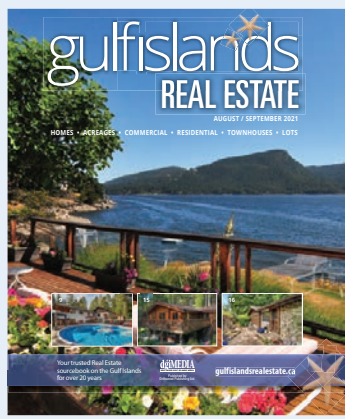


inside:



# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,  
Aug. 4, 2021

62nd year  
Issue 31  
**\$1.50**

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**SALUTE  
TO RCMP**



PAGE 7



**12** Salt Spring athlete on B.C. championship team

- Arts and Entertainment... 10
- Classifieds..... 11
- Editorial ..... 4
- Island Life ..... 8
- Letters..... 5
- Salute to RCMP..... 7
- Sports and Recreation..... 12
- What's On..... 10

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PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

**FIERY HERON SKY:** A great blue heron appears to bask in the sunset over Vancouver Island from Stuart Channel on Saturday night. While a heat warning had been issued for the day, some scattered cloud cover – and even a few morning rain sprinkles – helped keep temperatures at a more normal level.

## WATER SUPPLY

# Water restrictions hit extreme

Largest island water provider enacts Stage 4 level

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

North Salt Spring Waterworks District implemented its most extreme watering restrictions on Thursday as low precipitation and dropping lake levels have elevated drought conditions.

Under the Stage 4 restrictions, ratepayers with the district will be permitted to hand-water trees and gardens on alternate days for a maximum of two hours and to use microdrip irrigation of trees, shrubs and gardens during permitted hours. All other outdoor uses are now banned, including sprinkler watering, car washing and the topping up or filling of pools and hot tubs.

"We're in a very serious situation here. We need to take some drastic measures to try to turn this around," NSSWD operations manager Vaughn Figueira commented during the district's July 29 board meeting.

Data on the district's two water sources shared during the meeting shows levels at St.

Mary Lake have dropped to below all other recent drought years on record dating back to 2009, except for a slightly lower drop in 2015. Maxwell Lake is now at its lowest compared to other drought years in that period.

Precipitation recorded at St. Mary Lake was slightly higher compared to the normal climate average during last fall and early winter, but the amount has been below average ever since February. There was no rain at all in the southern coastal area for six weeks.

NSSWD financial officer Tammy Lanan reported that water consumption had increased by close to 30 per cent during May and June as a result. The district billed over \$72,000 more than budgeted in water tolls in June alone.

"People started their gardens early because of COVID and because it was so hot they started watering earlier this year," Lanan commented.

British Columbia ranks drought levels from

0 to 5, with Level 5 rated as the most severe. The province put eastern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands under Drought Level 4 in early July. As well, Fulford Creek has been listed as a stream of special concern.

The Capital Regional District has asked residents and visitors to Salt Spring and the southern Gulf Islands to decrease their indoor water use where possible and to limit outdoor water use to hand-watering. The independent Scott Point Waterworks system has adopted NSSWD's restriction schedule.

While the island lakes typically reach their lowest point in either September or October, NSSWD is already looking ahead to a potential situation where it might exceed the maximum draw allowed by the provincial government. Staff have submitted an application for short-term water use at St. Mary Lake that would allow the district to go below the minimum fill line.

**DROUGHT** continued on 3

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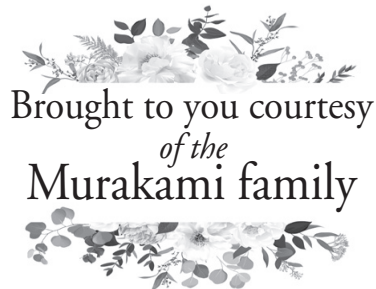
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**AUGUST 2021** PST (UTC-8h)  
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| DAY | TIME    | METRES | FEET | DAY | TIME    | METRES | FEET |
|-----|---------|--------|------|-----|---------|--------|------|
| 4   | 0759    | 0.8    | 2.6  | 8   | 0241    | 3.0    | 9.8  |
|     | 1657    | 3.1    | 10.2 |     | 1033    | 0.4    | 1.3  |
|     | WE 2126 | 2.9    | 9.5  |     | SU 1847 | 3.2    | 10.5 |
| 5   | 0009    | 2.9    | 9.5  | 9   | 0332    | 3.0    | 9.8  |
|     | 0839    | 0.7    | 2.3  |     | 1110    | 0.5    | 1.6  |
|     | TH 1730 | 3.2    | 10.5 |     | MO 1909 | 3.2    | 10.5 |
| 6   | 0100    | 3.0    | 9.8  | 10  | 0006    | 2.6    | 8.5  |
|     | 0918    | 0.6    | 2.0  |     | 0425    | 2.9    | 9.5  |
|     | FR 1758 | 3.2    | 10.5 |     | TU 1146 | 0.6    | 2.0  |
| 7   | 0151    | 3.0    | 9.8  | 11  | 0049    | 2.3    | 7.5  |
|     | 0956    | 0.5    | 1.6  |     | 0523    | 2.8    | 9.2  |
|     | SA 1824 | 3.2    | 10.5 |     | WE 1223 | 0.8    | 2.6  |
|     | SA 2305 | 2.8    | 9.2  |     | ME 1951 | 3.2    | 10.5 |

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**COMMUNICATIONS**

**LTC supports Rogers cell tower**

Services hope to bridge communication gap

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Emergency communication and cellular providers are hoping service to Salt Spring's northwest side may be improved soon with local government support granted to a new cell tower proposal.

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee voted on July 27 to issue a statement of concurrence with the plan by Rogers Communications and Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) to install a 40-metre tower on Channel Ridge. The proposal will situate the tower close to an existing one owned by Telus on land owned by the Onni Group. Ultimate approval will need to come through Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada.

Planner Kristine Mayes reported during last Tuesday's meeting that 439 pieces of correspondence were received about the proposal, with just 71 of those in support and 327 opposed, including people living on Canvasback Place who had signed a petition. In addition to impacts to the neighbourhood's visual appeal and property values, many writers spoke about potential health risks and their opposition to 5G internet.

Channel Ridge resident Lynn Steiner submitted the petition signed by neighbours opposing the new tower, and spoke to the issue during the town hall session.

"I canvassed the entire neighbourhood of Canvasback and I received an over-

whelming response of 'negative,'" Steiner said. "Everyone is very concerned that lives in this neighbourhood, that moved to this neighbourhood based on the nature and sanctuary in which we live and have come to know. And we feel threatened by having this 5G tower location at this point."

"My house is 100 metres from this site, as are several other houses, and we are very concerned," she added.

Chad Marlatt, representative of Rogers' contractor Cypress Land Services, said that Rogers has calculated the cumulative radio frequency output from the site including the existing Telus equipment will be around two per cent of the allowable limit under Health Canada's Safety Code 6 guidelines when measured to the nearest home. In addition, the company reported that installing the new tower won't be sufficient to establish 5G on the island "in and of itself." They believe around a dozen or more other cell sites already on the island would need to be upgraded first.

Marlatt also said most correspondence received on cell tower applications tends to be in opposition, so it was significant that so many letters of support were received. These came from representatives of every local agency that could benefit from improved emergency communications: the Capital Regional District, RCMP, BC Ambulance Service, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue, Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue and Salt Spring Search and Rescue.

LTC chair Peter Luckham explained he supported the improvement to emergency communication and supported the

motion of concurrence since most of the letters of opposition referred to areas outside of local government jurisdiction.

"I have said over and over again to everybody 'If you want to change this, you have to write to Health Canada and convince them to change the standards to better than what they are now.' But at the moment I think they're okay," Luckham said.

Trustee Peter Grove voted in favour of the motion of concurrence while Laura Patrick voted against it. She said she thought Cypress Land Services could have done a much better job in depicting how the new tower will look from different perspectives on the street, and on the public engagement process overall.

"Rogers and the landowner and I think CREST as well could have taken the opportunity to talk to the neighbours that are on that street. I think they're well connected and there are strong neighbourhood pods in that area, and they would have benefitted from having been given special attention on this project and at least listened to," Patrick said.

Luckham agreed Patrick had raised an important point. CREST's previous application to the LTC to install a different tower in Ganges was seemingly abandoned after extreme public opposition.

