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Driftwood

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TRAGEDY

Swimmer dies in St. Mary Lake



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Search and Rescue search manager Zeke Blazecka communicates with fellow volunteers at the St. Mary Lake beach site on Friday morning. About 20 SSSAR members were among those participating in efforts to find a 19-year-old man who went missing while swimming at the lake on Thursday.

Cause of death under investigation

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The case of a missing person in St. Mary Lake ended sadly Saturday morning with discovery of the young man's body by RCMP divers.

RCMP reported the body of the 19-year-old man was found by the Underwater Recovery Team around 8 a.m. on Aug. 14, not far from where he was last seen.

"Salt Spring RCMP wish to thank Salt Spring Search and Rescue, Salt Spring Fire Department, BC Ambulance and the Salt Spring community for their support for the family of the missing man," stated Salt Spring RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook.

RCMP and the BC Coroner's Services are conducting concurrent fact-finding investigations into the unexpected death. The deceased's name will not be released to protect his privacy, as per the Coroners Act.

Lakeside Gardens Resort co-owner Debbi

Toole said her husband Mark has been involved in several rescues on the water, but this is one of the only drowning incidents of this kind to take place during their 30 years of living on the lake.

"It was a terrible tragedy," Toole said. "It weighed on my spirit and it cast a pall on everyone here. It was so sad."

Toole said she is not sure, but she believes the family involved was vacationing on the island. She was impressed by the care that police and search teams demonstrated with them.

"They were so respectful to the family. I was heartened by the respect and professionalism they showed," Toole said.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue issued notice via Facebook at around 7 p.m. on Thursday, Aug. 12 that a search was underway and the public beach access closed. They expressed thanks to Lakeside Gardens Resort for use of their boats, members of the Salt Spring Rowing Club and the search and rescue group for

their assistance during the evening.

Toole said some guests at her resort who are professional swimmers also participated in searching the water that first day.


The beach remained closed as the investigation continued and was reopened later Saturday afternoon after the body had been recovered.

Search and Rescue search manager Zeke Blazecka reported around 20 members had been out searching the shoreline and lake surface on the first evening, and a few more returned Friday morning to check areas that had been hard to see while ultimately waiting for the RCMP divers to arrive.


"There's not much we can do, but we'll do whatever we can accomplish," Blazecka said.

The last drowning tragedy in a Salt Spring lake took place five years earlier on Weston Lake, when two 25-year-old visitors lost their lives on Aug. 16, 2016.

LAKE DEATH continued on 2



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COVID-19

Back-to-school COVID plans still up in the air

Teachers' union asks for mandatory mask policy

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Parents, teachers and school administrators are once again facing an unknown scenario on how back-to-school plans will unroll in the face of a changing COVID-19 situation.

Speaking during a press conference on Thursday, provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry promised an announcement on schools would likely be coming in a week or so. Many are wondering if masks will be mandated at that time since the Delta variant has produced the start of a "fourth wave" and because there is no vaccine approved yet for children under age 12.

Gulf Islands School District superintendent Scott Benwell said the administration is also waiting for news but is ready to adapt if need be.

"SD64 will continue to follow guidance from the ministries of health and education as we make plans for a safe start to the 2021-22 school year," Benwell said. "The district will be communicating with families as soon as provincial guidance is made clear. Schools are looking forward to welcoming students back and the district will continue to make student and staff safety the number one priority."

The province has scheduled Sept. 7, which is the first day of school, as the earliest date for the complete lifting of any remaining restrictions on gatherings and events. The date was hinging on at least 70 per cent of the population having their first dose of the COVID vaccine and continued low rates of virus transmission. While the vaccination rate for eligible people aged 12 and older had reached 82.4 per cent as of Friday, case rates had also started to climb. There were 717 new cases reported on Aug. 12 and 11 active outbreaks in long-term care facilities.

"The district will be communicating with families as soon as provincial guidance is made clear."

SCOTT BENWELL
Superintendent, SD64

With transmissions starting to reach vulnerable seniors once again, Henry and B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix announced new rules Thursday requiring all long-term and assisted living staff and volunteers to have two vaccination doses by Oct. 12.

"Rising case numbers, the prevalence of the Delta variant and the trend we are seeing of health-care workers not yet fully vaccinated getting COVID-19 means that we must take this step to protect them, those we care for and the broader community through vaccination," Henry said during the press conference.

The B.C. Teachers' Federation's official position is that masks should be mandatory inside schools. BCTF president Teri Mooring

has said the Delta variant is a danger to school communities and more children are now getting the virus than in the past. While 70 per cent of children aged 12 to 19 have received a first vaccine dose, less than 40 per cent had received their second dose by the end of July, and children under 12 have no option as of yet. Henry said that would hopefully be coming by the end of

this calendar year.

"We need government to make sure schools are as safe as possible for the start of the school year and that's going to involve requiring masks, at least at the beginning of the school year," Mooring said during a radio appearance, adding it would be easier to start with a mask mandate and then remove it later than going in the other direction.

Mooring said the BCTF is also still hoping to see vaccination clinics set up in schools, and that improved ventilation systems are required in some districts.

SD64 invested in high-rated air filters for schools last year and has additional upgrades to HVAC systems budgeted for Fernwood elementary, Saturna elementary and Gulf Islands Secondary School this coming year.

Care with family impressive



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

RCMP divers recover the body of a missing male from St. Mary Lake on Saturday.

LAKE DEATH continued from 1

A BC Coroner's Service investigation found Ryo Yamaguchi and Masashi Shintani were both good swimmers and had not consumed drugs or alcohol before their swim, so

the reason both men died was not fully explained. The coroner concluded the men were most likely trapped in the weeds and pulled under, based on the amount of weeds and their roots systems in the area of the lake where the swimmers got into difficulty.

After that incident, a life ring for Weston Lake was purchased and installed by an individual. The Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission and non-profit groups then ensured rings were placed at the island's other swimming lakes.

NEWS BRIEFS

Candidates declared for federal election

Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called an election for Monday, Sept. 20.

As of Monday, five candidates in the Saanich-Gulf Islands ridings had been declared. They are incumbent Elizabeth May (Green), Sherri Moore-Arbour (Liberal), David Busch (Conservative), Sabina Singh (NDP) and David Hilderman (People's Party of Canada). Singh, Busch and May ran in the last election held in October of 2019, which May won with 49.09 per cent of the popular vote.

Voting eligibility and methods, and poll location dates and details will be available at elections.ca. Advance poll locations, dates and times will also be on voting cards sent in the mail to all registered voters.

When parliament was dissolved, the Liberals had 155 seats, the Conservatives 119, the Bloc Quebecois 32, the NDP 24 and the Greens two. Five MPs were independents and one seat was vacant.

