents in Canada, and 70 per cent of all incidents in B.C. Verbal abuse and harassment, including racial slurs, threats and derogatory remarks accounted for 65 per cent of the cases, but nearly 30 per cent were physical assaults, including targeted coughing, spitting and violence.

“Any marginalized ethnic group kind of feels they have to assimilate better, but white people never have to think about that.”

RUMIKO KANESAKA
Salt Spring Japanese Garden Society

The Salt Spring Japanese Garden Society is an organization dedicated to community unity and reconciliation. A large part of their work has been sharing the truth about Salt Spring’s history as a location where Japanese Canadians were stripped of their property and their liberty during the Second World War and beyond. The organization has lately been expanding its focus on social justice issues, and has sponsored the Conversations on Racism series, where people from different BIPOC communities led panel discussions this spring.

Founding society member Rumiko Kanekasa explained that people of Asian descent can feel awkward about their experiences of racism, because they know these are different from those of Black people or Indigenous people, for example. But in each case, a minority group is identified by Canada’s dominant white community as being different, suspect and not really belonging or welcome.

“Any marginalized ethnic group kind of feels they have to assimilate better, but white people never have to think about that,” Kanekasa said.

She also observed that since Salt Spring has fewer people from minorities than an urban centre like Vancouver, those people who look different tend to stand out — and that has left them vulnerable. Some incidents she knows of that have occurred just recently include a Chinese-Canadian woman being verbally attacked at a local grocery store by



PHOTO BY SEAN MCINTYRE

Vesuvius Cafe and Store owner Natsuko Inaba.

a man who told the woman to go back to China.

“This happened a couple of months ago. She felt the decision to move to the island was the best decision of her life and now she’s wondering if that’s the case,” Kanekasa said.

In another incident, a couple who were out for a walk were similarly upset when a man in a car rolled down his window to yell the same message at the woman, who is Japanese; a Mexican woman who was visiting as a farm volunteer and may have appeared Asian had the same thing happen.

Kanekasa said community members who have participated in the anti-racism forums held so far have responded well, but people need to be open to those experiences. The garden society has plans for more programming this fall.

“People never thought that [racism] existed on the island. They leave [the Conversations on Racism events] and they feel educated. It’s doing something — it’s a tiny step, but there wasn’t anything like this,” she said.

Inaba said it would be great if the two men who yelled at her apologized, but her main reason for sharing the incident is also to spread awareness.

“I think people should know this happened,” she said.

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



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EDITORIAL

Slower process

Getting the public interested in updating the Islands Trust Policy Statement has seen a familiar scenario unfold.

Most such “big picture” government projects start with some general information being released and the launch of a survey. Everyone is invited to provide their input. People who follow that particular corner of governance will immediately respond to advertisements and stories calling for “engagement,” while the rest of the population will not. Most working people, especially, do not have the time to “engage” unless they are told it is imperative to prevent something negative from happening in their life.

That is what has occurred once again with the Islands Trust Policy Statement (TPS) process, which began two years ago with an initiative called Islands 2050. Booths were set up at the Salt Spring Fall Fair and events held on other islands in 2019. Trust staff even rode Gulf Islands ferries for four days to try to raise public awareness. An online survey was widely publicized through social media and in print publications.

Updates have been provided at Islands Trust Council meetings in the intervening months, but it wasn't until a first draft of a new policy statement was seen on June 15 that the alarm bells started ringing, as they inevitably always do with Islands Trust initiatives.

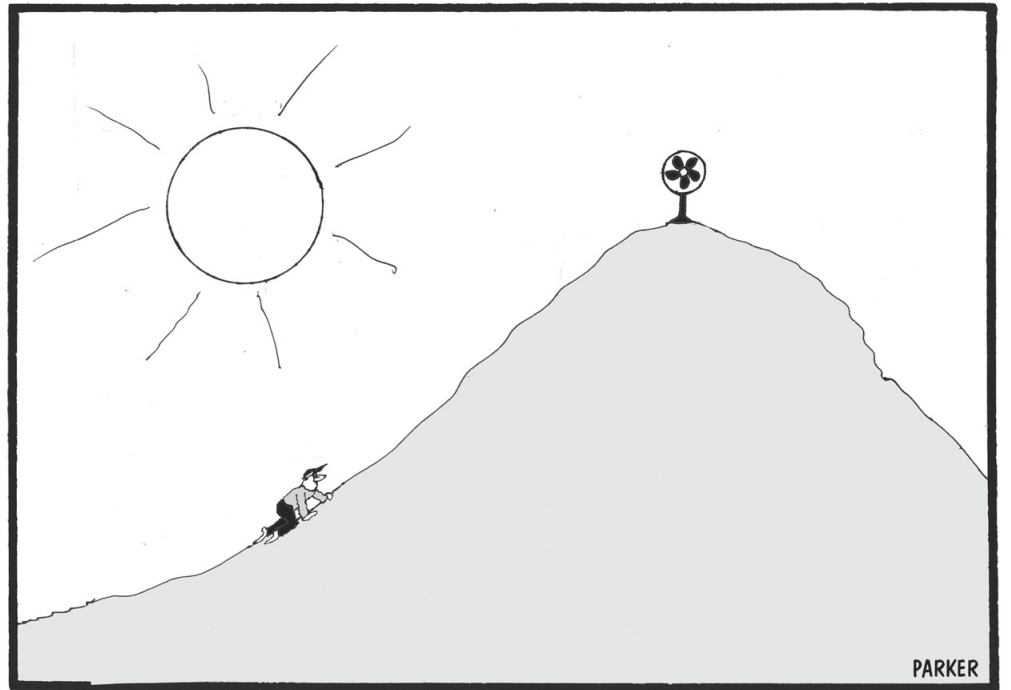
While some of the information circulating was clearly not correct — having a bylaw set to receive first reading is nowhere near the end of a process and does not make it a “done deal” — more island residents and property owners are now paying attention to the TPS. That's a good thing.