"I think at the end it's to the proponent's benefit to have more clear information," Luckham said. "I think that Cypress and Telus and Rogers and all these telecommunications folks could do a better job and think a little bit more outside the box to get some different outcomes here, because this is a difficulty for this LTC."

**WATERWORKS**

**Water system consolidation talks stall**

NSSWD looks for other options than joining CRD

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

North Salt Spring Waterworks District is looking for new alternatives for accessing crucial grant funding after learning the Capital Regional District does not support creation of an independent island-wide water utility, but the CRD is still hoping to bring the organization back to the table.

"Both the province and the CRD are urging North Salt Spring to continue our discussion, which only really just got started," said Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman.

NSSWD issued a press release last week stating the improvement district board was disappointed the CRD did not support the findings of the independent Salt Spring Island Water Optimization Report. The final report was released in March, but NSSWD chair Michael McAllister said the main points had been present in the draft version circulated in December 2019, and the water district has agreed with the author's top recommendation ever since that time.

The recommendation is to consolidate all CRD and NSSWD systems into a single body as an independent CRD department using on-island resources and governed by an elected Salt Spring Island Waterworks Commission. Legal agreements would ensure the department remained independent and answered directly to the CRD Board, rather than its CAO.

Speaking during NSSWD's Thursday board meeting, McAllister reiterated the disappointment.

"The author of the report was really clear that was his recommendation. And CRD's rejection of that approach has basically put us back where we were two years ago," McAllister said. "We've reached out to the province, reached out to Islands Trust and it always goes back to ... an island-wide strategy for our water. We're looking at a number of options to continue our search for resources in order to be able to improve our capital infrastructure."

NSSWD is looking ahead to some \$25 million in infrastructure upgrades, and the province has reiterated that grants available

to incorporated villages, towns and municipalities will not be extended to improvement districts. That is despite the fact that improvement districts are a legally recognized form of governance and that NSSWD serves a larger population base than 30 per cent of the towns in B.C., according to McAllister.

NSSWD is now preparing to have staff explore alternate grant possibilities to the standard ones for provincial and federal infrastructure. McAllister suggested the ability to store water needed to be looked at "first and foremost."

"It's hitting us in the face as we hit Stage 4 this week that if we had more storage we may not be in Stage 4. We'd be in a drought, but we'd be better prepared to handle that drought," he said.

McAllister told the Driftwood although the Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing financially supported the water optimization report and must approve any changes to the water district's governance structure, it restricted the parameters to not allow any suggestion that would require a statutory change such as an Order in Council. He said the first two options discussed in the report — keeping the status quo or converting NSSWD into a regular CRD water service — did not require study, which is another reason he feels frustrated and as if two years have been wasted.

"The report had to fit within the study framework so it limited the options. The third option was the creative one, and I think the author did a really good job being creative," McAllister said.

Holman said the report's top recommendation does not really fit with the CRD framework, and that it is not possible to be both an independent utility and within the CRD. However, he does believe there is space to consider NSSWD's key concerns. In his understanding, these are about retaining on-island control of local water and ensuring a merger with the CRD would actually guarantee provincial infrastructure grant funding.

"We're urging North Salt Spring to come back to the table, and let's talk through those concerns," Holman said. "The discussions are not complete; it's premature to pull the plug at this point."

McAllister said any return to negotiations would have to come by instruction of the NSSWD board.

## COMMUNITY PARKS

# Police presence noted

Foot patrol initiative seems to have made an impact

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The cacophony produced by daytime parties at Centennial Park seems to have subsided in recent months at the same time as the flurry of public complaints about the park situation has dropped.

Observers who frequent the downtown area have seen a definite change over last summer, when scenes of open drug and alcohol use, fights and dog attacks were a daily disaster. Although there are some ongoing issues that still need to be addressed, increased patrols by Salt Spring RCMP members are being credited for initiating a small turn-around.

"From all accounts from RCMP, bylaw enforcement, vendors and those people who use the park from time to time, it does seem to be settling down," said Capital Regional District electoral area director Gary Holman.

Holman said the main difference seemed to be that the local RCMP detachment had made enforcement at the park a priority and stepped up their regular patrols. The CRD has also increased the budget for bylaw enforcement, partly in response to a request from the RCMP.

"Unfortunately, some of the people in the park don't take our bylaw enforcement officers seriously. But they do take RCMP seriously," Holman said.

Jennifer Lannan, owner of the Osisi Boutique in Ganges Alley, said she feels much more needs to be done to address socio-economic issues on the island, but she does agree progress has been made regarding police attention to the problems in the park.

"I think the new sergeant [Clive Seabrook] really took time to listen to people," Lannan said.

Salt Spring RCMP Corp. Matthew Crist said the detachment appreciates the community feedback on their observed presence in Centennial Park and the positive impact it is making.

"Our approach to the park has remained fairly consistent over the past months – to dedicate as much time as possible being a visible presence through proactive foot patrols in the problematic areas of town (such as but not limited to Centennial Park). We strive to be visible and available to the public, despite our often limited resources. We have also been taking a tough stance

when we do encounter issues such as public drinking, intoxication and disturbances," Crist explained.

RCMP have been requiring people whose behaviour disturbs the public peace and safety to leave the park and surrounding area.

"This is not a new strategy or effort, however, I do believe our ongoing persistence and efforts are paying off," Crist said.

Some other possible contributing factors the RCMP officer suggested include a proactive approach among the current group of officers to improving public safety in Ganges. He said they devote a great deal of their time by being available to address issues as they arise rather than just waiting for complaints from the public to come in.

"Every member of the detachment helps support the foot patrol initiative, and our detachment commander Sgt. Seabrook leads by example by being a regular presence downtown," Crist said. "That said, we always encourage the public to help us do our job by being our eyes and ears and call when they see these things occurring as well."

Crist said the pandemic and associated travel restrictions may also have helped the situation by reducing the overall volume of people downtown, including those who live a transient lifestyle, an idea that appears to be correlated by file counts.

"Although our 2021 file count is slightly higher in volume year-to-date from the same time in 2020, our call volume has dropped by

approximately 25 per cent by this time year-to-date in 2019. This has translated to more hours on shift in which our members are available to conduct proactive foot patrols," Crist said.

RCMP have also been working with the CRD and Salt Spring Parks and Recreation staff. Seabrook has recommended the CRD install security cameras and lighting in the park because of the demonstrated benefits in other jurisdictions.

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation manager Dan Ovington is currently researching options and will be reporting to the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission. His view is the easing of pandemic restrictions will also help by bringing in a positive influx of events and park users.

"I would agree that we have seen some improvements in the park, however, dogs, graffiti and garbage continue to be an issue. We are hopeful that with the lifting of restrictions and the return of community events, we will revitalize the park for community use of its intended purposes," Ovington said.

**"This is not a new strategy or effort, however, I do believe our ongoing persistence and efforts are paying off."**

CORP. MATTHEW CRIST  
*Salt Spring RCMP*

## Letters sent to big water users

DROUGHT  
continued from 1

NSSWD is one of 108 licence holders on the lake, with most others being private households. The CRD's Fernwood-Highland water service is another user. There is discussion underway around assembling a committee that includes each of those licensees for future planning and conservation efforts.

"Each person drawing water for their house has a role to play in consumption and the drought we're in," said NSSWD chair Michael McAllister.

Lannan said she sent out 75 letters along with their bills to excessive high consumers who used more than 20,000 gallons of water over the last two-month period. The letter explained that was more than the average household and included some water conservation tips.

"We're trying to educate people more and we've had really positive feedback from it," Lannan said. "We've had lots of phone calls saying, 'Thank you so much. I didn't realize I used more than a single family dwelling.' 'Thank you for this; I found a leak.' So because of those letters I think we're starting the education in the community a bit more."

For more information on water use restrictions and conservation tips, see the district's website at [northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://northsaltspringwaterworks.ca).



**NORTH  
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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT  
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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.

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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

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



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### EDITORIAL

# Three years later

**W**hen does a "crisis" demand an immediate response?

More than three years ago, the following was written by Salt Spring Solutions, a community group created to address the acute housing shortage: "Our island is experiencing a severe housing crisis like we have never seen before, and it is rapidly getting worse. Working people are sleeping in cars, and in substandard shelter without running water. Ferries from Crofton are already overloaded with commuters from Vancouver Island. There are literally no vacancies. All renters are vulnerable to losing their home and not being able to find another one. This is affecting families, workers, seniors, artists, farmers, and businesses alike. The health of our community is seriously at risk."

