

inside:



8 Finding Home: a new series from Salt Spring Solutions



12 Phoenix Lazare's album out this Friday

Arts and Entertainment... 12  
 Classifieds ..... 11  
 Editorial ..... 4  
 Island Life ..... 8  
 Letters ..... 5  
 What's On ..... 10

INSERTS:

- Country Grocer
- Thrifty Foods
- Pharmasave
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- The Local Liquor St.
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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, July 7, 2021

62nd year  
Issue 27  
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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**CONCRETE PRINT:** Tim Brodesser, head of research and development at Twente Additive Manufacturing (TAM), gives direction during testing of the 3D printing process at a Walker Hook Road property on Sunday with a small wall section shown in the foreground. Last Monday the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission gave its support to a proposal by TAM and island resident Jon Scott and his StrongPrint3D.com Construction Inc. to create an artistic 3D-printed concrete bus shelter. See story on page 2.

## FIRE

# Local fires make planning a priority

GoFundMe set up for resort family; webinar on July 13

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Dry conditions and hot weather have led to increased wildfire risk across the province over the past week, while significant events at home have served to underline the need for safety planning and preparation.

A GoFundMe campaign has been launched for Melissa Poulsen and Maddison Poulsen-Howe, a mother and daughter who lost their pets, their home and most of their belongings when their residence at the Mineral Springs Resort was destroyed by fire on June 28.

"I'm a hardworking single mother that just works until she drops, that does the best I can to provide for me and my daughter," Poulsen said in an email message from work on Monday.

Poulsen will have a hard time recovering the family's losses. These include a work computer, Maddison's school computer, all her birthday presents, TVs, an Xbox and a Nintendo Switch. Heart-breakingly, they also lost their dog of 14 years, Keisha, and four cats.

Sean Mulligan started the Support for the Poulsen-Howe Family fundraiser with his daughter Taleigha, who is good friends with 14-year-old Maddison.

"Taleigha wanted to help out her friend in any way she could. I think we would all hope for the support of our community if something like this happened to us," Mulligan said.

All of the fire department's eight fire trucks were required for the nine-hour operation to douse the fire, which involved shuttling more than 30,000 gallons of water from St. Mary Lake to the site.

FIRE continued on 3



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## TRANSPORTATION

# 3D-printed bus shelter could be Canadian first

CRD to make recommendation on proposal

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Transportation Commission has enthusiastically approved in principle a community group's proposal for a ground-breaking bus shelter project.

As presented by Island Bus Shelters chair Donald McLennan during the commission's June 28 strategic planning session, the concept by Jon Scott involves using a 3D-printer capable of building structures from the bottom up, on site, using concrete. If approved by Capital Regional District

staff, the shelter would be the first of its kind in the region, and possibly throughout all of North America.

"I think the nature of the proposal is going to generate a fair amount of excitement both on the island and beyond," McLennan stated.

Scott is an engineer who moved to the island around a year and a half ago. He has been actively engaged with 3D printing technology for 20 years and incorporated the company StrongPrint3D on Salt Spring during the spring of 2020. Scott recently worked with Twente Additive Manufacturing to build Canada's first 3D-printed house in Nelson, B.C.

The bus shelter is proposed for an existing bus stop on Mobrae Avenue near Vesuvius Bay Road. Design plans call for basket weave-look walls, a wave-style roof and embedded design features in the base pad or the main wall, plus a hand-crafted wooden bench and additional space for a wheelchair.

McLennan said the design meets all of the CRD's new requirements for art-inspired shelters on the island. Local partners would include Bellavance Welding, Wilson's Reinforcing Steel, Windsor Plywood and Transition Salt Spring. An engineering stamp would be provided by Blackwell Structural Engineers' Victoria office.

Initial costing for the project was estimated at \$25,720, including a 30 per cent contingency. McLennan reported the Salt Spring Foundation has encouraged Island Bus Shelters to apply for a grant in the 2021 fall funding cycle. The foundation previously awarded \$5,000 to the commission's only other art-inspired bus shelter on the island, Matt Brain's Moon Snail design.



COURTESY STRONGPRINT3D.COM

Artist's conception of new bus shelter for Salt Spring that could be created on site with a 3D printer using concrete.

The commission was unanimous in its decision to ask the proponents to bring back a more detailed proposal with a maximum cost of \$25,000 to CRD staff, who are to make a recommendation at the group's next meeting.

Commissioners voicing strong support for the concept included Gary Lehman, who said it would be a unique opportunity for the island and likely a tourist attraction as well. Peter Meyer said he loved the design and thought it was very artistic. He added Salt Spring has a history of being innovative with technology, such as locals' embracing

of electric vehicles, so it would be fitting to be the first in Canada to print a bus shelter.

Commissioner Myna Lee Johnstone had some concerns at first about concrete as a material, and also wondered about the process for soliciting and considering proposals. SSITC chair Gayle Baker noted that 16 locations have been identified on the island where bus shelters are needed, and all artist-builder proposals are welcome.

"This is not the last opportunity. This may be the most highly promoted opportunity, and maybe everyone will get on the bandwagon," Baker said.

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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
7	0101	3.0	9.8	11	0023	2.9	9.5
	0911	0.6	2.0		0326	3.0	9.8
	WE 1756	3.2	10.5		SU 1130	0.3	1.0
ME 2215	2.9	9.5	DI 2001	3.3	10.8		
8	0133	3.0	9.8	12	0101	2.8	9.2
	0944	0.5	1.6		0409	3.0	9.8
	TH 1831	3.2	10.5		MO 1207	0.4	1.3
JE 2307	2.9	9.5	LU 2028	3.3	10.8		
9	0208	3.0	9.8	13	0146	2.7	8.9
	1019	0.4	1.3		0458	2.8	9.2
	FR 1904	3.3	10.8		TU 1245	0.5	1.6
VE 2347	2.9	9.5	MA 2054	3.3	10.8		
10	0245	3.0	9.8	14	0238	2.5	8.2
	1054	0.3	1.0		0555	2.7	8.9
	SA 1934	3.3	10.8		WE 1324	0.7	2.3
SA			ME 2119	3.3	10.8		

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## INFRASTRUCTURE

# SSIFR, CRD partner on Ganges plans

Agreement covers existing and future fire halls

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) and the Capital Regional District (CRD) have agreed to establish a joint working group to make recommendations to their respective organizations regarding both a new public safety building incorporating a CRD Emergency Operations Centre (EOC) as well as the repurposing of the existing Ganges fire hall.

As stated in a joint July 2 press release, both the existing CRD Emergency Centre and the Ganges fire hall are currently in buildings that are seismically unsound, provide inadequate storage and fail to meet Workers' Compensation Board standards for both employee and volunteer safety.

"While the Ganges fire hall will no longer be used for its original purpose, this centrally located downtown property still holds significant value," said fire board chair Per Svendsen. "It will be kept as a public asset and redeveloped so that the community can continue to benefit from this location. Sale proceeds will go towards the fire district's longstanding goal of building a new, 'work-safe' fire hall that meets all modern regulatory standards."

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman stated, "By working together, we can achieve, more cost effectively, the building of a new public safety building that includes a co-located EOC, as well as retain the existing fire hall and site as important public assets in the centre of Ganges."

The fire board and the CRD will work together on the development of a new facility at 455 Lower Ganges Rd., near Brinkworthy, on land donated to the fire district by the property owner in 2013. Both parties feel it is centrally



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Ganges fire hall. The Capital Regional District has signed a memorandum of understanding giving it an option to purchase the property for community use if a new emergency centre and fire hall is constructed near Brinkworthy.

located and provides adequate space for both a new fire hall and EOC and offers much improved vehicle access and parking space. Design and cost-sharing terms for the shared space are now under negotiation.

Regarding the disposition of the existing hall building downtown, the fire district will grant the CRD an option to purchase or lease the site for fair market value, with the price and other terms of purchase to be negotiated. If the site is purchased by the CRD, it will most likely be repurposed with a focus on a public food market and related uses.

For more information on the new fire hall project, see <https://saltspringfire.com/fire-rescue-advisory-committee/>.



## MARINE ENVIRONMENT

# Shellfish farm collapse frustrates resident

DFO deems file resolved

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring resident is calling attention to a faulty management regime when it comes to oversight of shellfish harvesting tenures after watching one such operation seemingly fall apart before his eyes over a period of two years.