It's easy to be critical and say that people should have paid attention and provided input two years ago, but that is not fair nor rational. And despite the fact that first reading is normally the beginning of a process soliciting public feedback, the TPS is not an average land-use bylaw affecting one property or part of an island. It does have broader implications for all of the islands and their residents, as well as First Nations.

The reality is that it probably won't make a difference whether or not the document bylaw receives first reading on July 8 or later this fall. But with a public now attuned to the contents of the document, going slow and steady with ears open to island communities and First Nations will be more likely to help the Trust win the policy statement race.

THE ISSUE: Islands Trust Policy Statement

WE SAY: Allow ample time for public input



PARKER

Pathway woes continue

BY DAVID RAPPORT

The Baker to Booth Canal pathway stands as a monument not only to extreme insensitivity to the character of Salt Spring's rural environment and the iconic historic cemeteries that flank both sides of Baker Road, but also to the complete neglect of public safety.

That a serious traffic accident is in the offing is not a matter of “if” but of “when.”

The risks to public safety that the pathway has created are manifold and continue unabated. The blind corner that now exists at the Baker Road and Lower Ganges Road (LGR) intersection remains a significant threat to motorists exiting Baker, owing to the cement blocks that occlude the view to southbound traffic coming down (often above the speed limit) from the crest of the hill. Prior to the placement of cement blocks, there was visibility, but that critical line of sight has been completely obliterated, despite unsupported assurances from the design engineer that “sight lines are adequate.”

Pathway users — walkers, joggers and cyclists — have increased but so have

VIEWPOINT

the risks. A crosswalk across Baker Road has been put in place, without recognizing that it creates a false sense of security for pathway users. Mistakenly assuming that the crosswalk protects them, pathway users dart across Baker without glancing to either side, unaware that drivers are concentrating on a safe entrance or exit at the intersection and may not see them in time.

The cement blocks further down LGR near Booth Canal Road pose enhanced risks to cyclists — a potential deathtrap, with no escape avenue should a motorist cut the curve too close. The feeble existing attempt made to slow traffic down by reducing the speed limit to 30 km/hour is roundly ignored by nearly all traffic, including buses and heavy-duty trucks.

These dangerous circumstances are a damning testament to a project that, besides being woefully out of character with its surroundings, was ill-conceived from the onset and now poses a real hazard to life and limb. There are no quick fixes to this situation, and the CRD needs to

act promptly, before a serious accident happens. The cement block walls must be removed completely to restore safety to cyclists and motorists, and use of the path must be limited to pedestrians only.

Failure to act on this immediately is tantamount to negligence. What is called for is a CRD action plan on an urgent timeline. Putting their collective heads in the sand does not absolve them from their responsibility to ensure safety. This may be a bitter pill for CRD director Gary Holman and CRD senior manager Karla Campbell to swallow, but swallow it they must for the sake of public safety.

Pathways are an important amenity if — in addition to being done with sensitivity to the environment, cultural heritage and rural character — they do not engender risks to the public. This pathway fails on all counts. After the urgent safety concerns have been dealt with, it will be time for a post-mortem on how all this could possibly have happened, and for a full reckoning of the costs of this unconscionable debacle to the public purse.

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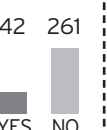
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you ready to welcome tourists back to the Gulf Islands?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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



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: }

"I think rather than say 'Abide by the rules,' frankly, honesty should be rewarded."

MICHAEL MCALLISTER, CHAIR, NSSWD BOARD

SALT SPRING SAYS

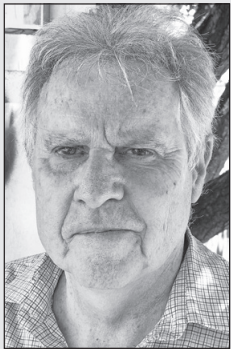
WE ASKED: *With everything going on this year, what are your thoughts on Canada Day?*

ADINA HILDEBRANDT



I think we should cancel it for this one year and put all the money toward Indigenous supports.

GARY HOLMAN



I'm proud to be Canadian and not opposed to people celebrating, but I think it would be appropriate to step back this year and listen to First Nations.

JENNA WIEBE



I think small gatherings are fine, but I don't think cancelling entirely it is right. They should include more to honour Indigenous people as part of the events.

GEORDIE FLANAGAN



[In terms of COVID], I guess if it's controlled that's fine, but not if people are going out of their way to be unsafe.

LISA DAHLING



I think I'm ambivalent. We don't want to hurt anybody — we've done that enough.