**THE ISSUE:**  
 Salt Spring's housing crisis

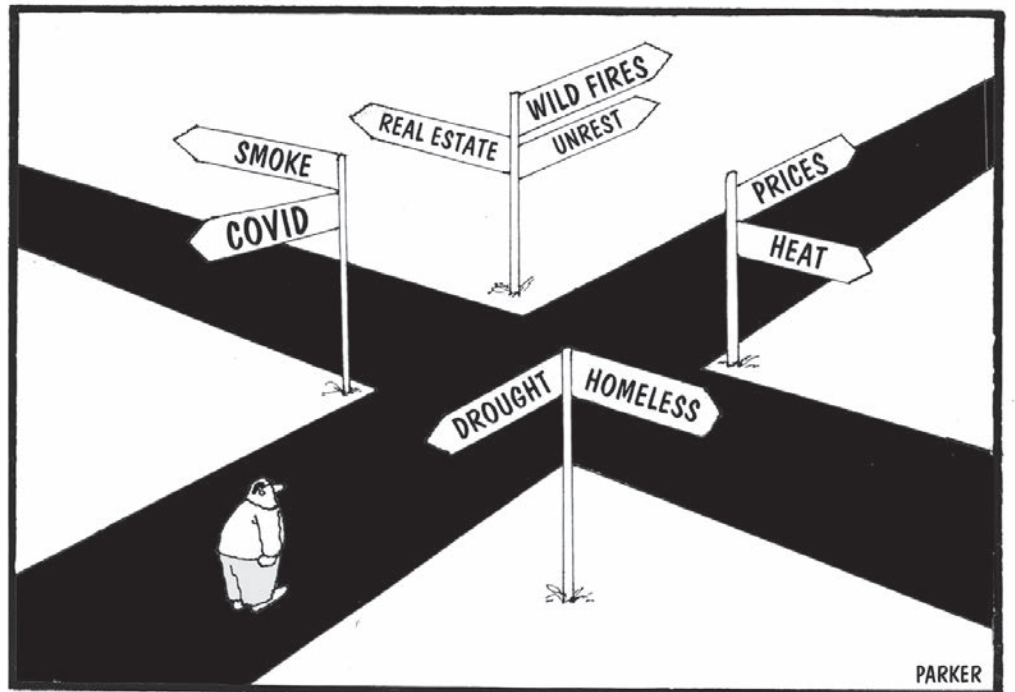
**WE SAY:**  
 Tangible action needed

It's hard to imagine the situation could have worsened since those words were written, but by all accounts that is the case. And that is true despite the fact that between the Croftonbrook expansion and the Salt Spring Commons development, a total of 78 units of affordable housing have already opened or will within the next year. That's great news, but they only fill a portion of the 300 units that the 2020 Salt Spring Island Housing Needs Assessment report from the Capital Regional District said were needed at that time, with a further 300 projected to be required by 2025.

A family representing one of those needed units is featured in this week's Finding Home series piece provided to the Driftwood by Salt Spring Solutions. This time it's a BC Ferries family who has been unable to find a rental home for the past five months.

A Housing Action Program Task Force was recently created by the LTC as a response to the housing crisis, but whether any substantive actions arise from that process remains to be seen. So far the bureaucratic and resource constraints don't bode well for tangible results, and certainly not in time to help people who need housing now. All eyes are on the Islands Trust and its Housing Action Program Task Force process to come up with a plan to address this long-simmering crisis and to follow through with bylaw amendments and lobbying efforts needed for real change.

Some people will say "The housing shortage is being felt everywhere" as they retire to their comfortable homes. But with everyone on this island affected by the lack of workers and the loss of friends and family, which is undeniably attributable to the housing crisis, apathy is unaffordable.



# Galiano is playing with fire

BY CARMITA DE MENYHART

In 2006, Galiano Island experienced the biggest wildfire in modern history on the Gulf Islands.

Sixty-one hectares of the 126-hectare Galiano Community Forest were burnt. The fire came dangerously close to hydro transmission lines, and many people were evacuated. There was even talk of evacuating the entire island.

The fire was caused by human carelessness, but there were many contributing factors: extremely hot weather, strong outflow winds and an abundance of ground fuel.

A 30-year resident of Galiano recently commented: "I was evacuated during the 2006 wildfire and still suffer PTSD as a result. I have witnessed first-hand the increasing fire hazard due to climate change. A wildfire today would travel much farther and faster than it did in 2006."

Galiano's Community Forest is now being proposed as the location of an affordable housing/marketplace development. Yet, this forest, which experienced a devastating wildfire in 2006, has "high-intensity wildfire conditions," according to community forest manage-

## VIEWPOINT

ment plans done in 2008 and 2020.

There are specific conditions that make the Community Forest a particularly dangerous site for this kind of human incursion. An arborist who lives nearby, wrote: "The Community Forest is what woodland firefighters call a 'jackpot.' Most of the area is thickly covered with dead cedars, grass, mature Scotch Broom, and dense third-growth conifers. There is also a heavy ground fuel load that combines with the layered brush canopy to create a volatile mix that would encourage several distinct types of fire behaviour. The grass creates a ground fire, the piles of dead cedar create durable fuel loads and the dense conifers can create crown fires, which are fast moving and extremely dangerous."

"Besides the fire danger rating, two other major factors are slope and wind. The Community Forest is on a substantial slope. Making the matter worse is that sunny and hot weather in this micro-climate is often associated with outflow winds, which are gener-

ally from the northeast and almost directly uphill. Dense vegetation, slope, and confluent wind conditions create the perfect conditions for extreme fire behaviour. Building numerous housing units in the middle of this 'jackpot' would add an undue amount of risk to an already tenuous situation."

Up to 48 future tenants could be in danger, this project could go up in flames, adjacent properties could be destroyed, and great ecological damage could be done.

People living close to the Community Forest have sent letters to various agencies warning of the fire risk and asking for a wildfire hazard assessment by a qualified forester. It is the responsibility of the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee to ask for an assessment, but no decision has yet been made.

Why aren't the elected officials responsible for giving approval striving to obtain the most accurate data? Why do they appear to be uninterested in knowing the wildfire risk in the Community Forest?

As I look out my window at Galiano's browning fir trees and crackling dry undergrowth, I hope that common sense will prevail.

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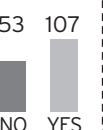
### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Are you concerned about a fourth COVID wave?**

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Do you agree with the province's rodenticide ban pilot?**



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: }

**“We need to take some drastic measures to try to turn this around.”**

NSSWD OPERATIONS MANAGER VAUGHN FIGUEIRA

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *Would you support changing British Columbia's name?*

**CHRIS ELWELL**



“I'd probably be a little against that. By that logic, you'd have to change New York, etc.”

**KATE RICHER**



I'm supportive of the idea but concerned it might be a token gesture. It's a good first step.

**RUSS WIHKSNE**



I'd love it. It should be Indigenous honouring.

**TERRI WYLLIE**



No, I'm not for that.

**TORIN NIKIFORUK**



I'd approve if you could still shorten it to B.C.

## 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)

### Best song ever

I think Yoko Ono and John Lennon's Imagine is the greatest song ever written. What do you think?

**MICHEAL CURTIS,**  
SALT SPRING

### The same finite source

For almost two years now, I've been collecting flow data and water quality readings on several creeks near my home, as a volunteer for the Salt Spring Island FreshWater Catalogue.

Most of the creeks are within a watershed that

includes parts of the Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve, Mount Tuam and Skywater Estates, and the eastern slope of Hope Hill.

Several of the smaller tributary streams have already dried up, four weeks early compared to last year. More troubling, the July 27 flow rate in the main creek was equivalent to the flow I recorded on Sept. 15, 2020, a full eight weeks early.

Those of us with deep wells may count ourselves lucky, but aquifers have no regard for property lines or even watershed boundaries. In the end we all draw from the same finite source, and we need to practise conservation during the drought and encourage our neighbours to do the same.

The Salt Spring Island FreshWater Catalogue is a project of the Salt Spring Water Preservation Society. Anyone interested in learning more about the project, or wishing to volunteer, can contact John Millson at [jamssiwater@gmail.com](mailto:jamssiwater@gmail.com).

**PHIL VERNON,**  
ISABELLA POINT ROAD

### Exemplary service appreciated

On June 30 when camping at Ruckle with my kids, I had a slip and broke my ankle.

This is a letter to say a huge shout-out to the teams on Salt Spring that helped

me out. Every single person showed exemplary service!

