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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

MUSICAL PEACE: Kevin Wilkie and Barb Slater perform for the annual Hiroshima Day event in Peace Park on Friday. The event raises awareness of efforts to end war and forge nuclear disarmament as it marks the dropping of the nuclear bomb on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945. For more photos, see page 9.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Dragonfly project jumps hoops

Water system support in view pending grant decision

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The proponents of an affordable housing development in Ganges are hopeful that significant progress is being made five years after they first announced their vision to the community.

Tami and Fernando Dos Santos have been working to meet all the steps required to create the Dragonfly Commons community of 30 small homes since 2016. They recently announced they have received conditional approval for a groundwater use licence from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, which has triggered movement on other fronts.

These include achieving first reading of a number of bylaws necessary for rezoning the property to add housing density, with full support of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

"I really appreciate your dedication to hanging in there and trying to move this over the finish line, so thank you," trustee Laura Patrick said during the July 27 LTC meeting.

"I'm so pleased to see this where it's at," agreed her fellow trustee Peter Grove. "There's so much energy and effort that's gone into it by so many people, particularly by the Dos Santos family."

The LTC had also supported first reading of a different set of bylaws for a previous version of the project, which was designed as a bare land subdivision with smaller lot sizes than usually permitted.

Speaking after the meeting, Fernando Dos Santos explained the new strata model will still allow people to own their homes, as well as a share of the common property. But the changed model will allow local government to guide

more of the process, instead of needing to go through the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) as the provincial subdivision authority.

"That puts the decision making in our local hands, and then we as a community can decide if it's appropriate or not," Dos Santos said.

The current state of Drake Road makes the difference potentially a key factor in the project's success. Dos Santos said MoTI could have required Dragonfly to fix the entire road as a condition of subdivision — which would not be possible to do and still offer affordable homes. Having more people living at the end of the road could meanwhile put pressure on MoTI to make repairs to the area it's already responsible for.

DRAGONFLY COMMONS continued on 3

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WATER SERVICE

Excessive water use draws on dwindling supply

NSSWD explores education and rate options

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Figures on elevated water use in North Salt Spring Waterworks District during May and June have raised eyebrows for some members of the community who get by on a much lower threshold.

NSSWD financial officer Tammy Lannan reported during the district's July board meeting that water tolls billed out in May and June were 31 per cent higher than budgeted, and consumption was 21 per cent higher than the same period the previous year. She attributed some of the difference to the fact that many

islanders had expanded their gardens and their overall gardening window during COVID, and also to the hotter and drier weather in 2021.

NSSWD began new education efforts about water use and conservation tips with letters sent to "excessive user" households along with the May-June bills. Lannan sent 75 letters to property owners who used more than 20,000 gallons of water in that billing period to let them know their usage was high and some ways they might reduce it. She also sent 51 letters to people who used more than 30,000 gallons — which is four times the average 7,455 gallons that most single-family dwellings used in May and June over the past five years.

The discrepancy between the district's average and excessive

users turns out to be a big one, but even customers with above ordinary needs are not reaching the same levels as the 126 letter recipients.

Rod Martens, who operates the Chorus Frog Farm plant nursery on Rainbow Road, said water use on that property for May-June 2021 came in at 14,490 gallons. That number includes private use for the property owners' single-family dwelling as well as water for the nursery's plant starts and in-ground plantings.

Martens noted NSSWD has a stepped schedule of increasing rates for higher use.

"Maybe those rates can be inclined even steeper, since it is likely those users also have the money to pay for it," he said.

Lannan said some of the biggest users in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District

have estate-like acreages with lots of landscaping and gardens the owners like to keep green and lush. Those people don't have much financial need to cut back, unlike those with smaller single-family homes, which is why the district is starting with education first.

"I guess there's not enough information out there for people to understand there are important reasons to conserve," Lannan said. "We've really become a society where water is easy to come to us, so we've lost some of the sense of it."

While most islanders flush potable water, she observed, many people in the world have to hike kilometers to access any water at all, and places not that far away are starting to run out. North Salt Spring Waterworks is itself looking at

a scenario this fall in which it will have to apply to the province for permission to draw below the minimum fill line at St. Mary Lake.

While education is the first step, work could also be done on providing more financial incentives for larger water consumers to cut back. Lannan suggested the first tier of usage could be decreased so the maximum matched the average single-family home use, for example.

"There is quite a change when you get past the middle [tiers], but I think we need to look at those earlier tiers," she said. "I think it will be a larger conversation in the budget this year."

For more information and water conservation tips, people can visit the NSSWD website at northsaltspringwaterworks.ca.

COVID-19

ArtSpring vaccination clinic set to wind down

Walk-in Wednesday nets new participants

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island Health is preparing to shift its COVID-19 vaccination program on Salt Spring as numbers

of vaccinated people across the Vancouver Island region reach a critical threshold.

"With first-dose vaccine coverage at 80 per cent within our region, Island Health, like all health authorities in B.C., is working on plans to transition to the next phase of the immunization effort," the health authority stated in an email to the Driftwood.

Public health staff who have been working at the community clinic based at ArtSpring issued notice last week that the clinic will wrap up on Thursday, Aug. 19.

According to the B.C. Centre for Disease Control, as of Aug. 5, 77 per cent of eligible people 12 and older on Salt Spring had received their first dose, compared to 81.7 per cent in B.C. The local vaccination rate is in line with most of Vancouver Island, aside from greater Victoria and Nanaimo, but quite a bit lower than the 91 per cent seen on the other southern Gulf Islands where "whole community clinic" events were offered.

The second dose rate for all eligible people as of Aug. 5 was 68.4 per cent for B.C., 67 per cent on Salt Spring, and 85 per cent on the other Gulf Islands.

Efforts to bring up the total across the province include the introduction of "Walk-in Wednesday" starting last week. Anyone age 12 and

older who needed their first dose, or who had passed the necessary time period since their first vaccination and wanted their second dose, is invited to attend an immunization clinic without an appointment. The province changed the waiting period between doses from 49 days to 28 days on Monday.

First-dose walk-ins are additionally being accepted at other times. Salt Spring public health staff stated that walk-ins are welcomed Sunday to Thursday, from 9 a.m. to 12 noon and from 1 to 3 p.m.

Island Health reported more than 7,600 people were vaccinated within the region on the Aug. 4 Walk-in Wednesday event. Of that total, 4,002 were walk-ins, compared to an average of approximately 580 walk-ins per day over the previous six days. On Salt Spring, 32 people walked in at the ArtSpring immunization clinic compared to an average 14 walk-ins per day over the eight days prior. Of the 32, 15 people received their first dose.

Island Health has yet to confirm whether vaccinations will continue to be available through Salt Spring's public health unit office after the ArtSpring clinic closes or if people will need to travel off-island after Aug. 19.

"Island Health wishes to thank everyone who took the opportuni-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Entrance to the ArtSpring COVID-19 vaccination clinic, which has been operating since April. Public health staff say its final day as a clinic will be Aug. 19.

ty to get vaccinated during Walk-in Wednesday. We would also like to express our gratitude for the exceptional efforts of our immunization teams, both in our clinics and working behind the scenes," the health authority stated.

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Low cost home project hopes for grant funds

DRAGONFLY COMMONS

continued from 1



FERNANDO DOS SANTOS

The Dragonfly Commons Housing Society is currently consulting with a manufactured home company that could supply one- and three-bedroom homes at 430 and 860 square feet. If infrastructure costs can be kept low, Dos Santos is hopeful the cost to buy in would be as low as \$250,000 for the one-bedroom version and \$375,000 to \$400,000 for the three-bedroom.

The challenges involved with the water licence and being required to operate a water utility will hopefully be solved through a partnership with North Salt Spring Waterworks District. Since a legal opinion found no issue with the improvement district adding a groundwater source to

its freshwater supply, as long as it updates its bylaws and protocols, the board has been open to investigating the idea further.

Dos Santos noted making those changes would cost the district time and money, however, which would not be appropriate for its existing ratepayers to bear. A grant application for \$75,000 submitted by Dragonfly and endorsed by NSSWD could bring the needed funds from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) Housing

Supply Challenge. Helpful support has come from Dragonfly board member Kisea Petersen, who has overseen the successful completion of new affordable housing units at Croftonbrook for Islanders Working Against Violence.