Jeremy Sicherman lives near Baker Beach, where pieces of wood, metal and plastic belonging to the Evening Cove Oysters farm have been appearing after periods of strong winds and waves. He's made multiple complaints to the federal fisheries department about the situation. Sicherman said Evening Cove's former owner and current operator Andrew Dryden has been consistently friendly and helpful every time there is an incident, sending staff to clean up whatever has broken off and washed up to shore. The problem is that pieces have continued to come apart and repairs appear temporary at best, so Sicherman continues to send file complaints along with photo evidence every time another event occurs.

"I don't know what else to do," Sicherman said. "I feel like if I stop, I'll feel like a schmuck when somebody steps on a nail — especially if it's my kid or my dog."

His most recent find was a series of large

plastic trays. The aquaculture farm has not been producing stock during the lengthy federal process around ownership transition, so those trays have been floating off when they detach instead of sinking.

Dryden told the Driftwood he has also been frustrated by the breakages. He's frequently given up weekends with his kids to drive to Salt Spring from Nanaimo to take a tray or other item off the beach.

"I just have to grin and to be as responsive as I can, and to try to be a good steward of the environment there," Dryden said.

He added he believes the aquaculture rafts and materials are now secure and will be until the new owner comes on in the fall.

"It's been unfortunate and I've tried to do my absolute best with the upland owners," Dryden said.

Sicherman believes the materials Evening Cove used to make repairs and secure items are too flimsy, but an equally concerning issue is the seeming inability of the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to govern its jurisdiction.

DFO told the Driftwood the federal government "recognizes that marine debris, particularly plastic debris, is a serious environmental concern and that it is important that we remove debris from marine environments."

DFO's conditions of licence for shellfish aquaculture state that farm operators shall not introduce aquaculture refuse — includ-

ing infrastructure, equipment and materials — into the environment. DFO recently addressed concerns related to debris with new language in the April 1, 2021 shellfish conditions of licence.

"DFO works with the shellfish aquaculture industry and individual facility operators to ensure gear and infrastructure are securely anchored or attached. Despite this, sometimes materials become loose, particularly during stormy weather," the department stated.

It added it conducts ongoing site inspections of shellfish aquaculture facilities. When equipment deficiencies are found DFO directs cleanup or repair by the facility operator.

In regard to Evening Cove, DFO said it is aware of the issues with the tenure.

Fishery officers from the Conservation and Protection Aquaculture Unit initiated a site investigation in Booth Bay in May 2021 in response to a complaint, and requested records from the company.

"Following this site visit, and discussions between DFO's Aquaculture Program and the operators of the facility, significant improvements have been made to comply with the conditions of licence."

A subsequent site visit by fishery officers noted improvements to secure the aquaculture equipment had resulted in no new reports of debris from the site. The complaint file was closed in early June.

DFO asks the public to forward information



PHOTO BY JEREMY SICHERMAN

Empty trays from the Evening Cove Oysters farm that Jeremy Sicherman found washed up on Baker Beach last month.

on issues of this nature or any contravention of the Fisheries Act and regulations. Anyone with information can call the violation reporting line at 1-800-465-4336, or email the details to DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca.

## Local emergency preparation can ramp up this summer

## FIRE

continued from 1

"Due to the distance from the fire hall, the building construction and the abnormal temperatures, fire growth was rapid, and the initial crew faced an entrenched working fire," said Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes. "The four-storey building was compartmentalized and built down a slope, making access more difficult."

Firefighters succeeded in keeping the fire from spreading to other buildings on the resort property or to the surrounding forest. Tension was high in the neighbourhood, however, when sirens returned to the same block on Saturday morning.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) was dispatched along with Canadian Coast Guard, Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue volunteers and Eagle Eye Marine to a boat fire along the 1400 block of North Beach Road around 9 a.m. on July 3. SSIFR Captain Warren Nuyens reported the drifting boat was fully involved upon arrival.

"Crews cooled the blaze and were able to attach a line to tether the vessel to shore, where full extin-

guishment and overhaul could be completed," Nuyens said, adding no injuries were reported.

The incident remained under investigation as of Monday morning.

The two potential close calls, along with the devastating fire that destroyed the town of Lytton on June 30, have left many island residents on edge and wondering what the plan is if a major event erupts on Salt Spring. Some of the answers can be found in a free event hosted by the Salt Spring Emergency Program taking place on Tuesday, July 13. Living with Fire is a webinar and community roundtable on wildfire featuring SSIFR incident commanders and the Emergency Operations Centre response staff.

"We're concerned about wildfire as well. That's why there's a complete fire ban including campfires across the coastal region," said Salt Spring Emergency Program coordinator and Emergency Support Services director Charles Nash.

Nash is a veteran of the Salmon Arm-Silver Lake wildfire of 1998, where he led the community's emergency response.

"We were able to evacuate everyone safely without any lives lost — unlike the Kelowna fire three years

later," Nash said.

In Lytton, conditions were tinder-dry after three days of heat that smashed all previous Canadian records, and Nash said the valley's position made the wind act like a blowtorch. Emergency services personnel can usually predict when a situation will become unsafe well before people are endangered, however. Nash explained that in most cases of wildfire, the best thing people can do is stay calm and stay home unless they receive an evacuation order.

"If people are panicking and heading for the ferry terminal, you can imagine how gummed up the roads would be," Nash said, noting that would make it much more difficult for emergency response teams to do their jobs.

If a situation ever does require an evacuation, alerts will be sent out to people registered with the Capital Regional District's Public Alert Notification System (PANS), and neighbourhood pod and Search and Rescue volunteers will go door to door.

PANS can send notices through phone call, email or text messages in emergency situations specific to the area. The CRD recently changed carriers, allowing it to have a more robust program, so Nash said even



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Mineral Springs Resort building engulfed in flames on the evening of June 28.

people who enrolled in the past should make sure to sign up again at <http://www.crd.bc.ca/pans>.

The CRD also recommends downloading its free Alertable app for iOS and Android smartphones. The app gives advisories such as weather warnings, boil water advisories, or road safety information not sent by PANS.

People who are not sure what neighbourhood pod they belong to or who the leader is can contact the EOC at 250-537-1220 or [ssiepc@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ssiepc@crd.bc.ca). Better still, Nash said, is to ask a neighbour and start making those

critical connections.

"Finally, with COVID the shackles are off and we can ask people to go out and talk to their neighbours," Nash said. He added, "This is a really unique program that we have on the island. Lots of communities don't have it. It would be nice if we could expand it all throughout the province."

Find the link for this Tuesday's webinar on the CRD's Salt Spring Emergency Program page or through the program's newsletter sent through the neighbourhood pod system.

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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

# Getting fire smart

**F**ew things carry the same power to terrify and harm that fire does.

Over the past week or so, community members have shown compassion for people both on Salt Spring and further away who suddenly lost everything to a blaze. The local fire at the Mineral Springs Resort fortunately resulted in no loss of human life, but it did mean a near total loss of belongings for a single mother and her daughter — and the heartbreaking loss of five cherished pets.

The Lytton fire was even more terrifying and deadly, with two people known to have died so far, and almost everything in the town destroyed. That fire came with little warning and folks were forced to flee in any direction they could.

The combined events and the worry of more to come under climate change has not surprisingly

**THE ISSUE:**  
 Emergency preparedness

**WE SAY:**  
 Planning and education essential

caused a lot of people to think about what islanders would do if Salt Spring experienced a major interface fire. The good news is, many people in emergency planning organizations and volunteer groups have been considering the issue, too, and they have some wisdom to share on how to reduce fire risk.

Salt Spring's neighbourhood pod program allows for very local planning, with lists of contacts and resources kept by volunteer leaders. For anyone who's new to the island or else hasn't checked in for a while, now is the time to make contact with your group. Some pods are still looking for leaders. The Salt Spring Emergency Program can provide info — contact them at 250-537-1220 or ssiepc@crd.bc.ca.

The emergency program and Salt Spring Fire Rescue have more information to offer on FireSmart principles for properties and homes that are specific to Gulf Islands conditions and ecosystems. It's now possible to book an assessment at 250-537-2531, with advice tailored to one's own home and yard.

