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Summertime dining is best done OUTDOORS!

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it's all about PETS



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(details in store)  
Salt Spring Books

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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

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## GANGES HARBOUR

# Planes tangle in 'fender-bender'



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Damaged Harbour Air single-engine De Havilland Otter plane at the Ganges floatplane dock after being struck by the propeller and nose of a Seair Cessna Caravan last Thursday afternoon. No injuries were reported in the incident.

## Incident raises floatplane dock space issues

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN AND GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ganges Harbour was the scene of an on-the-water rear-ending on Thursday when a Seair plane plowed into the back of a Harbour Air plane parked at the same dock.

The accident resulted in significant damage to both aircraft but caused no human injuries, said Meredith Moll, Harbour Air Group's vice president of sales and marketing.

"We are working cooperatively to investigate and prevent any future incidents," Moll said.

Jim Heath, harbour manager for the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island (HASSI), said he was informed of the accident after the fact and passed on the information to Transport Canada. The floatplane dock was also unaffected and remains in use.

"No one was hurt — just pride," Heath said.

The independent Transportation Safety Board of Canada (TSB) said it had received a report of the incident and classified the

occurrence as a Class-5 investigation, meaning there is little likelihood of identifying new safety lessons that will advance transportation safety. The Class-5 investigation consists of data gathering only, with no report produced following the investigation.

According to the information collected by TSB so far, the Seair Seaplanes Ltd. Cessna 208 was started at the dock at 12:55 p.m. for a flight to Vancouver International Airport with an unknown number of passengers on board. When the engine was started, the aircraft propelled itself forward, colliding with the back end of a Harbour Air Seaplanes single-engine De Havilland Otter that had no passengers onboard.

The Cessna's propeller struck the Otter's "flight control surfaces," removing them from the aircraft. Both aircraft were disabled and will be towed or barged back to Vancouver for repairs, TSB said.

TSB's mandate is to conduct investigations into marine, pipeline, rail and aviation occurrences, and to communicate risks in the transportation system. The board does not

assign fault or determine civil or criminal liability.

The accident highlights an ongoing concern for at least one person familiar with the location. Bart Terwiel has done transportation safety consulting work for Transport Canada and was HASSI's manager from 2003 to 2007. He said it's not surprising the accident occurred because the dock in question was designed for use with Beaver aircraft, which are smaller than the two planes involved in Thursday's incident.

"You can put one of those [large] planes on the dock at one time, but not two," he said.

Terwiel feels that with the congestion and increased traffic in Ganges Harbour in recent years, a risk assessment and management review for the area needs to be done by an independent body.

"I'm just glad no one got hurt," Terwiel said. "And it's actually a miracle because there were bits of flying metal everywhere and there were people there. We were very lucky nobody got hurt."

**Zen Master Wolfgang says:**  
"Opinions are often formed when judgement is weak."  
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RECONCILIATION

# Trauma reopened by unmarked Penelakut graves

March to honour lost children set for Aug. 2

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Penelakut Tribe is inviting neighbouring nations and allies to join them Aug. 2 in an event to honour the children who died attending the Kuper Island Industrial School.

Chief Joan Brown, Penelakut Council and the elders issued a letter on July 8 confirming the existence of more than 160 unmarked and undocumented graves on Penelakut Island (formerly known as Kuper Island) and its foreshore. The March for the Children, taking place in Chemainus on the holiday Monday, will be

part of the difficult healing process for First Nations. Many in the region are directly impacted.

"We understand that many of our brothers and sisters from neighbouring communities attended the Kuper Island Industrial School," the letter from Penelakut Tribe states. "We also recognize with a tremendous amount of grief and loss, that too many did not return home. It is impossible to get over acts of genocide and human rights violations. Healing is an ongoing process, and sometimes it goes well, and sometimes we lose people because the burden is too great.

"We are at another time where we must face the trauma because of these acts of genocide. Each time we do, it is possible to heal a little more. Courage is not the absence of fear, courage is acting in spite of fear."

The Catholic Church operated Kuper

Island Industrial School from 1889, overseeing children who were forcibly taken from communities on the Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland. According to the Indian Residential School History and Dialogue Centre, by 1896 nearly half of the former students were known to have died. The federal government took over the administration of the school in 1969 and closed it in 1975.

The Islands Trust notes the school earned the name "Alcatraz" due to its isolation and the horrors that occurred there. Penelakut Island is within the Trust Area, though not under its jurisdiction.

"All of us at the Islands Trust join the statement made by Chief Brown and the Penelakut community representatives to raise awareness of the devastating history and legacy of residential schools. This is a time of grief and mourning and our hearts are with the residential school

survivors, their families and community," Islands Trust Council chair Peter Luckham said in a statement issued last Wednesday. "The residential school system was an act of genocide, and it is the responsibility of all Canadians to learn about the history and legacy of residential schools."

Luckham encouraged everyone to "not overlook or silence the history and ongoing impacts of residential schools" and to commit to implementing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action at all levels of government.

The March for the Children will start at the Salish Sea Market in Chemainus at 9 a.m. on Aug. 2. Penelakut Tribe will also be hosting healing sessions for Indigenous people on July 28 and Aug. 4.

More information about the work the Islands Trust is undertaking to implement the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Calls to Action can be acquired by emailing reconciliation@islandstrust.bc.ca.

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NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



**HUMBERTO MARTINHO**  
CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBER

As a family physician I know the importance of quality primary health care to the well-being of the community. I'm confident that the new Emergency Department will contribute to the long-term health of Salt Spring Islanders and I want to be a part of making that a reality.

[ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline](http://ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline)  
Strengthen Our Lifeline

HEALTH CARE

## Appreciation given to vaccine clinic staff

Gift certificate program makes it easy to say thanks

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring Islanders can show their appreciation to local vaccination clinic nurses and health care workers through the Be Thankful program.

An ad hoc committee of islanders created the initiative, which will see gift certificates donated to the island's vaccination clinic through the Island Comeback program and gifted to all of the people working on the front lines.

In order to contribute, people choose one of the businesses listed on islandcomeback.ca/islands/salt-spring/ and as directed in the shopping cart send a gift certificate of any amount to [ssithankyou@islandcomeback.ca](mailto:ssithankyou@islandcomeback.ca).

Island Comeback was set up to help residents of several Gulf Islands support local businesses and non-profits during the COVID shutdown period by facilitating online gift certificate purchases.



PHOTO COURTESY ISLAND HEALTH

Some of the many health-care workers who have staffed the Salt Spring Island COVID vaccination clinic at ArtSpring since early April.

All gift certificates will be collected by Aug. 1 and distributed to the COVID vaccination clinic workers by Island Health COVID program manager Cali Chang.

David Norget, co-chair of the Salt Spring Island Health Network, explained the rationale for the program in a media release.

"Salt Spring COVID vaccination clinic workers have been willing to work long

hours, outside of their regular duties," he said. "They have listened to many islanders' stories and have helped to promote a healthy resilience during these difficult times. I'm glad we have a positive way to show recognition of their care while also supporting local businesses."

Kisae Petersen, executive director of Islanders Working Against Violence, added, "I'm deeply grateful to the

Salt Spring vaccination team for their dedication and kindness to create a welcoming and efficient vaccination process for our community. Many thanks as well to all the health workers who reached out to connect with people at the food bank and in the park, to ensure access for all. The Be Thankful program is a great way to give back to the vaccination team for their impressive services."

RCMP

## Cyclist injured in Long Harbour Road collision

Driver made all efforts to avoid collision, say RCMP

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A cyclist was injured in a collision with a vehicle on Long Harbour Road last Wednesday afternoon.

Salt Spring RCMP responded to Long Harbour Road at Bullcock Creek Road just after 4 p.m., along with Salt Spring Fire Rescue and BC Ambulance personnel.

"Our investigation determined the incident was accidental in nature and we do not anticipate any charges forthcoming,"

said Corp. Matthew Crist. "Independent witnesses confirmed the driver of the vehicle made every effort to avoid a collision by braking, honking and swerving to avoid making contact with the cyclist. Thankfully the cyclist was wearing a helmet, and although they sustained injuries they are not believed to be life threatening."

Crist said the cyclist was a minor.

He added that the incident is "a good reminder that cyclists are equally required to follow the rules of the road set out in the Motor Vehicle Act, and also that helmets save lives.

"We continue to encourage cyclists and motorists to exercise utmost respect for one another on our roadways as cyclist versus vehicle incidents tend to result in injury."

### TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

**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
<b>21</b>	0008	3.3	10.8	<b>25</b>	0341	3.2	10.5
	0818	0.2	0.7		1125	0.2	0.7
WE	1657	3.2	10.5	SU	1935	3.4	11.2
ME	2031	3.0	9.8	DI			
<b>22</b>	0055	3.3	10.8	<b>26</b>	0038	2.6	8.5
	0906	0.1	0.3		0437	3.0	9.8
TH	1742	3.3	10.8	MO	1207	0.4	1.3
JE	2142	3.0	9.8	LU	2006	3.4	11.2
<b>23</b>	0148	3.3	10.8	<b>27</b>	0137	2.5	8.2
	0953	0.0	0.0		0536	2.8	9.2
FR	1823	3.4	11.2	TU	1248	0.7	2.3
VE	2244	2.9	9.5	MA	2035	3.3	10.8
<b>24</b>	0245	3.2	10.5	<b>28</b>	0235	2.2	7.2
	1040	0.1	0.3		0642	2.6	8.5
SA	1900	3.4	11.2	WE	1326	1.0	3.3
SA	2340	2.8	9.2	ME	2101	3.3	10.8

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## ENVIRONMENTAL OUTREACH

# CDF campaign launched

Transition Salt Spring and Islands Trust partner on education materials

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An education campaign that encourages property owners to keep natural forest and landscapes intact is set to unroll on Salt Spring this summer.