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

Islands Trust is best bet

I would like to thank the Driftwood for publishing so much important information regarding the review of the Islands Trust Policy Statement. Recent letters and articles show that people care deeply about these beautiful islands and are politically engaged.

It is alarming, however, to note that a lot of misinformation has been disseminated through social media and mail-outs. The last thing we need when dealing with this complex issue is an alternate reality that sows confusion and inflames the population.

Behind the misinformation lies a libertarian message: the idea that all should be able to do as they please. Do those responsible not realize that without effective bylaws and enforcement the Gulf Islands cannot survive as a protected area?

Rules and regulations should not be regarded as interference in our lives but a necessary means to an end. They are actually our last line of defence. We, the people, are on the front lines, and must do our part by taking care in our daily actions, supporting the common good, and scaling down our expectations with regard to services, development and rights of ownership.

Like it or not, the Islands Trust is a regulatory agency whose main purpose is to curtail human activities. While healthy communities, including affordable housing, are vital considerations, the primary responsibility of the Trust must always be environmental protection. That's why we need a policy statement with a clear sense of direction and no easy "outs."

Let's share our views, but get the facts straight, and keep in mind that the Islands Trust, despite its flaws, is still our best bet for protecting this sacred place going forward.

JON HOFF,
MAYNE ISLAND

Atonement day

This year, our day of national celebration on July 1 should be a day of contemplation.

Canada Day is the perfect opportunity to face, or be at one with, our growing understanding of how we have treated Indigenous people. We don't need fireworks. We don't need chest thumping and speeches full of bravado. But we do need a Canada Day. We deeply need a Canada Day, but a quiet one.

If we're honestly willing to quietly own up to and understand our history, we will actually create a country far greater than the one we've celebrated in the past.

BILL AND MAY HENDERSON,
SALT SPRING

Pivotal turning point in human evolution upon us

It's been more than a year and a bit since we fell under the shadow of the COVID-19 pandemic that swept across the globe. Recently, with the number of infections slowly decreasing as the rate of vaccination has steadily risen, we feel ourselves approaching a new horizon. As the days slip by, we find our faces pressed up against the window to the future. We are on the threshold of a new normal.

One of the changes we are sure to notice involves household cleanliness. All this social distancing and staying within our bubbles during the pandemic has given us so much more time to not do all the things that need doing around the house. Why vacuum the living room rug now when it will just be in the same state of dustiness tomorrow? Who's going to see it anyway? And, by the way, where is that vacuum cleaner hiding? Could it be crouching deep in the hall closet corner behind that formidable snarl of spider webs and dust balls?

You can bet that I, for one, will not be putting on a mask anytime soon after those in charge of public health declare that the coast is clear. In fact, I'm predicting there will be a steep decline in sales of masks of all kinds. By these, we can include surgical masks, industrial masks and even Halloween masks like the one worn by Spiderman. May the Lord have mercy on the poor slob who forgets that the plague has been declared as over and mistakenly wanders into a bank with his designer mask pulled over his face. There will be no more face masks dangling from the rear-view mirrors of our cars and trucks; that honourable position will be returned to the much more traditional foam dice, dream catchers and air fresheners.

Have I mentioned hand-washing? When the pandemic is declared over, I may take a six-month moratorium from singing "Happy Birthday" twice to my hands as I wash them. In fact, I may never wash them again just so as to give the surface layer of skin on them a chance to regenerate. And, no thanks, I don't think I'm going to want me or anybody else to shoot a couple of squirts of hand sanitizer into my waiting, cupped palms to make sure that all of those villainous bacteria are exterminated while simultaneously assuring that any



Shilo Zylbergold
NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

moisture left in my skin will be driven off into the ether so that my hands are left as dry as a Sahara sand dune.

How do you suppose the new normal will affect our shopping rituals? Are we still going to be wiping down and sanitizing our shopping carts and baskets before and after every use? Will we still line up at the front doors of our supermarkets and wait until enough shoppers have left the premises before we are given permission by a disembodied mechanical voice to enter? Will we navigate our carts up and down the aisles while attempting to steer six feet clear of any and all who might be coming dangerously close to our air space?

Or are we going to backtrack to the same old same old that were our habits before the word "COVID" ever entered our consciousness? Will we stop our carts in mid-aisle, embrace other shoppers whom we haven't seen since who knows when, and catch up on all the intricate details of our lives until we are informed by a store employee that closing time is fast approaching? Will we reach our outstretched arms over the shoulders of other unsuspecting store patrons in order to snatch that last remaining carton of organic oat milk on sale this week? And instead of lining up in an orderly fashion so that we can efficiently be directed to the next available till, will we once again play Lotto Checkout with each other to try to guess which till will move the fastest so that we will have to spend the least amount of time possible waiting for our groceries to be rung through?

Leisure, play and holiday time have all been tremendously hampered during the long social distancing period our society has had to endure. Yoga classes, swing dance lessons, fitness centres and Gregorian chanting groups have fallen by the

wayside. Live musical concerts and theatre performances seem as distant in the past as once did gladiator battles and jousting contests. As for road trips and vacation excursions, a solo walk around the block has seemed about as adventuresome lately as a climb to the summit of Everest. Will the new normal see us all willingly and even aggressively piling into a moshpit of close encounters?