Residents are also encouraged to tune in to a free webinar taking place this Tuesday evening, July 13. The registration link is available on page 2 of this week's paper.

Lack of information is a sure way to create stress, but there are good ways to get informed about this community's specific risks, challenges and strategies. Islanders should be taking advantage of every opportunity now to plan ahead for if and when disaster strikes.



## Not just a shot in the dark

BY DAVID AITKEN

Until a few minutes ago, I thought the letters VHS meant Video Home System, one of the two competing video systems of my younger days.

The other was called Betamax, a coinage based on the Japanese beta-beta, "all over," but which sounded more like it was claiming only second place, like beta in the Greek alphabet.

VHS is now defunct, having outlived Betamax by a mere nine months, but a new meaning has sprung up to take over its duties as an acronym, which I have just heard on early morning telly. VHS now stands for Vaccine Hesitancy Syndrome. Presumably most people who suffer from this are totally bonkers, since the World Health Organization views VHS as a global health threat.

Acronyms formed from initial letters are certainly useful, if for no other reason than the time and printing ink they save. Why would anyone want constantly to refer to Tom A. Swift's Electric Rifle when they could just say TASER and be stunned, I mean

### VIEWPOINT

done with it. Likewise, Self-Contained Underwater Breathing Apparatus would just use up too much air, and I would donate and hurry on rather than have UNICEF explained to me in full.

Some acronyms are quite exotic, and their everyday use supplants their actual meaning in the public's consciousness. HSBC is the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation. Porsche has been defined as Proof Of Rich Spoiled Children Having Everything. And the word acronym itself is sometimes said to mean A Clever Re-Organization Nudges Your Memory. Which reminds me . . . I wish I'd been a rich spoiled child.

In the normal course of events, I wouldn't be all that bothered by people whose wrong-headed views differed from my own carefully reasoned opinions. Good luck to them, I would say, as they went off to dance barefoot in wet grass to celebrate the summer solstice, or jumped into an icy river

on New Year's Day. Chacun à son goût, as French port drinkers say.

But the present circumstances are far from normal. The anti-vaxxers endanger the rest of us, unfortunately. Their denial of scientific, medical and statistical evidence is akin to disbelief that we (or some of us) landed on the moon. They are the new Luddites, refusing to accept — or believe in — progress. They probably still think Spam is spiced meat, or that the sun goes round the earth. (Although admittedly that is a tough one to figure out.)

I bet some of them still have Betamax recorders.

What should we do with the anti-vax brigade? Reason with them? Confine them to barracks? Inoculate them while they're sleeping? Sending them off somewhere together (Butlin's Holiday Camps, perhaps?) might be counterproductive, like putting all the best escapers in Colditz Castle. How can we escape them?

How long will it take for the refuseniks to develop herd immunity to obtuseness?

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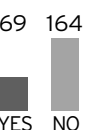
#### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Have you taken action to help FireSmart your property?**

Yes  No

#### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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



Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.



# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"If people are panicking and heading for the ferry terminal, you can imagine how gummed up the roads would be."**

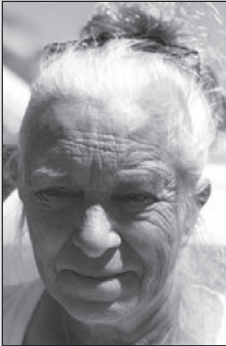
CHARLES NASH, SALT SPRING EMERGENCY PROGRAM COORDINATOR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

### WE ASKED:

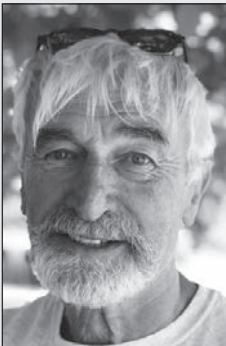
*Has your mask policy changed since July 1?*

#### DELLA FINNEY



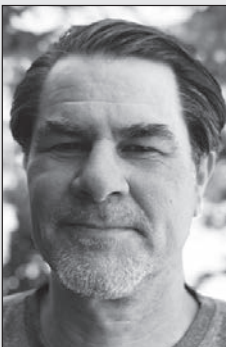
I'm still wearing one. I've only had my first shot and I don't think COVID is eradicated yet.

#### PETE MCKENZIE



Yes, because I was being courteous about other people who were in fear.

#### KEVIN SCRIMGEOUR



It still feels very weird to me not to wear a mask, and it's going to take a while to get normalized, but at the same time it's a dream not having one on outside.

#### LOREEN HOLIZKI



I'm wearing one until two weeks after I get my second shot. I want to be not extreme, but thoughtful.

#### BRIAN FAMARANCO



Yes. It seems like COVID is over. I personally think it is.

## LETTERS to the editor

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

### Kudos

First they dealt with the fire at Windsor Plywood. Then, more recently, they fought the blaze at Mineral Springs Resort, a property not far from ours, during an intense, dry heat wave. I shudder to think what might have occurred if we hadn't had such an amazing group of courageous people working for us on our island.

They contained that fire, kept it from spreading to nearby trees, the neighbourhood, perhaps the entire island, and all our homes. Kudos to you all for keeping us safe and alive.

**SCOTT MERRICK,**  
NORTH END ROAD

These wounds are quite obviously done by dogs.

Keep your dogs on leash. It is the law. You and your dogs should be and will be reported to CRD Animal Control as soon as possible.

**ALLEN M. SCHOEN,**  
QUARRY DRIVE

### Support ER

Timing is everything. I read about the fundraising for the emergency room (ER) at Lady Minto, and the next evening, there I was, needing stitches in my finger.

The waiting room was empty, but when I checked in, was told it could be over an hour wait. Within maybe 10 minutes, two ambulance deliveries were made; 10 minutes later a trauma case arrived, and there was another ambulance delivery at some point into my three-hour stay.

During my time, I can make these observations: there was 100 per cent efficiency in a facility that defies medical expediency (nurses coming and going – not enough room for the supplies); kindness and caring; the

doctor who stitched my finger actually had to move the table he was using when he heard the helicopter arrive to "make way" (as they are tight for space); and a second doctor on-call needed to be brought in. Privacy is not part of the experience; a big deal for some and not others.

I was glad I brought a book, and someone offered to get me yogurt and a muffin. (How sweet was that?) I also promised to write a letter in support of the fundraising campaign.

So, while I wouldn't wish you a trip to Lady Minto's ER, I do hope you can imagine how beneficial it will be to our community to have an ER that can serve you and everyone well. Two million dollars should be easy for this community to collect for this essential service. Contribute now!

**DEBBIE MAGNUSSON,**  
EAGLE RIDGE DRIVE

### Priorities

We have received an information sheet via mailbox delivery and read the June 23 Driftwood article headlined "Policy update alarms islanders."

What is going on here? This is the first we learned of such sweeping proposed changes to the Trust Policy Statement.

How can this possibly reach the first reading stage without all island communities being full apprised of content and communications.

As this is the first time we have been made aware of what is going on, we have to presume that it is your premise that all of us living on the Gulf islands or in the Trust Area will get information by way of "www something" or "Zoom something?"

To trustee Laura Patrick, who is quoted as saying first reading is "the right way to go forward," it is not.

Also, what does 2050 Project Timeline mean? We have been property owners for 28 years on Salt Spring and we wish to make it clear that at this stage in the history of the Trust Area, your energy should be devoted to water, housing, infrastructure without which the islands will surely decline.

**MAUREEN & RON NEFF,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 7

### Warning

Dog owners near or on Quarry Drive: Please be aware it is illegal to have your dogs off leash.

I am an animal lover and with that I owe it to the one helpless fawn that found its way to my property to die Friday from dog bite wounds and another fawn that was dying and also had wounds from being attacked by dogs on or near Quarry Drive.

## Niggling questions persist after loss of internet

A dreadful thing happened to me a few nights back; a terrible, nightmarish, almost-but-not-quite-apocalyptic event, the memory of which still brings on a cold sweat.

The internet broke down.

There, I've said it and I can't say sharing it has so far been especially cathartic. I am still drained by the memory of it, a full hour with nothing to do but talk to each other or read a book. A book! I mean, who reads books? Nasty, grubby things that harbour bugs and germs between every inky page. And as for talking to each other, after nigh on 50 years in close proximity there isn't much left to say beyond "Have you seen my glasses?"