Propane leak aired at GISS

Salt Spring Fire Rescue was on scene at Gulf Islands Secondary School for close to eight hours last Tuesday after a leak was discovered in the large propane tank that serves the cafeteria.

Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said a school maintenance worker discovered a small crack in the tank. The liquid propane was freezing as it emitted and therefore leaking out very slowly.

Fire crews isolated the Kanaka Road area and were assisted by Salt Spring Propane personnel. They determined the safest tactic would be to burn off the propane while it vented, which produced a tall vertical flame that could be seen from Rainbow Road and a loud rushing noise. Firefighters deployed mist with a fog nozzle to ensure the flame and heat didn't spread.

BC Hydro shut off the power supply to the school during the event. The Capital Regional District hazmat team from Saanich was also activated but was stood down before boarding the ferry to Salt Spring.

COVID-19

Island employers meet COVID rules

WorkSafeBC inspections find few complaints

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

WorkSafeBC inspections and consultations with employers on Salt Spring that were conducted during the pandemic period found those examined were largely meeting requirements to keep workers safe from COVID-19.

According to documents provided by the Office of the Information and Privacy Commissioner, WorkSafeBC reviewed COVID-19 responses at 19 island businesses and organizations between April 2020 and April 2021. Potentially unsafe conditions due to COVID were found at just two locations, and just one order was issued requiring a business to demonstrate its compliance.

Most inspection reports in the year-long period were related to outreach on the part of inspectors, who were checking in to see if employers had COVID safety plans in place and whether they were adequate. In-person inspections were also conducted, such as the November visit that resulted in orders for Salt Spring Natureworks.

According to the inspection report, there was not an effective safety plan in place at the workplace to prevent workers from potential COVID-19 exposure when officials visited the store on Nov. 12, 2020.

At the time of the inspection, inspectors witnessed cashiers working at their workstations within two metres of each other and customers. There were no controls such as physical distancing, barriers or use of masks. (Masks became mandatory inside public places in B.C. on Nov. 19.) Tasks such as receiving of products and stocking of shelves did not have any procedures or controls in place.

WorkSafeBC required business owner Ted Bowland to submit a safety plan to the organization and to have a copy of the safety plan on site and/or on the store's website. A subsequent inspection filed on Dec. 2 noted the business was now in compliance with the orders.

Inspectors also had some recommendations to improve safety for workers at Salt Spring Community Services, although no compliance orders were issued.

According to a May 7, 2021 inspection report, Community Services had an updated safety plan that included limiting the number of clients into the main building and ensuring masks were worn by all staff. Daily health checks of all staff were recorded.

However, the inspector found the safety plan did "not do a good job of ensuring that clients in outdoor spaces respect physical distancing or face covering practices."

"This may be difficult to monitor, however, when clients are congregating on the stairs leading to the bathroom and showers or awaiting food bank services," the report noted.

The inspector discussed implementing a more robust system for directing clients to the smoking tent or other socializing areas so the individuals accessing the service building would not have to pass in close proximity.

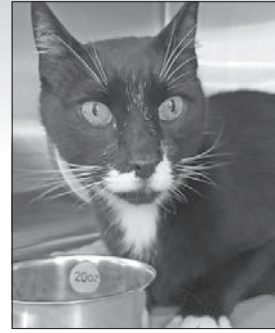
WorkSafeBC additionally investigated complaints from three School District 64 bus drivers who refused what they felt to be unsafe work last fall, with the principal issue for all three being the lack of a physical barrier between the driver and their student passengers.

Separate investigations into each case determined there was no undue hazard since physical barriers could only be installed as a retrofit that was not designed or engineered by the bus manufacturer, and was not compliant with Canada Motor Vehicle Safety Standards under Transport Canada.

Inspection reports noted the school district had committed to purchasing safety barriers whenever those compliant with regulations became available, and other safety measures such as enhanced cleaning and personal safety gear were being employed.

The RCMP has not provided data requested by the Driftwood on whether any COVID-19 violation tickets were issued to individuals and businesses in the Gulf Islands.

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

AUGUST 2021 PST (UTC-8h)

When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
18	0706	0.5	1.6	22	0256	3.1	10.2
	1551	3.2	10.5		1024	0.4	1.3
WE	1955	2.9	9.5	SU	1817	3.3	10.8
ME	2339	3.1	10.2	DI	2323	2.5	8.2
19	0801	0.4	1.3	23	0357	3.0	9.8
	1635	3.3	10.8		1105	0.6	2.0
TH	2108	2.9	9.5	MO	1844	3.2	10.5
JE				LU			
20	0046	3.1	10.2	24	0008	2.3	7.5
	0853	0.3	1.0		0457	2.9	9.5
FR	1714	3.3	10.8	TU	1143	0.9	3.0
VE	2158	2.8	9.2	MA	1907	3.2	10.5
21	0153	3.1	10.2	25	0053	2.0	6.6
	0940	0.4	1.3		0559	2.7	8.9
SA	1748	3.3	10.8	WE	1220	1.2	3.9
SA	2241	2.6	8.5	ME	1928	3.2	10.5

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



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EDITORIAL

Care for all ages

Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission has been criticized for choosing to pursue a government grant to build a multipurpose building that will primarily be used for infant and toddler childcare.

The current provincial government is inducing communities to increase childcare spaces by offering substantial grants for organizations that create buildings where programs can take place. They have also improved daycare subsidies to help make it more viable for parents to be in the workforce. Both moves should be applauded.

In many jurisdictions, child care — with and without a recreational focus — does fall under the purview of parks and recreation departments. Salt Spring PARC has itself offered its Outdoor Adventure Camp (formerly known as Camp Colossal) for children aged five to 12 during summer months for decades. That program has a recreational focus but clearly exists mainly to allow parents to keep working

through summer months when school is not in session.

It's true that Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre is an important facility to help maintain island seniors' physical and mental health and mobility, and that expanding it to include a leisure pool component has been a priority wishlist item. Past PARC members rightly determined that a referendum for a lap-and-leisure pool complex may well have failed, so opted to put a less expensive option to voters. That resulted in the facility we have today. Now that the debt incurred to build the pool is being retired this year, expansion possibilities could be explored with the community, along with a site plan for the whole property. One hopes that the needs of children and families would be a major consideration in developing that plan.

One thing Salt Spring's government bodies should not be doing is making life more difficult for people of working age and those with families. PARC's decision to pursue an \$832,000 grant to cover the majority of the cost to create a brand new building on its Rainbow Road site was the right one. It will be used for more than daycare purposes and will ultimately benefit people of all ages on Salt Spring.

THE ISSUE:

PARC and daycare

WE SAY:

New building and program an asset



Help save Fulford Harbour

BY FRANTS ATTORP

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee must refuse to issue a development permit for the proposed Vortex project at the site of the former Fulford Inn. Failing to do so could set the stage for an environmental disaster in Fulford Harbour.