A joint project between Transition Salt Spring (TSS) and the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC), the campaign seeks to further climate action plan goals and the LTC's project to protect the Coastal Douglas-fir and associated ecosystems. Education materials break down why intact forests are important to the inter-related issues of protecting freshwater quality and availability, maintaining healthy soil and preventing fire in the Gulf Islands. There are also sections addressing the role standing forests play in sequestering carbon versus the emissions released when they are cut, and why having diverse species of diverse ages is so important to healthy ecosystems.

Islands trustee Peter Grove has been a keen generator of the LTC's Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) project, which aims to maintain contiguous forest cover, protect and restore functioning ecosystems, protect watershed ecology and honour Coast Salish cultural heritage. He said he was excited to see the education materials come out as the first phase of a program that could additionally help the Trust its meet strategic priorities around climate change.

"It seems to me one of the places the Islands Trust can actually play an effective role is in the protection of trees, and the CDF project plays very nicely into that," Grove said. "We must do more to involve the community, and get the community onside on the huge impact that forests play in our ecosystem and our environmental health."

Ruth Waldick, who created the campaign materials, is Transition Salt Spring's director responsible for implementing Climate Action Plan 2.0. The plan lays out the steps necessary to reduce local carbon emissions by 50 per cent by 2030. Waldick, an ecosystem-based adaptation specialist and founding member of the Ecological Research Network, joined with a group of scientists, researchers and communicators to discuss how to best share information with the community based on local climate adaptation analysis.

"A lot of it came from thinking about things we are most at risk from because of climate change, but also some confusion in the community on how to take action," Waldick explained. "So yes, we want to reduce fire, but not in a way that makes us more vulnerable from landslides, flash floods, not having water recharge and people's wells running out."

"What came out clearly is that for heat, for drought, for our water recharge, of course for our biodiversity but also for our fire protection . . . retaining our forests and natural systems is the best thing that we could do. The single most important thing we can do, the place where we can have the most control and have the most impact, is not getting electric vehicles. It's actually just keeping the forests that we have."

Each panel in the new series gives a few important facts in easily digestible form, and includes simple steps property

owners can take, whether they're on one acre or 40 hectares.

The introductory panel contrasts a healthy forest ecosystem with one that is vulnerable to drought, flooding and fire. A healthy Coastal Douglas-fir forest provides a natural fire break through water retention in large trees and the fire-resistant properties of natural ground cover plants such as salal, Oregon grape and ocean spray. Ground cover helps protect tree roots from burning and brings moisture into the ground. Also part of the interlocking puzzle are decomposing logs and fallen leaves that stay on the ground, providing habitat for beneficial microbes, fungi and insects. The entire picture is necessary for keeping moisture and recycling it — a critical defence against rising heat levels.

Waldick said a succession of polls TSS has conducted in the community show that fire and water are the two biggest issues of concern for property owners. Those concerns have only grown through successive years of drought and those when the province of British Columbia has declared states of emergency due to wildfires.

Dangers known to increase fire risk are invasive species such as gorse and broom, slash piles, dry branches left leaning against trees, stressed cedars with dead tops and compacted soils that can't hold water. Trees that are left standing alone are also far more vulnerable to windstorms.

Some accepted knowledge on how to protect properties from drought and fire may not work on the Gulf Islands, because it was developed for quite different areas. In one example Waldick gave, adopting the dry landscaping suitable for California drought may only succeed in killing healthy soils locally, and produce more fire risk in dried grasses. Another important difference comes in B.C.'s FireSmart guidelines, which were not developed with coastal forests in mind.

TSS has been working with Salt Spring Fire Rescue's Acting Chief Jamie Holmes and Capt. Mitchell Sherrin, head of the local FireSmart and prevention program, to come up with guidelines more appropriate for this area. (They are also seeking funding to create an official Coastal Douglas-fir FireSmart plan as a longer-term goal.)

"We don't want to contradict FireSmart, because many aspects of it are correct, but we want to refine it a little bit so people are thinking about this place and understanding why they're doing it," Waldick explained.

Forests' role in sequestering carbon and the emissions released through clearing those forests is another significant reason why local stands should be retained. Analysis by local scientists revealed the clear-cutting of a 10-hectare mature Douglas-fir and western red cedar forest on Salt Spring in 2019 resulted in the immediate release of 322 tonnes of carbon emissions per hectare through cutting, slash burning, decomposition and processing.

Continuing emission during decomposition will mean a total 4,000 tonnes of carbon or 15,000 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub>e is released by the end of 15 years.

The CDF infographics are available now on the Transition Salt Spring website and the Salt Spring LTC's Coastal Douglas-fir project webpage. Volunteers will additionally be sharing brochures and information outside Country Grocer and at the Tuesday Farmers' Market through the summer.



## NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN  
THAT NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT IS GOING INTO

### STAGE 4 WATERING RESTRICTIONS

By the end of July 2021

Per Bylaw 301

## STAGE 4 WATERING RESTRICTIONS- COMPREHENSIVE WATER BAN

#### ALL WATERING IS BANNED EXCEPT:

- **Micro or Drip Irrigation of trees, shrubs, and gardens:** Odd numbered civic address may use micro or drip irrigation to water trees, shrubs, and gardens on odd numbered days and even numbered civic addresses may do so on even numbered days before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. for a maximum of two (2) hours per watering day.
- **Hand watering of trees, shrubs, and gardens:** Odd numbered civic addresses may hand water trees, shrubs, and gardens on odd numbered days and even numbered civic addresses may do so on even numbered days before 7:00 a.m. and after 7:00 p.m. for a maximum of two (2) hours per watering day.

For the complete details and penalties view Bylaw 301 on our website under the Documents section.

Visit the Water section for conservation tips or the Documents section to view the entire Bylaw or its overview.

[www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca)

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*Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.  
Every Drop Counts!*

# OPINION



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

2021 BCYCA Awards  
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)



## Driftwood

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### EDITORIAL

# Natural allies

Natural forces are governing lives in B.C. this summer with near tyrannical will.

The twin threats posed by fire and water — which can destroy by excess or by scarcity — seem poised to dominate landscapes, homes and livelihoods in ever greater power. Wildfires in the Interior are already sending wisps of smoke out to the coast, while drought levels in the Gulf Islands are so worrying the situation is being reported on by media all around the province.

The role natural landscapes play in ameliorating such threats has not been given enough attention in the past, and the way local ecosystems do this work may also not be well understood, even by island residents. But scientific study of the coastal region is proving that in this area at least, maintaining the Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystem with mature biodiverse forests, native ground cover and healthy soil is one of the best things people can do to protect against wildfire and drought. It's also the best tool we have locally in the fight against climate change, which is amping up those natural threats to record levels.

**THE ISSUE:**  
Climate-related risks

**WE SAY:**  
Education provides the best hope

Keeping large trees around may sound counter-intuitive to easing wildfire risk, and B.C. FireSmart guidelines developed for interface threats in the Interior have likely added to the confusion. Getting the facts about what works in the Gulf Islands, and why, is therefore a must. Education materials recently developed by Transition Salt Spring and the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee provide the perfect entry point into that conversation. The information comes in an easily digestible form that is both visually appealing and informative, and will make sense to people who aren't working in scientific fields.

Islanders and visitors wanting to know more about how natural cycles work in this specific place can find the set of infographics on either organization's website (for the LTC, look under Coastal Douglas-fir Protection project page). And they can just as easily connect with some of the experts who created the materials to learn more, with volunteers staffing tables outside Country Grocer and at the Tuesday Farmers' Market this summer.

Nature may have become frighteningly hostile to human life, but let's not forget we started the fight. It's time to turn things around and make the ecosystem our ally.



## Public noise has impacts

BY DENISE ROBERTSON

How exciting to finally be able to gather in groups and meet again indoors at restaurants and pubs.

Have you thought about whether your business environment is listening friendly or not? How did your business adapt to support customers and employees to hear with all the COVID-19 protections in place? How many times have you yourself had to ask people to repeat themselves as you cannot understand what was being said to you?

Many people may feel stressed or anxious when visiting a noisy restaurant or retailer where the noise levels make it difficult to hear and hold a conversation. And this was true even before a global pandemic. Now add facial masks and plastic barriers into the mix. People who are struggling to hear often read lips and facial expressions when communicating, but now can only view a small portion of a person's face. Additionally, listening to someone speak through fabric while they are socially distanced adds even more hearing barriers.

As businesses are opening back up, it's important to remember that creating a listening environment that is inclusive for both cus-

### VIEWPOINT

tomers and employees can easily be done by doing a few small things. Start by assessing your business environment and its noise level. Are people speaking to each other in a normal volume or are they raising their voices? Is there loud music constantly playing? When there are multiple customers, does your working space become too noisy? Do loud outdoor sounds come through, including street musicians, traffic noises and busy sidewalks?

On top of all this, recent statistics say there are 357,000 culturally deaf Canadians and 3.21 million hard of hearing Canadians. A hard of hearing individual can feel frustrated when they continually need to ask someone to repeat what they have said. Or worse, an employee may express their own frustration having to repeat themselves. Those struggling to hear can feel fatigued from processing both language and information, whereas a person who is not hard of hearing needs only process information. At the end of the day, the extra stress and fatigue can lead to people becoming depressed and

more reclusive, while avoiding places that are less listening friendly.