Thank you to the awesome park rangers, the ambulance attendants (and yes, James, you lost the bet — two breaks in the ankle. I await my farmstand cookies), the fire crew who helped lift me off the embankment, the efficient yet calm and caring nurses, the doctor (who called me two days later to check in!), and the taxi driver who got me back camping at the end of it all. I received truly impeccable, down-to-earth, unpretentious service from every single person.

It is probably the best place around to break a bone.

Thank you all!  
**JEN HLANNON,**  
VICTORIA

## Football game produces sunburn and confusion

Phew, as we used to say when I was in tabloids, phew, what a scorcher! Hot, hot, hot. Also, red, red, red.

While spending a day in the screaming heat of Duncan — not a phrase you'll see too often — I allowed myself to get too much sun and am consequently now only vaguely humanoid with the unnatural ruddiness of a super-sized radish.

I do it to myself every year in the fond imagining that at some point I will turn to a gleaming bronze, an elderly Adonis burnished by the sun. Never happens, at least not in the past 50 years. It may have done when I was a sun-kissed stripling growing up on the shores of the Mediterranean, but as soon as I was old enough to worry about taking my shirt off and a growing concern for public decency I've inclined towards the alabaster.

My present incandescence is not entirely my fault though and certainly has nothing to do with vanity. I was sitting in the sun watching one of my grandsons play baseball (and playing it extremely well if you'll allow me a grandfatherly boast).

I had also burned a few weeks earlier watching my eldest grandson playing American football which is as foreign to me as Latvian clog dancing, but I was at least considerably better off than the kids on the playing field who were in full football regalia, long socks, long pants, long-sleeved shirt, shoulder pads, gloves and helmet. In 35 degrees.

Not that it seemed to spoil their enjoyment of the game, although it's hard to tell underneath all that armour. The only things they were lacking were jousting poles.

I can only imagine that the reason there is so much standing about and not doing anything in American football is because running around in a helmet the size of a small car is bound to sap the energy of a teenaged boy quicker than a request to empty the dishwasher.

I've watched American foot-



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

ball on TV occasionally and decided it was not really a sport but a construct to fill in the gaps between advertising. How can it be a proper sport when half the team sits on the sidelines waiting for something to do? Or one little fella is only allowed on the field when a ball needs kicking while another little fella holds it straight for him?

In what felt like 15 hours on the playing field my grandson never touched the ball, seemingly only employed to throw himself at another teenager on the opposite side, who also never got a sniff of ball. It seems to me that anything calling itself "football" should allow its players at least an occasional touch of the ball with their feet. Not that I'd discourage him, since grown-up professional players are paid huge amounts of money for doing the same thing once a week and can gain places in the best colleges without knowing which end of the biro to chew.

At the end of the game I had absolutely no idea if anyone had won or lost, although my grandson's face was a reasonable indication that the game hadn't gone his way. Nobody does misery like a 13-year-old boy, except perhaps a 13-year-old girl.

Another thing I've noticed about American football (and presumably its impoverished Canadian cousin) is that there seemed to be as many umpires and referees on or around the field as there were players. Until it was explained to me, I'd assumed the three men on the sideline with poles and a number board were sim-

ply an eccentric parents' supporters club, but they were in fact intrinsic to a sport that seems to have more regulations than Communist China.

When I was a lad and still had the wherewithal to run about a bit, I played rugby, which I think is fair to say is an infinitely tougher sport, or it was in those days when only pansies wore any form of protection save for an unsanitary jock strap and where anything short of paralysis from the neck down was treated on the field with a sponge and a bucket of cold water.

And rugby 50 years ago was a paradigm for the class distinction that so plagued the U.K. then. Posh kids played "rugger," while the lesser classes played football ("soccer" has become an Americanism\* which would mark you for life if you let it slip in the pub), except in the north of England, which was almost entirely working class and where they played an alternate rugby and were actually paid for doing so!

But I digress. My grandson's football game was the last gasp of the season and by the next week it was endless, back-to-back baseball. Hoorah! A simple game in which you hit a ball and run, although like all quintessential American sports it helps to have a degree in accountancy to keep track of the score.

Good eye, good eye!

And then it's over, the football season will be back, and I will doubtless soon be on the edge of a playing field somewhere, still baffled, still wondering why they're all standing around, doing nothing.

\*In fact, "soccer" was first coined by the English 200 years ago and is a weird contraction of the words "Association Football." The Americans later came up with their own game and for reasons lost in the mist of time called it "football."

Nope, I don't know why either. Just to be difficult, I guess.

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

## Lady Minto Hospital needs a new Emergency Department.

A new Emergency Department is needed which will provide more working space for frontline workers, greater patient privacy, and space for mental health intake and enhanced infection control. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation has launched a community campaign to raise \$2 million, the final amount of the \$10.4 million budget.

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**CLOSE CALL:** A Smart car rests against a large cedar after going over the side of a steep embankment near the Fulford Harbour Marina entrance on Wednesday. The car was involved in an incident with another vehicle on Fulford-Ganges Road but the driver appeared to be unharmed, according to Salt Spring Fire Rescue. Another vehicle collision on Fulford-Ganges Road near the Beddis intersection around 11 a.m. on Saturday morning had traffic backed up in both directions for about 20 minutes.

# Ice cream days prompt memories

BY CHRIS RIDEOUT

Sometimes I think it may be possible to measure the changes in your life by the changes in ice cream. It's really pretty simple if you think about it and if you are paying attention both to your life and to ice cream.

There are two memories I have of ice cream. Or maybe three. One is of something called spumoni. My Dad liked to say the word over and over. I think it reminded him of some experience in WW2 when he slogged his way up the boot of Italy and into France. He was good with languages and sang O, Tannenbaum in German to us kids at Christmas time. But it was the billboards advertising this ice-cream treat that got his attention. The actual dish of spumoni wasn't quite as exotic as the name but we ate it anyway.

The other memory is of ice cream at our dinner table. It was the brick with the three flavours: vanilla (white), chocolate (brown) and strawberry (pinkish). My sister always got the chocolate, my bother got the strawberry and the vanilla ended up in front of me. Spumoni had the same flavours but was foamier and fruitier. I still ended up with the white part. Family life can be cruel.

On the walk home from school, we kids passed the corner store. You remember the corner store. It was not always on a corner but the best ones always were. Ours was, and once I got a part-time job there delivering bags of groceries on my bike. I didn't last long because I wasn't a strong kid like the other kids and I had trouble with the hills. But the corner store sold the first ice cream cones I ever saw. If you remember the corner store you probably remember the early ice cream cones.

The actual ice cream came in a kind of cylinder surrounded by a piece of light cardboard. The grocery store man plucked the cylinder from the freezer, peeled off the cardboard and used it to stuff the little tower of ice cream into a cone. There were the usual three colours. It was a very limited product. We didn't feel deprived because it was all we had ever known. Kids knew better than to complain since we knew the world belonged to adults and could never be any other way.

In our brand-new suburb perched on

## GUEST COLUMN

Ontario clay, all the brick houses looked the same. There was no ice cream in those houses because there were no freezers except sad little ice boxes containing equally sad little ice-cube trays. And we were lucky to have even that. The family next door had blocks of ice delivered. So we kids had to collect pop bottles and redeem them at the corner store for cardboard-wrapped cylinders of the only treat that we knew of. It's amazing that any of us grew up to be normal.

The only fun we had, in the absence of proper ice cream, was chasing little kids home and throwing rocks at passing freight trains. But in the middle of all this, a new ice cream came into our little lives.

And it came in the form of the scoop.

It may not seem like much, it's true, but for us it was a Renaissance of delight. That simple device transformed ice cream from a cold, mechanical, hard-to-bite cylinder into a soft, supple, bite-worthy treat. Even photographs of it nestled in the new, short cones looked especially delicious. I learned later that photographers had used coloured mashed potatoes to avoid melting but we didn't know that then and it wouldn't have mattered if we had.

This new ice cream changed the way we saw the corner store man. Before, he was a mechanic: unrolling the tube of hard, solid ice cream from its strait-jacket of cardboard. Now he was an artist. He held the scoop gently but firmly and addressed the huge tub of ice cream. We kids held our breath. Would he tease the scoop around the top edges or would he, in a sudden breath-taking lunge, drive the scoop deep into the depths of the tub?