In December 2019, the Salt Spring LTC approved a septic setback variance for a proposal that includes 17 tourist accommodations, a restaurant, retail space, and associated facilities. Zoning for the project has been in place for many years, but a variance was required to situate the septic system near Soule Creek and Fulford Harbour.

The variance was granted against the advice of Trust staff, including the Senior Freshwater Specialist, who issued a slew of warnings in their report. For example: "adjacent to a fish-bearing stream and a sensitive estuarine ecosystem;" "projected to be subject to climate change-induced flooding;" and "presence of recorded archaeological site."

The variance was granted nine months after the Islands Trust declared a climate emergency, and despite CRD maps showing severe future flooding due to climate change. The flooding is projected

VIEWPOINT

to extend "throughout the subject properties" with the lowest parts of Fulford-Ganges Road "also expected to be covered by sea water, making site access difficult."

The risks of water pollution come not just in the distant future as "the site is sensitive to a potentially tidal dominated groundwater table." There are fears that, despite plans to put drainage fields in mounds, sewage could mix with groundwater during king tides and storm surges. Staff recommended a hydrology investigation and biologist report to determine "the impacts of the proposed development on the marine environment."

Unfortunately, trustees asked for neither, but chose, rather, the bare minimum: annual monitoring of the septic system for five years. What will authorities do if there is a serious problem? Shut down the entire resort after it is built?

Nor was there any discussion of pharmaceuticals, hormones and other chemicals only partially removed by septic systems. These will be added to a harbour

that has been closed to shellfish harvesting since 1995 due to coliform contamination.

There is no doubt many would welcome a meeting place at the south end, but a project of this size, built largely on fill, is entirely inappropriate for a fragile protected estuary. The staff report refers to "a large new destination resort" and warns the 'motels' interpretation "allows the commercial guest accommodation units to be larger, and to accommodate more guests and facilities such as kitchens and laundry, which results in an increased use of resources."

Instead of exercising caution and focusing on ecosystem restoration, trustees rolled the dice with the Gulf Islands' biggest estuary and most important salmon runs. They chose economic and tourism goals over environmental protection.

If you are concerned about the endangered species in Fulford Creek and Soule Creek, and all the wonderful plant, bird and marine life in the harbour, now is the time to speak up. The next LTC meeting is on Aug. 31, but comments can also be sent to ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you happy that a federal election has been called?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does Salt Spring have any rural character left to protect?

90 178
NO YES

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: }

"The solution is not to find a kinder, gentler version of anchorages."

AARON KIPNIS, SALT SPRING ISLANDER IMPACTED BY FREIGHTERS PARKING IN THE GULF ISLANDS

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What are your top issues for this fall's federal election?*

ANNE MACAULEY



Seeing out the pandemic and then some kind of economic recovery after all the money shoveled out.

ADRIAN WRIGHT



COVID, the economy, First Nations issues and climate change. I would rate them all as pretty important.

SILKEN CONRADI



Climate change and putting more money into renewable resources.

KEANE MCMILLAN



The environment, for sure.

TAMSIN MCKENZIE



The climate, and I don't just want promises. I want to see concrete policies.

LETTERS to the editor

Lack of water is the new reality

It appears, based on public reports, that North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayers will not be asked to vote either now or anytime in the near future on a referendum to transfer our water district from local governance to the CRD in Victoria. See the recent issues of the Driftwood.

While that bureaucratic issue is being put to rest, it is time to examine a much more critical water issue.

With the new climate change reality, which is combining drought with a limited supply of water, what are we the residents of Salt Spring to do?

There are options. Some may smack more of desperation

than reality, but they are:

1. We could organize a major protest against the provincial government for giving taxpayer funds for water capital projects to small municipalities, but not to large improvement districts. Are we who live in un-incorporated Salt Spring less in need of water for survival than our fellow B.C. citizens?

2. Build a desalination plant. If the Arctic ice is going to melt, why not make use of it?

3. Increase the storage capacity of St. Mary and other lakes.

4. Require the inclusion of water catchment systems in any house or commercial space that is being built or remodelled.

5. Create rebate systems for the installation of catchment systems in existing houses and commercial sites. Even a partial rebate would help.

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

6. Find a balance between summer's huge demand for water and the summer's low water supply, which is a result of the annual drought. Just two of the causes for this water differential are the large seasonal increase in population and the summer water needs of home and commercial gardens.

Let the conversation begin. Write letters to the editor and government officials with your ideas for our water future.

CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

Getting cool

Since I have been unable to get a portable air conditioner for the past two years, I have been forced to look for other forms of relief.

So far, my best idea has been to fill a hot water bottle

with water and put it in the freezer for a few hours. The resulting "frozen water bottle" stays wonderfully cold under the sheet when I go to bed.

I have found it a good policy to wrap the bottle in a tea towel both because it is very cold to the touch with bare legs, and because it might start to get damp on the outside.

On another note, I would like to urge everyone to stop using the term "climate" change for all the weather disasters that are happening — and worse, things like glaciers melting and sea levels rising — and start naming the problem for what it is: it is, in fact, a climate crisis.

JUDI STEVENSON,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

NSSWD board should explore merger with CRD

I'd like to respond to several opinion pieces in last week's Driftwood.

Firstly, regarding the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) and Capital Regional District discussion, the Driftwood editorial stating that "remaining independent of the CRD might end up costing a bit more, but it could well be worth it" should more correctly read "might end up costing NSSWD ratepayers millions more."

While there have been some project management issues for smaller CRD water districts, the infrastructure and gas tax funding they've received to upgrade their systems has more than offset any additional costs. The biggest problem smaller CRD water districts have is diseconomies of scale, i.e., few ratepayers to cover the costs of aging infrastructure.

NSSWD has considerable management and operating capacity, and therefore conversion to a CRD utility would be more of a merger. In fact, CRD contracts with NSSWD to operate several of their small water districts. By cutting off discussions after only several meetings, we were unable to explore how delegated authority within the CRD (as in the case of the CRD water supply commission) could address NSSWD concerns about local control. A NSSWD/CRD "merger" would consolidate water service delivery here, an important step for our somewhat fragmented governance.

The province has made an important commitment regarding certainty of infrastructure funding (another key NSSWD concern), namely that NSSWD would not be expected to become a CRD entity unless infrastructure funding was confirmed. This is a significant offer to NSSWD ratepayers, although they may still feel that millions in funding is insufficient to give up their "freedom." However, shouldn't ratepayers be given an opportunity to make that choice?



Gary Holman
CRD DIRECTOR
IN RESPONSE

Crofton Ferry Terminal

In a letter to the editor in last week's paper, David Courtney laments the delay in BC Ferries (BCF) upgrades to the Crofton ferry terminal (and by implication the Vesuvius terminal). Salt Spring Island's Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC), on which I sit, has expressed similar concerns to BC Ferries. In fairness, a major factor in this delay has been the financial impact of COVID-19 on the corporation, affecting all of its infrastructure spending, not just at Crofton.