Only 30 applicants will be successful with the CMHC grant, but those who are will share access to a \$38-million fund to develop their projects. Dos Santos said Dragonfly's share could pay for the water system and

possibly the community's roads, which would help keep home prices low.

"This grant is a potential game-changer for Dragonfly Commons, NSSWD and affordable housing on the island," Dos Santos said, noting once the water district has changed its bylaws, it could more easily take on other systems based on groundwater.

"That's the sort of stuff we're working on to try to make this work."

WHALE PROTECTION

Whale watching boats concern witnesses

Industry association stresses positive role and actions

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A memorable visit by Bigg's killer whales to Fulford Harbour last month was a mixed experience for some viewers who were distressed by whale watching boats on the scene.

Questions about the impact of that industry on killer whales and other cetaceans has therefore left some members of the public wondering if more regulations are needed, while the association covering much of the Salish Sea whale watching fleet insists they are not the problem.

Salt Spring resident Schuyler Whitman was kayak camping with her partner on Portland Island on July 24 when a group of transient killer whales appeared in Satellite Channel.

"We were on Shell Beach on the south side, and we had a clear view right over to Fulford Harbour," Whitman said. "We started to see the whales porpoising south of the harbour, and then we noticed two whale watching boats tracking close behind them. It really looked like they were chasing them, or pursuing them."

Whitman was increasingly upset by what she saw. To her it appeared like the orcas abruptly changed course at a right angle to where they'd been headed and dove down as if to avoid the boats, but to no avail. Whitman reported the incident to Fisheries and Oceans Canada.

"I made the complaint because it doesn't seem right to be harassing them," she said.

Vessels are required to stay 400 metres away from killer whales in southern B.C. coastal waters between Campbell River and just north of Ucluelet, although accredited companies with the Pacific Whale Watch Association are permitted to be 200 metres away from Bigg's or transient whales, with an agreement to stay away from the endangered southern resident killer whales. All boating traffic is prohibited from sanctuary zones near Saturna and Pender islands where southern resident killer whales (SRKW) traditionally feed.

Washington state and U.S. laws require all vessels to stay 300 yards to either side and 400 yards in front or behind SRKW, and 200 yards from any other killer whale in U.S. waters. Humans and vessels are required to stay 100 metres/ yards away from all other marine mammals.

Vessel speed must be reduced to less than seven knots when within 1,000 metres of orcas in Canada and within 400 yards to the nearest marine mammal in the United States.

Kelley Balcomb-Bartok, spokesperson for the Pacific Whale Watch Association, said he understands that people watching from a distance may get the idea whale watching boats are chasing or even trapping orcas in areas where they can be viewed. That is not an accurate reading, he says.

"I've been involved in killer whale rescues and herding killer whales is actually a lot harder than you think," said Balcomb-Bartok, who has been studying and observing killer whales since he was a child.

He started out accompanying his father Ken Balcomb, who founded the Center for Whale Research in Friday Harbour, San Juan Island, and said his memories go back to the 1970s, '80s and '90s.

The Pacific Whale Watch Association (PWWA) has 29 member companies, split between those based in Canada and those in Washington state. They have stringent guidelines that Balcomb-Bartok says have often preceded and informed the laws passed in Canada and Washington state to protect killer whales, and he is confident members follow them well.

In addition, he said PWWA members act as sentinels on the water. They inform ferries and other boaters when whales are close by so they can slow down and keep their distance, and they inform private boaters about the rules, if necessary.

"Our concern is not our fleet, which is run by trained marine professionals who know to stay out of the restricted zones," Balcomb-Bartok said. "We're watching private vessels run right over the top, and that's always been a concern."

A community meeting hosted on Salt Spring in 2019 by federal agencies Fisheries and Oceans, Transport and Parks Canada shows concerns about whale watching boats don't appear to have changed much since new regulations to protect SRKWs and other whales were first introduced under the Oceans Protection Plan. One resident of Fulford Harbour who attended that meeting described seeing whale watching boats follow a group of transient orcas just a few days earlier.

"They pushed [the whales] up against the west side of Fulford Harbour and lined up in long lines and forced them out again to boats waiting at the mouth of Fulford. I just find this behaviour unacceptable," the woman said.

Kurt Irwin, who runs Salt Spring Reel Action Fishing Charters, asked during the same meeting whether hours limiting the industry could be imposed through licensing.

"More attention to these endangered whales has brought way more boats out onto the water, and there's way more boats starting to chase these whales ... The whale-chasing boats are chasing them all day from morning 'til dark," Irwin said.

Whitman is another witness who has suggested that licensing could help control the situation, with set time limits and hours when whale watching boats can be around cetaceans.

"The whale watching industry is never going to go away, but at least it could be a little more regulated," she said.

Washington state recently introduced a licensing system for the commercial viewing of southern resident killer whales during the July-September season. Commercial whale watching businesses, operators and kayak guides need to apply for the licence and pass required training. This permits commercial viewing of SRKW by motorized commercial whale watching vessels to happen closer than one-half nautical mile (926 metres) during two two-hour periods daily. There is a limit of three motorized commercial whale watching vessels per group of SRKW. The decreased viewing distance is not permitted if there is a calf of less than one year of age.

Balcomb-Bartok said Washington's licensing system is positive in that it recognizes the commercial vessels' professionalism, but it misses the mark with the "thousands and thousands" of private boaters who may be unaware of the rules. As well, it doesn't address the fact that fish-dependent SRKWs are declining while other marine mammals in the Salish Sea, such as humpbacks and Bigg's killer whales, are increasing under the same conditions of vessel traffic, noise and marine toxins.

"The Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 has started to pay out in spades for the Bigg's whales because harbour seals are abundant throughout the Salish Sea," Balcomb-Bartok said. "Their population is increasing by four per cent a year. They're thriving because food is available to them."

Balcomb-Bartok ultimately believes whale watching companies are part of the solution, not the problem, since he says they actively follow the rules, report violations they see on the water and pass on information to research groups.

"We all care passionately about [killer whales], and that's why we're in this business," he said.

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TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

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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
11	0049	2.3	7.5	15	0418	1.1	3.6
	0523	2.8	9.2		1134	2.5	8.2
	WE 1223	0.8	2.6		SU 1513	2.3	7.5
ME 1951	3.2	10.5	DI 2127	3.2	10.5		
12	0138	2.1	6.9	16	0513	0.9	3.0
	0631	2.7	8.9		1335	2.8	9.2
	TH 1259	1.1	3.6		MO 1627	2.7	8.9
JE 2013	3.3	10.8	LU 2159	3.2	10.5		
13	0230	1.8	5.9	17	0609	0.6	2.0
	0753	2.5	8.2		1456	3.0	9.8
	FR 1338	1.5	4.9		TU 1808	2.9	9.5
VE 2036	3.3	10.8	MA 2241	3.1	10.2		
14	0324	1.4	4.6	18	0706	0.5	1.6
	0934	2.5	8.2		1551	3.2	10.5
	SA 1421	1.9	6.2		WE 1955	2.9	9.5
SA 2100	3.3	10.8	ME 2339	3.1	10.2		

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



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EDITORIAL

The price of freedom

Unfortunately for the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, its water woes go far beyond the challenges posed by the drought of 2021.

For years the island's largest water provider has sought to find a way to access federal and provincial infrastructure grant funding for multi-million-dollar projects like new water treatment plants required for both St. Mary and Maxwell lakes. Because it is an improvement district and not part of a municipality or regional district, those grants are not available to the NSSWD. The NSSWD board has appealed to the provincial government — both Liberal and NDP varieties — to make an exception to existing legislation, especially since the NSSWD has more ratepayers and financial stability than many municipalities in B.C., but those requests were denied. Teaming up with the Capital Regional District, which runs a handful of smaller water commissions on the island, to investigate ways water services could be "optimized" on the island was the next step in finding the infrastructure grant water tap. The NSSWD liked the consultant's preferred recommendation — for the CRD to create a separate body that would report to the CRD Board but not to CRD employees — while the CRD understandably did not.