Anyway, I don't mind telling you that I panicked. After five minutes staring at a blank TV screen, switching my iPad off and on a couple of times and poking forlornly at the flashing yellow light on my router I phoned Shaw. (And for the pedants out there I phoned them on my cell phone because the proper phones were also as dead as bricks.)

I telephoned Shaw at 9 p.m., so needless to say there were no actual human beings in the office, which was now apparently staffed by robots and tape recordings. And after four or five desultory, fruitless stabs at getting through I was eventually advised by the moronic recording on the other end that I could check for cable outages at [www.shaw.ca](http://www.shaw.ca). Well, thank you for that! It might just as easily have told me to send a carrier pigeon for all the use it was since the very reason I was calling was because my internet has broken!

To make matters even more intolerable, every dreary minute spent on the phone was punctuated by another chirpy recording extolling the virtues of Shaw Communications. Did I know for instance that Shaw had the fastest network in Canada, which was



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER THING

news to me because my Shaw network had ground to a halt, which is why I was on the damned phone and shouting at a robot. So, if I can offer a small word of advice to Shaw Communications, don't try selling the benefits of your service to someone who has "Pressed One For Technical Assistance" for the fifth time only to be reminded how good the service could be if it was working!

I suppose I have no one else to blame but myself (and Shaw of course) for my sudden ejection from the internet being so painful because I've allowed myself to become hooked on it. If it were left to me, the only thing still unconnected to the internet in our house would be the pot of African violets on the dining table, but Mrs. Mc is a Lud-dite and has drawn the line at fridges that browse the web, washing machines that remind you to change your underwear and living room lights you can turn on from Africa. I haven't yet connected my garage door to the internet, but that's simply because it involves going up a ladder, but when I do get around to it I'll be able to open and close the door from Calgary.

Meanwhile, had the outage lasted any longer I would have had to personally remind myself to stand up, to clean my teeth, that it was a Saturday and that we were almost out of coffee and dish soap, all of them advice from helpful little computer gewgaws (or "apps" as the techies like to

call them because they're hip and too bone idle to call them "applications"). On the bright side my toothbrush couldn't nag me about cleaning my tongue or flossing, both of which I lie about anyway. (Metaphysical question for the future: Is it acceptable to lie to your toothbrush?)

I can't say I missed TV that much, although an hour's abstinence is not much of a test of courage, because it invariably takes me a good 45 minutes to figure out what Apple TV has done with the programs I'd been watching the night before, so the disconnection was a bit of a relief. And it probably saved me money since I discovered recently that I'd accidentally signed up for the Smithsonian network at five bucks a month while blindly clicking on things to get access to a program on Australian spiders.

The worst aspect of my exile from the world wide web, however, had nothing to do with the jolly useful things I expect my computer and phones to do for me, but with a sudden sense of overwhelming separation. If I couldn't access Apple TV then neither could I get into iCloud, which meant that everything I've written in the past five years was lost to me. I don't know about you, but I have absolutely no idea where Apple or Microsoft have been stashing my stuff nor indeed what the "Cloud" is exactly. I know that my columns are in it, as are the pictures of my grandkids and the cats and even the top-secret list of all my passwords, but WHERE is it? How do I know that Bill Gates hadn't been rooting through my files and sneering at my bank statements?

But then the internet was back, my toothbrush and bathroom scales were talking to me again and all's well with the world. Just time for a quick email to Gates to tell him to pack it in!

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

# CRD collaboration with fire district proceeds

The recent structure fires at Windsor Plywood and Mineral Springs Resort are unfortunate reminders of the essential service our local firefighters provide, and the need for a new fire hall that meets current seismic and other regulatory standards.

The recently announced Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between our Salt Spring Fire Protection District (SSFPD) and the CRD to co-locate our Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), now paying commercial rent in a non-earthquake proof basement, will hopefully contribute to a successful referendum for a new public safety building in late 2021 or early 2022. Next to the new Lady Minto emergency room, to which the Capital Region Hospital Board is also contributing \$3 million, a new public safety building is Salt Spring's most important infrastructure investment.

The MoU also provides the CRD an option to retain the Ganges fire hall and site in our village centre in public hands, and re-purpose it for community uses such as a year-round market for local foods and artisans. The cost-sharing arrangements for the new EOC and details of the purchase or lease option for the Ganges fire hall will be negotiated based on fair market value. If voters approve the new public safety building (located on donated land), the Ganges fire hall must still be used for up to two years while the new facility is constructed. This will provide time to negotiate purchase or lease costs and



**Gary Holman**  
CRD DIRECTOR'S  
**REPORT**

develop a business plan for the site, likely to be operated by local community groups under the auspices of Parks and Recreation, much like our markets in Centennial Park or as proposed for the middle school.

## Parks and Rec Commission

Our local Parks and Recreation Commission, ably supported by CRD staff, is taking on a number of other capital projects, over two dozen in all, including negotiation of a five-year lease with School District 64 for the soon-to-be vacant middle school building. With over 17,000 square feet of space, plus a gymnasium, this building presents a huge opportunity for arts and other organizations. Also, if longer tenures can be negotiated, this facility, which has recently been seismically upgraded, could also allow for consolidation of local government offices, currently paying commercial rent in three different locations.

The commission has also authorized CRD staff to negotiate the purchase of a 78-acre property near Mount Max-

well. A local group has already secured substantial pledges to fund the purchase, which would provide a forested buffer for Maxwell Provincial Park and drinking watershed, as well as significant opportunities for mountain biking and hiking.

PARC is also reconsidering the site for their much-needed maintenance facility for machinery, equipment and staff, and has recommended the Rainbow Road property be examined as part of the public consultation for the site master plan. This facility is not a frill or "nice to have". Our PARC crews are taking on a growing inventory of aging infrastructure, new responsibilities such as the United Church meadow, and are also building and maintaining a growing network of pathways.

## Affordable Housing Issues

Discussions with BC Housing regarding a project on Drake Road continue, but are now complicated by the availability of another, perhaps more suitable property for the development. Islands Trust has recently proposed that the CRD establish business licences for accommodations to help enforce bylaws restricting short-term vacation rentals. The CRD Electoral Area Services Committee will consider a motion at its July 14 meeting requesting CRD staff to report on the merits and costs of implementing a business licence regime, which will also require provincial approval.

I have also been working with our local trustees and MLA on a review of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax (SVT). The SVT is an annual property tax surcharge on vacant properties to incentivize housing development and rentals. I have also contacted the Social Planning Council of Greater Victoria on the possible inclusion of Salt Spring in their regional rent bank initiative, which provides short-term assistance to renters at risk of losing their homes due to temporary financial difficulties.

## Booth Canal/Central Path

The Booth Canal to Central pathway is now virtually complete and the related \$490,000 grant from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) has been received.

As already reported, the Transportation Commission has recommended that with MoTI funding secured, CRD staff should examine possible measures to address some safety concerns about the project, including moving part or all of the retaining wall fronting the Baker Road cemetery, and removing some or all of the roadside curbs. These design elements were approved by three levels of engineers (Stantec, local CRD, MoTI), but cyclists and drivers should exercise the same caution they did before the pathway was built.

Please contact me at directorssi@crd.bc.ca or 250-538-4307 if you have questions or comments.

# Saturna trustee mischaracterizes draft policy statement

BY SUSAN YATES

I am distressed at reading Saturna trustee Paul Brent's In Depth opinion piece in last week's Driftwood. He prefaces his writing with a comment about "graphic and disturbing content" and then says that it's a "strange and provocative title."

It sure is, but I'd liken his opinion piece more to incendiary misinformation meant to disrupt a process that has been very carefully and comprehensively wrought for almost two years. I have been participating in, and

## IN RESPONSE

reporting on (for the Gabriola Sounder) the Islands Trust Policy project regularly during the past 22 months. In fact my first opportunity for input was at the Salt Spring Fall Fair in 2019.

Like every person in the Islands Trust Area, I have had many opportunities to comment on the Policy Statement process: in writing, by surveys, and in person (more recently via Zoom) at Trust Council meetings. I've had lots

to say about the process, sometimes agreeing and sometimes not, with the comprehensive and timely review that Trust Council is undertaking to update the Policy Statement. One thing for sure, this is not a process that has been rushed, or that in any way has ignored public input.