Mr. Courtney also complains about the age and size of vessels serving the Crofton-Vesuvius route, a concern also echoed by our FAC, whose advocacy helped convince BC Ferries to bring in the Bowen Queen earlier than planned. The Bowen and the Quinsam (in service next summer) do represent improvements in capacity and on-time performance.

Two new hybrid electrics will be brought into service by 2030, which will decant terminals more frequently, thus reducing the need for terminal expansion. The FAC and I are advocating the acceleration of hybrid electrics, to increase service levels and ultimately eliminate pollution and greenhouse gas emissions. BC Ferries has recently applied for federal funding for charging stations at the terminals, which may speed up introduction of the hybrids.

We should also not forget that BC Ferries receives tens of millions of dollars every year from the province to help cover the costs of the three terminals and ferry services for Salt Spring. Several years ago, the province also reduced

fares on minor routes by 15 per cent and reinstated free fares for seniors Monday to Thursday, saving islanders millions of dollars. A new Salish-Class ferry is now operating on the Long Harbour/Tsawassen run, and a sister ship will be initiated on the Southern Gulf Islands route next year, which should also improve the level of service at Long Harbour.

Daycare & Rec Space

Darlene Steele, president of SSPLASH, objects to the Parks and Recreation Commission recommendation and CRD decision to access \$832,000 in provincial funding to add a permanent, multipurpose room onto the pool. The grant funding, part of the province's efforts to increase access to affordable daycare, requires that part of the addition must be used for childcare for 15 years.

The advocacy work done by Ms. Steele and SSPLASH was critical in the successful referendum for the pool. However, even though the debt for the pool will be fully paid off this year, it still requires the largest tax subsidy of any CRD service on Salt Spring. Ms. Steele rightly notes the leisure pool remains a strategic priority for PARC, although voters would have to approve a multi-million-dollar referendum and an additional operating tax subsidy. The leisure pool is planned as an addition to the back of the pool because would intrude into the riparian area in front of the building. The smaller multipurpose addition does not.

In PARC's view, which I support, the requirement to temporarily operate the pool addition as shared daycare and recreation space is an acceptable compromise to secure a large provincial government grant. PARC will lease space to an operator, revenues which will actually help offset the pool's operating deficit. I commend PARC for thinking outside of the box and taking advantage of a grant opportunity that will provide more rec space at the pool and benefit our community more broadly.

LadyMintoHospitalFoundation NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



RAZALI MAY
CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBER

I believe the new Emergency Department will help to give us a healthy and happy community. I am pleased to be part of this project and I am grateful for having the opportunity to help.

ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline
Strengthen Our Lifeline

MORE LETTERS continued from 5

Parkland depleted

I would like to express my thanks to and agreement with Darlene Steele for her Aug. 11 "Daycare should not be a PARC priority" piece.

It truly was unbelievable that a week after parents had packed up their weekend tents and group family picnics after the popular annual swim meet at the pool that the backhoe arrived to tear up their seating area. Their park.

Why? I was told that it was for a daycare facility. But one already exists behind the pool. Yes, but this one will be better was the response.

Ms. Steele has thankfully enlightened us to the correct reasoning, bizarre as it sounds.

But where is the Islands Trust in all this? With a mandate to preserve and protect, what are they protecting? The CRD?

There is a protected area, which is where the stream was originally diverted into forming two ponds to protect the natural ecology of the area while the pool was built. But, well, you know, landfill tends to grow, and so it encroaches. So the fences have been extended and the public kept out.

Meanwhile, the two ponds, fed by the underground stream, along with the surrounding grasslands, have, up until now, always been popular with the frogs and

the ducks, and yes, small children. The water in those ponds has almost depleted since the construction began. And it is not all due to the weather.

To jeopardize this rich natural resource, along with the parkland, is to take away from the young children, not to deliver.

JAQUALINE ROUSSIN,
RAINBOW ROAD

Daycare facility supports working parents

I am writing to express my concern at the stance Darlene Steele takes in her recent op-ed against a new multi-use facility being used for daycare.

This island abounds in services for seniors, and it must be remembered that our valuable pool is already a pretty hefty line item on our taxes. One would think that merely out of self-interest alone we should be supporting working parents as much as we can to ensure we have an island workforce. But in terms of equity, it is something we must do.

And pragmatically speaking, turning "into a pretzel" for funding applications is simply what organizations often need to do to creatively fit with grant programs. Why would we turn down an \$832,000 grant for a shared-use facility we are receiving for free, and one which does not get in the way of the very expensive proposed expansion to our community pool that Ms. Steele is advocating for?

While I sincerely appreciate Ms. Steele's advocacy for pool users and expansion of these facilities, I also applaud the creativity of our volunteer PARC commissioners in finding ways to get new facilities at no cost to a broader range of groups beyond pool users. This facility can be shared by children, teenagers and seniors as soon as it is built, and used however we want after the initial grant conditions are done with.

BRYAN YOUNG,
SALT SPRING

Society does valuable work

As a board member of The Circle Salt Spring Education Society, formerly known as SWOVA, I would like to invite the community to become a member of our organization.

The Circle gives children, youth and adults the tools to foster healthy relationships for themselves, their families, their friends and their community through innovative social-emotional educational programs. In doing so, we promote communities free of violence, bullying, discrimination, assault and abuse.

The Circle is a member-based organization. While having members is important to our funders and speaks to organizational accountability, more than that, being a member of our not-for-profit organization shows your support for our work.

Both my daughters were in SWOVA school programs more than 10 years ago. They learned a lot of new communication and life skills and brought those back home. In the



PHOTO BY R. MAYER

SIGN BLIND: A tent and camp chairs are seen set up just behind a NO CAMPING sign on a pole at Baders Beach last week. According to Parks and Rec manager Dan Ovington, a CRD bylaw officer visited the site and advised the campers to leave, and did the same with a new group of people the next day. Camping in unauthorized spots is a chronic problem on the island, said Ovington.

end, our whole family benefitted from that.

The work that The Circle does is valuable, not only for our children but for our community as a whole. Please consider becoming a member. You can sign up through our website the circleeducation.org. Membership gives you voting privileges and a discount on our facilitation course.

If you think our work is important, please show us your support.

KIM DALTON,
SALT SPRING

Chance to pay it forward

This month the feds in their wisdom (?) will be paying all seniors aged 75 and older the sum of \$500.

For some this will be very helpful and that is great. However, I am sure there are many who simply do not require this handout.

I urge all those folks to pay this forward, specifically to the current campaign for the new and expanded emergency room within Lady Minto Hospital. This project is overdue and when completed will provide a far more efficient working environment for the wonderful staff and a more respectful area for patients.