The NSSWD's reluctance to become a commission under the CRD is also understandable considering the history of Salt Spring's small, independent water bodies becoming CRD commissions in order to access federal-provincial infrastructure funds for major projects like water treatment plants. Poor management of some of those projects and a perceived disconnect between residents' needs and CRD priorities have been well documented over the years. The NSSWD cannot be blamed for feeling a traditional CRD partnership might not end up as advertised.

Another alternative, which sees NSSWD ratepayers footing the bill alone, is not unrealistic. That is especially the case if the NSSWD can increase revenue through other sources, such as partnerships with entities like the Dragonfly Commons housing project, as detailed in this week's paper.

Water from the NSSWD has been an undervalued and relatively cheap resource until now. Remaining independent of the CRD might end up costing a bit more, but it could well be worth it.

THE ISSUE: NSSWD governance

WE SAY: Independence worth a lot



Rural sprawl term questioned

BY MAXINE LEICHTER

Rural sprawl in the Gulf Islands is being wrongly used to justify higher densities.

There is no universally accepted definition, but rural sprawl usually refers to houses on lots of one to five acres and commercial strips outside of town centres. Under that definition, much of the Gulf Islands could qualify.

The problem is misapplying urban sprawl solutions to rural environments. A response to urban sprawl has been to redevelop and further densify city centres. This makes sense because urban centres have the infrastructure to support a high population density, such as paved roads, and community water and sewage systems. The high cost of operating such systems is spread over many ratepayers, thereby making them affordable.

But applying the same principle to the Trust Area won't work. Few islands have surface water sources or any sewage treatment plants. Even Ganges, with its community water and sewage systems, has a limited water supply and a sewage treatment plant that will eventually reach capacity.

VIEWPOINT

On other Gulf Islands, new high-density residential developments are being proposed and approved with groundwater and on-site septic fields. This is very risky because, under these circumstances, effluent from a septic field can pollute surrounding wells. Some neighbours to these types of projects are already plagued with wells that fail in the summer. Now they fear polluted water as well, and may have to install expensive treatment systems or rely on water delivery.

This has not been an issue on Salt Spring yet because high-density developments are located in Ganges where there is a sewage treatment plant. But groundwater contamination on Gabriola, for example, is a warning about what can happen when densities are increased without city services.

There are some people on Salt Spring advocating for high-density development in rural areas outside of Ganges to make housing more affordable. This is a dangerous, slippery slope.

As it is we have septic systems on some one-acre parcels. Lots of this size are allowed because they have piped water from someplace else. But it's not wise to risk polluting groundwater just because homes in the area are not using it. Septic effluent can travel to the ocean where high coliform levels cause shellfish harvesting closures, as in Fulford Harbour.

Yes, there are high-tech sewage treatment systems available, but they are costly, require proper operation and maintenance, and homeowners must adhere to warnings to shut down when there is a problem. Even normal community water treatment systems can be very expensive to build and maintain for a small number of users.

Putting high-density development dependent on wells and septic systems in rural areas is a bad idea. Densities should be kept low for public-health reasons and because the rural character is one of the Gulf Islands' unique amenities that require protection. The next time you hear the term "rural sprawl," think about how it is being used and for what purpose.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Does Salt Spring have any 'rural character' left to protect? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you concerned about a 4th wave of COVID in B.C.?

NO	58
YES	153

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

OPINION

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I've been involved in killer whale rescues and herding killer whales is actually a lot harder than you think."

KELLEY BALCOMB-BARTOK, PACIFIC WHALE WATCH ASSOCIATION

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *How do you feel about current COVID rules and reopenings?*

CAROLYN MCASKIE



Basically I think the regulations are okay but people aren't being as cautious as they could be. The door opened and people rushed out.

ALEX BROWN



I think I'd like there to be a little more caution than what they're doing.

KIRBY DOKTER



I'm hoping to see things relaxing a bit and I hope they don't lock up again.

DAVID BUTLER



I think it's good to be cautious. I'm concerned Salt Spring doesn't have the resources that larger urban centres do.

ZENA CRABTREE



I'm okay with it as long as everybody's vaccinated.

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

LTC abandons responsibility to residents

This letter is regarding the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee vote on July 27 to concur with the Rogers and CREST plan to build a 40-metre tower in Channel Ridge. I live 120 metres from "Ground Zero."

You've gotta be kidding! The Islands Trust mandate is to "preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area . . ."

I believe that allowing a 40-metre tower with electromagnetic output in the midst of a residential area (only 60 metres to the nearest home) without thorough public consultation and without independent environmental assessment is a blatant and complete abdication of LTC responsibility to the residents of the Trust Area.

To add insult to injury, it appears that after one year the height of the tower may be increased by up to 25 per cent with no need for further approval, and would likely require an aviation warning system (flashing red light) as it would "tower" above the

tree tops.

The installation of a CREST facility is important to all of us on Salt Spring Island. There is no disagreement that a communication tower is needed somewhere. However, it boggles the mind to understand why a residential site is preferred over, say, the clear cut ridge owned by Onni one kilometre west-northwest of the Canvas-back location, where there are no residential properties within 1,000 metres. Perhaps it's because Rogers wouldn't want to spend a little more to build on that site, or perhaps Onni wouldn't want to see their potential development site lose some appeal.

So rather than support existing residents, the LTC has sided with two large corporations, neither of whom have any real interest in the Trust Area other than to earn a profit from its constituents.

This is not a Health Canada issue as the LTC portrayed. Make no mistake, allowing a 50-metre tower, with a flashing red light, in the midst of a residential area is a land-use issue, whether it's a health concern or not.

Shame on the LTC for not representing residents of the Trust Area. Shame!

JULIAN CLARK,
SALT SPRING

Revisit ArtSpring

On the heels of the announcement of ArtSpring's artistic/executive director's departure at the end of this year, I would like to thank Cicela Månsson for her contribution to Salt Spring's arts scene.

I would also like to suggest two things for the ArtSpring board to consider. One: Our islands are rich with artists and experts. Reach out to them in the search for this coveted position. A creative, well-paid job for a locally situated person would be a huge investment into our islands and their populations.

Two: With the two recent, massive surveys about how to solve the crisis for finding a home for local performing artists and groups, citing part of Salt Spring Island Middle School as a possibility, it might be time for us to revisit ArtSpring and its original purpose in our community. Let's open the dialogue to see how we might realize a happier, more tangible version of that vision of opportunities for our local performing arts individuals and organizations.

Let's keep improving on a good thing!

SUE NEWMAN,
NEWMAN FAMILY PRODUCTIONS

Support hospital campaign

We are thrilled that our local hospital is planning on expanding its services to the community by building a new emergency department.

Having access to Lady Minto Hospital has saved the lives of several of our family members, and that's not counting the numerous times an injury or illness required a visit to outpatients.

As an infant, our grandson had to be raced over several times. Our son had a life-threatening injury that may have been fatal had it not been for our local hospital emergency room. Without our hospital, we would most likely not be living on Salt Spring Island.

Its value to our lives? Priceless!

We have sent the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation a donation for the capital campaign to build a new emergency department and encourage anyone capable of doing that to do the same.

KEES & MARGRIET RUURS,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 7

Rural character and self-reliance need support

BY MEROR KRAYENHOFF

The Islands Trust was launched in 1974 to preserve and protect, among other things, the rural character of this beautiful place.

The date is very important as it indicates we are not trying to protect the islands as they were prior to white settlers' arrival. Nor are we trying to protect the rural character in the latter half of the 19th century, when packs of wolves, cougars, elk and bears were commonplace, and First Nations people outnumbered the white people.

The first 60 years of the 20th century featured an agrarian local economy, wherein there was broad agreement that self-reliance was important, both for individuals and for Salt Spring Island as a community. That is what was to be preserved and protected.

My earliest memories, from the late '50s, is an island with only dirt roads except for the one paved a quarter mile up from the Fulford dock. Then in 1961, BC Ferries launched and Salt Spring became much more accessible.