Then, there's the matter of the workplace versus working from home. Although many of us have not had a choice during the days of COVID and have had to continue showing up in factories, offices and job sites on a daily basis, a large proportion of workers have been given the option of carrying on their employment duties from inside the confines of their own homes. As one might well expect, the work ethic of these "home drones" has, shall we say, mellowed during the pandemic interval. Consequently, it has not been too unusual a sight for someone to show up on a Zoom conference meeting dressed in a button-down shirt and tie above the desk top, but wearing nothing but boxer shorts and no socks below. This is, of course, referring to those who haven't yet figured out how to properly frame their online exposure. Whether the new normal will see the workplace trend continue in this direction is anybody's guess, but it might be a good time to invest heavily in outrageous underwear.

Nobody asked me, but the event horizon which will hopefully mark the end of the pandemic and the beginning of whatever comes afterwards is quickly approaching. Future historians will most probably cite these next few weeks as a pivotal turning point in the course of human evolution. Much like homo erectus first rising up and walking on two legs, the dawning of the new normal could well bring a leap forward in the intellectual and spiritual development of our species.

Then again, any lessons learned from our recent ordeal may all go for naught and we might just revert to scraping our knuckles along the ground just as we did before this whole thing started. In which case it will mean hand-washing time again.

Burning Restrictions In Effect

Effective at noon on June 23rd, 2021

Backyard burning (category-2 fires) and machine-pile burning (category-3 fires) will be prohibited to help reduce wildfire risk and protect public safety.

Also prohibited are the activities listed (Wildfire Act, Section 12): Fireworks; Sky Lanterns; Binary Exploding Targets; Burn Barrels or Burn Cages of any size or description.

This prohibition does not apply to campfires that are a half-metre high by a half-metre wide or smaller, or to cooking stoves that use gas, propane, or briquettes.

Anyone lighting a campfire must obtain a permit and maintain a fireguard by removing flammable debris from around the campfire area and have a hand tool or at least eight litres of water available nearby to properly extinguish the fire.

For more information, visit www.saltspringfire.com



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Policy process needs time

Editor's note: The writer, a Saturna Island trustee, had included the title "Warning: Graphic and Disturbing Content" on his letter, which is referenced in his first sentence.

BY PAUL BRENT

I know, that is a strange and provocative title, but it's used purposely, because I want people to pay attention to this.

And "this" is the Islands Trust process to rush through a colossally modified "constitution" equivalent — the Trust Policy Statement — without truly any meaningful dialogue with our islands.

You may have already seen some correspondence regarding concerns voiced by other islanders regarding the massive changes envisaged by the Trust's draft policy statement first unveiled last month. It's a document with the potential to cause a tectonic shift on how our lands (and waters) are managed on our islands.

The Islands Trust Policy Statement is a 30+ page document that

INDEPTH

guides what our official community plans should/shall contain, and from there, how our bylaws must be constructed. The significant changes to the policy statement being proposed by Trust staff will make major changes to our OCPs, particularly as the existing draft policy statement moves to directing that which must be, rather than that which should be. And that is but one of many elements the draft policy statement is changing.

Saturna's OCPs were arduously crafted through huge community efforts over years. The current OCP will change if the Trust has its way, and in a process that negates the early and meaningful consultation we all have come to expect for even the most minimal of bylaw changes.

Yes, the Trust introduced the first draft of the 37-page revised policy statement to a public meeting of a working committee of the Trust early last month. It was sent back for rework, noting that community and other key elements were notably absent, notwithstanding that trustees had pointedly advised staff to include it in the revised policy statement. The second draft was released on the web on Friday, June 11 after 5 p.m. for review by that same committee on June 15 so that it could be brought before the Trust Council (all 26 Islands Trust representatives) for first reading.

Yes, that's right. The foundational document upon which the Trust uses to guide its policies was introduced May 3 and is now to first appear (on Zoom) to Trust Council on July 8 for first reading.

Why the rush? In their May 14 briefing to the Trust Programs Committee specific to timing, the Islands Trust briefing document says: "Staff also wish to highlight that First Nations have been working within the timelines outlined below for the last two years and have an expectation that the bylaw will be adopted during this term of office."

Yet in their June 15 briefing document, Islands Trust staff write this:

"It is important to note that First Nations have been working within the timelines outlined below and have an expectation that the new Policy Statement bylaw will be considered for adoption during this term of office."

Which is it? Adopted this term or considered for adoption? Words are important.

If the Islands Trust staff speak on behalf of First Nations, we need to know what First Nations want. Does the Islands Trust speak on behalf of all First Nations in the region, or only those they've consulted with?

The other point Islands Trust staff has made in favour of this accelerated process were not adopted (first, second and third readings, blessed by the Executive Committee and then signed by the Municipal Affairs Minister for receipt and final adoption)

this term (by October 2022), they would have to "educate" new trustees. That must be a big hill to climb, and some trustees might wonder who works for whom, and whether education might be a two-way street.

But would delay of first reading to a later date preclude adoption this term? No, ample time still exists to do so. And were the draft policy statement to go through to third reading and off to the minister in, say, September 2022, would this change the minister's mind about final adoption in the months thereafter? Highly unlikely.