So today I am asking you to sit down and write a cheque and send it to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation. Just do it, it will make you feel great!

PATRICK LEE,
SALT SPRING

Community Grants Funding applications invited

The Salt Spring Island Foundation will be accepting applications for funding from registered charitable organizations for the Fall 2021 grants, beginning September 1.



The application deadline is September 30, 2021.

For more information please call the office at 250-537-8305 or visit our website ssifoundation.ca



YOGA with LYND SAY SAVAGE LAMB!

My Classes at the Salt Spring Centre Resume!

Wednesday Sept 8th 2:00 to 3:30
Saturday Sept 11th 10:00 to 11:30

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I have been teaching Yoga for over 15 years, and the only constant I have found is that if we move in diverse ways, and encompass more inclusions in the body, we feel more whole. We move more unified in the world.

Rants + ROSES

Two giant roses to Country Grocer! One for their support of the Salt Spring Public Library's free summer camps, and one for donating the prize for the library's community consultation survey! *Judy Nurse*

A flowering field of roses to each and every volunteer, neighbour and friend of

Beaver Point Hall who showed up in spite of the heat and helped get the brand new floor installed in the hall. It is all done now and the first wedding has admired your handiwork. It couldn't have been done without your help. Thank you so much!
Sincerely, the Beaver Point Hall board of directors

MARINE ISSUES

Feds vow to reduce anchorage impacts



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Freighter anchored off Southey Point in May of this year.

Islanders seek an end to freighter 'parking lot'

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island residents and organizations calling for the end of freighter anchorages in the Salish Sea are hopeful a new commitment by federal authorities to manage Port of Vancouver freighter traffic ends up being more than a mirage.

Minister of Transport Omar Alghabra provided welcome news Thursday by announcing the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority will work with partners to design a new collaborative system to manage marine traffic and thus reduce reliance on the freighter anchorages located around the southern Gulf Islands and as far north as Gabriola Island.

The Islands Trust has made freighter anchorages one of its key areas of advocacy over the past few years.

"We have worked alongside First Nations, communities, conservation protection groups, other government and individuals. Today, we are pleased to know these voices were heard, but we will continue to advocate for the complete elimination of commercial freighter anchorages in the Trust Area," Trust Council chair Peter Luckham said in a statement issued Friday.

According to the federal announcement, the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority and Transport Canada will engage with the port, other partners, Indigenous groups and local stakeholders to design a system to better manage marine traffic, reduce congestion at the port and improve efficiency and reliability. The system design is to be ready by March 31, 2022. Once implemented, it is supposed to reduce environmental impacts to marine animals, including southern resident killer whales, by limiting unnecessary vessel movements; to reduce overall anchorage use; and to implement a code of conduct for vessels at anchorage.

Timing of the announcement and past experience has led some to question the sincerity of the effort.

"There's a lot of promising language in their pre-election announcement. However, it's very nuanced, and it's language. What we really need to see is positive action," said Aaron Kipnis, who is a member of a grassroots Salt Spring group called Protect the Islands Sea.

Kipnis said historically, use of the remote anchorages was rare and mainly limited to emergency needs, but in the past several years they have become full-time auxiliary parking lots for overflow port traffic. Multiple groups and elected government officials from the region have been advocating for a vessel arrival system that would

provide more oversight on when freighters arrive and leave the port, with requirements on how early ships can arrive before they load or unload cargo.

"These ships are not here for 48 hours. They're here for many more days, weeks and up to a month," Kipnis said, adding there are multiple associated environmental impacts to the extended stays as well as constant noise and light pollution.

Kipnis lives on the northern part of Salt Spring within view of an anchorage off Penelakut Island. With ships' generators and lights running at all hours, he likens the experience to having a tractor trailer idling in a residential neighbourhood with its headlights directed into neighbours' front windows. In addition to ruining humans' ability to sleep or rest, the noise and ballast could be harming other life in an area that's been marked out as a future marine conservation area, he said.

"The solution is not to find a kinder, gentler version of anchorages," Kipnis said. "There is a solution and it is about managing the Port of Vancouver in a way that they don't really need these anchorages anymore."

Advocates like Nanaimo-Ladysmith MP Paul Manly have pointed out an ideal model already exists in the Port of Newcastle, Australia, which used to have similar problems with waiting vessels. As Manly wrote in a letter to Minister Alghabra dated Aug. 6, their vessel arrival system was only implemented after a freighter slipped its anchor and washed up on a local beach, but the port is now successfully managing its marine traffic.

"Two-thirds of vessels loading at Newcastle no longer anchor at all, and the remainder have dropped from an average of 11 days at anchor to just three days," Manly wrote. "Slowing freighters down for just-in-time loading has the added benefit of burning less bunker fuel at sea and burning less diesel at anchor, reducing greenhouse gas emissions and creating cost savings for the shipping companies."

Transport Canada said consultation will be a key part of designing the new system. Luckham confirmed the Islands Trust will be one of the stakeholders involved.

"We look forward to participating in this consultation," he said. "Working in partnership to address concerns and find solutions is a welcome approach."

Kipnis said advocacy groups are not convinced their voices will be sought, since the federal government had previously promised consultation when establishing interim protocols on anchorage use three years ago.

"All through the interim protocols, I'm not aware of any conversations that have taken place with residents or Indigenous people and their leaders," Kipnis said.



To: All St. Mary's Lake (SML) Water License Holders and Landowners

Re: Notice of Application for Use Approval on St. Mary's Lake

Due to the ongoing drought, North Salt Spring Waterworks District anticipates that St. Mary Lake will need to be drawn down below the minimum lake level of 40.0 m elevation (G.S.C. datum) as stipulated on water licence # C101050 to continue to supply water. As a result, the District has applied for a short-term Use Approval, per Section 10 of the Water Sustainability Act, that will allow continued withdrawals into our St. Mary domestic waterworks system if the lake level falls below 40.0m elevation. The short-term Use Approval would allow for a maximum diversion rate of 965 m³/day and would be effective until January 2022. The maximum diversion rate is based on metered water use observed in 2015 under similar drought conditions and Stage 4 watering restrictions.

Drawing the lake down below the minimum permitted level could potentially impact the water intakes of other licence holders on St. Mary Lake and Duck Creek. Furthermore, riparian landowners on St. Mary Lake could be impacted by lower water levels as could the health of riparian vegetation, fish, and water quality in general. An Environmental Monitoring Program would be a condition of this Use Approval.

As your licenced intake may be affected or because you may be an affected riparian owner, we hereby give you notice of this application under Section 13(1)(a) of the Water Sustainability Act.