In the next decade the roads were paved and the water system was expanded, both of which mimic urban development. People became very interested in all the Gulf Islands and there was development, some well thought out and some not. Property prices rose and large local landholders (including farmers) found it difficult to pay their taxes. Subdivisions became lucrative and commonplace. This is when the

GUEST COLUMN

Islands Trust was created to deal with this urban expansion phenomenon.

What we have now is rural sprawl. Over 90 per cent of the population needs a car. The environmental goal of making it possible to live, work and play without a car has not been successful so far. We are a car-dependent community. The number of kilometers of road per person is way above average and the cost of that responsibility led, in part, to the defeat of the proposal to incorporate. Similarly, our water system aspires to the same level of service as a city, wherein the tax-funded portion is 33 feet between taxpayers. On Salt Spring Island it is often over 3,300 feet between taxpayers. Both road maintenance and water maintenance are issues that we have inherited from just before the days of the Islands Trust, and the sustainability of both have deteriorated since. The short-term benefit of having lots of roads per capita, and the urban water system making it all the way from Cusheon Lake to the top of the Cranberry Valley and out to Southey Point was great, but the bloom is off the rose. Short-term gain, long-term pain.

We really need to think beyond five-year plans!

In the '70s, the intention in creating the Islands Trust was not to protect rural sprawl but rather to protect the agrarian,

self-reliant local culture valued at that time. The current direction of making and enforcing regulations that impede the ability of islanders to be self-reliant (individually and as a community) is in direct opposition to the initial intent of the Trust.

The good news is (ironically) that, because of climate change we will need to go back to being self-reliant to address new issues arising. We need to be smart. We need to think long term. Many of us have felt the supply-chain disruptions caused by COVID. These disruptions are a harbinger of what's to come as climate change impacts progress. Whether it's a heat dome, fire season, wind storms, or record rain, we need to begin preparations. We will be able to rely less and less on outside support. Let's be smart and idealistic.

The Trust could change course to support preparations, so that we are ready when the power goes out, when trees fall in record numbers, when the heat is lethal, and when flooding wipes out houses and roads. The worst case is where such events happen and we are isolated in a retirement community, reliant on outsiders who are dealing with their own issues.

We still have some young people left here, who have the skills and energy to help us prepare. Let's take care of them.

The writer is the president of SIREWALL Consulting Inc. and a member of the Islands Trust's Housing Action Program Task Force.

PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS MARSHALL

SEA OF ORANGE: About 55 people from Salt Spring Island were among the more than 1,500 people joining the Penelakut Tribe's March for the Children in Chemainus on Aug. 2 to show support for the Penelakut people and the need to acknowledge the truth about residential school operations in Canada. Many wore orange shirts, which have come to symbolize support for the issue. More than 160 unmarked graves were found on the site of the former residential school that was operated by the Catholic Church on Penelakut Island (formerly known as Kuper Island) from 1889 until 1969 and by the federal government until 1975.



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Rants + ROSES

Roses

A cedar rose to Jason at Tour Salt Spring for taking two passenger vans of Salt Springers to the March for the Children in Chemainus on Aug. 2. He kindly delivered a bunch of us, for free, to the March and brought us home again. Another cedar rose to Christina Marshall for organizing the trip. It was beautiful and heartbreaking and important. Haychka Siem!
Darlene Gage

A gazillion roses to all those responsible for creating the lovely footpath reconnecting Meadowbrook with Valhalla Road. A safe, quiet, soul-restoring walk into town is once again possible. Many thanks. F. Martin

Bags full of canned roses to Cory and the employees of Blackburn Road transfer station for the donation of returnable drink containers. All donations go to Wagon Wheel Housing Society and the Salt Spring Laundromat. *With thanks from Michael and Helga and the Wagon Wheel board.*

A complete greenhouse of roses to an unknown gentleman who "paid forward" a gift he had received a couple of months before, by paying for our three dinners without our knowledge (while we were still eating them) at a classy restaurant here on Salt Spring Island! We hope he reads this to know we have vowed to "pay it forward" ourselves.

Daycare should not be PARC priority

BY DARLENE STEELE

As the president of the Salt Spring Pool Association (SSPLASH), I feel the need to fully disclose my interest in and love of the Rainbow Road Pool. I regularly attend Aquafit there along with 50 others, most of whom are seniors. At the moment, seniors are the most frequent users of the facility.

On arrival one day recently, I observed a building site at the front road side of the existing pool. Upon inquiry I discovered that a new daycare facility for infants and toddlers was under construction. This astounded me for several reasons.

First, when I was a member of the Capital Regional District's Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission, whenever I asked about the exact same building site for the future leisure and therapy pool I was told it was a no go because it was too close to the water feature/bird pond. To my knowledge the pond has not moved, but as always the opinion of the commission has changed. It is important to note that the original site plans for the pool indicated that location earmarked for the leisure pool and the basement is plumbed to facilitate that build.

Second: There was no indication in the five-year strategic plan (for which we paid \$50,000-plus to professional planners) that a new daycare facility was a priority

INDEPTH

Parks and Recreation Commission need. The top priority was an expansion of the existing pool facility. This was also agreed to by the community members who indicated their preferences.

I feel like every time the board is offered free money they jump for the cash; even though it leads to further delays of the important recreation projects this community needs.

Third: The strategic plan identified the population groups in the community most in need of some additional parks and recreation services. It was not infants. It was teenagers and seniors.

Fourth: Parks and Recreation has just this year completed and opened a preschool program on that recreation campus. Nowhere in their mandate does it mention child care,

infant care or baby care. It does say such things as tot and mom recreation and swimming lessons for children. So I asked why the facility was being built and it all comes down to "free money."

This PARC group will turn itself into a pretzel for a windfall of government grant money. It seems that this time it is \$850,000 for the building and for that the board must provide or contract out daycare services for 15 years. Great deal, eh? By the time we have met our commitment in the strategic plan for the groups most in need of additional PARC services, the teens will be adults and the seniors will be dead! And we will have two daycare facilities at the Rainbow Road site.

Fifth: I feel like every time PARC is offered free money they jump for the cash; even though it leads to further delay of the important recreation projects this community needs. When the first small daycare was built behind the pool the commission decided to rob Peter to pay Paul and money from the pool facility capital reserve fund to the tune of approximately \$75,000 was appropriated for the daycare.

So I worry
What now, you may ask? When do we find a way to stem the CRD empire building? Does this qualify as a spot of hypocrisy to you?

Crofton ferry terminal upgrade long overdue

The following was sent to Mitchell Jacobson, assistant manager of terminal development for BC Ferries, and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY DAVID COURTNEY

I believe from the BC Ferries website that the concept plan for a Crofton ferry terminal makeover should have been decided upon last summer.

Can you give us an idea which concept was chosen and when construction will begin? The website hasn't been updated since October 2019.

I travel this route a lot and have

sympathy for the long-suffering residents of Crofton, and especially those who live on Chaplin Street, the entrance to the Crofton ferry terminal, who deal with a parking lot in their front yards each and every day of the week.

For those on Salt Spring Island who are commercial business operators using the current Bowen Queen (circa 1965) vessel, respectfully this is nothing short of disappointing. The long-awaited Quinsam due to arrive next summer (pulled off the Nanaimo-Gabriola route) carries two more vehicles than the Bowen Queen. It shows in your concept details that the Quin-

sam is scheduled to be on route until 2030. Salt Spring Island with a population of 10,500 to 12,000 residents seems to be the final resting place for the oldest vessels in the BC Ferries fleet. (The Queen of Nanaimo, Howe Sound Queen, Quinsam, Bowen Queen and now the pending Quinsam.) From our island these vessels leave for either the scrap yard or the Fiji Islands.

On the other hand I wish we had the same support of our elected officials as the island of Gabriola and the City of Nanaimo seem to have. Not one but two new Island Class ferries (47-car capacity) will be servicing a community of 4,200

residents next spring. With only one dock at either end, that means enhanced frequency. This is the kind of service that the residents of Salt Spring who depend on their connection to Vancouver Island for their livelihoods are extremely envious of.