Making small positive changes can be as easy as turning music down, locating an outdoor patio away from traffic and noise pollution, providing staff with clear masks that allow for lip reading and facial expressions to be viewed, ensuring important messages are written as well as verbally provided, (like specials of the day or preferred payment methods) incorporating the use of iPads, turning cash register displays towards the customers so they can read the amount owed, and encouraging staff to use their phones with voice-to-text apps such as Cardzilla, Live Transcribe or Ava, if hearing is proving difficult.

Many tools and resources are available and often for free as well as information on the latest technology. We encourage businesses and employers to seek out training for their teams, have a work assessment done and learn how to create a listening friendly environment. It just makes good business sense.

*The writer is the executive director of the Island Deaf and Hard of Hearing Centre.*

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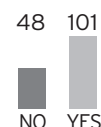
### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you still wearing a mask inside stores?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Did Trust Council make the right Policy Statement decision?



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: }

**“Courage is not the absence of fear, courage is acting in spite of fear.”**

JOAN BROWN, CHIEF, PENELAKUT TRIBE

## SALT SPRING SAYS

### WE ASKED:

*What are your tips for saving water?*

#### HEATHER MARTIN-MCNAB



Only flush when necessary, wash dishes in a small bowl and use grey water on plants.

#### SAV BORO



I think they'd have to start by not cutting any more trees. A forest is like an upside down lake.

#### SONIA & SOPHIA LANGER



Be wise when watering the garden and take short showers.

#### ROBIN MCKENZIE



We haul our water and have a composting toilet, so we use maybe five gallons a day.

#### WENDY MCEACHERN



Do your dishes in a bowl and water plants with it.

## LETTERS to the editor

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

### Desalination a good option

Regarding the spectre of a likely repeated pattern of water shortages and droughts on the Gulf Islands due to global warming, there is one excellent solution that is doable for the Gulf Islands: desalination systems.

If desalination plants can give fresh water to the desert countries of the Arabian Peninsula, they should work for the Gulf Islands. Plus, added bonus, desalination plants can be built so as to provide electricity as well.

Given that our federal Liberal government is now in the mood for funding local ecological initiatives, this is the time for islanders to put in the big ask to our ambitious Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

Think of how you would put this part of Canada on the map!

**JEZRAH HEARNE,**  
VANCOUVER

### Trustees listened to community

With regards to the “Trust Council puts brakes on policy process” story in last week’s Driftwood, it states that “More requests came from all across the Trust Area and included a petition signed by 700 people residing in many parts of North America and beyond.”

Some 130 residents (0.5 per cent of the 26,000 in the Trust Area) attended the Islands Trust town hall session via Zoom on the evening of July 7. Approximately 46 people

spoke to the Policy Statement. Of those, nine were in favour of proceeding to first reading.

It’s interesting to note that of the approximately 10 who spoke from our community of Salt Spring, only one resident supported the draft. At the Trust Council round table discussion on the morning of July 8, the motion to proceed with the Policy Statement was voted on: 16 trustees were opposed, six were in favour and four abstained.

The message is clear, the draft Trust Policy Statement is flawed.

Two of the trustees who supported the motion were from Galiano Island, representing 1,000 residents, and two were from Gabriola Island, representing 4,200 residents. Bowen and Salt Spring Island have approximately 3,700 and 10,500 residents respectively, and account for 56 per cent of

all residents in the Trust Area. With a total of four votes, three opposed the motion to give the bylaw first reading and one Bowen Island trustee supported the motion.

I remain seized of my opinion that BC Parks and now the Islands Trust have no respect for due process when it comes to the residents and land owners of Salt Spring Island. That’s why the motion to give the Policy Statement bylaw first reading failed overwhelmingly on July 8 at Trust Council. Likeminded islanders throughout the Trust Area convinced their trustees the process was flawed.

The salient point is that the majority of trustees listened to their constituents and voted accordingly.

Thank you, trustees!

**D.G. COURTNEY,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 6

## Ready to greet (most of) the world face-on again

See that? A little to your right, the (far too) small picture of a refined, bearded gentleman, noble brow, firm chin, eyes alight with intelligence and bon homme, a man you’d want for a son-in-law. The man behind the mask.

I know, I know, it’s not exactly the unmasking of the Lone Ranger or Zorro but it tells you something, right? That is the face of a fully vaccinated two-shots Charlie, immunized to the eyebrows and bouncing with antibodies, a COVID-free zone and ready to greet the world face on again.

I did my bit in the war. Masked up, kept my distance and even confronted the gormless naysayers who depended on weird science and gibberish to maintain their own selfish denial of what was really happening. I took the shots without whimpering and would take three or four more if they’d let me. It’s the least I can do for my country.

And that’s my new dilemma. I have personally earned the right to throw away my mask because I worked hard to get through this, but how do I know that all the others aren’t bare-faced imposters who have ditched their masks because the Blessed Bonnie’s latest fiat made them optional? How do I know that they aren’t mask- and vaccine-deniers who have piggybacked to an uncovered Salt Spring because while most of us put the community first, they have clung to their mad conspiracies? So now I’ve embarked on a new paranoia in which I don’t trust anyone without a mask who isn’t at least 75 and decrepit and therefore quite obviously far too young to have qualified for the smug salvation of two vaccines.

Instead of embracing these fine young folks as our hope for the future I’ve begun eyeing them suspiciously, not because I worry they’ll infect me because I know I’m now virtually invulnerable, but because I’m nervous that they haven’t earned the right to uncover. I



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER  
**THING**

have never had much time for cheats, especially cheats who are quite likely to send us all back into lockdown.

The mask deniers were easy to recognize and confront, they were the ones not wearing masks, but a tiny prick in the arm is harder to spot.

For the life of me, I don’t understand why proof of vaccination is somehow a breach of privacy. So, when you’re asked to present proof of age in the liquor store you can refuse because your privacy is being breached? A store clerk can legitimately ask a 20-year-old for proof of age but not for proof of a vaccine against a potentially deadly virus. The fact that you may wear glasses is a dead giveaway that your eyes aren’t up to scratch, just as the fact that you haven’t been vaccinated is proof that you either have a legitimate excuse, are still waiting or you are a moron.

By making masks optional instead of insisting on a vaccine “passport,” Henry has given the province’s nut jobs a free pass and quite probably put those of us who have earned the right to ditch them in greater jeopardy of having to root through our bins to find our discarded masks again when a variant strikes.

Consider England under Boris Johnson, the only man less qualified to lead a country than Donald Trump, who has effectively capitulated to the virus on behalf of his hapless countrymen. Look at the math. B.C., population five million, at the time of writing recorded 47 new cases of COVID-19 in a single day. England, population 50 million, record-

ed 27,000 new cases in one day. Assuming England has 10 times the population, you might expect 470 new cases or even 4,700 but 27,000! The number of cases in Johnson’s Benighted Kingdom have risen by 132 per cent in two weeks while deaths are up by 67 per cent since Bozza decided he knew better than the entire British medical community. And this in the country that once boasted more needles in arms than just about anywhere else on the planet.

It’s true that any bout of COVID will likely be mild for the fully vaccinated but it is still a risk. I’ve never much enjoyed getting the flu, so I’ll be doubly pissed to come down with even Cissy COVID because someone who is either too indolent or too stupid to get their shots has decided they don’t need a mask.

But then again . . .

Apparently almost 80 per cent of British Columbians have had at least one shot, which is pretty impressive, although only 49 per cent have gone for the double so far, but we’re seemingly heading in the right direction. But without wishing to be a harbinger of doom (“Oh, go on! You love it” – Mrs. Mc) I notice that Dr. Anthony Fauci, King COVID south of the border, has pointed out that 99.2 per cent of the recent COVID deaths in the U.S. were unvaccinated, as were 94 per cent of those hospitalized. That might be an encouragement to those who just haven’t got round to it yet, but will just fuel the paranoia of the conspiracy wonks who are convinced Fauci and Henry are part of a medical cabal determined to insert magnets, tracking devices and, for all I know, tiny squirrels into their otherwise unsullied bodies.

So get out there and take your shots so that you too can ditch the mask. I can’t guarantee you’ll be as lovely as the man in the little picture up there, but you can be just as smug.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca



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**MORE LETTERS**

continued from 5

## Heat and wildfires point to crisis

For years, the fossil fuel industry and their political allies have sowed doubt about climate change and convinced the public that it's an abstract, far-away problem.

This summer, many Canadians are realizing that was a dangerous lie. The B.C. heatwave was so intense that it killed hundreds of people and, right now, thousands of people are living in fear of wildfires raging across the country. The climate emergency is here and now. It's time for our political leaders to take real action.

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau talks like a climate leader, but he doesn't act like one. Canada is still building pipelines and planning to expand fossil fuel production for decades to come. And Trudeau still hasn't delivered the Just Transition Act he promised last election, legislation critical to phasing out fossil fuels in a way that puts workers and communities first.

I was glad to see 350.org launch the #CanadaOnFire campaign, which calls on Trudeau to take emergency-level action on the climate crisis instead of just talking about it. We have two demands:

An immediate moratorium on new fossil fuel approvals and a freeze on all fossil fuel projects under construction -- including the Trans Mountain pipeline.

Just Transition legislation to

support impacted workers and communities, especially Indigenous and remote communities as we move towards a 100 per cent renewable energy future.