Trustee Brent says, "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." Not one of these so-called concerns is based on fact, and trustee Brent must surely know this.

It is disingenuous, and mean-spirited of trustee Brent to let his own constituents believe that the Policy Statement revisions are doing any of these things. It is also irresponsible of trustee Brent to not inform his constituents about the ongoing process of the Policy Statement project whereby anyone can see all of the revisions to date, and comment on them at any time, to their own Local Trust Committee,

or to Trust Council via the Executive members of Council.

I earnestly hope that trustee Brent might change his tune and encourage his constituents to read the draft Policy Statement so they can see for themselves the revisions which have been carefully and comprehensively updated to include essential references to affordable housing, climate change, and First Nations Reconciliation.

*The writer is a Gabriola Island resident and former Gabriola trustee.*

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# Lytton fire hits close to home

BY CHRIS ARNETT

Last week, on the eve of Canada Day, a small town in the B.C. Interior burned pretty much to the ground. Many people on this island have probably never heard of Lytton or only drove by it on Highway 1. If people know of Lytton all they associate it with is the spectacular white river rafting or its reputation as the hottest place in Canada, which proved all too true last week after racking up three days of record-breaking temperatures.

Lytton is a remarkable Canadian town, one of the oldest communities in British Columbia and today a community proud of its Indigenous, European and Chinese heritage. It is a friendly place where people of all backgrounds live and work together and share in their mutual heritage. The entire town had bilingual street signs in English and Nlaka'pamuxen. They have an incredible weekly market with local produce and Indigenous arts and crafts. The hotel pub and bar was legendary and its café breakfasts and buffalo burgers unparalleled.

Lytton, or Tl'kumsheen, "mouth where the waters meet," is located at the confluence of the muddy Fraser and the green Thompson where populations flourished over the millennia thanks to the annual visit of sockeye salmon and a unique location with hot sun and strong winds to dry vast amounts of the fish for winter use. Like Jerusalem for Jews and Christians, Lytton, for the Interior Salish Nlaka'pamux [INTLA-KAP-MUH], is the centre of the world because here the Son of Coyote ascended to the sky where he was given the patterns of all the implements people would eventually use to make their living. He was lowered down to earth in a space basket which landed at Lytton on a large flat rock that bore the imprints of his craft. In 1806, the inhabitants met Simon Fraser on his journey to the coast along the river that bears his name. He stopped at Lytton, was feasted, listened to long speeches and shook hands with 1,000 people.

In 1858, Nlaka'pamux territory

## INDEPTH

extended from Harrison Lake to the west, into Washington State to the south, to Lillooet in the north and Ascroft and Hedley to the east. That year saw the first gold rush with European and American miners fighting their way through the Fraser Canyon burning several Indigenous villages. At Lytton they were met by the great leader Sux'pintlum, who stopped the conflict. A unique treaty was arranged between the newcomers and the Nlaka'pamux. Sux'pintlum divided the land where they stood in half and so it has been ever since with the reserve to the north and the town to the south. Chinese miners followed in 1859 and some married Nlaka'pamux women. Their heritage was preserved and celebrated in the Lytton Chinese Cultural Museum, a local collaborative initiative which like everything else in town, Indigenous and non-Indigenous, is now utterly destroyed.

**People might think that Salt Spring has little connection to this far-flung place but there is one that goes back thousands of years.**

Since colonization, Lytton has existed as a model of an integrated B.C. community that celebrates its diversity. Lytton is home to the pioneering Rebagliati family who immigrated from Italy in 1888 and whose famous snowboarding son, when he was denied participation in the Olympics for alleged marijuana use, prompted the campaign to "Smoke a fattie for Rebagliati." The historic 1913 family home and folder freight shed was destroyed, but the acacia trees they brought with them from Italy and planted along the streets

of town miraculously survived the inferno.

People might think that Salt Spring has little connection to this far-flung place but there is one that goes back thousands of years. Up until the 1870s, when the newly arrived Canadian government intervened, Vancouver Island people migrated every year to the Fraser River to fish the sockeye, stopping along the way in Shiya'hwt (Ganges Harbour) and Penelakut Island to harvest clams and herring to smoke and take to the mainland to trade with Nlaka'pamux for jade adzes, which were essential woodworking tools with an edge almost as good as steel. Jade is only found in southern B.C. between Hope and Lillooet, with the major source and manufacturing area at Lytton.

For me and my wife Barbara, what happened last week is personal. In the 1980s I worked with the Lytton First Nation interviewing elders and documenting the history of the Stein River Valley, a place just north of Lytton, which was threatened with roads and clearcut logging. Now it is a pristine Class-A provincial park being considered for UNESCO world heritage status. This work and my archaeological work in the Stein Valley in the early 2000s was the basis for my 2016 PhD. Barbara is related to the acting-Chief John Haugen, who worked tirelessly for his people and the town even as his own home filled with treasured heirlooms went up in flames. We have many relatives in the Indigenous community, many of whom have also lost their homes.

Ninety years ago much of the original town, a gem of Victorian and Edwardian architecture, disappeared in a similar holocaust, but the people rebuilt, and now a new Lytton will arise on the ashes.

To make this happen, this unique, historic town needs our help. In helping them we help ourselves. Think of Lytton figuratively, as the Nlaka'pamux do, as the centre of the world, as a warning for the future or a cure for what ails us.

Please donate generously to the Canadian Red Cross or the GoFundMe of your choice.

## MORE LETTERS

### Two winners

The Salt Spring Club of the Canadian Federation of University Women is very proud to announce that this year there are two winners of our annual bursary.

Each year we offer a \$3,000 award for a woman returning to school, a resident of the southern Gulf Islands, and one in need of financial assistance. We had several worthy applicants, but two stood out for us. It was very difficult to place one above the other. That being so, we scraped the barrel and came up with enough to provide each of our two winners with the full amount.

The two bursary winners are Jamie Ferguson and Maria Robins, residents of Salt Spring. Jamie has been accepted at Camosun College as a student of medical sonography for use as a medical laboratory assistant. Maria plans to complete her prerequisites at Thompson Rivers University before undertaking a master's degree in midwifery. She has a BSc from Acadia. Both women have two dependent children.

We are very grateful to our members and friends who are supporting these bursaries, and owe particular votes of thanks to Fraser's Thimble Farms and Thrifty Foods for their support. Our best wishes go to our winners, and we wish all our applicants a successful year to come.

**IRENE WRIGHT,**  
FOR THE CFUW SALT SPRING CLUB

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**GARY HOLMAN**  
SALT SPRING ISLAND  
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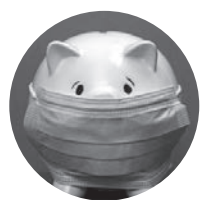
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## HOUSING

# Upheaval contributes to stress

Rental situation keeps manager on the move

*Editor's note: The following is the first in a Finding Home series of profiles of islanders who are impacted by the lack of affordable housing, compiled by Aina Yasué of the local group Salt Spring Solutions.*

BY AINA YASUÉ  
SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

Sarah Hyams has been the manager of Artcraft at the Salt Spring Arts Council for the past two years, but she isn't sure how long she can keep the job she loves due to her housing uncertainty.

Drawn to the beauty of nature and the arts community of Salt Spring Island, Sarah moved here with her son three years ago. Despite feeling initially uneasy due to the stories she heard of the difficulty of finding rental housing here, she kept a positive attitude and settled in. However, in the three years she has been on the island, she has been forced to move to a different rental home six times

## FINDING HOME

—that works out to twice a year. "Finding a permanent place to rent is like finding gold," says Sarah, due to the lack of availability of long-term rental homes.

The upheaval of moving every few months while working full-time, as well as the stress of housing uncertainty and security, can take its toll.

"It's part of the culture here," she says. "It's almost a given that if you rent you have to kind of slog it out. I think some people just tire of it and leave."

The federal and provincial governments have stated that in order for housing to be affordable it should take up no more than 30 per cent of a person's income. Right now, Sarah is paying nearly 50 per cent of her income on rent every month.

She notes, "the salaries available on the island and rental housing costs don't match up." Hyams has also worked as




PHOTO COURTESY SS SOLUTIONS  
Artcraft manager Sarah Hyams.

a cleaner, and has noticed many living spaces on the island sit empty most of the time, noting the stark difference in the reality of life between that of homeowners and those who rent.