I would like to politely request that the mayor and councillors of the Municipality of North Cowichan continue their campaign of BC Ferries on behalf of the residents of Crofton to make this terminal redevelopment concept a reality, with the express appreciation of Salt Spring residents who are the recipients in a major way as well. I

would also like to thank the North Cowichan municipality for the newly paved Crofton Road. Most people appreciate the cost was significant but the safety and comfort the road now provides is truly appreciated by all.

With the current governance model on Salt Spring Island, these are the kind of road infrastructure improvements we can only dream about.

Hats off to the Municipality of North Cowichan, their elected officials and residents.

The writer is a Salt Spring Island resident.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Wildfire assessment an unreasonable request

I'm sure that the author of last week's "Galiano is playing with fire" Viewpoint and "those living close to the Community Forest" would be very pleased with the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee if they requested the non-profit affordable housing society (composed entirely of volunteers) to undertake a wildfire hazard assessment, just like they wanted the LTC to get the Gulf Islands Galisle Affordable Rental Housing Society to do a wildlife assessment to study the sooty grouse, and were very pleased with the greywater cycling assessment request (which was later rescinded by our LTC).

Of course, if it came to be that GIGARHS had to do a wildfire hazard assessment, the NIMBYs would then criticize the experts we hired as being biased and paid guns. Just like they have been calling into question for months the findings of our hydrogeological expert and the province's independent regional hydrogeologist who found sufficient water for the development.

COLLEEN DOTY,
GIGARHS

Further human incursion into such an already uniquely dangerous landscape with the brutal evidence of climate change as we are experiencing this summer represents an unacceptable level of risk to a publicly funded project, its future residents, to the adjacent neighbourhood and possibly to the entire island.

This location, at this point with one completely undeveloped road in and out of the Community Forest and half a kilometre to the proposed housing site, which is four to seven kilometres from any services, is completely unsuitable. The off-site infrastructure costs alone will be extraordinarily high and it is unclear who will pay for the road. We would all pay for a wildfire, however.

JENNIFER MARGISON,
GALIANO

Lake level numbers matter

I am writing in regards to your front-page "Water restrictions hit extreme" story in last week's paper.

It states, "Data on the districts two water sources shared during the meeting shows levels at St. Mary Lake have dropped to below all other recent drought years on record, except for a slightly lower drop in 2015."

Surely that "a slightly lower drop in 2015" means that the information of it being the lowest since 2009 is very misleading and basically incorrect! Trying to make things seem worse and creating panic?

ELAINE SHAW,
SALT SPRING

Roads more likely to reduce fire risk

I was a firefighter for almost 10 years, and live between last week's Viewpoint author's property and the proposed development.

In my time as a firefighter, I helped put out more fires in the Sticks Allison area itself, but they were easier to put out because of the maintained roads. I was on the 2006 wildfire.

The safest island from the point of view of fire safety would be one that was 100 per cent developed subdivisions.

I fail to see how increasing the amount of road access to an area increases the risk of runaway fires. More likely, we'd be able to get to parts of that same fire faster next time.

As far as the risk of actual runaway fires go, the author already has the privilege of being at exactly the risk they supposedly fear. The author lives closer to the unmanaged forest to the southwest of them, where the best plan there would be better developed roads.

CHRISTIAN NALLY,
GALIANO

Completely unsuitable

Friends staying in our house were evacuated during the 2006 Galiano wildfire. I completely concur with what has been expressed in the Aug. 4 Viewpoint article by Carmita de Menyhart.

LadyMintoHospitalFoundation NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



KAREN DAVIES
CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBER

I am honoured to be part of the Emergency Department Campaign Team. Throughout my career at Lady Minto Hospital, I had the privilege of working with kind, caring and compassionate health care providers—which is still very evident today! I care about the health and safety of our islanders, and I'm committed to the Emergency Department Redevelopment Project.

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Real Estate

House Inspections

Once a contract to purchase is accepted and "subject conditions" are in place, the buyer will require inspections that typically include a house inspection, checking boundary lines, electrical or pest inspection (if necessary) and having the septic field examined with a camera. Confirmation that the woodstoves and fireplaces comply with today's requirements for insurance as well as satisfactory water test results are often requirements for obtaining financing. Many buyers also review the status of building permits and title documentation with their lawyer and may need to confirm that their intended use of the property complies with zoning bylaws. If significant issues arise during the inspection process it may be possible to negotiate a selling price adjustment or require that the problem be corrected in order to facilitate successful completion of the sale.

As a Buyer or Seller ask your realtor to guide you through the inspection process.

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Marketing

What is Frequency?

What is frequency, how do consumers respond and what about driving sales? News Media Canada has been tracking frequency of newspaper ads as part of ongoing annual industry research. Aided awareness of advertised brands was noted and compared to those with no exposure to the advertising. The bottom line: the impact of newspaper ad frequency is significant.

In order to get your brand's advertising message out, you need to reach your consumers a number of times (i.e. frequency). Too little exposure and audiences will fail to notice the advertising. Too much, and recipients will be saturated.

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LIVE THEATRE

Shakespeare inspires summer play program

ExitStageLeft offers two original works

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

ExitStageLeft and Graffiti Theatre will satisfy thirsty fans of the stage this summer with presentation of two original works at a custom-built outdoor venue.

The team behind the gender-bending *Taming of the Shrew* and musicals *Beauty and the Beast* and *Rent* will feature a pared-down, COVID-friendly program inspired by Shakespeare in two weekly runs beginning on Wednesday, Aug. 18. *Lend Me Your Ears* by venerated stage actor Scott Hylands alternates with *Besse's Will*, a new play by actor, director and teacher Jeffrey Renn.

ExitStageLeft co-founders Christina Penhale and Jekka Mack had hoped to return their tradition of epic live theatre with a massive community production of *Pericles*, but many of the organizations were not operating during the pandemic and group restrictions were still in flux as of May. The company settled on a repertory program featuring their principal members, plus one very special guest in Hylands.

"Being able to do something, even on a smaller scale, was important to keep our momentum and our presence in the community," Penhale said. "And we've had people all the way through the pandemic saying, 'What's happening? When are you going to do the next show?'"

"Everyone we've talked to is so excited that something live is actually happening," Mack said.

This summer marks the sixth consecutive year the company has produced a Shakespeare play or



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

ExitStageLeft/Graffiti Theatre company members standing, from left, are Maureen MacKay, Sue Lehmann, Al Lehmann, Rachel Jacobson and Lynda Jensen, with ExitStageLeft co-founders Christina Penhale and Jekka Mack (seated, from left) sandwiching mentor Jeffrey Renn.

related work outdoors. Renn noted ExitStageLeft has aimed to lift the calibre of performance every year, and as a mentor he has encouraged Penhale and Mack to take on new challenges.

"Bringing in Scott is a way to help us see mastery in the craft and help us to lift our game, too, to meet it," Renn said.

Hylands created *Lend me Your Ears* in 2002 when he was 60 and living for a time in Toronto. He recalls the city being a "zoo" that summer with an upcoming visit from the Pope, so it was hard to get in to any venues. He passed his time by picking up a used copy of the complete works of Shakespeare and drafting his own one-man show.

The original production of *Lend Me Your Ears* featured 17 selections of sonnets, songs and soliloquies, in an arrangement "reflecting a progression from youth to maturity to old age."

Hylands toured the piece in community halls across the Gulf Islands during the "dead of winter" in early 2003, and despite the timing managed to attract healthy audiences.

Two shows performed at ArtSpring in February 2003 were met with a "roar of applause and standing ovations," according to the Driftwood and led to a reprise later that summer.

In a newly updated version, Hylands still addresses the full array of questions and philosophies that follow human beings throughout their lives, but ties the relevant Shakespeare pieces together with a new narrative thread related to his own career on the stage.

"I bashed away at it and it became leaner and leaner," Hylands said, noting the list of selections is down to 12 and there have been a few replacements. "It's not this old saw we're bringing

out; it's a brand new effort with brand new muscles, in a way."

Hylands observed ExitStageLeft is performing in pandemic times, just as Shakespeare's company often was. Being on the move outside of the big cities, they were limited in costuming and props.