So where is the issue? Is there consensus amongst elected officials on the timelines? Certainly not from the meeting on June 15 with 10 of the 11 Trust Programs Committee trustees present. At that meeting, half the trustees voted to delay the policy statement going to first reading to allow resident communities to have their say. And half were opposed. Hardly a consensus.

And to illustrate the lack of consensus, at the same meeting, a vote was taken to remove "housing" from the draft policy statement. Half the trustees also voted in favour of that. Again, half opposed. So ask yourself, is this truly a document that has been thoroughly vetted and ready for first reading?

You might also ask, why wasn't the draft policy statement introduced for discussion at the full meeting of 26 trustees at Trust Council on June 8, 9 and 10? That was a decision of the Trust. In my view, it reinforces the bizarre nature of this process, which seems more focused on pushing this bylaw through as quickly as possible without considering the public interest.

We are hearing concerns from residents about this draft policy statement, about the Trust's focus on diminishing the role of agriculture and taking control of all forestry and tree-cutting activities, banning private docks and forcing OCP changes on islands. You may hear that the Trust has deemed the defining of words and phrases in the Trust Policy Statement as in need of change and "has suggested a move away from fixed academic (mostly colonial) 'definitions' in favour of more context-specific 'interpretations'."

These are all directions that may or may not be what islanders ultimately wish to embrace. But first, we need to have appropriate public consultation, ahead of first reading so that we, like the First Nations whose territory we gratefully live upon, can provide our early comments on both content and timelines, before it's brought to first reading.

I urge you to write to Premier John Horgan and relevant ministers to request that the Islands Trust engage with the residents and property owners of the Trust area prior to pushing this to first reading, respecting the early and full public consultation we have come to expect as a normal process. Only by this measure will we protect the public interest of the constituents of our islands.

COVID-19 IN BC

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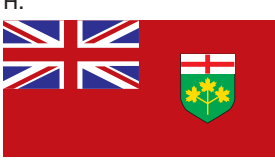


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6. Quebec: _____
7. Saskatchewan: _____
8. New Brunswick: _____
9. British Columbia: _____
10. Newfoundland and Labrador: _____
11. Yukon: _____
12. Nunavut: _____
13. Prince Edward Island: _____

ANSWERS:
1. L
2. A
3. C
4. H
5. F
6. K
7. J
8. D
9. B
10. E
11. M
12. G
13. I

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CANADA DAY AT THE Legion

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12:00 Two Point Oh!	SALE on	
2:00 Every Day People	NEW	
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Salt Spring Community Health Society

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Mental Health First Aid for Adults Who Interact with Youth July 19 - 20, 2021	Mental Health First Aid - Seniors July 21 - 22, 2021
---	--

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Increase confidence to talk to co-workers, family or friends about their mental health
Improve personal mental health | Reduce stigma/misunderstanding

This training is made possible through a COVID19 Recovery Grant from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, our sponsors Country Grocer and Salt Spring & Fulford Seniors, and contributions from previous participants.

For more information and to register: saltspringcommunityhealth.ca/upcoming-events

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Visitor Centre open July 1!

Salt Spring Island chamber of commerce

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ISLAND ENTERPRISE

Rammed earth progression marked

Salt Spring Coffee photo display on now

BY MEROR KRAYENHOFF
FOUNDER, SIREWALL

In the early 1990s, the island's community centre launched a Sustainable Salt Spring Island Roundtable, including members from as many facets of the community as possible.

We met every week for a couple of years and published a booklet on sustainable development. Through our conversations, we recognized that the most effective way to initiate transformation in sustainable living would be to change how we build.

So, in 1992, we organized a sustainable building conference on Salt Spring. Leaders in sustainability from across the continent responded to our invitation to participate. Speakers included David Easton, the leading rammed earth expert; Malcolm Wells, the

expert in underground building; Carole Venolia, a leading architect and educator for healthy buildings; and advocates for permaculture and strawbale building. It was an amazing weekend of talks at the elementary school gym that received an enthusiastic response from the community with over 1,000 people attending.

This conference changed the tenor of building on the island for at least a decade. Not only were builders inspired, but also the building inspector, engineers, sub-trades and suppliers. Importantly, it modelled new possibilities for sustainable homes to clients who were inspired to build healthy, durable and biophilic homes using local materials and local labour.

To have so many people moving in the same green direction at the same time is a rare and powerful thing. As a direct result of this enthusiasm, rammed earth was brought to Canada and developed here for residential use. Through collaboration with the building inspector, engineers, architects, sub-trades and suppliers, excellence in rammed earth was achieved and recognized through numerous major awards.

From 2008 on, we no longer built on-island as we were pulled into commercial projects off-island. As we were asked to do much bigger, complex and architecturally challenging projects, we had to up our game to the point where our rammed earth was at least as strong as concrete, while using a fraction of the cement. Due to this very useful trait (high strength), we were invited to participate in projects around the world with the top architects on the planet. Lots of adventures and great mem-



PHOTO COURTESY SIREWALL

Inside Salt Spring Coffee's Ganges cafe, with SIREWALL image display.

ories were had by those from Salt Spring with the experience and willingness to work in very diverse cultures.