Sarah is looking for a one-bedroom cabin with a sofa-bed her 18-year-old son can sleep on when he visits. She must leave her current place by the end of September. If nothing turns up she will have to leave Salt Spring and Artcraft will lose a dedicated employee.

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HOME

# Personal wildfire assessments now available

FireSmart program has many benefits for Salt Spring residents

SUBMITTED BY SSIFR

Islanders can learn ways to improve wildfire safety around their home with a personal FireSmart assessment thanks to a new B.C. government-funded program.

Local FireSmart representatives from Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) are now available to visit island homes to conduct individual assessments.

In addition, island seniors (aged 65 plus) and people with disabilities can be eligible for a \$250 rebate through SSIFR when they mitigate fire hazards at their property.

**“It seems clear that the survival of homes was a function of resistance to ignition, and not a random event or a matter of luck.”**

ALAN WESTGAVER  
*Fort McMurray fire researcher*

“Simple actions can make a big difference to protect your home,” said SSIFR Capt. Mitchell Sherrin.

FireSmart is a program to help residents enhance the defensible space around buildings to protect them from wild-

fires, Sherrin said. “Pruning trees, thinning and removing dead branches; even mowing the lawn will help reduce the threat of a wildfire igniting your home.”

Routine maintenance around the house to ensure that vents are screened and that gutters are clear of debris will also reduce the risk of a home igniting due to a wildfire, he said.

About half of building ignitions during wildfire events are caused by showers of embers and firebrands, Sherrin noted.

An assessment of where embers might collect and a reduction of combustible material that would be a nest for those embers is one of the biggest things a homeowner can do to protect a building from wildfire, he said.

A study of Fort McMurray following the 2016 fire that destroyed 2,400 structures indicated that FireSmart actions helped buildings survive wildfire, according to researcher Alan Westhaver.

“It seems clear that the survival of homes was a function of resistance to ignition, and not a random event or a matter of luck,” he stated. “Beyond doubt, risk mitigation (FireSmart) guidelines demonstrated their effectiveness in mitigating risk under the harshest of wildfire conditions.”

To book a FireSmart assessment or to learn more information about FireSmart, contact SSIFR (250-537-2531), drop by the Ganges fire hall (105 Lower Ganges Rd.) or check the SSIFR website (www.saltspringfire.com).



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**OPEN FOR BUSINESS:** Ganges Visitor Centre volunteers John Hobbs and Lynne Fraser have the new info centre sign ready in freshly renovated space after the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce-operated centre re-opened on July 1. The centre opened on a reduced schedule, although summer students are now in place to provide service in addition to volunteers. Anyone interested in volunteering at the centre in Ganges or learning more about it can call Connie Wray at 250-537-5442.

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ARTSPRING

# Treasure Fair set to unfold online

Annual ArtSpring fundraiser

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

It's been a long time coming, but the wait is almost over! After the break in 2020, ArtSpring's Treasure Fair team has been working tirelessly to reignite the loyal support it has always enjoyed from the Salt Spring community, and to bring the community an online fundraising event full of exciting and unique finds.

The online-only events are certainly a new challenge to the team that has always thrived on turning the ArtSpring galleries into a shopper's paradise. But, under the direction of coordinator Catherine Griffiths, that challenge has been met, and then some. The donation box was full to bursting well ahead of schedule, thanks not only to individuals but to business donors, who have all faced an incredibly tough 16 months. That's the spirit of our community right there.

So, what can people expect from this year's events? The auction catalogues have already opened for preview, so why not take a peek and note now what you want to bid on. Some highlights? The three-night Yukon trip is this year's centrepiece — a unique place in Canada to celebrate the resumption of inter-province travel. Or how about our "only on Salt Spring" items,

including a whale skeleton articulator studio visit, a historical tour of Salt Spring, a recording session, and a forest and nature therapy walk. You could also learn something new, or brush up your skills, with a basketry, quilting or knitting class; get some expert gardening advice; or discover spectacular sea life swimming with the Salt Spring Seals.

The live auction gala event has also moved online. ArtSpring board president Walter Stewart, and previous president Deb Toole will be your effervescent hosts, taking you through the big-ticket items and keeping those bids coming in. To help the event go with a swing we have a limited number of party packs for you to enjoy at home. Each pack contains wine, Salt Spring Cheese products, Salt Spring Kitchen jam, and crackers, plus a ticket for the live auction gala. And one pack contains a special winning ticket.

**Schedule**

At [treasurefair.artspring.ca](http://treasurefair.artspring.ca)

- From July 1 – preview catalogues, register to bid, buy a Zoom live auction gala ticket, and party pack.
- July 14, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on July 18: bid high and bid often on silent auction items.
- July 17, 6 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.: Zoom live auction gala. Bidding is from 6 to 8 p.m. (ticket not required if you aren't attending the Zoom gala).

# what's on this week



Wed. July 7

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Gabriel Dubreuil and George Crotty.**  
 Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

**VIA ZOOM/ONLINE**  
**Islands Trust Council Special Meeting.**  
 On draft Trust Policy Statement. Info session from 6:30 to 7 p.m.; town hall from 7 to 9 p.m. See the Islands Trust website for info and links.

Thu. July 8

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**K-Tones.**  
 Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

**Billie Woods.**  
 Live music on the patio at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Library Summer Camp.**  
 Games, crafts and more. SS Public Library. Ages 5-8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; ages 9-11 from 1 to 3 p.m. Advance registration required: 250-537-4666 or [kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com).

**VIA ZOOM**

**Islands Trust Council Special Meeting.**  
 Trustees consider first reading of the new draft Trust Policy Statement bylaw. 9 a.m. start. See the Islands Trust website for info and links.

Thu. July 8

**VIA ZOOM**  
**Pride Poetry Open Mic.**  
 Sophie Crocker, Kayla Czaga, Gina Hay and James Summer are featured poets. Join at 6:45 p.m. to sign up to read. One poem per reader. Join at 7 p.m. to listen to the readings. Email [programs@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com) to get the link.

Fri. July 9

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Broken Heartstrings.**  
 Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island Photo Shoot.** Community members are invited to join Driftwood staff in taking photos of life on the island from 6 a.m. today through 6 a.m. on Saturday. More info: [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or Gail at 250-537-9933.

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

**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. July 10

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Julia Beattie.**  
 Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday Market in the Park.**  
 Saturday market runs from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sun. July 11

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Tom Hooper.**  
 Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

Mon. July 12

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Terry Warbey & Craig McKerron.**  
 Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

Tue. July 13

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**  
**Joy Ride.**  
 Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**Tuesday Farmers' Market.**  
 Weekly market of fresh produce and food/drink products at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

**Library Summer Camp.**  
 Games, crafts and more. SS Public Library. Ages 5-8 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.; ages 9-11 from 1 to 3 p.m. Advance registration required: 250-537-4666 or [kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com).

Tue. July 13

**VIA ZOOM**  
**Living With Fire In Salt Spring Island.**  
 Salt Spring Emergency Program hosts a webinar and community roundtable. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Get link through [SSIEPC@crd.bc.ca](mailto:SSIEPC@crd.bc.ca), your neighbourhood POD leader or see <http://www.facebook.com/SaltSpringIslandEmergencyProgram>.

**Poetry of Religious Traditions.**  
 A Star of the Sea event facilitated by poet Brian Day. Bring a poem from any religious tradition; or just come to listen and share your response. 7 to 8:30 p.m. For more info and the Zoom link, email [staroftheseassi@gmail.com](mailto:staroftheseassi@gmail.com).

Wed. July 14

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Mike and Margo.**  
 Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

**Peter Prince.**  
 Live music on the porch at Mahon Hall. 12 to 2 p.m.

**VIA ZOOM**

**Treasure Fair.**  
 Silent auction for ArtSpring fundraiser runs from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. today and continues through July 18 at 6 p.m. See [treasurefair.artspring.ca](http://treasurefair.artspring.ca).