"They were minimalists and our whole take is minimalist, too," Hylands said. "All you can do is elicit the audience's imagination — then and now. We're relying entirely on the Bard's poetry, and he's been successful so far."

Hylands does have the benefit of live musical accompaniment by Mack, who will be performing some sonnets and songs as well as sound effects. Instruments include guitar, ukelele, drum, wind machine and steel sheet.

"There are some really beautiful melodies that people have written and added to the sonnets, so we've picked some of those that we like, and there's a couple of more contemporary pieces in there as well that fit the theme of what Scott's talking about at the time," Mack said.

Besse's Will grew in part out of a revue of Shakespeare's love-themed writing that ArtSpring executive director Cicela Månsson commissioned from Renn and Penhale for the pandemic season, but which they never got to perform. They will instead appear together in Renn's new two-hander portraying an imagined conversation between Shakespeare and Queen Elizabeth I.

Although there are no historical records documenting any meeting between them, Renn said Elizabeth I and Shakespeare are known to have attended the same wedding in Southampton around 1594, at a time when the theatres were

closed because of plague. The playwright's work took a distinct turn after that.

"The idea for me has always been, 'What happened during that conversation when Shakespeare and Elizabeth were alone together? What did she say to him?'" Renn explained. "Because if we look at his plays before that event, they're sort of histories and they're on the back of Marlowe's writing ... until he comes to *Comedy of Errors*, and *Comedy of Errors* is this explosion of him announcing his own genius. It's the first existential moment in writing."

Renn said that introspection made room for *Hamlet* and all of Shakespeare's other classic plays, and indeed helped shaped modern thought ever since.

"I'm purporting that Elizabeth put Shakespeare up to writing his next group of plays because whatever happened in that meeting, she said something to him that changed him as a writer, that made him all of a sudden start to examine the inner spiritual life of men."

The two plays run on alternating nights Aug. 18 through 22 and Aug. 25 through 29, opening with *Lend me Your Ears* and *Closing with Besse's Will*.

Performances are taking place outside at a private location close to Ganges dubbed Bard Owl Theatre. Tickets are advance purchase only. Audience members are asked to bring their own blanket or chairs and to arrive at least 15 minutes early to reach the location from the parking area. Masks are by preference, and there will be communicable disease protocols in place.

See the company's website at www.exitstageleftproductions.com for more information and to purchase tickets.

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ISLAND LIFE

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Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May celebrates standing up without a walker following knee replacement surgery while at the Aug. 6 Hiroshima Day event in Peace Park. In her address to the crowd, May urged Canada to become a leader in the nuclear disarmament treaty process.



Megumi Matsuo Saunders, a minister with First Metropolitan Church in Victoria, reads moving passages from *Children of the Atomic Bomb: An American Physician's Memoir of Nagasaki, Hiroshima, and the Marshall Islands* by James N. Yamazaki and Louis B. Fleming.



Jan Slakov, who co-hosted the Canadian Voice of Women for Peace event with Sue Newman.

HIROSHIMA DAY 2021

Photos by Gail Sjuberg



Singer-songwriter Susan Cogan sings a song of peace.



Peace activist Bill Geimer, whose 2016 book is called *Canada: The Case for Staying out of Other Peoples' Wars*, shares his personal connection with the impacts of the nuclear bomb being dropped on Hiroshima on Aug. 6, 1945.



Some of the approximately 50 community members taking in the event on the grass of the Peace Park where Heiwa Garden is also located.

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



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WILDLIFE

Flighty bats not 'strange'

Baby bats in learning season

BY DANIELLE BUCKLE

BAT PROGRAM COORDINATOR, HABITAT ACQUISITION TRUST

I am the regional bat coordinator for Southern Vancouver Island and the Southern Gulf Islands and an employee of the local non-profit Habitat Acquisition Trust.

We are currently receiving a large increase in calls due to what appears to be an increase in bat activity and bats behaving "strangely." In truth, this flying behaviour is just the baby bats learning to fly, which, understandably, can take a while to get the hang of. This erratic-looking bat activity can frighten some people, who assume the worst and it makes them not want to have bats on their property or in their structures anymore.

Bats often rely on human-built structures for their summer roosting habitat. When people try to get rid of bats in the summer it can seriously harm the population. Bats leave in the winter and that is when people can seal up their homes to prevent bats from coming back. There is a lot of information on bcbats.ca about the proper way to exclude bats.

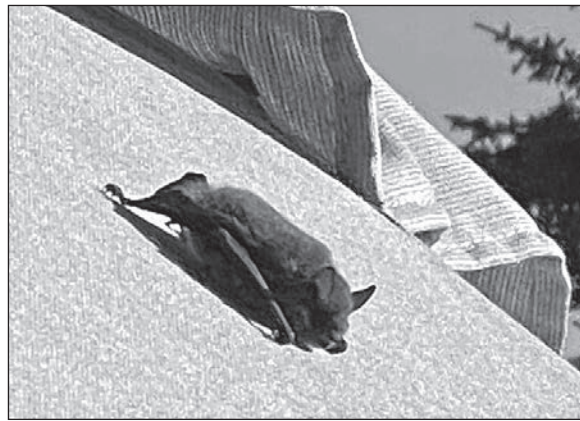


PHOTO COURTESY BC COMMUNITY BAT PROGRAM

Bats roosting in exposed locations, such as this bat on a sun umbrella, can be left alone and will move on at dusk.

People that feel like their health is at risk will often do desperate things. With both human and bat safety in mind, we hope to spread this message as far as possible.

For more information about bats, contact me at 250-995-2428 or danielle@hat.bc.ca.

CERAMICS SALE

Pots perk at park

Pottery in the Park and Empty Bowls fundraiser in session this Sunday

Salt Spring Potters Guild will hold its third annual one-day show, Pottery in the Park, this Sunday, Aug. 15.

Over a dozen members of the guild will have their ceramic works on display and for sale at Centennial Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will also be a silent auction of island goods and services, as well as a raffle of some very special pieces.

In addition to the wide variety of pots and sculptural pieces, the guild will be including their Empty Bowls fundraiser.

"Last year, as the pandemic began to take its toll on local businesses and jobs, members of the guild donated over 100 bowls; these were sold out in three hours at the Country Grocer parking lot. There will be a special table of bowls at Pottery in the Park, with all proceeds again going to the Salt Spring Island Food Bank," the guild explains in a press release.

The Salt Spring Potters Guild is over 50 years old and is one of the oldest in B.C. Its members create pieces using a wide range of techniques and materials, including wheel-thrown functional stoneware and porcelain, and carved hand-built sculptural art. Some of Salt Spring's well known potters from the Saturday Market, Studio Tour locations and local galleries will have tables at the sale.

what's on this week



Wed. Aug. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Kurt Loewen.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.

At the Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

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 kpowell@saltspringlibrary.com.

Thurs. Aug. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Kurt Loewen.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Open Mic & Jam.
At the Legion. 7 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw at 5 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.

See Wednesday listing.
Library Summer Camp.
See Wednesday listing.

Fri. Aug. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Doug and the Buds.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Big Top: Superfeather.
Live music outside under the tent at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

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

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.

See Wednesday listing.
Ask Salt Spring.

This week's guest is CRD director Gary Holman. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Outside at the United Church Meadow.

Dungeons & Dragons Camp.

A Salt Spring Public Library event. 1 to 3 p.m. Groups of 5, multiple campaigns, advance registration required through nsadouski@saltspringlibrary.com.

StoryTime in Peace Park.

The Dino Wranglers of Enchanted Fables from Vancouver Island present a special program for families in Peace Park. 1 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 13

ACTIVITIES

Friday Games Night.
Board games gathering at the Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 10 p.m. Limited numbers. Sign-in required.



Sat. Aug. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Fabulous Flakes. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Karaoke.
At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

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.

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.

See Wednesday listing.

Sat. Aug. 14

VIA ZOOM

Beyond Our Patterns: Why History Matters & How Youth Lead Change.
Webinar with podcast hosts and former journalists Joan Obra and Ralph Gaston. 12 to 1 p.m. Email teens@saltspringlibrary.com for the Zoom link.