**ALISON BAIN,**  
SALT SPRING

## More climate action needed from feds

I'll be honest, I'm scared. It's only mid July and Canada is already on track for one of the worst wildfire seasons in history.

And that's saying nothing about floods, drought and other impacts of the extreme heat we're seeing this summer.

I'm scared not just because climate change is clearly here, but because our government

isn't acting at the pace and scale we need to meet this crisis head on. If Justin Trudeau was serious about tackling the climate crisis he would be acting decisively right now to put out this proverbial fire by stopping fossil fuel expansion and passing a Just Transition into law.

Canada's fossil industry is our largest source of emissions, but our government continues to support their expansion. And, they aren't supporting workers. In his 2019 campaign, Trudeau promised to pass a Just Transition Act, but with another election on the horizon, nothing has happened.

We deserve better. It's been more than two years since our government declared a climate emergency, it's past time they started acting like it.

**JUDITH GANE,**  
SALT SPRING

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# Lack of housing a critical issue

BY TOBY FOUKS

I hope that people take Debbie Magnusson's July 7 letter to heart and help raise money to support the Lady Minto Hospital Emergency Department initiative. Her recent visit for stitches in her finger increased her awareness of the need for expanded facilities.

Her description of a three-hour visit includes observations about the efficiency in the way in which medical personnel use the crowded facility, and the kinds of activities that take place. This included arrivals coming by helicopter to deal with serious situations. In fact, a second on-call doctor had to be brought in. As Magnusson says, privacy — which might be important to some — is not available. What compounds the problem is that people who are unable to get a family physician locally are forced to use the emergency department's on-call doctors in lieu of a family physician.

Lady Minto's emergency services are something that any of us might need, that many of us have needed, and when we require emergency care we need it here, right now, on Salt Spring Island. It's a critical community facility.

However, no matter how wonderful the improved emergency area might be (and I do not doubt that it will be wonderful), unless the medical personnel the hospital requires are able to find affordable accommodation on the island, those long waits are going to continue, albeit in greatly improved surroundings.

How can we manage to acquire and keep medically trained individuals if they cannot find affordable housing on Salt Spring? Salt Spring Island is likely a very appealing choice for many such people, but affordable housing must first be

found. What difference will the expanded, improved area make if the hospital cannot acquire such medically trained professionals?

There is always going to be attrition as people retire or move off-island. How will the hospital be able to replace the professionals we already have let alone increase staff numbers?

This is a significant aspect of the housing crisis on the island, a crisis which affects the entire community, not just people wanting to remain here or relocate here. We are all affected by this situation if the people we need to be here to help us in our lives either cannot live on the island or must leave to live elsewhere in order to find affordable housing.

One has only to follow posts for accommodation requirements to know that many people who have lived here in rental accommodation have had to go elsewhere because there is nothing affordable (or even not affordable) available for them to rent. Owners have sold properties, making it necessary for renters, often very long term, to vacate and search for alternative accommodation. Most of these people were highly desirable tenants. As well, short-term stays facilitated through the internet have meant accommodation formerly rented long term is out of that market.

There are great renters, fair renters and terrible renters. I can understand why someone would prefer to rent short term for the same amount of money (or almost as much) without the potential difficulty that comes with a difficult ten-

ant, not just while the tenant occupies the space but afterwards when one must cover the cost of cleaning up what is left behind. However, there are many wonderful potential tenants searching for places to live in order to remain on or relocate to Salt Spring. Many of these people are already very integrated into the community.

Businesses can't be viable without staff. It's very hard for business owners to have to close up because potential employees can't find living accommodation here. That leads to personal suffering and huge financial losses. The community misses those businesses. However, when our hospital can't get the professionals it needs for the same reason, then it becomes a community crisis.

The expansion of the emergency area at Lady Minto needs our financial support, but it's just one part of a larger, very disturbing picture. To my inexperienced eye it seems to me that the rental prices being asked are often extremely high, more than many of the people we need to have living here can afford. Property values have escalated, it has been a sellers' market, and rental costs have increased hugely — but wages and salaries have not kept pace.

I suspect that if people with space to rent could be assured of an excellent tenant then more space would become available. I have no suggestions that will help to counteract the sometimes stratospheric prices being charged for accommodation. I do believe that the people we really need for the community's well-being bring expertise with them rather than wealth.

*The writer is a longtime Salt Spring Island resident.*

## Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the  
**Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, August 2 - BC Day**  
and will reopen 8:30am - 4pm  
on Tuesday, August 3.

**Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday August 4 edition will be as follows:**

Display Advertising deadline:  
**Wednesday, July 28, 12 noon**

Classified Display Deadline:  
**Wednesday, July 28, 12 noon**

Classified Word Deadline:  
**Wednesday, July 28, 12 noon**



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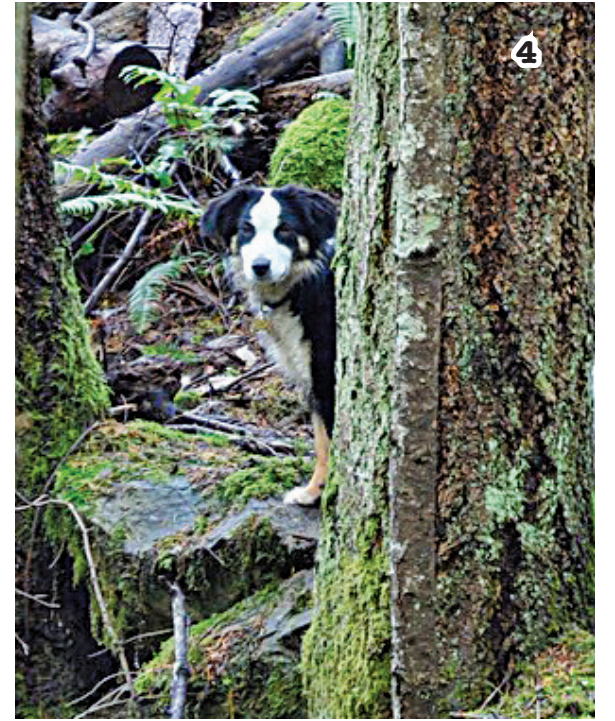
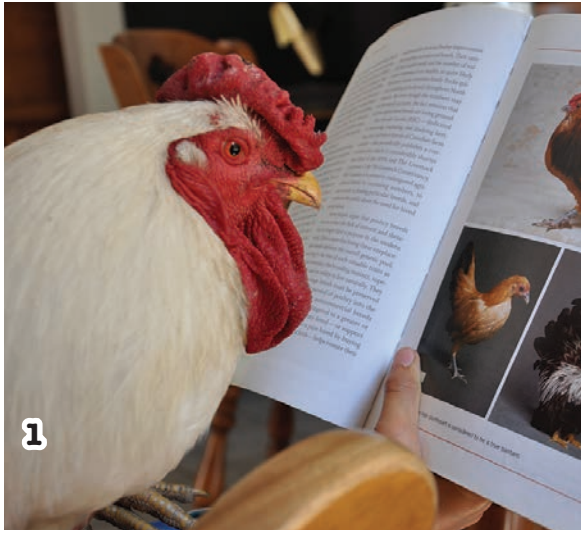
### Roses

ArtSpring would like to thank everyone who made this year's Virtual Treasure Fair a huge success. To each and every donor who gave wonderful items for our

catalogue; to the bidders who ensured we reached well beyond our target; and to the Treasure Fair core team who worked tirelessly to learn something completely new and make this year's online silent and live auctions such fun and successful events. Thank you!

The steering committee of the Salt Spring National Art Prize would like to reach into the flower basket and present

fragrant nosegays of thanks to the artists and volunteers who generously gave of their skills and time to ensure the success of SSNAP's recent Exquisite Corpse fundraiser. Without your help the event would not have been the tremendous fun, inspiring and efficiently run event that it was. We are extremely grateful for all you do to support contemporary visual arts locally and across the country.

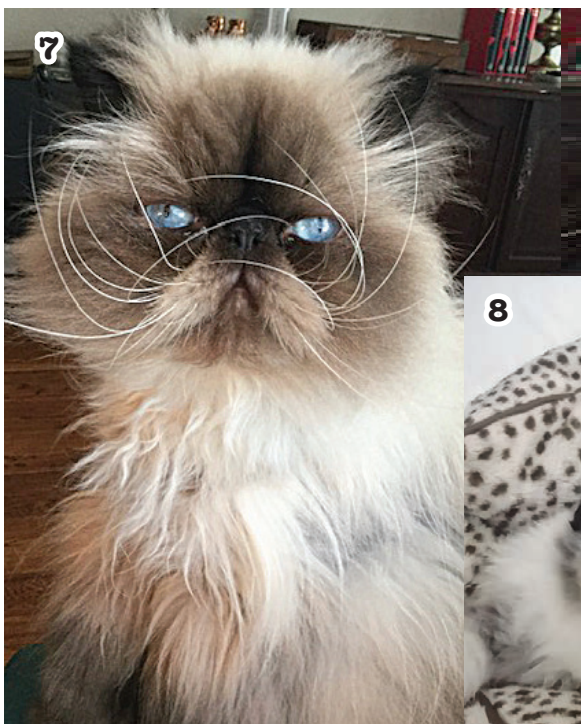


**Aren't They Lovable?**

So many people answered our call for pet photos this year! It was extra fun to get a glimpse of islanders' beloved furry and feathered companions and to put the All About Pets pages together.

If we didn't know it already, the coronavirus pandemic taught us how important pets can be for our emotional and mental health.