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**THE FRITZ CINEMA**

• The Fritz shows **Nomadland** on Wed.,-Thurs., July 7-8 at 7 p.m.; then **Cruella** runs Friday, July 9 through Tuesday, July 13 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. COVID-19 protocols in place. See [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca) for more info.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- **Crossroads**, a showcase of oil painting and digital art by father and son Paul Robert Bryans and Lorence Bryans is up at Salt Spring Gallery until July 21.
- **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  
 Online now at:  
[ssphotog.ning.com/page/eclectic-visions](https://ssphotog.ning.com/page/eclectic-visions)  
**THRIFTY FOODS**  
 Ganges, Mouat's Centre • 7:30am to 9pm  
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Send your events for listing to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



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**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

**In Memoriam**

**Coming Events**

**Financial Services**

## Anthony Malcolm Burridge

July 29, 1930 – June 29, 2021

Tony was a devoted husband to Betty for nearly seventy years; a father to three children: Wendy and her family: Tom, James and Susan; Kathy, with Thomas, Christel and Ron, and David with Sherri, Paul, Alana and Chelsea, and great-grandfather of 9, scattered across Alberta, Australia and Salt Spring Island.

Ten years ago Tony and his twin sister Anne Ayre also met their half-brother John Clare in England – a relationship that has enriched their lives, as well as adding nieces and nephews in the UK to those spread across North America.

Tony was born in Vancouver, where he and Anne made friends with Betty and Bill Jenkins, who moved to Ottawa during the war. Tony contacted Bill when he went to Ottawa one university summer holidays, met Betty again – and that was that!

He joined the University Air Training Plan while at U.B.C. in 1950, briefly flew DC3's for CP Air, then joined the RCAF as a Flying Officer in 1954. In 1956 the squadron was transferred to Marville, France to provide all weather defence for NATO; two years later Tony was transferred to an intelligence job at Air Defence Headquarters in Metz, France. He and Betty loved their time in France, using it to explore much of Europe and form lifelong friendships. After postings to Penhold, Alberta, NORAD Headquarters in Colorado Springs, Toronto and Nova Scotia, he retired in 1976.

Although he loved flying, Tony was also a passionate sailor, perhaps stemming from his early childhood on a boat in Vancouver harbour. Later, in Colorado, he involved all the family in building a ten-metre sloop which was finished in the backyard in Scarborough, launched at Trenton, and for her maiden voyage, sailed down the St Lawrence to Shediac NB – complete with three children, two dogs and two guinea pigs. (The horse, who had also travelled from Colorado to Toronto, was trailered separately.) For three years home was an Annapolis Valley farm, where another four horses and a cat were added to the family. On transferring to Halifax, he and Betty, with son David, started building Takuli, a 13 m cutter, to fulfill a lifelong ambition of ocean sailing. While still living on the boat, they began building their house on Sunset Drive; Tony then went on to another career as a house builder, aided by the experience of renovating the many houses the family had lived in during his air force career. Eventually he sold Takuli, bought a smaller sailboat, and for Betty's 80th birthday, rebuilt a Nordic Tug to continue exploring the Gulf Islands.

Tony was also a committed dog lover and was rarely without a dog in his life – from Rabiote, the French cart dog his rum-runner father rescued in Mexico, through many dachshunds to his last little Missy, who is providing Betty with great comfort now. However, to his children and grandchildren, his most noted dog was Freda's great-great-great grandfather, the hero of many tales on long car trips and bedtime stories.

Tony was an individual: courageous, loving, curious and innovative. He will be fiercely missed.



Alice Kathleen (nee Lacy) Rathwell



September 12, 1922 - January 10, 2021

### A Celebration of Life

service at St. Mary's Church - Fullford Harbour July 10th • 1:00pm Reception to follow at Fullford Hall

Everyone welcome

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**Help Wanted**

### Salt Spring Island Public Library VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

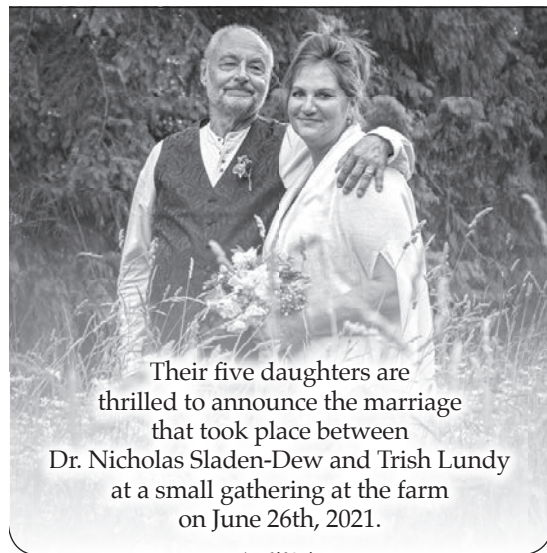
The Salt Spring Island Teen Volunteer program is looking for new volunteers, aged 14-18, where they can gain fantastic work experience and pursue topics that interest them. Shifts are flexible and can happen in person and/or digitally.

The program offers valuable work experience and can expand resumes.

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

**Weddings**

**Weddings**



Their five daughters are thrilled to announce the marriage that took place between Dr. Nicholas Sladen-Dew and Trish Lundy at a small gathering at the farm on June 26th, 2021.

**Livestock**

**Livestock**

I'M LOOKING FOR AFRICAN BOER PYGMY GOATS. I would like to purchase at least one or two does. If you have some or know someone that has some, please phone me at: 250-537-9744 or email me at: [edwenger@saltspring.com](mailto:edwenger@saltspring.com)



### THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

Wednesday JULY 21, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.

Public welcome.

**Career Opportunities**

### Class 1 Drivers

Comox Pacific Express ([www.comoxpacific.com](http://www.comoxpacific.com)) is hiring Full Time Class 1 drivers in Campbell River to provide shunting and delivery services on Vancouver Island. Union position with starting wage of \$23.44.

For full details visit [www.localwork.ca](http://www.localwork.ca)

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**Garage Sales**

LARGE WORKSHOP Garage Sale - 124 Lawnhill Dr. Saturday July 10, 8:30am to 4pm. Tools, Electric Tools. Air Tools, Large and small shop equipment.

## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

[www.sunstarastrology.com](http://www.sunstarastrology.com) 1-800-836-0648 [sunstarastrology@gmail.com](mailto:sunstarastrology@gmail.com)

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

The New Moon in Cancer occurs on July 9. Since the Moon rules the sign of mothering, nurturing, family, ancestry, home and security, these themes are emphasized when it transits through its own sign. During its annual conjunction to the Sun in this sign of nurses, healers, empaths, counsellors and nurturers in general, it sows a celestial seed cycle that activates the impulse for families to gather. Sadly, we live in a world that has found reason to name a terrible disease after this most significant and precious sign. In this chart, Venus and Mars are closely aligned in Leo and will form an exact conjunction on July 13, adding a playful, passionate and romantic theme to the plot. The exact degree of the New Moon activates Scorpio and Taurus, the money signs. With Pluto in big daddy Capricorn and maintaining a lead position, we are likely to see more harsh measures and power plays. If only safety and security were the true motives, but as with the disease called cancer, contradictions and inversions will likely persist.

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**

Yes, you want to huddle in close to home and yes, it may involve a deeper cycle of reflection. Yet, you also want to get out and play and have some fun in the sun. Since drama on the airwaves has become the new norm, it will still be there when you return so . . . carpe diem! Focus on quality over quantity for best results and show the ones you love just how much you truly do.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**

Many thoughts about what constitutes true security and how you can achieve it are on your mind. You are willing to do the work and dig deep and make whatever changes you deem necessary. As much as you yearn for peace, ease and flow, you know that it comes at a price and you are willing to engage your own efforts and talents.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**

Reconsidering what you deem important has been a persistent theme. Upon reflection, you may realize that some of your perspectives have shifted over the past several weeks. Questioning the popular narrative more than you did previously is likely. Yet, you also want to enjoy life more and make the most of the season.

**Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)**

The New Moon in your sign indicates the urge to take new leads and initiatives. These will likely include others, especially your significant other. If there is no one occupying that position, you may want there to be, more than usual. Whether quality time shared with a friend or someone closer, you yearn for beauty and passion to spice up your life.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)**

Balancing the urge to retreat with an equally strong impulse to venture out and explore new territory is a central theme now. What sort of uncharted territory you want to explore is for you to decide. Dreams, ideals and fantasies, too, are all likely categories. Desiring fulfillment is natural and sometimes the urge is much stronger than others, like now.

**Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)**

Your sense of individuality is increasing steadily now and this trend will continue. You may find yourself moving closer to certain people and streams of knowledge and communication and away from others. Questioning what you know, understand and believe and how you express your views is featured. Taking a more philosophical approach is also likely.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**

Fresh starts in your public and professional life will be activated by this New Moon. These may include returns on investment or other financial themes which may come to your attention unexpectedly. There are some positive indicators that things will flow your way, yet may require or include some alternative approaches.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**

Some cycles include paradoxical twists like 'back to the future,' for example, and this is one of them. You may experience strong déjà-vu flashes. These will likely trigger memories of past relationships as well, offering you a fresh opportunity to observe how much you and others have changed along the way. Yet, the main question now is: what next?

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**

Periodically, the flow guides us to cleanse and purge and it looks like you have arrived at such a time. The good news is that such activity is a cornerstone of health and wellness. Your task is to decipher what constitutes your best focus in this regard. Aim for a few fronts and do the rounds with the goal of raising your overall vibration.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**

This lunation cycle will activate important exchanges with significant others. These are sure to stir your imagination, for better or worse. You may have to make extra efforts to be here, now and keep your imagination in check. Positively, you could experience some measure of spiritual realization. Meanwhile, Venus and Mars want you to dive into the deep end.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)**

New activations close to home and which will affect your lifestyle will be triggered by this New Moon. It carries with it an auspicious energy pattern which implies fortifying your overall foundation. Rich exchanges with your significant other are also featured and these will prove stimulating and energizing, if perhaps a bit edgy, at times.

**Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)**

A strong, creative wave of inspiration will flow in thanks to this New Moon. In fact, it could prove to be a veritable surfer's dream. In like manner, a spirit of will and determination are required to meet the challenge. Yet, the excitement aside, it could also prove to be a powerful turning point that serves to push you to advance to the next level.

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**Personal Services**

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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### MUSIC

# Lazare's songwriting talent shines on 'Gold'

Phoenix's debut album available  
Friday, July 9

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local singer-songwriter Phoenix Lazare has mined some of her most formative experiences for her material, and with her debut album getting released this Friday, July 9, it's clear that deeply felt autobiographical material is truly "Gold."



artist," she said. "I wrote it about my fiancé, looking into our future with hope, almost as if through gold-tinted glasses."

Like most musicians and performers, COVID-19 has posed some real challenges to the young artist. Lazare's decision to come home to Salt Spring meant difficulties in forging a career in any case — there are limited venues and audiences, and just a small peer community.

At the same time, there are some strong opportunities for relationships in the small base. Last month, RBC and the Academy of Canadian Cinema & Television announced Lazare was among 11 grant recipients for the sixth round of the MVP Project, a

program that provides support to emerging Canadian musicians and filmmakers for music video creation and production. Her proposed team included Deanna Milligan as director and Yael Wand as producer. With grant funding in hand, they were able to film the title track video for Gold on Vancouver Island last weekend.

A cast of key connections meanwhile backs Lazare's debut album production. Mixing was done by Lazare's friend Louis Remenapp, a studio engineer in Nashville. Her dad, electric guitarist Christopher Lazare, mastered the album, and it is being released through the family's music company, Lazare Music Inc.

Lazare's father additionally serves as her duet partner on Common Ground, a powerful ballad written during the turbulent 2016 American election cycle. The album also features her brother Atom Lazare on drum set and her partner Justin Kelley on electric guitar, as well as a handful of other friends to round out the arrangements.

"I'm really glad that it came together through the hands of my family and friends. I'm very blessed to have a musical family, and I wouldn't have it any other way," Lazare said.

Lazare's music is available through her website at [www.phoenixlazare.com](http://www.phoenixlazare.com) as well as platforms such as Spotify and Apple Music. Follow her on Instagram, Facebook, Twitter and TikTok for more content and updates.

As a musical talent whose star was noticeably shining in her years at Gulf Islands Secondary School, Lazare has only built upon her early promise in the years since. She won a scholarship to the renowned Berklee College of Music and graduated with a degree in songwriting in 2017, before heading to Nashville to hone her craft for a few more years. While Lazare has released a number of singles over the years, the album represents music she's written throughout her entire journey into adulthood.

"It's a compilation of songs I had been sitting on that I just wanted people to hear — and they deserve to be listened to, I think," Lazare explained. "The oldest song I probably wrote was when I was about 17, which was eight years ago, almost a decade, and the newest song I wrote was in 2020, last year."

"The album follows my transition from being a young woman trying to figure out who I am to being more secure, and myself as a creator and an artist and a woman. Most of the songs are very personal," she added.

Lazare eschewed the professional recording studio for this collection. She began to create Gold in Nashville and did some recording in Toronto, where she spent the earliest part of the pandemic, and then finished the album back on Salt Spring, working in her family's home studio as well as her own.

"So it's followed me throughout the past two years of my life, but it's come together really nicely, and I'm proud of it," said Lazare, who self-produced the album.

Authenticity is the cornerstone of Lazare's songwriting. Experiences that have informed her material range from an early breakup that guided her toward a better partner, to becoming aware she was being used in a relationship. Against All Odds displays her determination to shine on after feeling a bit lost.

She believes it's important to show her vulnerability and she willingly shares her emotional openness with others. Inspiration from artists such as Joni Mitchell and John Mayer has helped her develop her own warm sonic style. She feels that's especially true on the title track Gold.

"That song embodies who I am as a person and who I am as an

### LadyMintoHospitalFoundation NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



ELIZABETH MAY  
MP, SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS AND  
CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBER

It is an honour to join the compassionate heart of Salt Spring to raise the funds for a critical need on Salt Spring Island. We all know our venerable old dame of health care, Lady Minto Hospital. She was built when Salt Spring was sparsely populated, but now we have a population of over ten thousand people. The time is overdue for a larger, enhanced Emergency Department. It matters to me as your Member of Parliament. It matters to me as your friend.

[ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline](http://ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline)

Strengthen Our Lifeline

### ART EXHIBIT

# Beauty and tragedy merge in show

Textile artists present  
On the Edge – A  
Planet in Crisis

#### SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

The impacts of the climate crisis are becoming increasingly apparent in all aspects of life.

The Island Textile Artists came together to advocate for this issue through their passion for art, creating On the Edge — A Planet in Crisis, an exhibition curated to provoke conversation on what we may lose as a result of the changing climate crisis.

Each piece represents our oceans, forests, and wildlife by combining beauty with a sense of tragedy. These works showcase the hidden wonders of the planet through expressive imagery and vibrant colours, in contrast to the greying elements of destruction and chaos. The individual artworks unify to remind us of the worsening, devastating impacts

that lie ahead, and all of the existing beauty that we have to fight for.

"Each artist has a story behind the textile art she creates. There is a memory or series of events that motivates an artist to create a piece of work," the group describes. "Our planet in crisis was uppermost on all our minds when our group of ten textile artists gathered in the fall of 2019, before COVID was part of our everyday vocabulary. On the Edge — A Planet in Crisis represents our deep concerns for the loss of not only our brethren in the animal and plant kingdom, but also the waning vitality of our earth, air and water. Humanity's health and well-being is directly connected to our beautiful but vulnerable Mother Earth. We share our feelings of urgency to acknowledge our profound relationship with nature and our need to nurture and protect it."

Formed in 2007, Island Textile Artists is a group of fibre artists

interested in sharing ideas, inspiration and education with each other. Working with a variety of materials including cotton, silk, and wool, they meet monthly to share their work. Members specialize in a variety of techniques such as eco dyeing, felting, silk fusion, digital imagery, shibori and stitch.

The exhibit will feature work by 10 local artists: Linda Counsell, Elna Gravelle, Bobbi Janowiak, Gillian Kidd, Danielle Manners, Joanie Paterson, Susan Paynter, Karen Selk, Karen Tottman & Janet Wheeler. The artists come from diverse backgrounds, but were drawn together on Salt Spring Island because of their shared love of textiles.

On the Edge — A Planet in Crisis is the second in the series of Summer Showcase events presented by Salt Spring Arts (formerly known as the Salt Spring Arts Council). It opened on July 2 and continues until July 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

**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](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) for deadlines and details about how to submit.

250-537-9933  
241 Fulford-Ganges Road  
[driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com)  
[www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com)