Sun. Aug. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Mon. Aug. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mike Ohman.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Dungeons & Dragons Camp.
See Friday listing.

Tues. Aug. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Seiche.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market.

Weekly market of fresh produce and food/drink products at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

Library Summer Camp.
See Wednesday listing.

Wed. Aug. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Lend Me Your Ears.

An exitStageLeft Productions and Graffiti Theatre tour-de-force performance of an actor's life lived with the words of William Shakespeare put together and performed by Scott Hylands, with musical stylings by Jekka Mack. 7 p.m. Tickets & location info at www.exitstageleftproductions.com.

Mike & Margo.
Live at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Library Summer Camp.
See Wednesday listing.



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 **Black Widow** nightly from Wednesday, Aug. 11 through Thursday, Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. No Sunday matinee. COVID-19 protocols, including limited seating, in place.

More info: thefritz.ca



EXHIBITIONS

• Today, Aug. 11, is the last day to see **Olga Szkabarnicki's** show at **Salt Spring Gallery** called **Communion - Plein Air Landscapes of Salt Spring Island.**

• Then on Friday, Aug. 13, **Tree Stories - Oil Paintings** by **Cheryl Long** opens at **Salt Spring Gallery** with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. Show continues until Sept. 1.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Potters Guild** holds its 3rd annual one day show, **Pottery in the Park**, on Sunday, Aug. 15 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., with work by more than a dozen guild members on display and for sale in **Centennial Park.**

• **The Art Connection** group exhibits at the **Salt Spring Public Library program room** through August.

EXHIBITIONS

• **This Land: Artworks in Monochrome**, with work Sibéal Foyle, Anna Gustavson, Esme Hedrick-Wong, Jim Holyoak, Juliet Kemble & Lucas Wolf is the Aug. 11-29 Showcase Exhibition at Mahon Hall. Opening reception on Thursday, Aug. 12 from 6 to 8 p.m.

• **The Salt Spring Photography Club** presents **Eclectic Visions** at <https://ssphotog.ning.com/page/eclectic-visions> until Aug. 31.

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Obituaries


Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Concrete & Placing

MICHAEL EDWARD HOWELL
Nov. 14, 1970 - July 29, 2021



It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of our dearly loved son, Mike.

He lost his battle with cancer on July 29, 2021. Passing away in his sleep in the arms of his wife Myra.

Mike attended school on Salt Spring graduating from Gulf Islands Secondary School in 1988, where he met his life long friend Dean Ross and together they patched together and revamped a 1967 Dodge Van and set off to travel through Mexico and Central America for 6 months with so many adventures.

Michael then attended Camosun College for 1 year but decided he would rather enter the trades and settled on apprenticing as an electrician. Mike set high standards for his work which took place on Salt Spring, Edmonton and then the Vancouver area. This was augmented by a 1 year computer programming course which allowed him to work with the computerized controls used in industry. He was electrical foreman at Westshore Terminals at Roberts Bank.

Mike had booked off work in November complaining of loss of balance. After subsequent testing, a brain tumor was detected and biopsied Dec. 8th. He spent 2 months in Royal Columbian Hospital and 6 months at home with his family. Although he was confined to bed, he always kept his sense of humour and accepted his illness without complaint and with enviable grace. Mike always appreciated the help he received from care aides, family and friends.

Mike is lovingly remembered by his parents Les and Dale, his wife Myra and children Caden (17) and Alexandra (15), his older brother John (Kim) and children Dylan, Owen and Carter. He will also be remembered by many relatives, friends and co-workers.

We will love and miss you forever, dear Mikey.

Celebration OF Life




Gale Diane Robinson
(1951-2020)

Gale passed away on December 16, 2020. A Celebration of Life will be held on Sunday, Sept 26, 2021 at the Burnaby Lake Rowing Club Pavilion, 6871 Roberts Street, Burnaby, BC V5B 3C1 from 2 to 4:30 PM. The formal part of the afternoon will begin at 3 PM. All of Gale's many friends are welcome.

Gale Robinson was a wife, mother, grandmother, and teacher. She was a wonderful person, beautiful, loving to family and friends, an unusually caring mother, wife and grandmother, influential to students, interested in the world and close to many friends in Canada, the United States, Finland, Germany, Britain, Australia and Japan.

Gale was born in New Westminster, BC and grew up in South Burnaby. She graduated from Burnaby South High School in 1969. Gale was the partner in life of Drew Bodaly for 47 years. Gale and Drew moved to Winnipeg in 1973, where Gale received her B.Ed. from the University of Manitoba. She taught in public schools, founded her own Montessori nursery school and taught for many years as the kindergarten teacher at the Salt Spring Centre School. Gale and Drew returned to BC when they moved to Salt Spring Island in 2006. Gale and Drew loved to travel, visiting 47 countries. She walked the Camino de Santiago (775 km) when 64 years old.

Gale is survived by her husband Drew, daughter Megan, husband Sean, and son Jack Francis, who live in Vancouver and son Scott, wife Heather and daughter Juniper Gale, who live in Hamilton, Ontario. Grandson Jack was the love of her life and she was looking forward to her new granddaughter. Gale is also survived by her parents, Alan and Jill Robinson of Abbotsford, sisters Marilyn, Kathy (Ross), Theresa (Bob), and brothers Donald (Nerissa), Alan (Marion) and David (Jennifer), 13 nephews and nieces and many great-nephews and nieces.

We thank the many doctors, home care workers, nurses, and cancer technicians who helped with Gale's care, especially Dr. Jan Malherbe.

In lieu of flowers, if you wish, please make a donation to the educational charity or school of your choice.

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In Memoriam

Coming Events

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

Wednesday
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Coming Events

Coming Events

GISRA CHANGE OF VENUE ANNOUNCEMENT
GULF ISLANDS SENIORS RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION

2021 Annual General Meeting of the Gulf Island Seniors Residence Association

Due to uncertainty caused by recent infection rates of COVID 19 variants, the GISRA Board of Directors has decided to change the AGM from a physical meeting to a virtual meeting format.

Friday, August 20th, 2021, at 1 PM via Zoom

All members will be provided with information by mail or e-mail on how to participate.

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Summer season has officially peaked and we are now on the downward slide towards equinox. By now, the hours of daylight are noticeably shorter. This annual rhythmic pattern revealing the intimate relationship shared between Earth and Sun is much more significant psychologically and spiritually than is commonly realized. That the weather patterns are so chaotic, however, can be understood as a synchronicity of the human condition and the chaotic shift of energies linked to the dawning of the Age of Aquarius.