We hope this section makes our readers feel good and that the advertisements help connect pet owners with the services they need to keep their pets happy and healthy too.



1. **Daisy** - submitted by Hiroe Rowthorn. Daisy is reading a 'How to Raise Chickens' book.
2. **Leonard the goat** - submitted by Charlene Wenzel.
3. **Lucy** - submitted by Daniela Madrid. Through hard work by greeting all the customers, she earned the title of Employee of the Month for Salt Spring Books.
4. **Hannah** - submitted by Susan de Stein. Where's Hannah? On a Channel Ridge trail.
5. **Bella** - submitted by Lyall and Perry Ruehlen. Bella is doing her favourite thing: swimming off the boat in Desolation Sound.
6. **Coco** - submitted by Bernadette Mertens-McCallister. Coco loves to go on boat rides.
7. **Norval** - submitted by Ewen Carruthers.
8. **Inti (left) & Bruno** - submitted by Teresa Leon.
9. **Caxi** - painting by Caxi's mom, Cindy Scott. Caxi is a street rescue from the city of Niterói across the Guanabara Bay from Rio de Janeiro. She is named after the Portuguese word for pineapple - "abacaxi."
10. **Sunny & Taylor** - submitted by Wendy Lau.
11. **Teddy & Phoebe** - submitted by Carol and Mark Perry. These tuxedo cat sisters came to Salt Spring via a rescue in north central B.C.
12. **Sjefke** - submitted by Harry van Roessel.



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1. **Belu** - submitted by Ada & Ivy Hennessy. Belu is a 7-month-old Pacific Parrolette.
2. **Ben (left) & Max** - submitted by Ivy & Ada Hennessy. Ben is a 13-year-old border collie, and Max is Grandma's dog – an 8-month-old poodle, lab and collie mix.
3. **Sylvester** - submitted by Ellen Vesterdal. Sylvester will be 20 this fall.
4. **Stella** - submitted by Lesley Bulman.
5. **Salty & Pepper** - submitted by Diane Fraser. Both are rescues from Mexico.
6. **Ramsay** - submitted by Ron Patterson.
7. **Precious** - submitted by Valerie Taylor.
8. **Apollo** - submitted by Tyler Byron. Apollo is a 9-year-old pit bull cross rescue from Panama.
9. **Isla (left) & Kevin** - submitted by Kim Ballantyne.
10. **Eva** - submitted by Viv Nielsen.
11. **Bumpy** - submitted by Kim Dalton. Bumpy is an Anna's hummingbird that Kim has fed for years. He is named "Bumpy" after his neck feathers, which form a little bump. "He is feisty and adorable and I love him, so I call him my pet," she says.

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1. **Charlie E. Meowzinski, E.S.A.** - submitted by Paula Smith.
2. **Lilly** - submitted by Amy Trepanier. Lilly is a 9-year-old collie coyote cross rescue from northern Alberta.
3. **Maggie** - submitted by Dave and Elva Kellington. Maggie was adopted from the SPCA as Squeaker in 2016.
4. **Kyla** - submitted by Paul Leslie.
5. **Lego** - submitted by Viv Nielsen.
6. **Tiny** - submitted by Ivy & Ada Hennessy. Tiny is a 9-month-old dwarf hamster.
7. **Crumpet** - submitted by Lara Coehlo.
8. **Eli** - submitted by Viv Nielsen.
9. **Lucee** - submitted by Gary Bello. Lucee is enjoying a nap on her favorite chair.
10. **Pepper** - submitted by Patricia Jutras.
11. **Oscar** - submitted by Brenda Bensen.

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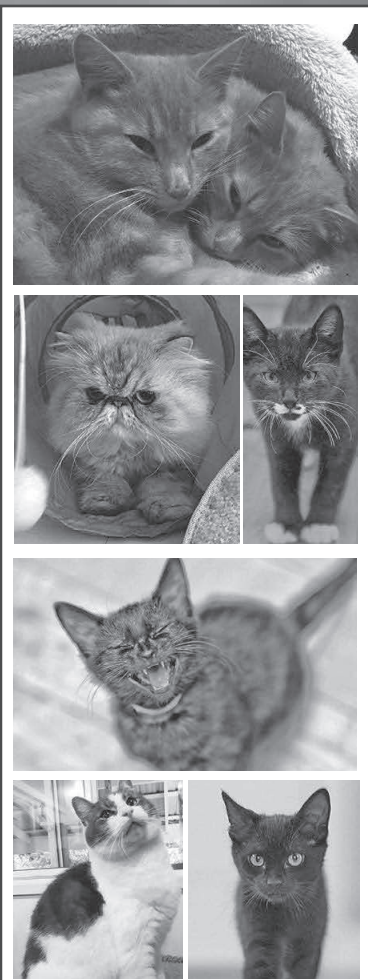
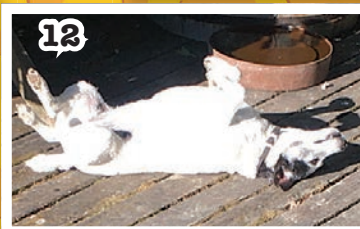
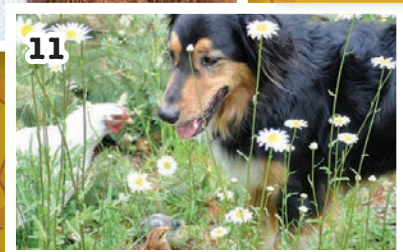
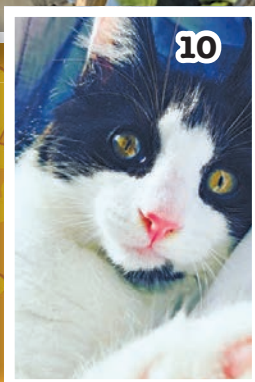
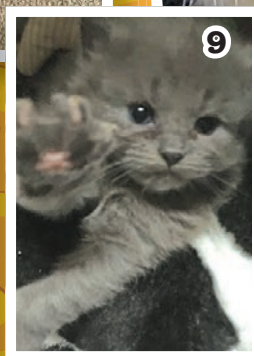
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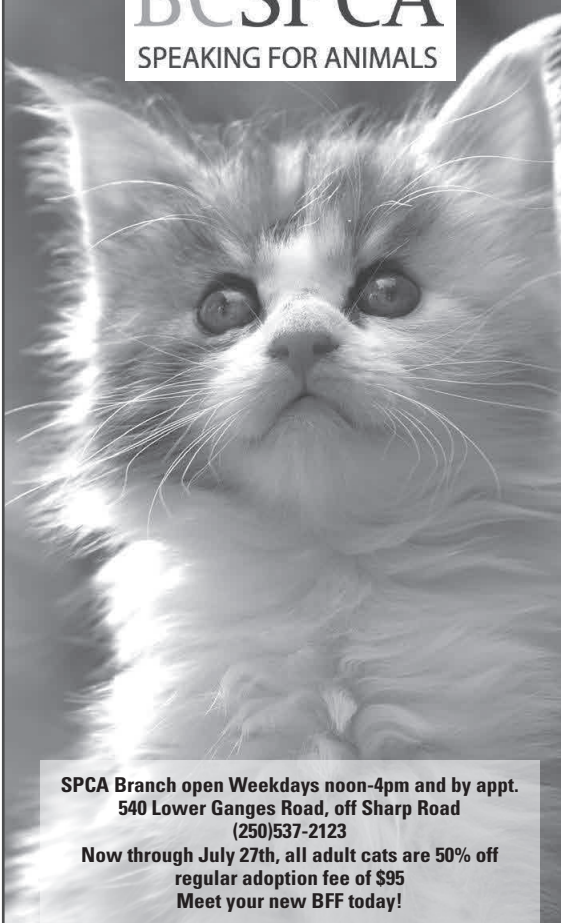
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1. **Milo** - submitted by Julia Gilbert.
2. **Dolly Barkin** - submitted by Michael Ranftal.
3. **Maya** - submitted by Corrie Hope Furst & Wendy Judith Cutler. Maya – a tri-coloured border collie pup from Barriere, B.C. – at 4 weeks of age.
4. **Ollie** - submitted by Viv Nielsen.
5. **Oreo (AKA Mr. Chonk)** - submitted by Valerie Taylor.
6. **Panda and Polar** - submitted by Julia Gilbert. They are 3.5-month-old New Zealand bunnies.
7. **Paisley (top) and Bella** - submitted by Andrea Lee.
8. **Poppy** - submitted by Leanna North.
9. **Rain** - submitted by Emma Moffatt.
10. **Sir Purzzalot** - submitted by Melanie Weaver.
11. **Rocky** - submitted by Hiroe Rowthorn. Rocky thinks he is a chicken daddy (there are two baby chicks in the middle.)
12. **Susi Q** - submitted by the Hickman family. Susi Q after a long night's barking at Gander's Hatch Farm.



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# Smoke sends clear signals about our forests

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN

In the midst of summer's idyll, there is an ominous haze on the horizon. Clobbered by a record-smashing heat-wave, and the tragic fire that destroyed Lytton, the spectre of forest fires looms large in the Gulf Islands. As we consult maps and scan the skies for signs of smoke, we're all looking to avoid the tragedy unfolding in other B.C. communities.

Fire is the single biggest climate risk islanders face to their homes, infrastructure and economy. Years of wasteful logging practices, development and climate change have increased fire risk around our islands. Between the accumulation of slash and debris, dried-out soils, fire suppression and compromised watersheds, our forests are tinderboxes when drought and heat descend.