A list of our highlights so far:

- Largest project – 650,000 square feet in Islamabad.
- World Architecture Festival in Barcelona (first place – holiday category) features Structural Insulated Rammed Earth (SIREWALL).
- World Architecture Festival in Amsterdam (finalist – office completed buildings).
- Governor General's Award for Nk'Mip Desert Cultural Centre in Osoyoos featuring SIREWALL.
- Worked with the top architects – Foster + Partners, Gensler, Tom Kundig, Arcop, Dialog.
- Tallest, longest and strongest rammed earth in the world.
- Largest home – 51,000 square feet (strictly speaking it's not commercial, but it felt like it).

What made this all possible began with the sustainable building conference, followed by 16 years of working out all the details with the local building culture. How do you do wir-

ing in insulated rammed earth? Plumbing? How do you finish drywall to rammed earth? How do you trim windows and doors? How do you deal with seismic loads and horizontal rain? There were so many practical questions that needed answering. And as the first on the planet to add iron oxide colouring to rammed earth, how do you make it beautiful? All the early answers to these questions came from the Innovative spirit of the Salt Spring building culture.

Later, when we went abroad, the Salt Spring ambassadors expanded our capabilities in collaboration with the top architects on the planet.

At Salt Spring Coffee, there is currently a photo sampling of some of our projects. Our intention is to thank those innovators and ambassadors who helped launch this now-sophisticated technology. And we want to bring awareness to the newer settlers here that the best rammed earth on the planet got its start here on Salt Spring Island.

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



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PHOTO BY PAUL VAN NETTEN

HONOURS ACCORDED: Seven Salt Spring Island Pathfinders finished off the Guiding year by earning their Canada Cords, the highest award possible for Pathfinders. Making the achievement even more significant is the fact they completed the requirements while dealing with COVID restrictions. From left in the back row are Soleil Bennett-Peters, Annie FitzZaland, Elyse Walsh, Guider Jane Lizotte, Xzana Nesbitt, Stephanie Cowan, Emma Lizotte, Maya Kray-Gibson, Guider Mary Rowles, Guider Gail Temmel and Guider Kerry Lee. Front row, from left are Shelvy Bennett-Peters, Mya Purvis, Grace Chamberlain, Megan Lizotte, Jaqueline Wightman and Guider Michelle Bennett

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

For more information, pick up a new Rider's Guide on board or visit bctransit.com



Transit Info 250-537-6758 • bctransit.com



School attendance optional



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
Vehicle off the road near St. Mary Lake is wrapped in emergency tape on Sunday as demand for the cooling waters of the lake skyrocketed with the temperatures.

HEAT continued from 1

"The health and safety of students and staff is our highest priority," wrote district superintendent Scott Benwell. "Our facilities department will be working with school staff on how to keep temperatures as low as possible throughout the day."

Parents were given the option of keeping children home, with acknowledgement of differing tolerance for elevated temperatures, family needs and the ability to respond to an early closure.

On Monday at about noon, the school district advised it was cancelling afternoon bus service that day and on Tuesday due to an ability to keep the vehicles cool enough inside for safe travel.

Some local businesses elected to stay closed during the extreme heat, with Barb's Bakery owners Jenny and Jason Coles making the call Friday on behalf of their staff to stay closed Monday. Lady Minto Thrift Shop

remained closed following its usual Sunday-Monday weekend through to the regular July 1 holiday on Thursday.

The island, meanwhile, experienced a not-surprising run on fans and cool drinks. Mouat's Trading Co. was well-stocked with fans Friday afternoon but had completely sold out by Saturday.

Country Grocer manager Mark Vekeman reported coolers at the store had been holding up. The store was almost sold out of ice Monday morning but was expecting to get through to its Tuesday morning delivery.

"The customers are saying, 'Oh, you must love working in here,'" Vekeman said.

However, he noted even with air conditioning, staff were uncomfortable in many areas and their coffee room was too hot to sit in.

Environment Canada said its meteorologists expected temperatures to be closer to normal for the season starting today (Wednesday).

Lady Minto Hospital needs a new Emergency Department.

After many decades serving our community well, a new Emergency Department is needed which will provide more working space for frontline workers, greater patient privacy, and space for mental health intake and enhanced infection control. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation has launched a community campaign to raise \$2 million, the final amount of the \$10.4 million budget. Strengthen our lifeline. Help us build a better Emergency Department!



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LadyMintoHospitalFoundation

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Women showcased in 50 Over 50 exhibition

Ramona Lam project at library

Salt Spring photographer Ramona Lam is releasing the results of her 50 Over 50 project with an exhibit at the Salt Spring Public Library program room through July.

The photo showcase features black-and-white images of women over 50 years old that she captured

during a "model for a day adventure" in 2019. The exhibit was delayed to this year due to the pandemic and Lam says she is super excited to finally showcase all of the first 50 stunning women she has photographed.

Lam said the project was an incredible experience for both her clients and herself.

She said that the more we see images of mature women who are happy,

confident and unafraid of aging, the more we are encouraged to feel better about ourselves at any age.

"I set out to show how beautiful women are as they age, and it's turned into something magical. So many women over the age of 50 feel that they are disappearing, that they are becoming invisible.

So I wanted to show that women at this age are still beautiful, still vibrant. Many

are starting new careers, starting new businesses, thriving and giving back."

Lam has since launched her next 50 Over 50 project and plans to continue photographing women throughout 2021 on Salt Spring Island. Each photo session includes a make-over with hair, makeup and wardrobe styling.