Jupiter and Saturn, both currently retrograde in Aquarius, are playing major roles in this epic tale of the shift of ages. Together they reveal the revolutionary impulse that is changing the social dynamic on a global scale. The many various players on the world stage, regardless of their apparent power and influence, are invariably pawns moved by inner forces both within their own subconscious mind and linked to subtle dimensions behind the larger destiny rhythms. Experiences, lessons and tests are the common denominator and we each are accountable to the laws of karma, no exceptions.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
Mercury just joined Venus and Mars in Venus, adding to the sobering tone of this time. Although the Sun remains in fun in the sun Leo, that sentiment is countered by Virgo's lean towards work and critical analysis. Positively, it is inspiring you to focus on your health. Venus will enter Libra this week as well, which will inspire your appreciation of beauty.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)
The Virgo influence may prove dryer for some, but for you it represents fertile ground for creativity, fun, play and romance. Yet, this impulse must contend with the Aquarian influences which represent a much more serious and sober theme linked to your public and professional life. While expansion is indicated, it does require contraction and discipline.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)
A busy time close to home combines with a social impulse activated by the Leo Sun. This could be the perfect excuse to do a deep clean of your home, as revealed by Mars in Virgo, in preparation for hosting a Leo-time inspired party. Meanwhile, thoughts about truth, freedom and justice may be flowing through your mind as you contemplate larger realities.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)
An impulse to take stock of what you have, what you want and desire and what you genuinely need is activating your thoughts. Deep changes are rumbling within and these are likely manifesting as outer experiences as well. Returns are indicated and a clear indication of these stand to be realized this week. Cooperate with the flow of deep changes underway.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)
A pioneering spirit continues to guide your focus. Your sights are set on the future and you are determined to meet it prepared. At this point, you are keen to think and act with practical considerations in mind. Yet, you are determined to take as frugal an approach as you can. Thus, directing your critical analysis to what constitutes sound investments is likely.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)
Mercury, Venus and Mars in your sign are sure to be activating your focus on creating a brighter future. You are eager to advance, even if it requires a patient, stepping approach. Considerations of your overall lifestyle are featured. You are willing to adapt as necessary and may even find yourself feeling quite excited about the possibilities.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
A quest to more fully and clearly identify your sense of individuality continues. Implied in the process is the courage to ask harder questions. Being your own best friend all the while will help you to maintain a healthy balance. This will activate an inspired flow of creative inspiration that will begin this week making the effort worthy of your time and energy.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
Getting the attention you want and feel you deserve, continues. Achieving it may require an added measure of critical thinking, or two. This includes agitating others and circumstances just enough to be seen, heard and heeded. This window will close for this cycle when the Sun enters Virgo August 22, so this is your cue if you still yearn for earned recognition.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
Paying attention to the details of the bigger picture has emerged as a central theme again. How wide your scope reaches is relative to your nature and destiny. Either way, practical concerns and considerations are forefront on your mind. Despite a variety of distractions, you have arrived at a time when concentrating your focus is extra important.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
Although usually guided by strongly practical objectives, you have entered a contemplative cycle. It comes as a feature of a period of inner change. Although perhaps only subtly, you are undergoing a change of values and priorities, as the new emerges to replace the old. Financial considerations going forward into an uncertain future is the main driver.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
Engaging with others more than usual continues to hold appeal. However, you are also undergoing some deep inner changes that are consuming a lot of your energy and focus. These have included various extremes, both challenging and rewarding. These will alleviate steadily starting this week, leading to a more harmonious period.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
A cycle of drive and determination continues. It is leading you to pay closer attention to the details. Positively, your powers of critical analysis are running strongly. Negatively, you are dealing with worry-driven anxieties. A soul solution is required, such as cultivating your spiritual centre in order to manage the stress. Keep breathing, exercising gratitude and a willingness to be proactive.

ECOLOGY

Wetland restoration project has huge impact

An interview with Robin Annschild

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN
TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Robin Annschild's love affair with the Burgoyne estuary started back in 2000 when she was part of the movement to protect 5,000 acres in the watershed from clearcut logging.



As conservation director with the Salt Spring Conservancy between 2000 and 2014, she facilitated the acquisition of conservation lands, including establishing B.C.'s first-ever watershed covenant in the Maxwell Lake area. Over the past eight years, she has built and restored over 250 wetlands in B.C., California, Arizona and South Carolina.

The Burgoyne watershed — now known by its original Cowichan name, Xwaaqw'um — is one of the only places on the island where an entire stream system is protected parkland. Despite the changes wrought by early loggers and farmers, the valley's waterways continue to provide homes for trout, salamanders, tree frogs, iridescent swallows and great blue herons. So, when the opportunity arose to use her expertise in wetlands restoration as part of a larger ecological and cultural revitalization in the park, Annschild jumped at the chance.

In 2019, a partnership sprang up between BC Wildlife Federation, BC Parks and Stqeeye' Learning Society, which leads an ecosystem and education project at Xwaaqw'um in collaboration with Cowichan Nation. Together, they came up with an



PHOTO COURTESY TSS

Cowichan Tribes cultural monitor Irvin Canute, Robin Annschild and Miranda Cross, both biologists specializing in wetland restoration.

overall conceptual plan looking at the potential for wetland restoration in the park, then set out to demonstrate what could be done. The first small Xwaaqw'um wetland was built in 2019. A year later, a bridge was removed and swales built around the Burgoyne Creek watershed, and more work is planned.

Working closely with Cowichan community members has been a process of reconciliation: not just between settlers and Indigenous peoples but also with the land. This process, says Annschild, is both challenging and fundamental to shaping any meaningful response to climate change.

"One of the amazing things about habitat and watershed restoration is that when you restore the cultural health of the people on the land, it is intrinsically connected to the health of the land itself," says Annschild. "A kind of magic happens when the focus shifts from one person to another, and it becomes about the relationships between people and land. It takes focus away from individuals, and towards working together for a shared objective."

As a focus for cultural "re-presencing" and a return to Indigenous land management practices, we can see Xwaaqw'um as a microcosm of the shifting human geography of British Columbia. Countless generations of Indigenous stewardship delivered thriving biodiversity. That balance altered when settlers brought land-use patterns centred around field agriculture and deforested pasture-land. Yet, the Xwaaqw'um watershed provides an example of the resilience and adaptability of species. Despite being crisscrossed by eight logging roads, streams in the watershed still have coastal cutthroat trout and coho salmon running through them.

Annschild's work is informed first by developing an understanding of the disturbance history of a site. According to Annschild, the surprising, single most significant hydrological modification at Xwaaqw'um was the near-total eradication of beavers from the landscape. She remarks, "The presence of beaver in streams not only allows streams to flow year-round but buffers those streams against drought and wildfire."

"Settlers in B.C. came after beaver populations had already been decimated; what is fascinating is that there is still active ongoing suppression of beaver in B.C., which is not acknowledged. It's having a significant impact on our watersheds."

Restoring relations through riparian revitalization

Changing rainfall patterns, the risk of summer drought, and summer wildfires are all predicted by climate models. Xwaaqw'um is just one site on the island where wetland restoration is taking hold. According to the recently released Salt Spring Climate Action Plan, wetland restoration plays an integral part in adapting to mitigate climate change impacts.

Water shortages have profound social impacts and ecological consequences: wit-

ness the moratorium on new hook-ups to the North Salt Spring Waterworks District water system that exacerbates the island's housing shortage. Ironically, Salt Spring Island doesn't have a lack of fresh water — it's our seasonal droughts that put us at risk. One solution? Restore healthy watersheds to keep water flowing year-round.

Says Annschild, "We know boreal forest vegetation has a lot to do with generating moisture through taking water through roots and using what they need, then releasing water through transpiration, creating moisture in the air that can condense and fall as rain."

Healthy forests on Salt Spring Island are integral to that precarious water cycle.

"It's not enough to catch rainwater — we have to preserve the forests and ecosystems that bring the rain," says Annschild. "To think of water as unrelated from trees is a defect of our thinking, of our cultural thinking."

Annschild likens the draining of a wetland to that of taking out an organ from a healthy body. Wetlands provide so many critical ecosystem services: they filter and purify water, recharge groundwater and provide habitat.

"When I read about climate change, I don't know if I've ever seen the words 'wetland drainage' together with 'wildfires and deforestation,'" says Annschild. "To me, we're missing an ingredient in those models: we fail to calculate how we've already dramatically reduced the resilience of our watersheds."

One way forward is to look to traditional ecological knowledge, held by elders like Tousilum, as a way to restore ecosystems and build resilience to weather the coming changes in climate. Understanding and responding to the intertwined dynamics of water, forest, human culture and habitat, require systems thinking — a mode of understanding that is expressed in Indigenous legal and cultural practices.

Says Annschild, "When we go out to restore a wetland, we find that the productivity of those areas goes up tenfold in terms of habitat restoration — dragonflies, bats, herons, tree frogs. Species native to those ecosystems are adaptive and readily colonize new wetland habitats. You see an incredible response."

"What if you could spend \$1 on climate change mitigation and get \$100 worth of value? If you invest in wetland and stream restoration, you get a long list of benefits," enthuses Annschild. "What's so exciting to me is that, while there are many places on Salt Spring Island where people are feeling those summer droughts, there are also just as many opportunities for wetland restoration on the island."

You can learn about freshwater conservation and riparian restoration in the Salt Spring Climate Action Plan from transitionsaltspring.com/climateactionplan where you will also find resources on what you can do as a land steward of property you own or care for.

Also, check out the Wetlands Institute's speaker series on the bcwf.bc.ca website.

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