Either way the result was mouth-wateringly exciting. Sometimes, after pressing the scoop's contents into the mouth of the cone, he would, after a glance at us, go back for more! This never happened with the old ice cream. Every now and then, if one of us kids had brought back enough pop bottles, we could get TWO scoops! Enough so you could give away a couple of licks if you were feeling generous.

The strawberry flavour in the new ice cream had chunks of real strawberries in it, the chocolate was richer and darker and even the vanilla, which hardly any of us tried, was tolerable. This new product ushered us kids into a new era of after-school treats: never again the hard sad cylinder of ice cream.

Several years later came something called "soft" ice cream, but the less said about that the better. It was not the artistic product of the scoop and the corner store man. It came oozing out of a machine when a clerk pushed a button. Even dipped in melted chocolate it was a disappointment. By this time us kids had become connoisseurs of ice cream and we tolerated no new-fangled attempts to lure us away from our ideal.

If you remember scoop ice cream then you also remember the startling array of flavours. Maple Walnut, Butterscotch Ripple, Rum and Raisin, Tiger Stripe, Black Cherry, and the dozens of fantastic names as exotic and mysterious as the names of foreign cities. Who could forget them?

When my parents drove us to see my grandparents in the summer we had to pass Stoney Creek Dairy with its famous ice cream store. We kids would sit in the back of that 1948 Austin and beg our dad to stop. We were not a wealthy family by any measure but every now and then my dad would stop. I have always suspected that he liked ice cream as much as we did.

Inside the Stoney Creek ice cream store even the cool air smelled like ice cream, but the thing that caught my eye was the enormous, billboard-sized menu listing all the flavours. If I had been the kind of kid whose knees went weak, they would have.

Moving to Salt Spring meant changing habits and expectations. And that's fine. What a relief then to find that the scoop ice cream, the beacon of my youth, is here with all its colours and even more seductive flavours. I've said enough for now. Let's go get some.

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

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## Rants + ROSES

### Roses

Roses to Lis and Shawn Walton for helping to make our staff appreciation gathering such a success. We were very happy with our dinners and thanks to your great options, we were able

to accommodate the vegetarians, celiac AND the vegan in our group. The board of the Circle Education Society thanks you and so do our staff and volunteers. We appreciate you! *Kim Dalton*

A rose bouquet for our wonderful local Rental Stop, who loaned us a battery-powered brush cutter so we could clear the growth from the dangerous intersection of Roland Road and Isabella Point Road. Our neighbourhood corner is much safer now, as it is easier to see oncoming traffic. *David Paine and Daniel Dickmeyer*

# SALUTE TO RCMP

Salt Spring Island residents and businesses recognize and thank their local detachment of the RCMP

## RCMP sergeant cites reasons to feel grateful

Detachment commander reports to the community

British Columbians are in the midst of some extraordinary times.

In recent weeks, our province has experienced a record-breaking heatwave as many parts of the province are contending with serious wildfires. We have watched with concern as people in the Village of Lytton and neighbouring Indigenous communities were forced to evacuate. The images of the catastrophic damage to the village, including the Lytton RCMP detachment, and a nearby community were shocking. And, of course, all of this is happening against the backdrop of the ongoing opioid crisis and COVID-19 pandemic.

As troubling as these times have been, I find myself feeling grateful for all that Salt Spring offers and the sense of community that living here provides. The RCMP officers and staff of the Salt Spring detachment continue to work hard to keep our community safe. Our officers regularly investigate alleged violations of the Criminal Code, Liquor Control and Licencing Act, Canada Shipping Act, Controlled Drugs and Substances Act, as well as many other



PHOTO COURTESY SSI RCMP DETACHMENT

Salt Spring Island RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook.

provincial legislations. So far this year, Salt Spring's RCMP detachment has received more than 1,600 calls for service. Those calls include motor vehicle collisions, mischief to property, assaults, drug trafficking, and incidents related to people suffering from mental health and addictions.

I am grateful for the dedication of our officers. In the first two quarters of 2021 (January 1 through June 30), Salt Spring RCMP responded to 1,374 calls for service, including five child pornography investigations, 15 sexual assaults, 262 mental health occurrences, 12 firearms complaints, various

traffic violations and multiple COVID-19 complaints. In addition, 750 foot patrols in Ganges and Centennial Park along with 175 licensed premises checks were conducted during this period.

I would also say that I am grateful for the dedicated staff at BC Ambulance, Salt Spring Fire Department and Salt Spring Search and Rescue, as we frequently work side by side with them in difficult circumstances.

I am grateful to see a sharp decline in calls for service to Ganges and Centennial Park. Specifically, complaints of yelling, swearing, public intoxica-

tion and assaults. This improvement has been the result of a community response, as Salt Spring RCMP has worked collaboratively with Island Health, staff at Lady Minto Hospital, Mental Health outreach workers, IWAV, Community Services, Salt Spring Health Advisory Network, CRD staff, and the people who live and work there every day (especially the merchants of Ganges Alley). I would also like to acknowledge CRD director Gary Holman's contribution to this issue, as he continues to be engaged wherever possible.

**I am grateful to see a sharp decline in calls for service to Ganges and Centennial Park. Specifically, complaints of yelling, swearing, public intoxication and assaults.**

As we move forward, Salt Spring RCMP members look forward to getting back to a new normal. Some initiatives include going back into local schools to foster positive relationships with our young people, increased check-stops, as

we continue to take impaired drivers off the road, and hopefully the start of a Speedwatch program in an attempt to make our roads safer.

### Back to full staffing by September

As you may know, Salt Spring RCMP detachment is comprised of six constables, one corporal and one sergeant, for a total of eight officers.

For a variety of reasons, the detachment has been short two members for a number of years. I am pleased to announce that one of our members is returning from paternity leave this August (2021) and another new member is transferring to Salt Spring Island in September. This means that the Salt Spring detachment will be fully staffed for the first time in recent memory.

Our officers and staff are proud to live and work on Salt Spring Island and enjoy being part of the community. Although the detachment can be a busy place, that work is made easier by the unwavering support of the residents of Salt Spring Island we receive every day.

Gratefully,  
**Sgt. Clive Seabrook,**  
Detachment Commander

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# ISLAND LIFE



## LIBRARY PROGRAMS

# Walk to Mordor challenge on

Salt Spring Public Library teen program ramps up

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island youth and anyone else interested in a fun challenge this summer can see how their walking abilities measure up to a hobbit's.

If their legs and time allow, people who sign up at the Salt Spring Public Library can set off on a "Walk to Mordor" that covers the same distance as the fictional journey taken by Frodo and Sam in the Lord of the Rings. Progress can be tracked on an app and on a map created by teen program volunteers that's displayed in the library.

Teen volunteer Maia Cassie said the project was developed by the library's youth coordinator Alyssa Andress and team, many of whom got involved through creating the large-scale map of Middle Earth. They also found the Walk to Mordor app, which was created by a fan of the book series, to facilitate a challenge that bridges reading and physical activity.

"I think it's a great way of bringing people who are maybe more into fitness and moving around into the book world, and people who are more into the book world into walking around and seeing how far you can go in the world," Cassie said.

Those who know the books may be surprised to learn the scope of the journey as calculated by the app's creator. It takes nearly 2,400 kilometres to reach the front gates of Mordor from the starting point at Bag End and 2,870 km to get to the top of Mount Doom. The app helpfully breaks down the trip with all the key stops taken by the hobbits along the

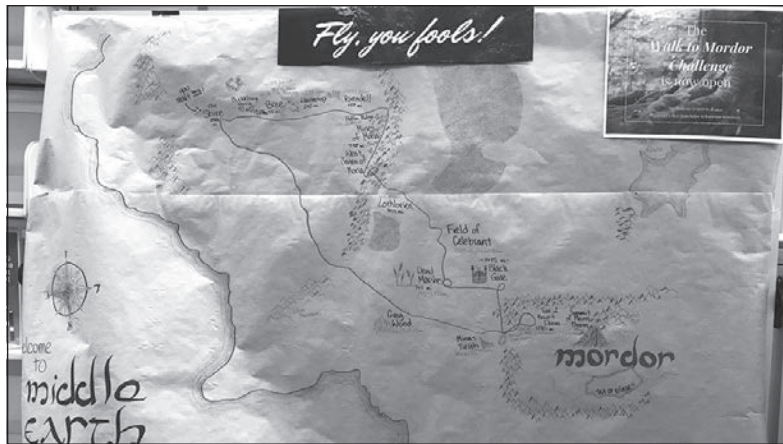


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Map of Middle Earth that Salt Spring Public Library teen volunteers created for the Walk to Mordor Challenge.

way and shows the progress to the next stop as well as total progress made. Cassie noted she had made it as far as the hobbits' first encounter with a Black Rider, which took place in the woods 51.5 km away from Bag End.