For more information, see www.ramonalamphotography.com/50-over-50.



COURTESY RAMONA LAM PHOTOGRAPHY

Poster image for 50 Over 50 exhibit at the library in July.

- YOUTH AND EDUCATION**: A group of children and an adult in a forest setting.
- NEIGHBOURHOOD SMALL GRANTS**: Three people holding colorful umbrellas outdoors.
- COVID GRANTS**: A young girl washing her hands at a sink.
- THE FOUNDATION OF YOUTH**: A group of people sitting on a lawn in front of a monument.
- ENVIRONMENT**: A market stall with fresh produce and a sign for 'HENERY ROOTS'.
- COMMUNITY HEALTH**: Two people wearing face masks indoors.

Salt Spring Island Foundation donations directly support our resilient and vibrant community.

Please read our 2020 Annual Report at ssifoundation.ca

Many thanks to our donors who help us to help our community.



salt spring island foundation

what's on this week

Thurs. July 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Canada Day Music at the Legion.
12 noon: Two Point Oh!; 2 p.m.: Everyday People; 4 p.m.: Table 25.
Everyday People.
Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SS Cruisers Rod Run.
Classic cars tour the island in parade fashion. Leaves from GISS parking lot at 11 a.m. See www.saltspringcruisers.com/rodrun.html for the route.

Fri. July 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Phoenix Lazare.
Live music at the Tree House. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sat. July 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Sun. July 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Mon. July 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Tues. July 6

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.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• The Fritz shows *The Croods: A New Age* from Friday, July 2 through Tuesday, July 6 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. COVID-19 protocols, including limited seating, in place. See www.thefritz.ca for updates/more info.

EXHIBITIONS

• *Crossroads*, a showcase of oil painting and digital art by father and son Paul Robert Bryans and Lorence Bryans opens at Salt Spring Gallery on Friday, July 2 with an event from 3 to 4 p.m. and continues through July 21.

• Today, June 30, is the last day to see *Taking Flight*, new original prints by the SS Printmakers and inspired by Patrick's bird sculptures at Salt Spring Gallery.

• *Artcraft*, the summer-long show and sale of work by Gulf Islands artists and artisans and regional Indigenous artists, runs at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Also see the *Showcase* exhibit by the Island Textile Artists group: *On the Edge — A Planet in Crisis* in the hall from July 2 to 18.

• Photographer Ramona Lam presents *50 Over 50* — portraits of women over 50 years of age — at the Salt Spring Public Library program room through July.

• 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.

Eclectic Visions

SS Photography Club Annual Exhibition

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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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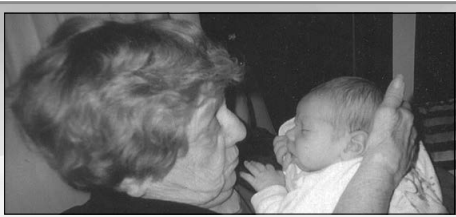
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Coming Events

SALT SPRING SANCTUARY AGM

The AGM of the Salt Spring Sanctuary Society will be held on **Tuesday, July 13, 2021 - 6:00pm** at Ganges Yoga Studio (122 Lower Ganges Road)
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Coming Events

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

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

July is the 7th month and when added to the Universal 5-Year produced by the addition of the numbers in 2021, the result is 12, which further adds to 3. Thus, July is a Universal 12/3 Month. While not technically the Master Number that 11 is, the archetypal significance of 12 is indeed special. Interestingly, Jupiter Neptune are both retrograde in Pisces, the 12th Sign of the Zodiac and will be throughout July.

The significance of 12 is why we have 12 Zodiac Signs, 12 months, 2 x 12 hours in a day with 12 midnight and 12 noon symbolic of Winter and Summer Solstice and the all-important conjunction and opposition aspects in Astrology. Then there are the 12 Meridians and the 12 Nodes in the brain and the list goes on... 12 is also symbolic of breaking patterns based on efforts to see ourselves and the world and in the world in new and better ways. Tune into the power of 12.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

A deep dive into the core of your being is a featured theme now. This can include your ancestral roots and deciphering more clearly what you inherited. Of course, you do have free will choice, yet it must contend with the tendencies of your inheritances. In other regards, you yearn for love and passion, or possibly romance and at least some fun, finding you in hot pursuit.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

This time of year often finds you in busy-bee-mode. Fortunately, you are happy in this gear, especially when the results of your actions are productively practical. Creating beauty in your home is featured and includes improvements and renovations. Either way, you yearn to break free but you know that the key to unlock the door is consistent, disciplined focus.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Nurturing new perspectives continues. Realizing that you do not perceive reality as it is, so much as who you are and how you have been conditioned, will prove liberating. So, how have you been conditioned to think? What sources do you expose yourself to? Are you credulous or open to conversations and new interpretations? Free your mind.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

The Sun in your sign indicates new beginnings. These will be especially activated by the New Moon in your sign on July 9. The Solar Eclipse served to activate critical thinking to deepen and sharpen. This process will continue all year until the next eclipse season in six months. Jupiter and Neptune meanwhile are triggering spiritual visions and convictions.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