Native forests — like fire-resistant Coastal Douglas-fir — often fail to regenerate following forest clearing and are replaced in drier areas by highly flammable invasive plants. Just try taking a walk under power lines on Salt Spring and you'll find deserts of broom and gorse edging out native shrubs and hedgerow species.

There are actions we can take to protect our island from fires, but they are more complex than the slogans Smokey the Bear taught us.

We are all very grateful to first-responders who put out fires at Mineral Springs Resort and Windsor Plywood. Quick action prevents small conflagrations from spreading and turning into large-scale fires, which, aside from the devastation they cause to people, pets and wildlife, quickly release decades of sequestered carbon into the atmosphere.

The biggest opportunity we have to mitigate climate change and reduce carbon emissions is to retain trees, especially mature trees, which store more carbon more quickly than their younger counterparts.

Fire prevention is just as important. We must move away from clearcutting immediately, in favour of selective thinning and other regenerative forestry practices. Forest canopies cool the air and the ground and retain moisture in watersheds, lakes and creeks. Facilitating natural decomposition — dead wet logs don't burn — and restoring wet-



lands are critically important practices that are gaining traction.

To reduce slash — which serves as rocket fuel to hungry fires — chipping, composting, biochar and specially constructed berms known as "Hügelkultur" are smart steps to transform the dangerous dry fire fuel in our forests into moist enriched soils that build drought-resistant ecosystems that retain moisture in a warming climate. Together these practices restore and maintain our water resources to help us get through these periods of summer drought.

Indigenous-led climate adaptation and resilience strategies bring communities full circle, to consider forestry practices informed by the "seven generations" principle. The new reality of wildfires — both their increased magnitude and frequency — is seeing the pendulum swing away from complete fire suppression towards traditional First Nations practices like controlled burns.

Says MENELOT, knowledge keeper from the WSÁNEC First Nations, "Our people believed in controlled burns, either in early spring or in the late summer. It wasn't just for the nutrients provided through the ash to feed the new growth in the springtime: it ensured that there would be no wildfires." Prescribed fires are primarily lit to get rid of built-up tinder — from needles, grasses and twigs to shrubs and fallen branches — and reduce fire risk by depriving wildfires of fuel.

Native plants are not only beautiful and resilient, but they are also key to reducing wildfire risk. For the past 150 years in B.C., we've promoted a culture devoted to removing native plants and installing Kentucky bluegrass lawns, which often involve watering, mowing and herbicide application. These landscaping methods increase the amount of exposure of soils, which heats the ground and dries and compacts the



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Salt Spring firefighter puts water on a fire that ignited in a wooded area of Beaver Point in the summer of 2018. Drier summers due to climate change mean more such fires are likely.

soils, reducing their ability to absorb water. The result? Washouts, landslides, erosion and loss of groundwater recharge. Replacing thirsty plants with hardy locals and diligently eradicating invasive species is a patient practice of horticultural decolonization that mitigates risk while providing nourishment for wildlife and pollinators.

Salt Spring's Climate Action Plan offers many such practical, actionable solutions, with a goal to reduce island emissions by 50 per cent by 2030. A key part of the plan is to develop, fund and implement a comprehensive, island-wide strategy for forest management to reduce forest fire risk. With one-third of forests on Salt Spring enjoying some form of protection, focusing on building up the fire resistance of those precious resources is a critical next step.

The cool thing is, as we increase our resilience, there are knock-on effects that benefit everyone. If we protect watersheds and enhance forest health, we enhance stream flows and groundwater recharge, leading to reduced fire risks and lessening the severity of drought. If we maintain strong forest canopies we also reduce evaporation from our lakes and streams, reducing lake temperatures (and algal blooms). As anyone who has walked the woods in hot weather can attest, they protect us from extreme heat. As we adopt practices to nurture forest health, we will see the understory return, providing more nutrients and moisture for trees and leading to reduced vulnerability to fire.

Protecting our forests and watersheds while employing regenerative forestry practices has three other critical co-benefits: they provide jobs, reduce infrastructure replacement risks and decrease pressure on fire and water district budgets. Imagine the price of potable water if the forests surrounding Maxwell Lake went up in flames.

June's unprecedented heatwave is consistent with climate change modelling, which promises many more such events and underscores the need for us to do a U-turn on almost everything we do in our forests.

Far from being a zero-sum game, we have a tremendous opportunity to come together to protect our communities from fire, protect and rebuild our ecosystems, and provide employment.

Transition Salt Spring's brand-new website is bursting with resources and information for folks looking to make Salt Spring an even cooler place to live: for now, and for future generations. Check out the One Cool Island section to find a brand new library, produced in collaboration with the Islands Trust, of graphic and video resources to help us all better steward our forests in a changing climate.

*One Cool Island is a regular series produced by Transition Salt Spring on how we can all respond to the climate crisis, together. Andrea Palframan is a TSS director and communications lead. To find out how you can help, people can visit [transitionsaltspring.com](http://transitionsaltspring.com).*

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# ISLAND LIFE



## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

# Webinar outlines wildfire risks and prevention

Local wildfire scenarios and protective actions shared

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

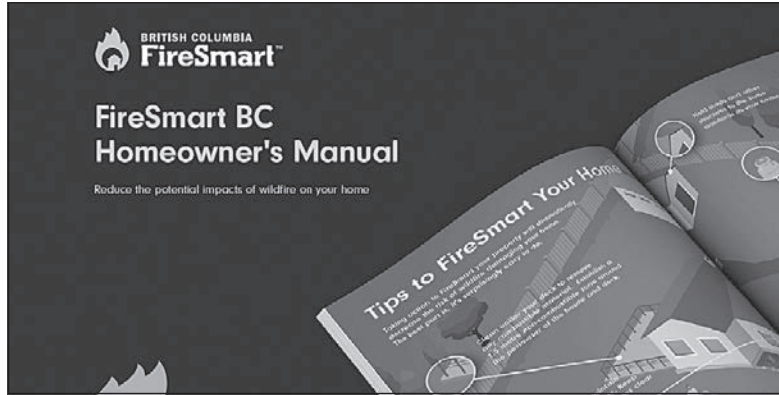
Don't panic, but be prepared. That was the clear message from last Tuesday's Living With Wildfire webinar created for Salt Spring Island and attended by 203 households.

The initiative saw Jonathan Reimer, the Capital Regional District manager of fire and emergency programs for the electoral areas, and Salt Spring Fire Rescue's fire prevention officer and FireSmart coordinator Capt. Mitchell Sherrin team up to present a range of material. It included the specific nature of wildfire on the island and elsewhere, what would happen in the event of a wildfire near one's home, and actions that can be taken to minimize the risk of damage to life and property.

Reimer began his presentation by observing that Salt Spring has not had a serious wildfire in living memory. Because of that, "It's easy to either panic on one side and I think it can be a bit doom and gloom, and on the other side people say, 'We've never seen it, so why should we worry?'"

Reimer said it was important to recognize that local fire danger is increasing each year and decade due to climate change, but that fire behaviour science tells us that Salt Spring should not be compared to areas where wildfire has been catastrophic.

"My message today for all of you guys is 'don't panic,' and I am



Website image where the FireSmart BC Homeowner's Manual can be found, along with other valuable resources.

going to explain why."

One reason is that Salt Spring does not have a lot of "ground fuels," such as logging slash and woody debris. Interestingly, Reimer said that the largest Gulf Islands wildfire in recent history — on Galiano Island in 2006 — began in an area that had been logged 11 years previous (and was started by someone who had an open fire contrary to a fire ban in place at the time).

**"[FireSmart] is a harm reduction model and little things can make a big difference."**

CAPT. MITCHELL SHERRIN  
Salt Spring Fire Rescue

The Gulf Islands are also less susceptible to "crown fires," where fire climbs up the limbs of trees and the flames transfer from the top of one tree to another. Being close to the ocean is also a benefit,

along with the fact that less lightning occurs in our region.

"In B.C., generally, most of our fires start by lightning," said Reimer. "In our area, 90 per cent of the fires are started by people."

If a fire did arrive on one's doorstep, he said, the response from firefighters — from both on-and-off-island — and emergency program personnel would be thorough. A helicopter that can dispense water is stationed at nearby Cobble Hill.

"Their job is to get to that fire and slow it down . . . so the crews can put it out on the ground."

In addition to water being distributed with hoses and pumps, people would see firefighters digging in the ground to create mineral soil fire breaks.

"It's really effective," Reimer said.

About 100 firefighters from various communities worked on the Galiano fire in 2006, he said.

A scenario where the whole island's population would need evacuation is not realistic, he stressed.

"On average we have about 1,500 fires each year in B.C. and 96 per cent of them are contained by crews before they hit four hectares [10 acres] in size. Last year we only had three evacuation orders."

Evacuation orders are issued when emergency personnel cannot guarantee that people can be safely moved out of an area, he said.

During the Galiano fire, which reached 60 hectares [150 acres] in size, 119 residents were evacuated, with most housed on the island. They returned to their homes in three days, and the closest that fire got to a home was 150 metres.

"From my perspective, it's the type of fire we can see more of in the future," said Reimer.

But while wildfires on Salt Spring may be inevitable, Reimer stressed that residents can take actions to ensure their safety and mitigate damage to their property. Reimer said everyone should go through the exercise of making a safety plan and writing it down on paper, a laptop or a smartphone. Connecting with one's neighbourhood pod is also important.