"I think what's great about the app, and the challenge in general, is it has all these small milestones. There's points for actions they took or things they saw along the way, so I think it's motivating to see those milestones as you go," Cassie said.

Even though completing the journey in a single summer might not be feasible, participants can still have fun imagining themselves reaching one of the book's locations. The challenge could also potentially continue beyond the summer months.

"If we have people who are actively working on it and are getting there but it's a slow process, we definitely might extend it so people have a better chance of actually getting to Mordor or at least a bit farther," Cassie said.

The challenge is just one of the

projects on the go for the teen program. This summer the group has been hosting a webinar series, and they are working on a magazine of youth artwork. Cassie does a lot of the social media posts for the group on Instagram and the group also runs a blog, but teens can suggest their own initiatives as well.

"There's always things to get involved in, whether that be the Walk to Mordor or even just participating in our webinars, or signing up to be a teen volunteer, because there's lots of different opportunities," Cassie said.

Anyone who would like to join the Walk to Mordor Challenge to see their progress recorded on the map and be eligible for a prize at the end (if they are a youth) can register in person at the library, or go to the teen group's Instagram page at @ssiplteens to find the link to the online registration form in the bio.

More information about the teen program is available on the library's website at <https://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop/>.

## PHILANTHROPY

# New face at helm of hospital foundation

Roberta Martell succeeds Sarah Bragg as ER capital campaign continues

The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation has a new executive director.

"We are excited to have Roberta Martell join us and put her considerable problem-solving and community-building skills to work to help our foundation support Lady Minto Hospital in the years ahead," said LMHF chair Dave Taylor in a press release.



ROBERTA MARTELL

Martell has a master's degree from Royal Roads University in leadership and training and a 25-year career in community development, social justice and sustainability. She has worked with foundations like the David Suzuki Foundation, and in consulting assignments on affordable housing strategies for Tofino as well as executive director roles for Klwane First Nation in the Yukon and Fernwood Neighbourhood Resource Group in Victoria.

"Many will know her as the successful entrepreneur behind the Twig & Buoy," states the LMHF release. "For that project, she built a restaurant to provide housing for her young family. She has a background in running capital campaigns, undertaking board development, organizational analysis, and has built numerous units of affordable housing."

Martell said she was honoured to have been chosen to lead the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation at this important juncture.

"My focus is on seeing the capital campaign through to completion because the new emergency department is so vital to this community. But beyond that, I can see many more opportunities to enhance the programs, equipment and services offered at the hospital — and to enhance the 63-year-old hospital building itself. There are challenges to tackle, too, not the least of which is the housing shortage, which is the same challenge for the hospital as for other local businesses and residents."

Outgoing executive director Sarah Bragg spearheaded the current emergency department capital campaign, among many other initiatives. Bragg is moving on to head up the Saanich Peninsula Hospital & Healthcare Foundation as its president and CEO.

The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation raises, stewards and disburses funds to support patient care and comfort at Lady Minto Hospital. Most recently the foundation has embarked on a capital campaign to complete the goal of raising \$10.4 million to build the new emergency department.

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HOUSING

# Ferries family desperate for housing

Commuting from off-island not possible for BC Ferries employee

BY AINA YASUÉ

SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

What happens when your island's essential workers can't find a place to live? Salt Spring is about to find out.

For Tammy Desjardins and her family of four, it's crunch time to find a new home. Tammy, a BC Ferries employee, is recovering from an injury. Her partner is a marine engineer.

In the few places they have lived over their four years on Salt Spring Island, their current home has been the best. Their past housing experiences include a winter in a trailer that wasn't properly sealed, and living in a communal home where the sewer backed into the bath whenever they flushed the toilet, one of the walls was sinking, and where her daughter became ill due to mold in her bedroom. They stayed because "we simply couldn't find anywhere else," says Tammy. Ever since finding their current house 18 months ago they have been very grateful to live in a functional and well-maintained home.

Earlier this year the owners of their rental property surprised Tammy by announcing they are retiring to the island a year earlier than previously planned. Now she must find a new place to live by Aug. 31. For nearly five months they have looked in the paper, networked, placed ads on social media, contacted low-income housing services and real estate companies. Even with early notice, she explains how hard it is to find a rental home on the island where, Tammy says, "there are no vacancies for five months, and it's one house for 60 applicants." She also observes that the prices have risen significantly in her time on the island. Says Tammy, "I don't know what reasonable is in this market. It's gone crazy."



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

The Desjardins family, who needs to find a home on Salt Spring by the end of August.

## FINDING HOME

Faced with the distinct possibility that she won't secure a rental home on the island in time, Tammy may be forced to return to work before her injury is completely healed, because her "back-to-work period" must be from the same terminal she worked out of before her injury occurred, which is Long Harbour. Her shift starts at 5:30 am, which makes commuting to work from off-island an impossibility. You can hear the frustration in her voice when she says, "They want people to work on the island but have no housing for the workers. It's self-defeating."

Tammy's family is still hoping to find a two or three bedroom detached house for rent, but

at this point they are willing to consider all options. After doing everything they can to find a home for their fast-approaching deadline, they are starting to feel the stress. "We have good references; we just need somewhere to physically put our bodies."

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

SPEAKER SERIES

# SS Forum plans for in-person fall schedule

Members' salon set for Aug. 31

The Salt Spring Forum is choosing to be optimistic about what this fall may bring and is preparing to offer a number of live speaker events, "just like in the good old days."

The season begins with a members-only salon on Aug. 31 with Donald Smith, a respected professor emeritus of history from

University of Calgary whose life study has been relations between Indigenous communities and mainstream Canada.

The salon will be in a private home with room for 40 participants. As with all salons, pre-registration is required, with attendance limited to current members only, and with the additional requirement this time that attendees have full COVID vaccinations. Memberships can be renewed on the forum's website.



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JANET CUNNINGHAM  
CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBER

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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### MUSIC

## Saltwater Heartwood released

New songs from Yael Wand

Salt Spring musician Yael Wand has released her new album — Saltwater Heartwood — a collection of songs that were years in the making.

“My original intention for this record was to record these songs as a bookmark of the transitions that I underwent over the past 10 years,” said Wand. “Transitions of home and community, my role in life, my relationships, even my age.”

As press material explains, Wand composes

songs that blend the worlds of folk, jazz, roots and blues. The intensely personal and heartfelt subject of the new music brings the listener into a sonic world of honesty and understanding.

“In late 2019, I enlisted musicians and friends Alan Kerr and Christina Zaenker to help me,” Wand adds. “We drove up to Corwin Fox’s Hidden Well Studio in Cumberland, B.C. with the intent of creating a more-or-less live-off-the-floor album — quick, raw, rustic and authentic.”

Originally emerging on the Canadian folk scene in

2004, Wand was a B.C. Interior Music Award nominee who garnered both national and regional media attention.

At Your Door, Wand’s 2007 release, prompted radio play from coast to coast and press across the country, while her third solo album, Good Stitch Gone (2009), produced by Corwin Fox, placed her squarely in the Americana genre.

More information and the new Saltwater Heartwood album can be accessed through the performer’s [www.yaelwand.ca](http://www.yaelwand.ca) website.



PHOTO BY DEANNA MILLIGAN  
 Yael Wand.

### POETRY

## Dynamic poet on tap

Webb and ghazal format highlighted

Isabella Wang is the featured poet for this Thursday’s Poetry Open Mic, with a reading dedicated to acclaimed poet Phyllis Webb, a long-time Salt Spring Islander.

The Aug. 5 Salt Spring Public Library event taking place via Zoom begins at 7 p.m.

Wang is the author of the chapbook On Forgetting a Language (Baseline Press 2019), and the full-length debut, Pebble Swing (Nightwood Editions, forthcoming in October 2021). Among other recognitions, she was most recently shortlisted for Arc’s Poem of the Year award and The Malahat Review’s Long Poem Prize. Her poetry and prose have appeared in more than 30 literary journals and three anthologies.

In honour of Salt Spring Island, she will read a section of her forthcoming book called Thirteen Ghazals after Phyllis Webb.

To register for the event, people should email [programs@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com).