You are happy to hover behind the scenes for a while. However, there is also a pioneering impulse at play. How these two energies will be balanced is up to you. A yearning for harmony and freedom are featured. In the background, a yearning to deepen your spiritual discipline is also indicated. Keep it simple with a consistent focus to centre in your heart.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

A revolutionary impulse is contributing to an impulse to get more public and professional attention. You have your thinking cap on and you mean business. Doing inner work is also indicated, to love and forgive yourself and others. A key to do this is to lay claim to 100% responsibility, for your part, for all of your experiences and relationships.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Paying attention to the details of the bigger picture is important to you now. This is extending into your public life and this trend will continue. You yearn to share thoughts and ideas more than usual. Dealing with fears and worries is a full-time job. Yet, you want to do your part, however you interpret that to be.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

The recent eclipse activated deep changes within you. These have and will lead to new perspectives. People and circumstances are pushing you to open your mind to recognize your own interpretations, opinions and assumptions. This does not mean you have to change them, but simply to recognize their relativity, in light of those of others.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Changes in your relationships are underway. Some of these may be subtle and not noticeable, yet they are actually moving quickly. A part of the reason for this is because you yourself are undergoing a mini, personal transformation process. Meanwhile, a playful and adventurous mood is rising steadily and you yearn to get away from it all.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Changes in your lifestyle are affecting your dreams, and vice versa. Positively, you feel like you are seeing things more clearly than ever. Meanwhile, your desires for more stability are serving to spur your ambitions. You are willing to dig in deep and push as hard as you can. Where sheer effort does not suffice, you will weave in wit and charm, as necessary.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

You are feeling creative and inspired to take some pioneering leads. These begin with thoughts and ideas and followed by action. Both these measures are probably already underway. It is very much a matter of follow-through now. The willpower to push for what you want is stronger than usual. Get clear on your dreams and go for it!

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The recent eclipse has planted a potent seed in your home and family life. Change is likely and has already activated your thought processes. Changes in your usual rhythm are also highlighted and should be evident by now. Some of these may feel like a mixed blessing, or worse. Jupiter and Neptune in your sign are whispering to you to share your wisdom.

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.

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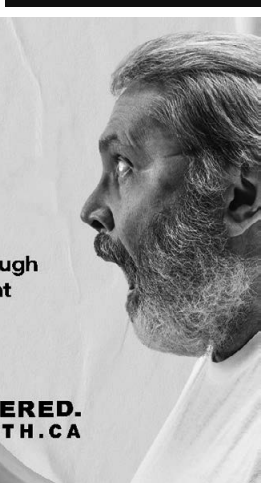
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BASEBALL

Grand slam punctuates season

Young Salt Spring midget boys team happy to be back on the field after pandemic break

BY MATT ENGLAND
 SALT SPRING SONICS

The Salt Spring Sonics midget boys baseball team finished their brief but memorable 2021 season last week.

After losing all of last season to COVID-19, the boys started practising in May, not knowing what 2021 would look like. In June it was game on as clearance was given for eight games to be played against teams from Duncan and Ladysmith. As there is no ballpark on Salt Spring for midget boys, our home field was once again in Chemainus.

It was beyond awesome to see the boys out there playing again and some epic evenings ensued. When the dust settled the Sonics had a record of four wins and four losses.



PHOTO COURTESY MATT ENGLAND

Salt Spring Sonics midget boys baseball team in an end-of-season photo, with player Dan Quesnel missing.

For the last game the temperature in the dugout was 35 degrees but the boys were unfazed and played with the same carefree joy they had shown all year. In the last inning magic happened when Ben Stocks hit a grand slam.

This is a very young team and with

all players returning we are very excited about the potential for 2022.

Team members are Eli England, Owen Brown, Dan Quesnel, Daniel Akerman, Ben Stocks, James Schure, Sel Patterson, Finn Hughes, Zack Sturgess, Dawson Bell, Laine Hogstead and Kadin Girdlestone.

SOCCER

Soccer activities underway



Malcolm Legg

SOCCER
 ROUND-UP

Fall season registration open

Soccer is back! With the positive announcements from the B.C. Ministry of Health, soccer players are once again playing games, something they live for. Salt Spring United Soccer Club has been hoping for this news and has offered two programs for the youth of Salt Spring.

The very popular United Academy, run by Ciaran Ayton, has been offered in a six-week program that highlights players' skills and development beginning June 11 at Portlock Park.

SS United Windsor Plywood Summer Fun League

Such a long name for our replacement for our highly successful Spring League (which will be back next season). Myself (Malcolm Legg) and technical director Josip Bratanovic have designed another opportunity for players to compete in games in a fun five-a-side format.

League play began June 16 for girls and boys aged seven and older and will continue until Wednesday, July 28 at Portlock Park.

Registration for 2021/22 Soccer Season

Yes, you can register for the next soccer season NOW and make sure you get a place on a team for the 2021/22 soccer season. Registration is done on our Salt Spring soccer website. You can contact Maggie at maggiemayrn@gmail.com for info or assistance.

There will be more info available over the next few months about the upcoming season, but for now, get registered in these programs and make sure your place is reserved. Watch our website for upcoming information and details of the above programs.

If you wish any information about our program, whether about teams, games, refereeing, volunteering or becoming a sponsor, please feel free to contact me at any time at mallegg@shaw.ca or 250-537-4970.

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