Objections to this application may be filed within 30 days of receipt of this notice with:

Cali Melnechenko, Water Authorizations Section Head
Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
Regional Operations Division, West Coast Region
103-2100 Labieux Road
Nanaimo, B.C. V9T 6E9
Email: Cali.Melnechenko@gov.bc.ca

The NSSWD would also like to propose an on-line virtual meeting with all St. Mary's Lake Water License Holders and Landowners. The goal of this meeting is to discuss water conservation steps we can all take to minimize the effects resulting from drawing down the lake level below the minimum level permitted.

Please email info@nsswaterworks.ca advising if you would like to participate in this meeting and we will send you a link for a Microsoft Teams virtual meeting.

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www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca



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ART REVIEW

Land's impact gets new voice at Showcase

This Land: Artworks in Monochrome at Artcraft

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Artcraft opened its final Showcase exhibition of the season this week with a sombre but compelling group show called This Land: Artworks in Monochrome.

As curated by Artcraft manager Sarah Hyams, the seven participating artists work in a variety of mediums but are united in creating work that speaks to the impact that landscape has on humans, and unfortunately, the impact we have on it.

While not all of the artworks are technically in monochrome, there is an overall limited palette of mainly greyscale and earth tones that suggests land's most elemental facets. Contemporary issues being what they are, this palette also underscores a mournful view of the natural world, which some of the artists speak to directly in their work. Viewed on a day when the latest potentially deadly heat wave was tempered only by a cooling haze of wildfire smoke, the message seems all-too relevant.

Lucas Wolf's mixed-media paintings on wrinkled canvas convey the power of mass and form that mountains exert upon us, with crags of black rock and white glacier set off by a toffee-coloured sky. The near abstract treatment in a large-scale wall piece helps demonstrate this force well, while an unscrolled length of painting that runs the width of the Mahon Hall stage feels free and unlimited.

Anna Gustafson always marries



Mixed-media painting on canvas by Lucas Wolf.

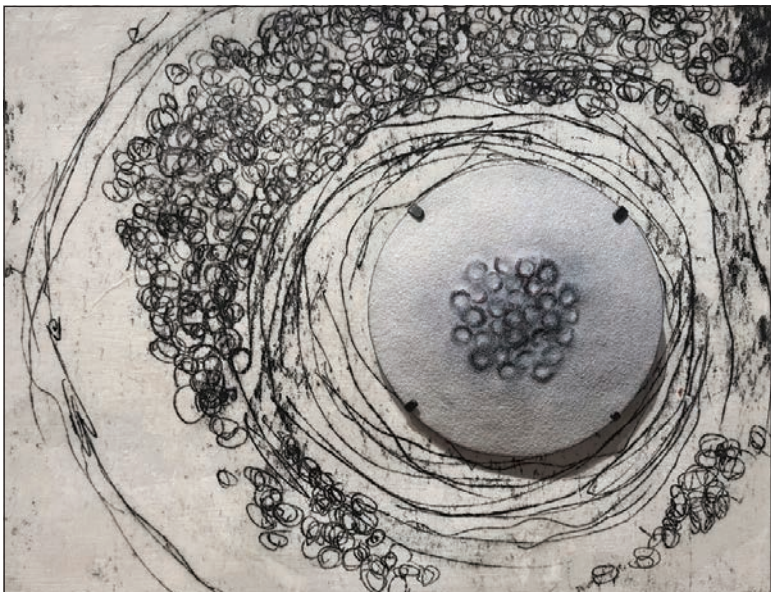
skillful execution with intense intellectual concept, and this is heart-breakingly true in her piece Hunger Rock. The message "If you see this weep" stems from the environmental crises of past centuries, but reappears in a time when everyone should probably be weeping. Gustafson has created an outline of words and image in knob and tube wiring on which salt crystals have been cultivated. This symbolizes dependencies of the past while envisioning the possibility of shifting away from the oil-dependent tools that won't serve us much longer.

Sibéal Foyle likewise embeds a cry for the planet's future in two vivid works on paper depicting powerful yet vulnerable wildlife. Survival is a riot of action, with a bald eagle extending its claws while under airborne attack by crows and seagulls. Deep yellow eyes, claws and beaks provide the brightest splash of colour in

the entire show, but it's the dark wings in fervent motion that dominate. Foyle's statement on the piece describes the mixture of fascination, horror and hope these natural battles inspire and the inevitable comparison to our own human dilemma.

The natural world of plants inspires the contributions by Jim Holyoak and Esme Hedrik-Wong. The first immerses the viewer into a dizzying tangle of tree branches, where there is no background or wider view, just a mass of implied texture and competing surfaces. Holyoak — who was the top viewers' choice selection at the 2019 Parallel Art Show — expertly employs graphite and charcoal to create deeply defined edges, bright untouched areas of reflected light and soft shadows between.

Hedrik-Wong started out as a fashion designer and has worked with hand-loomed silk



Tidal Pool 1 by Jan Smith, with sterling silver, copper, vitreous enamel and steel over monoprint on silk tissue and wood.

and natural dyes. She currently cultivates plants and trees for natural dyes on Salt Spring; some of her products appear in multimedia monoprints that also include parts of the plants themselves, such as eucalyptus leaves. These monoprints feel gentle and organic, with the assemblage of rounded shapes and natural brown tones. Dancing in the Breeze is a horizontal banner that incorporates poppy petals and a rice paper base, the poppies' dark centres softly punctuating a dreamy flow.

Hyams made an interesting and welcome choice with the three-dimensional component of the show in that she selected two jewellery artists with sculptural sensibilities. Julie Kemble incorporates pieces of "her" land, such as shells, stones and wood into necklaces that double as wall hangings. The

over-sized loops and bold adornments feel industrial and architectural at the same time as speaking to the natural world. To Hyams they evoke topographical maps, which gives another sense of their strength.

Jan Smith goes bold as well, in a neckpiece with a large medallion of oyster shell, labradorite and metal wire strung on a braided silver chain, and in a bracelet that combines shimmering laser-cut acrylic disks with pearls. Her multimedia monoprints also combine metal and fibre but seem a sort of mirrored reversal: small works with quiet ripples. The circle is a recurring motif both in the Tidal Pool print series and her jewellery pieces with their tidal connections.

The show continues on the Mahon Hall stage during Artcraft hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

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ISLAND LIFE

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WATER RESOURCES

Citizen science project maps island water story

FreshWater Catalogue initiative flows through community support

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A lack of rainfall on Salt Spring Island this year underlines the value of a data-collection and sharing project initiated almost three years ago.

How much water is available to maintain ecosystem services and to support the community? How well off is the island in terms of maintaining a water balance?

Those are just two questions that geologist John Millson, who has years of experience in water resource management, hopes the FreshWater Catalogue Project he leads will answer.

Operating under the auspices of the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society (SSIWPS), the project sees volunteers collect on-the-ground data about stream levels, flow rates and water chemistry, all of which helps shine a light on what happens to the metre of rain that falls on the island each year.