# what's on this week



| Wed. Aug. 4   | Thur. Aug. 5  | Fri. Aug. 6   | Sat. Aug. 7  | Mon. Aug. 9   | Wed. Aug. 11   |
|---|---|---|--|---|--|
| <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b><br>S.K. Wellington. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.  | <b>VIA ZOOM</b><br>Open Poetry Mic. Isabella Wang is the featured poet. 7 p.m. Get the Zoom link by emailing <a href="mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com">programs@saltspringlibrary.com</a> .   | <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>Friday Games Night. Popular board games gathering at the Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 9 p.m. Limited numbers. Sign-in required.  | <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>StoryWalk. See Friday listing.<br>Movie Matinee. Family-friendly movie at the Salt Spring Public Library. 1 p.m.  | <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>StoryWalk. See Friday listing.<br>Dungeons & Dragons Camp. See Friday listing.   | <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b><br>Kurt Loewen. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.   |
| <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>Library Summer Camp. See Thursday listing.   | <b>Fri. Aug. 6</b><br><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b><br>Duck Creak. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.   | <b>Sat. Aug. 7</b><br><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b><br>Superfeather. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.   | <b>VIA ZOOM</b><br>Next Steps: Turning Awareness Into Action. Webinar with young adult Thetis Island community organizer Katia Bannister. 7 p.m. Email <a href="mailto:teens@saltspringlibrary.com">teens@saltspringlibrary.com</a> for the Zoom link. | <b>Tues. Aug. 10</b><br><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b><br>Vargo. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.  | <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>Library Summer Camp. See Thursday listing.  |
| <b>Thur. Aug. 5</b><br><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b><br>Valdy. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.   | <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>StoryWalk. Self-guided family activity from SS Public Library through Mouat Park toward the Rainbow Road Pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.   | <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>Saturday Market in the Park. Saturday market runs in Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.   | <b>Sun. Aug. 8</b><br><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b><br>Tom Hooper. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.  | <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>Tuesday Farmers’ Market. Weekly market of fresh produce and food/drink products at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.  | <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 5px;"> <h3>Friday Games Night</h3> <p>All-ages board games gathering at the Salt Spring Public Library on Friday nights. 6 to 10 p.m.</p> <p>Limited numbers &amp; sign-in required.</p> <p><b>THRIFTY FOODS</b></p> <p>Ganges, Mouat’s Centre<br/>                     7:30am to 9pm<br/>                     Customer Service<br/>                     250-537-1522</p> </div> |
| <b>Open Mic &amp; Jam.</b> At the Legion. 7 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw at 5 p.m.)  | <b>Ask Salt Spring.</b> This week’s guest is MLA Adam Olsen. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Outside at the United Church Meadow. Portlock Park pavilion in case of rain.   | <b>Pride is Alive Hike &amp; Swim.</b> Meet at the parking area at Arbutus and Southey Point Rds. Walk the Jack Foster trail down to the beach. 2 to 4:30 p.m. This is the 4th of 13 events organized by the DAISSI Social Committee. All LGBTQ2SIA+ and allies of all ages are welcome. Registration is required. RSVP to save your spot at <a href="http://www.prideallyear.ca">www.prideallyear.ca</a> . | <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>StoryWalk. See Friday listing.  | <b>Library Summer Camp.</b> Games, crafts and more. SS Public Library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. 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 <a href="mailto:kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com">kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com</a> . |  |
| <b>ACTIVITIES</b><br>Library Summer Camp. Games, crafts and more. SS Public Library on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays. 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 <a href="mailto:kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com">kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com</a> . | <b>Dungeons &amp; Dragons Camp.</b> A Salt Spring Public Library event. 1 to 3 p.m. Groups of 5, multiple campaigns, advance registration required through <a href="mailto:nsadouski@saltspringlibrary.com">nsadouski@saltspringlibrary.com</a> . |   | <b>Mon. Aug. 9</b><br><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b><br>Susan Cogan & Jerome Jarvis. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.   | <b>Library Summer Camp.</b> See Thursday listing.   |  |

**THE FRITZ CINEMA**

The Fritz shows **Black Widow** nightly from Friday, Aug. 6 to Thursday, Aug. 12 at 7 p.m. plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. COVID-19 protocols, including limited seating, in place. **More info: [thefritz.ca](http://thefritz.ca)**

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Artist in Residence **Chukwudubem Ukaigwe** performs *Smoke Gets In Your Eyes*, a curated anthology of brief and disparate writings that go hand in hand with video projections. At **Point Gallery** on Sunday, Aug. 8. Gate opens 8:30 p.m.; performance at 9 p.m., followed by an open studio to see Chukwudubem’s work. RSVP to [pointgallery@shaw.ca](mailto:pointgallery@shaw.ca) as seating is limited.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- The State of the World and the Feel of the Earth** with artists **Stefanie Denz, Jette Leimbigger, Sibylle Leimbigger** and **Leann Norgard** is the Showcase exhibit at **Artcraft** through Aug. 8.
- Salt Spring Gallery** hosts **Olga Szkabarnicki’s** show called **Communion - Plein Air Landscapes of Salt Spring Island** until Aug. 11.
- The **Art Connection** group exhibits at the **Salt Spring Public Library program room** through August.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- 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.
- 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**


**Obituaries**

**In Memoriam Gifts**

**Information**

**Information**

**ART BEAUMONT**



Art passed away peacefully on July 23, 2021 at the age of 78.

A devoted father to Jason and Justin, he extended his love and guidance to his step sons Alex, James and Connor. In addition to his sons Art is survived by his wife Rhonda, his brother Mike and his sisters Betty, Pat, and Brenda.

Art will be missed for his willingness to help others no matter how big or small the issue. He enjoyed nothing more than a gathering of friends and family where he could share old stories, have a laugh, and make new memories.

Rhonda would like to thank everyone who supported Art in his final months, especially the staff at Lady Minto Hospital who made his final days comfortable.


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At 73 years of age, I am please to announce that I am retiring from Medical Practice in Psychiatry. I would like to thank my many patients, and my colleagues on Saltspring who have been an honour and a pleasure to serve over the past 20 years. I could not have done it without the love and support provided to me by my wife, family, friends and the community - especially during my own severe depression in 2013.

*Blessings and good health to you all.*

*~Nicholas*

“When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure”

**Coming Events**

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

Wednesday  
AUG. 18, 2021 at  
7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.

*Public welcome.*

**Misc. Wanted**

**WANTED:** recently cut or fallen arbutus branches. Please call either 250-537-0710 or 250-931-2027.

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**Coming Events**

**Coming Events**

**GISRA**  
GULF ISLANDS SENIORS RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION

**The Annual General Meeting of the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association** will be held on  
**Friday, August 20th, 2021 at 1 PM**  
Meadowbrook Main Lounge  
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**Library Survey**

Help the Library create a new strategic plan.

The survey takes 10 - 15 minutes on the Library website, at <https://bit.ly/36FSgMg>, or in the Library.



Salt Spring Island Public Library



**Farm Workers**

**Seeking Live-on Island Farm Managers**

Looking for a friendly, reliable couple to serve as live-on property managers for a small hobby farm in the Southern Gulf Islands. Ideal candidates are physically capable, farm/marine-savvy, and DIY/industrious. Location: Southern Gulf Islands Contract length: 1 year (renewable pending mutual interest) Contract commencement: Sept or Oct 1st 2021 Remuneration: Accommodation (2 bdrm, 1 bthm log home, wood and electric heat, internet, power, laundry, generator back up) + \$1,200/month, 3 weeks annual holiday \* Care for animals: Feeding and caring for livestock daily (currently 20-30 sheep, 15 fowl, and 2 cats). Monitoring stocks of feed, fuel, consumables and other supplies. \* Keep property and buildings clean, maintained, stocked and well-organized: Raking roads, cutting firewood, working with tractor, chipping wood, maintaining buildings & waterworks. \* Do regular and adhoc maintenance of motors and equipment (boats, tractor/hoes, etc.) Interested parties pls send resume and cover letter to: farmmanagerjob@protonmail.com

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**Career Opportunities**

**Alternative Power Systems**, a division of Olson Electric, requires motivated people for our newly established Chilliwack branch to install solar panel arrays. For complete details visit [www.GoSolarBC.ca](http://www.GoSolarBC.ca)

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

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

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

The Leo New Moon occurs on August 8 and it is a powerful one. Eclipses are not the only powerful Moon events and the so-called 'Super Moons' would rank as the mirage that they are compared to the understanding of what constitutes a truly powerful New Moon. Understanding when such a powerful cycle will occur is where actual astrology comes to the fore. The exact degree of this New Moon will produce a tower-toppling effect wherever false witness and lies have attempted to build edifices of power out of sticks and straw. This is not to say that the forces activated will not confront opposition. Yet, this marks a decisive time, a turning and an emergence of collectivity that will sweep the globe. Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius and Uranus in Taurus will play leading roles altogether contributing to a powerful revolutionary juncture whose time has come! This is how synchronicity works and is already evident and will escalate measurably in the weeks to come.