Reimer also introduced the FireSmart concept with a video that detailed the three priority zones around a home where landscaping and clean-up should be undertaken.

Sherrin then elaborated on FireSmart practices and a new assessment program for the island.

"It's a harm reduction model and little things can make a big difference."

He dispelled the myth that

FireSmarting one's property means it must be made into a "moonscape."

Sherrin said most native plants, such as salal, Oregon grape and ferns, are fire resistant and not a hazard near the home, but young conifers with branches close to the ground should be removed. Healthy arbutus trees are not a problem, unlike dying cedars and other dead vegetation.

People can learn more about how to reduce the risk of losing their home to a wildfire by checking out website materials (at the end of this story), or by booking a free personal FireSmart assessment. That can be done on the saltspringfire.com/fire-smart/ website, or by calling the fire department at 250-537-2531.

"Either myself or colleagues will do a walk-around your house and do an assessment," Sherrin said.

He told the Driftwood he has visited 20 properties in the last two weeks. Information from the assessments is not shared with any other bodies, he said.

It is hoped the July 13 webinar will be posted online soon so that more people can watch it.

**For more FireSmart and wildfire safety/emergency prep information:**

- saltspringfire.com/fire-smart/
- firesmartbc.ca/
- www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/safety/wildfire-status/prevention
- www.crd.bc.ca/service/fire-and-emergency-programs/ssi-emergency-program

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HOUSING

# Island couple leaves due to housing shortage

Island says goodbye to Kate and Laurent

BY AINA YASUÉ  
SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

With a combined 30 years of residency on Salt Spring, Kate McWilliams and Laurent Boucher recently moved off-island, leaving behind their community, to ensure a more secure and affordable life.

Kate worked in office management for nearly a decade until a progressive illness forced her to rely on disability benefits. Laurent is musician and teacher, who took on construction and carpentry work over the past few years as paying students and opportunities to play live music dried up.

Lack of accessible housing was a significant part of their decision to leave.

Kate notes, "The concept of being able to stay or buy anything was impossible. It was hard to imagine a real future, even

## FINDING HOME

though we'd been there for so long." Here, 60 per cent of Kate's income and over 40 per cent of Laurent's income went to housing costs.

Not only were they faced with a lack of affordability, they were also making sacrifices when it came to health needs. Kate's progressive illness will eventually lead her to be wheelchair dependent. She explains that there was no available accessible housing, or even housing that allowed for a service animal. "Long-term accessible housing for the disabled pretty much doesn't exist. There are very few units. It's impossible to get one." Even with Laurent's capacity to customize a home for Kate's mobility needs, they couldn't afford a patch of land.

Another reason for their departure is the decline in opportunities for musicians.

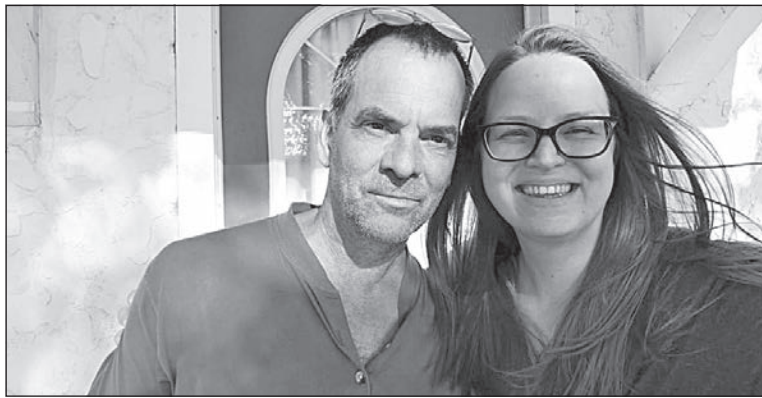


PHOTO COURTESY SS SOLUTIONS

Laurent Boucher and Kate McWilliams left Salt Spring Island at the end of May, after a combined 30 years of life on the island, due to the lack of accommodation.

Laurent says 20 years ago there were many more live music venues and studios, and musicians were paid more then. He played several nights a week in the summertime, with Sunyata and Acoustic Planet Music, which usually drew a crowd of locals. Laurent recalls how, moved by the live music, people of all ages danced, ate and socialized in

true Salt Spring fashion. Only a few of the venues, including the Tree House, Moby's and Shipstones, remain. As for teaching, Acoustic Planet Music as well as his own home studio drew many local students where Laurent taught about 25 hours a week. In recent years, as the cost of living increased, Kate and Laurent noticed Salt Springers couldn't

support the arts as readily as they had in the past.

They are concerned about younger folks who rely on inter-generational wealth to live here. Laurent feels this negatively impacts the community. "When young people have a future and can hope and dream, and think of buying a home . . . there is a certain energy that is generated that kind of infiltrates everything."

At the end of May, Kate and Laurent said goodbye to their friends and family, including Laurent's two adult children who are staying, despite precarious housing. For an island that prides itself on a thriving artistic community, their departure leaves an absence that will be profoundly felt by many.

*The above piece is the second in a series of profiles of islanders who are impacted by the lack of affordable housing, compiled and written by Aina Yasué of Salt Spring Solutions.*

# what's on this week



Wed. July 21

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Jessica Benini.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

Thurs. July 22

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Sarah Osborne.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.  
**Open Mic & Jam.** At the Legion. 7 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.

Fri. July 23

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Billie Woods.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.  
**Big Top: DJ Kemal.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. July 23

**ACTIVITIES**

**StoryWalk.** Self-guided family activity from SS Public Library through Mouat Park toward the Rainbow Road Pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**Ask Salt Spring.** This week's guest is MLA Adam Olsen. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Outside at the United Church Meadow, or the Portlock Park Pavilion if it's raining.

**Friday Games Night.** Popular board games gathering at the Salt Spring Public Library returns! 6 to 10 p.m. Limited numbers. Sign-in required.

Sat. July 24

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Synergy.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.  
**Karaoke.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Sat. July 24

**ACTIVITIES**

**Saturday Market in the Park.** Saturday market runs in Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.  
**StoryWalk.** See Friday listing.  
**Movie Matinee.** Family-friendly movie at the Salt Spring Public Library. 1 p.m.

**VIA ZOOM**

**Teen Discussion:** Indigenous Politics With MLA Adam Olsen. A Salt Spring Public Library sponsored event. 12 p.m. Email teens@saltspringlibrary.com to register.

Sun. July 25

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

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

Sun. July 25

**ACTIVITIES**

**StoryWalk.** See Friday listing.

Mon. July 26

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Dan Smith.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

**ACTIVITIES**

**StoryWalk.** See Friday listing.

**SSI Transportation Commission.**

Presentation by BC Transit of their recommendations for service changes for Salt Spring, following a year-long study of Salt Spring. Lions Hall. 9 a.m., followed by a town hall portion about the transit service at about 10 a.m.

Tues. July 27

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**Ange Hehr.** 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.

Wed. July 28

**LIVE ENTERTAINMENT**

**David Carl.** Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 10 p.m.

## Friday Games Night

All-ages board games gathering at the Salt Spring Public Library on Friday nights.

6 to 10 p.m.

Limited numbers & sign-in required.

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**THE FRITZ CINEMA**

The Fritz shows **Nomadland**, starring Frances McDormand, on Wed.-Thurs., July 21 & 22 at 7 p.m. Then from Friday, July 23 through Tuesday, July 27, **The Father**, starring Anthony Hopkins, runs at 7 p.m. nightly plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. COVID-19 protocols, including limited seating, in place.  
**More info: thefritz.ca**



**EXHIBITIONS**

• Today, July 21, is the last day to see **Crossroads**, a showcase of oil painting and digital art by father and son **Paul Robert Bryans** and **Lorence Bryans** at Salt Spring Gallery.

• **The State of the World and the Feel of the Earth** with artists **Stefanie Denz**, **Jette Leimbigger**, **Sibylle Leimbigger** and **Leeann Norgard** opens as the **Showcase exhibit** at Artcraft on Wednesday, July 21 and continuing daily through Aug. 8.

• An **Artcraft Celebration** honours the show and sale's artists and makers on Thursday, July 22, 5 to 7 p.m., along with the Showcase exhibit.

**EXHIBITIONS**

• On Friday, July 23, from 5 to 7 p.m., **Salt Spring Gallery** hosts the opening reception for **Olga Szkabarnicki's** show called **Communion - Plein Air Landscapes of Salt Spring Island**, with the show continuing until Aug. 11.

• **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.

• Photographer **Gwendolyn McDonald** presents **Hard Light, Soft Light ... Images from Around the World** at the **Country Grocer Cafe** until July 30.

**EXHIBITIONS**

• 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.


• **Phoenix Elementary School** students present their **Illuminated Letters** art display in the **Salt Spring Public Library display case** until July 30.

• 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.

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**Obituaries**



*Bunny Campbell*

Beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother, Bunny Campbell, passed away peacefully at Lady Minto extended care on July 8th at the age of 99.

Loved by everybody she was the adopted mother of many of our friends and was known by the younger generation as Nangy. She had a kind, loving and thoughtful nature and always knew how to find the fun in everything. One of her famous remarks, on seeing a young man mooning from a bus, was "Ahh, the sights you see in the spring..." She will be remembered for her wit, her infamous rhubarb and orange pie, her wonderful lamb stew, her "square meat and tulip buns" picnics and her sunken, fudge-filled-in-desperation cake. And for flinging a spoonful of ice cream and fruit salad at her daughter, Avril, as she said "because she knew I wouldn't."