"We've done some science about how much water stays on the island," Millson explained. "It's between three and 20 per cent of the water that lands. So if you took the low number there, it's three centimetres. Three centimetres is quite a lot, but it's not huge either."

Data collected by the FreshWater Catalogue project helps determine how much of that rainfall ends up in the ground, the lakes or flows out to the sea.

He said there is a perception that "because it rains so much in the winter we are fine; but that's not quite where it is, I think."

Between 45 and 50 volunteers have participated in data gathering since the project began. Most have taken on areas near their homes, but others are willing to monitor streams and watersheds



PHOTO COURTESY WPS FRESHWATER CATALOGUE PROJECT

FreshWater Catalogue Project volunteers, from left, Bev Stewart, Katie Brown and Gabriel Brown, have some fun during a break from water sampling.

wherever they are needed.

"Volunteers are collecting citizen science and we are doing the rigour part of that because citizen science is often criticized for a lack of rigour," he said.

They have regular data from 20 different watersheds, more than 4,000 data points, and seven detailed projects for smaller locales where an individual or a group of individuals has gone above and beyond in their work.

Data becomes part of an interactive online map on the SSIWPS website.

"All those areas are collecting flow data, something that is directly relevant to a water balance story for the island," said Millson.

Because of their work, the project now has insights into what part of monitored creeks consist of surface water — probably rainfall — and what part is groundwater, from historic rainfall, for example.

SFU professor Diana Allen, a groundwater expert who has studied Gulf Islands

hydrogeology, has been grateful for shared data and gave accolades to the project.

As well, project data will be used in the Weston Lake Water Availability and Climate Change Assessment Study being undertaken by the Islands Trust and Capital Regional District.

Millson notes that many Salt Spring watersheds and creeks are not named, and he hopes the project can help change that.

He is a big fan of Robin Wall Kimmerer's book called Braiding Sweetgrass: Indigenous Wisdom, Scientific Knowledge, and the Teachings of Plants, which addresses the notion of "animacy."

"[The idea is that] if you give something a personality you will feel more attached to it."

Educating the community about water balance issues is another aim of the FreshWater Catalogue Project.

Thanks to a generous donation, a short

video has been made and will be released this month, just in time for a new school year. Youth were involved in the making of the video, too.

"They listen, they take it in, they take it home," Millson said.

He said program volunteers also "become ambassadors and support that education process . . . so that is really encouraging."

Millson is grateful for "amazing" volunteer contributions, donations of both equipment and dollars, especially from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, and community support in general.

"[The project] is addressing an education aspect, it's addressing a science aspect, it's addressing a planning aspect," he said.

He would like to see more educational video resources created, ideally in a module format that students could interact with.

Anyone who would like more information about the project, to volunteer to collect data, or has ideas for funding a larger educational video project for school students can contact Millson at jamssiwater@gmail.com.

Fall Fair FOCUS



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED TO PREPARE FOR FALL FAIR

HELP!...only 4 weeks left til the Fall Fair Sept 18/19.

Volunteers needed to do clean up, painting, repairs, construction and yardwork.

- Every Tuesday 9am - 12pm.
- Friday Sept 10- moving all items from storage 9am.
- Week of Sept 15-17- odd jobs every morning 9am.
- Bring your own coffee mug.

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PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

KEEN FOCUS: Indigenous artists work on stencils Monday for a mural project taking place at the Salt Spring Public Library this week. From left are project lead Quw'utsun artist Charlene Johnny and youth artists Kielynn Dick-Charleson (Songhees and Hesquiaht nations) and RJ Mills (Coast Salish and Haida nations).



Islanders Working Against Violence

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what's on this week



What's On - the go!
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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

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. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Besse's Will. ExitStageLeft Productions and Graffiti Theatre present a new play by Jeffrey Renn starring Renn and Christina Penhale. 7 p.m. Tickets & location info at www.exitstageleftproductions.com.

Julia Beattie. 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. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Lend Me Your Ears. See Wednesday listing.

Marianne Grittani. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Old Timers Cafe. Musical jam at the Fulford Hall Annex. 6 to 9 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 20

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 Islands Trust trustee Peter Grove. 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.

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

Sat. Aug. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Besse's Will. See Thursday listing.

Brent Shindell. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Rough & Tumble. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 21

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.

Sun. Aug. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Lend Me Your Ears. See Wednesday listing.

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

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Mon. Aug. 23

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

Dungeons & Dragons Camp.

See Friday listing.

Tues. Aug. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sue Newman and Tom Bowler. 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. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Besse's Will.

See Thursday listing.

Susan Cogan and Sue Newman.

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

Wed. Aug. 25

ACTIVITIES

Library Summer Camp. See last Wednesday listing.

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.

See last 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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More info:
thefritz.ca



EXHIBITIONS

• **This Land: Artworks in Monochrome** features work by Sibeal Foyle, Lucas Wolf, Anna Gustafson, Jim Holyoak, Esme Hedrik-Wong, Jan Smith and Julie Kemble as the Showcase exhibition at Artcraft at Mahon Hall running daily until Aug. 29.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Tree Stories** - Oil Paintings by Cheryl Long show in the exhibition space at Salt Spring Gallery until Sept. 1.

• **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	Obituaries	Coming Events	Celebrations
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Donna Gail Way (née Kirk)

Donna died on August 15, 2021, at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island after a brief illness.


She is survived by her loving husband, Paul Way; her children Paul A. Way (Laura Way) and Cynthia Flett (Michael Flett); her grandchildren, Quentin and Iain Flett and Johnathan and Abby Way; and her brother Bryan Kirk (Earl Goldstein).

Donna was born on December 6, 1944 in Vancouver, BC where she raised her family and worked in the medical field. Upon her retirement, Donna and Paul fulfilled their dream of moving full-time to Salt Spring Island where they built their new home on a long-term family property. She was very active in the Salt Spring community particularly the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary and the Fulford seniors.

Donna's family and friends will dearly miss her quiet strong presence in their lives.

With thanks to Dr. Kalf and Lady Minto Nursing staff.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to the charity of your choice or the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation.




JOSÉE CROSSLAND

19 March 1938 - 16 August 2021

Funeral Mass to be arranged.

"When someone you love becomes a memory the memory becomes a treasure"



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.

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Happy 15th Birthday J.C.

We Love You Forever.

From all the Curran Family and Friends.

May this year be awesome for you!

In Memoriam

Celebration of Life for MATT STEFFICH

Family and friends would like to invite one and all to join us in a celebration of life for Matt Steffich.

Matt inspired so many in his short 61 years on this Earth and made a huge impression on everyone that he met.

His warmth and sense of humor put everyone at ease and made them immediately feel like they were old friends.