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**  
A focus to realize the sweet spot between work and play continues. This may manifest best as constructive creativity. Sun and Mercury in Leo will inspire an urge to entertain and could even evoke the hero in you. What causes call you to contribute? The work will require the right attitude yet if it is guided by love you will be the first to feel it.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**  
Hovering close to home will prove extra satisfying now. Your heart is beating loudly for the ones you love and you are determined to squeeze in every ounce of quality time you can. These sentiments could also be directed towards creative projects. Yet, an air of romance also lingers and where the opportunity exists, you will seize it.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**  
You are in a playful mood and your energy levels are running high. Creating beauty close to home has suddenly emerged as a new priority. This could manifest basically as clean-up and minor repairs. Yet, the impulse is also present to dive deeper into a full-blown bout of renovations. Then again, since home is where your heart is, literally, inner work may be your focus.

**Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)**  
Making key investments for the sake of the future continues. Returns for past efforts are coming in now. Hopefully your karmic score card reveals more pluses than minuses since the returns will mirror it accurately. Venus and Mars in Virgo will serve to raise your energy levels and inspire a spirit of adventure. This period could prove to be a big boost!

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)**  
The Sun and Mercury in your sign signals pioneering initiatives. You are ready to explore new territory and are feeling extra expansive in part due to Jupiter in Aquarius. The current Virgo factor is leading you to exercise your critical analysis faculties to make key investments. You are extra determined in this regard and feel guided by a spirit of victory.

**Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)**  
Although you find yourself busy behind the scenes, this is hardly a period of retreat. Your ambitions are running strongly and you are determined to learn what you must to prevail. This is one of those 'feel the fear and do it anyway' periods and you are all in. Mars and Venus in Virgo are supporting your cause as your drive force shifts into high gear.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**  
Gaining clarity in terms of your sense of authentic individuality is running strong now. This is pushing you to do inner work to confront subconscious fears and to attend to a healing process where necessary. You also feel extra creative and are determined to make key investments. To this end, your focus is sharp regarding any and all opportunities available.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**  
Your time has come to shine more brightly and to be seen and heard more fully than usual, as well. This may come as a mixed blessing, especially for others as you assert yourself in ways that could prove abrasive. Yet, your resolve is clear and you are determined to push as much as is necessary to lay claim to the full measure of your truth and to express it loud and clear.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
You have entered an extra powerful cycle. It implies measurable changes in your lifestyle that may unfold over the coming months, but which begins now. The time is right to be fully aware and alert to opportunities now. Your willingness to gain new skills and to gather whatever tools you deem necessary is extra important. Focus on strategic practicality.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
A powerful cycle of change and transformation continues. It will lead you to investigations and to deepen your research. Your intellectual powers will prove especially strong and you will be digging for answers. Before August is over, you will have changed so much, at least in terms of your perceptions and interpretations, that you may be shocked.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)**  
Your relationship life is undergoing both an expansion and a process of deep change. Jupiter back in your sign is activating a powerful push to break through prior limitations. Your resolve is so strong that you will oppose any opposition that might arise with ardent determination. Some cycles require us to push harder and dig deeper than others and this is one of them.

**Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)**  
The Leo influence is synchronizing with a sharpening of your wits and focus. The Virgo factor is contributing a blend of grit and grace. Like a diplomat who cannot afford to take no for an answer, you will do whatever it takes to see your goals and dreams realized. This cycle can indeed be described as revolutionary and you will advance with the finesse of a high-tech bulldozer.

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# SPORTS + RECREATION

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## Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for Galiano Island. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the agency. Applicants must reside on Galiano Island in order to be considered for this position.

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



## SOFTBALL

# Island girl pitches with champs

Langford Lightning team picks up Ryen Dunbar for B.C. finals

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A 14-year-old Salt Spring athlete has had a taste of her future possibilities after being called up to help another team secure a provincial softball trophy.

Salt Spring Storm pitcher Ryen Dunbar joined the Langford Lightning for total domination at the U16-C girls' softball provincial championships, which were played at Kamloops' Exhibition Park from July 16 to 18. Langford won every one of the eight games it played over the weekend, and Dunbar was a strong part of the package as a player in seven of those games.

"She pitched in most of them and pitched very well," Ryen's dad and regular coach Bruce Dunbar reported. "Langford had their own star pitcher finish with the last game, but Ryen was very instrumental in the other games, bringing runners in and getting last outs."

Ryen has been involved in the world of minor baseball since starting T-ball around nine years ago, with plenty of coaching help from her dad along the way. While their Salt Spring U16 fastpitch team was defeated by Langford in the district finals during the heatwave in early July, Ryen's skills did not go unnoticed by the other side.

"It was really hot. We suffered a lot and didn't play very well. But the coach on the other team recognized Ryen's ability to pitch when we were warming up. He told me he thought his team might be in some trouble," Dunbar said.

Following their Friday night loss, Dunbar took a few Salt Spring team members back to support Langford in the final at the end of the weekend and received an email of thanks from the coach. Then on the Monday night that coach contacted Dunbar to ask if Ryen would join the Langford team for the provincials in Kamloops — the catch being they needed to finalize their roster by noon the next day.

"She thought about it overnight and then said yes, she would do it. Obviously it was a bit of a struggle for a new girl to join a team she didn't know," Dunbar said.

Dunbar explained that teams can't pick up just any player, but they can add a pitcher to round out a full roster of 14. It turned out several teams had their eye on Ryen. The Saanich Extreme contacted the Dunbars on Tuesday morning and they heard a third team was also interested.

"If you can pick up a pitcher that's pretty solid, that's going to help you win," Dunbar noted.

The entire Dunbar family headed out to Kamloops on Thursday, July 15, arriving on a very smoky day when the air quality index was at its worst possible rating. Fortunately there was a shift the following day and the skies cleared so the tournament could go ahead.

Langford played two games on the Friday, three on Saturday and a final three on Sunday without suffering a single loss.

The championships were located in a large stadium filled with cheering fans — a far cry from Salt Spring's humble but beloved home field in Fulford. Dunbar said his daughter definitely rose to the occasion.

"It was very exciting for her. I asked if she was nervous at all but she was just excited to play at that high level," Dunbar said.

With that experience behind her and the Canadian women's softball team winning a historic first with a bronze medal-finish at the Tokyo Olympics last week, Ryen is starting to realize there may be an exciting future ahead of her.

She is clearly a very talented athlete, but also has strong leadership qualities. Dunbar described how his daughter and her team-



PHOTO COURTESY DUNBAR FAMILY

Salt Spring softball player Ryen Dunbar at provincial championships in Kamloops, both pitching (at top) and on the bases.

mate Miranda Bantel went out of their way to coach younger Salt Spring girls in pitching, which they did every Thursday of the past season on their own accord. They can take some credit for the U12 girls winning the bronze trophy in their finals, Dunbar said. Ryen also helped with T-ball on Sundays.

Dunbar said Ryen remembers the way older player Emma Hambrook used to help out with her team and took up the good example.

"She just wanted to give back; that was the real proud moment for me," he said.

Dunbar observed that girls' fastpitch has grown over the past decade or so on Salt Spring. There are now six divisions just for girls, who proudly sport their bright-pink jerseys.

Pre-season training will start again this fall and girls are encouraged to sign up at [saltspringbaseball.ca](http://saltspringbaseball.ca). For more information, contact Dunbar at [Bruce@shaw.ca](mailto:Bruce@shaw.ca).

## Fall Fair FOCUS



YES...We are having a **FALL FAIR!**

We have approval from Worksafe BC to hold the fair with some suggestions regarding spacing, traffic flow and hygiene otherwise as normal.

Notices will be posted for any of these modifications.

\*Entry Catalogues are available at Driftwood, Foxglove Farm and Garden, ISCU, Tourist Info and online at [ssifi.org](http://ssifi.org)

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