Bunny was born in Sorrento, BC and lived on an apple farm on the Shuswap Lake with horses, sheep and dogs, where she attended a one-room schoolhouse. Her family packed up for England as war broke out and lived for a while in a railway carriage. She worked at a chicken farm, married an Air Force pilot and had twin girls, Michelle and Roberta (both predeceased). After the war she and Bob Campbell moved back to Canada, where she had Dawn (also predeceased), Avril and Adrienne (Rennie). She showed great resilience throughout a life that wasn't always easy or happy.

Survived by two daughters, Rennie Robson and Avril Kirby, Bunny had three grandchildren, Chloe Gill (Ethan), Ferris Robson (deceased, survived by his wife Lisa), Brita Lavergne (Tom) and two great grandchildren, Malakai Robson and Norah Lavergne. She will be missed and loved forever by us all.

We would like to thank the nurses and care aides at Lady Minto for all the love and kindness they showed Bunny. They welcomed us (Rennie, Avril and Chloe) into the hospital over Bunny's last few days, made her comfortable and looked after her like family. We appreciate you all and are happy she was in your care at the end.

We will have a celebration of life on Saturday, August 21, 2 p.m., at 594 Shorewood Drive, in Mill Bay. Please phone Rennie at 250-709-5840 or email her at rennierobson@icloud.com for more information and to RSVP. Salt Springers can call Avril at 250-537-1772 or email her at avek@telus.net.

**Obituaries**



**Dominique Moseley**  
(nee Rivest)

*"The Mighty Sparrow"*

Our dearest kind & loyal friend Dominic has passed July 10th unexpectedly.

Dominique lived on Saltspring and spent her life as a giver and loyal friend to all who shared in her life. Her career was a top notch professional hygienist who grew up in Montreal, had two sisters Michelle and Lynn, Michelle being her twin.

Dody, as she was lovingly nicknamed was, and taught, as a hygienist from coast to coast, from Haida Gwaii, Magdalen Islands and here on Saltspring. Her strengths were many. Her life was lived through determination, dedication and honesty.

She hid her pain & her life's tragedies with courage, heart & soul. Dominique spent her life living & loving the sea.

She was an avid sailor and sailed to the South Pacific, Mexico & the Philippines, some journeys lasting up to six years. Her last journey was with her husband Bill. They spent years in building and launching a 45' catamaran here on Saltspring in the 1990s. They lived and sailed on it for 15 years before returning to Saltspring to build their dream home. No ordinary home for these two entrepreneurs... it was designed by her husband and herself with a state of the art geothermal heating and cooling, a flowing steel roof designed like a roll of a wave, a magnificent wood structure and design, unusual and detailed inside and out. Their home was completed and fully landscaped in five years.

Dominique was an extremely hard working inspirational spirit. She was kind, caring, generous and expressed it wholeheartedly to friends and family. She was a caregiver in every sense.

Domonique was always ready with enthusiasm to take on the impossible or help in various celebrations.

She will leave us with a lot of fun and wonderful memories that will spill out in stories and albums for years to come. "She will always be The Mighty Little Sparrow."

We will love and miss you throughout the rest of our life.

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**Coming Events**

**The Annual General Meeting** of **Scott Point Waterworks District** will be held **Tuesday, Aug. 3rd, 2021 at 5pm** outside on the lawn at **322 Scott Point Drive**

**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.**

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**Coming Events**

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**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)** Questions regarding who your true friends are is highlighted this week. This extends to who you are not on your journey and what you need and value. Naturally, these change over time. Extra efforts may be required to keep the peace especially since Mercury is in Cancer where thoughts and perceptions are more subjective than usual.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)** Home and family take the spotlight this week. You yearn for quality time shared more than usual. Strong emotions will guide your thinking and upsets are quite possible, or at least some sentimental, possibly being teary, moments. Otherwise, you are in the mood to play. Just be careful that fun and games do not take a sudden turn to hard ball.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)** Your energy levels have been running quite high and this will continue. You have likely been enjoying some fun in the sun quality time of late. This trend will also continue yet will also include a more sober and serious approach towards making improvements. Cleaning and doing repairs is featured. In the deeper end, philosophical thoughts are on your mind.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)** The recent New Moon in your sign culminates now and will synchronize with a definite wave of change in terms of emotions linked to your social network. Mercury in your sign will likely manifest as stronger emotional expressions than usual. Your critical faculties will be running strong as well serving to raise your energy levels but perhaps also your blood pressure.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)** A busy time behind the scenes will now enter a more obvious, frontal assault of deliberate assertion. That's what is likely to happen when the Sun enters your own sign and when it happens to be Leo! Yet, your critical faculties will also be running strong, leading you to practical considerations above all, such as how to save money.

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)** A busy cycle begins both behind the scenes and involving stronger outward expressions, as well. Your focus will be towards making improvements. Positively, this will amount to a creative cycle during which time projects awaiting their time can begin. Gathering tools and materials is especially likely and may constitute the greater measure of your efforts.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)** The Sun transit through Leo will have the effect of activating a strong sense of your individuality. Some of this may come about by way of inner work or at least emerge as if out of the blue from your subconscious mind. If the latter is true, the effects may be a little delayed, yet will also be strong and more evident.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)** This is your moment of opportunity to get some well-deserved attention. To this end, you may find yourself working harder than usual. Neither will you be in the mood to 'suffer fools gladly'. Your resolve stands to be ambitious, determined and pragmatic. In fact, others may regard your actions as revolutionary, or at least markedly rebellious.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)** The Sun and Leo will add to an enthusiastic and exuberant mood. You will feel excited and inspired to go big somehow. Venus and Mars in Virgo will help you to keep both feet on the ground all the while. You will push for practical results, which may include acquiring new skills, tools and techniques. Get ready to get busier!

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)** The Sun in Leo tends to be a transformational time for you. Over the coming several weeks you will undergo changes subject to new realizations, epiphanies and perhaps some measure of sober realization. A feature of this process includes something of a vision quest supported by a strong desire and determination to decipher what is and is not true.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)** Your relationship life is poised to undergo a process of change and transformation. Endings are very likely during the coming weeks yet these will be quickly followed by new beginnings as well. Yet, these will probably be experienced as practical choices that leave you feeling clear, sober and realistic regarding the overall process.

**Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)** Changes in your overall lifestyle will be activated by the Sun in Leo. The emphasis is upon health and self-improvement. Much of this focus will likely include your home and family. Shifts and perhaps even permanent changes in your usual perspectives are featured. Financial dealings, interest, ambitions and concerns are part of the plot.

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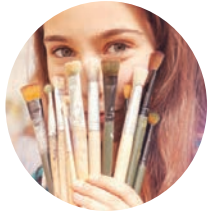
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### CONTEMPORARY ART

# National art prize exhibition finalists named

Salt Spring's Connie Kuhns among 52 artists

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
 DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

The 52 finalists for the 2021 Salt Spring National Art Prize competition have been announced.

"Drawing from every region across the country and Canadian citizens abroad, the SSNAP exhibition promises to be as inclusive, diverse and culturally rich as Canada itself," states a July 13 SSNAP press release.

Connie Kuhns, with her photograph submission, is the lone Salt Spring Island artist on the list this year.

"Being a finalist for the Salt Spring National Art Prize means a lot to me," said Kuhns last week. "It's a big deal. And it's very unexpected."

Kuhns' work has been shown on the island in various forms by Helen Mears at Pod Contemporary,



PHOTO COURTESY CONNIE KUHN'S

Connie Kuhns, whose photographic submission will be one of 52 pieces in the Salt Spring National Art Prize Exhibition held this fall.

Anna Gustafson at the Salt Spring Library, David Wisdom at Mahon Hall and ArtSpring, and Amy Jones and the late Nigel Harrison at Fault Line Projects.

She observed that Salt Spring Island is itself an art venue and that

SSNAP was created as a result of the artistic community.

"If there's a wall, there's a painting or a photograph. If there's a shelf, there's a basket or a sculpture. And when we can get away with it, there's live music. The Salt

Spring National Art Prize has its roots in this place. It's molded by the creativity of our island and it comes to life because of the years-long commitment of a group of people to the idea and practice of art."

Joanna Rogers from Pender Island is also a finalist.

Finalists were chosen through a blind jury process where the artists' names are not attached to their submitted pieces.

Jurors were:

- Judy Anderson, University of Calgary Canadian Indigenous studio art associate professor;
- David Diviney - senior curator, Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in K'ijiktuk/Halifax;
- Ydessa Hendeles - director of Ydessa Hendeles Art Foundation;
- Michelle Jacques - Remail Modern chief curator.

With artists eligible to win \$41,000 in prizes, SSNAP is one of the largest contemporary visual art competitions in Canada.

SSNAP founding director Ron Crawford said SSNAP has not only

provided artists with an outlet during COVID-19 but also the opportunity for Canadian creativity to flourish.

"We are delighted to see the types of submissions and what artists have been focused on during the pandemic. We've noted how the lock-downs have directly or indirectly influenced the themes of many works, similar to artistic expression during times of war."

He added that the SSNAP committee was excited to see a 40 per cent increase in submissions and such diversity of artists and artwork chosen.

Finalists are eligible for 10 awards, six selected by the jury and four selected by public vote. The fourth biennial SSNAP Exhibition runs at Mahon Hall from Sept. 24 to Oct. 25, with the gala awards night on Oct. 23.

SSNAP was established in 2015 to recognize, showcase and publicize the accomplishments of Canadian visual artists.

A list of the finalists is on the SSNAP website.

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