His wish was that his life be celebrated with laughter, music, and more friends than those that attended Arvid's celebration. :-)

It will be held at the Legion at 120 Blain Rd on August 22 from 4pm-10pm.

Please wear a funky and or flowery shirt to commemorate Matt's love of fancy shirts.

Burgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers will be available for purchase. **All proceeds from the food and bar will go towards completing Matt's pet project of a Ganges Harbourwalk.



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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

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

Leo time yields to Virgo just hours after the Moon waxes to Full, and for the second time in a row in Aquarius. While not an extremely rare event, it is somewhat worthy of mention. This is especially true since this Aquarius Full Moon occurs at the critical 29th degree. Positively, this degree is recognized to share association with the higher spiritual alignment. As is the case with the glyph symbol of Aquarius, which is comprised of two wavy lines, principles of vibration and frequency are illustrated. As spiritually aware people recognize, higher vibrations refer to higher dimensions of existence.

As the sign most closely associated with holism, Virgo reveals the appreciation of the technical complexity of the fabric of existence. Whether defined as the engineering of the manifest universe or as metaphysics, both interpretations recognize the inherently intelligent design. Aquarius is also symbolic of illumination of consciousness, or enlightenment, which refers directly to this realization. Ironically, mainstream science asserts that existence is random, which ranks as the most illogical theory of nature ever conceived.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

The sands are shifting and will continue to do so this week. Although much of your focus remains practical, some of it is being diverted to love and beauty. While not necessarily romantic, this could manifest as aesthetic and poetic appreciations. Meanwhile, circumstances are leading you to exercise your critical thinking abilities at a whole new level.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

A powerful creative impulse not only continues this week, but will be amplified as the Sun enters Virgo. This energy pattern is ideal for projects and activities requiring attention to detail, precision and making improvements in general. These may be directed towards outer activities yet may also be directed to the health and quality of your diet and lifestyle.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

A busy and perhaps hectic cycle in your home and family life is underway. Positively, it includes an emphasis on creating beauty and harmony. Yet, achieving these will probably require extra efforts. The light of the moon will, symbolically at least, support you to pay closer attention to the details. Creative improvements sum it up.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

The detailed, analytical and constructively critical attributes of Virgo are guiding you to conduct an inventory of what you have, want and need. The focus could be upon possessions yet may also be directed to new interests, or a new job or living situation or to achieving a new quality of freedom. Use this influence to gain clarity you can act upon.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Consolidating your overall foundation is underway. This focus will go to the next effective level this week and you will focus your energies and efforts much more fully. This has likely already and will continue to include important exchanges with others. These could prove revolutionary so you are wise to exercise a full measure of diplomacy.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

The Sun entering your sign will add turbo fuel to your already ignited engines. You will push harder than usual, revealing strength and resolve. Somehow, keeping the best and leaving the rest is featured. Striking a balance between bigger picture interests and concerns and those of your more immediate circumstances will likely require extra effort.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

A strong activation of your subconscious mind may be exactly the inspiration you have been waiting for. With Venus in your sign, the desire to express yourself is extra strong. Hopefully, you will be able to harness and harmonize these impulses. Otherwise, you may simply enjoy a period of rest and retreat to reflect and contemplate.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

A strong activation of your sense of independence and individuality should be apparent by now. If it is not yet, it will be this week. This could manifest as creative resolve with emphasis on improvements and repairs. Yet, the energy pattern could also manifest as inventiveness. Combined, the 'MacGyver' in you will reveal its ingenuity.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The opportunist in you has been activated. How this specifically manifests is subject to your heart and soul. For some it will manifest as seeking opportunities to invest, for others to go on an adventure, for yet another segment the emphasis will be towards service, while for others yet it could be the perfect heist. Whatever it is, the scout is on the lookout.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You are in a philosophical mood. Although your philosophies are usually strongly guided by practical interests and concerns, sometimes you leave room for idealism as well, like now. Seeing into, through and beyond common sense is leading you to what hopefully amounts to uncommonly good sense, which is evidently not very common.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Deep changes amounting to veritable transformations are underway. The beginning of a new quality of peace and harmony is steadily emerging as well, but you are not free and clear yet. You are probably wise not to expect that you will break free from this metamorphic cycle for perhaps upwards of several weeks. So, cooperate patiently, humbly and faithfully.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)


For a peace-loving dreamer, you sure can be a warrior at times. This is one of those times and will continue for some weeks yet. Success now depends on your ability to think critically and creatively. As well, your ability to accept and embrace change and transformation and, moreover, to take an active lead to realize it without injury to yourself and others is the mastery you are meant to realize now.

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For Salt Spring
arts & entertainment happenings

SEE PAGE 8 AND OUR
WHAT'S ON CALENDAR ON PAGE 10.

Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS

HOUSING

Artisan family chooses east coast

Inadequate housing options made move inevitable

BY AINA YASUÉ

SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

For Aly Coy, Salt Spring Island was a place of beginnings.

Here, she started her soap company, Barefoot Daughter, a local favourite. She met her partner, and gave birth to her now 10-month-old child.

Recalling her original reasons for leaving the city to come to Salt Spring, Aly says, "I thought it was the most supportive place to start a business and have a family."

This summer they made the sadly pragmatic decision to say goodbye to the island after seven years of trying to find a stable and secure home.

For Aly and her partner, Salt Spring's rental housing choices have run the gamut from shacks, boats, yurts and cabins, to RVs, tents, vans and even a converted chicken coop. During her seven years living in rental housing here, she has only had heated plumbing for half of one of those years. While managing to make and sell quality soaps, she was melting snow on her woodstove in winter to have hot



PHOTO COURTESY ALY COY

Aly Coy and her Barefoot Daughter soap products.

FINDINGHOME

water for bathing. Aly specifically recalls hardship during the COVID lockdown, as gyms and community spaces were closing, having nowhere to shower.

While dealing with the ongoing issues around insecure housing, Aly also struggled to find a studio space that offered the basics, such as heating. She remembers the usual banter amongst vendors at the Saturday market slowly but inevitably became centred on housing over recent years.

"The housing issue is so distracting that you can't focus on your business," she notes.

Aly was involved in local community groups, including Transition Salt Spring Enterprise Co-op, the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, the Painters Guild and writing circles. While watching their friends move off island or hold back from starting

a family, knowing they'd have to move eventually, Aly and her partner decided to start over again in a new community.

She speaks fondly of her friends; the aunties and uncles she wishes her daughter had around to babysit, saying, "I'll miss the community that I built and worked really hard to nurture."

For the same price they paid for shockingly inadequate rental housing per year, they are now paying a mortgage on their own two-bedroom house on the east coast.

"We have a mud room, our own laundry, hot water and space for my daughter to learn to crawl," she says. "When you don't have those things for so long, this feels like luxury."

The above piece is the fourth 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.

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