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GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, Sept. 1, 2021

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Arnez Joe, left, and Lawrence Joe, members of the Quw'utsun Tzinquaw Dancers, dance as part of an Aug. 26 ceremony celebrating a new Indigenous-themed mural created by Indigenous youth at the Salt Spring Public Library that was finished last week. Not seen but drumming and singing behind them are elder Qwiahwultuhw (Ron George) and Joe Akerman. See page 8 for the story.

MARINE ENVIRONMENT

Dock ban order surprises locals

Islands Trust had no warning of B.C. government order

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A ministerial order that prohibits any new applications for private docks in the Southern Gulf Islands area and the southeast shoreline of Vancouver Island for the next two years came as a near universal surprise when it was posted last week, with no advance notice given to people working in the marine construction industry or in local government.

Peter Grove, a Salt Spring trustee with the Islands Trust, described the order from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development (FLNRORD) as coming "completely out of the blue." He first learned about it from Lasqueti Island trustee Tim Peterson, who forwarded the news to his colleagues. Those who attended an Islands Trust programs committee meeting on Friday were still trying to find out why the order was made.

Committee members were particularly surprised because of the work they are doing to update the Islands Trust Policy Statement. A draft amendment to the document had proposed changing shoreline zoning across the Trust Area to prohibit most new private docks.

"I think this speaks poorly to the ministry's communication with the Islands Trust on this topic, and it seems like a bit of a blindside to drop this, at least without letting the Trust know," North Pender trustee Ben McConchie stated at Friday's meeting.

Corey Johnson, construction manager at Island Marine Construction, said private industry was also surprised, even though they are in regular contact with FLNRORD.

"We don't know where the idea came from. We're not sure how this map applies jurisdictionally. It doesn't align with the entire Trust Area; it doesn't match the general permissions area [for private docks], so we don't know exactly where this is coming from," Johnson said. "We do know they have a huge backlog of applications, and this could just be a way to get on top of those before taking on more, but the reasons they gave are a little suspect to us as well."

According to FLNRORD's rationale for the closure, private docks can cause a number of social and environmental harms. These include restricted access to foreshore and marine areas; increased turbidity from dock construction and increased boat traffic; increased contamination

from dock materials such as treated timber and corrosion; increased shading to fish and fish habitat; and direct disturbance to marine resources such as kelp, eelgrass and clam beds.

"The cumulative impact of the proliferation of private moorage docks on southern Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands has not been adequately characterized or measured. This has led to multi-year delays to decisions on private moorage applications," FLNRORD states in the rationale to the order.

It says the two-year prohibition will provide time to assess the cumulative effect, "providing a pathway to decisions on private moorage applications currently in inventory and on new applications that may be accepted at the conclusion of the prohibition."

Existing docks and previously approved proposals are not threatened by the order or by any future Islands Trust policy change. Johnson said his firm has many projects on the go with moorage applications already approved or in process, although what happens after the two-year prohibition period is a concern.

DOCKS continued on 3



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COVID-19

Schools preparing for regular fall program

DPAC members advocate masks for all students

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Gulf Islands schools will resume full-time in-person schedules this September without being divided into learning groups or having a quarterly timetable, while a provincial mask requirement will be in effect

for all teachers and students in grades 4 to 12.

Under back-to-school plans announced by the B.C. Ministry of Education, many activities that were curtailed last year can additionally resume.

"We are pleased to see that extra-curricular activities and sports will return to schools this year," said Gulf Islands district superintendent Scott Benwell. "Not requir-

ing schools to organize around cohorts and learning groups reduces the complexity of scheduling and promotes a broader social experience for learners. This greater freedom within schools will be supported by safety measures like the provincial mask mandate as well as immunization."

The provincial government and provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry say the more relaxed approach to COVID safety compared to the previous school year is supported by research into the past year's situation. Also being taken into account is research by the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), which found there was "a significant impact on students from remote learning, including interrupted learning, increased child stress, decreased connection, increased loneliness and mental and emotional health effects."

The province is continuing to promote vaccination as the best way to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Health authorities will target students, teachers and school staff in vaccination campaigns over the coming weeks.

However, many parents and teachers are concerned that children who aren't old enough to be vaccinated will be crowding into schools at a time when the highly infectious Delta variant is producing a spike in positive cases.

Deblekha Guin, who is a member of the School District 64 District Parent Advisory Committee (DPAC) executive, pointed out Mayne, Saturna, Galiano and Pender islands have a first-dose vaccination rate of 92 per cent for people ages 12 and up, while Salt Spring's rate lags at 79 per cent.

"As students prepare to return to school next week my heart especially goes out to families with children under 12 who don't have the option of being vaccinated," Guin said. "We know the risk to younger populations has risen, and children in

grades kindergarten to three don't have the protection of either a mask mandate or vaccination. In light of this I trust that our district, and others, will make robust home-learning options available to those students, and other students with extenuating circumstances."

DPAC representative Adria Kray said she would like to see a response that has an increased focus on the airborne nature of COVID and how it's spread.

"I hope that the province and school district continue taking the appropriate public health precautions, including a mask mandate for all grades (including K-3), ensuring families are notified when there are exposures in real time, outdoor lunches while masks are removed, and CO2 monitoring to provide an indicator of the effectiveness of ventilation and filtration systems," Kray said.

Provincial guidelines for the fall 2020 restart saw SD64 introduce a "flexible return program" that offered online learning opportunities for families that did not feel ready to send students into physical schools. Two teachers provided part-time digital classrooms for elementary and middle school students who also spent time learning on their own at home. That program is not being offered this September, Benwell said.

"At this point SD64 will return to all instruction being face-to-face this year," he said. "In rare circumstances and for medical reasons, temporary learning arrangements can be discussed with our school principals, but we will not have a remote or online option."

Changes to B.C.'s health and safety policies include the ability for health authorities to introduce additional measures specific to individual schools or school districts in instances where community transmission rates are higher.

COVID-19 IN BC

MASKS ARE REQUIRED. SLOW THE SPREAD.

Masks are mandatory in all indoor public spaces for people 12 years and older – regardless of vaccination status. Masks help slow the spread of COVID-19 and will help make indoor spaces safer for everyone this fall.

Do your part to help
keep others safe.



Wear a mask
in indoor
public spaces



Learn more, visit:
gov.bc.ca/covid-19



FEDERAL ELECTION

All-candidates events set up

Virtual and in-person offerings

Salt Spring Forum has organized a virtual all-candidates debate for the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding in the federal election campaign.

The event will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 7 p.m. with the link available on the www.saltspringforum.com website.

Forum manager Richard Steel said the organization has decided to allow only parties with sitting MPs in the House to participate. Candidates will therefore be incumbent Elizabeth May (Green), Sherri Moore-Arbour (Liberal), David Busch (Conservative) and Sabina Singh (NDP). Moore-Arbour was not listed on the Elections Canada website as an official candidate as of Aug. 30 but was nominated by the Liberal Party's riding association and has a website.

As of Aug. 30, the other two candidates listed were David Hilderman for the People's Party of Canada and Dock Currie for the Communist Party of Canada.

Tony Brogan, a supporter of Hilderman, has organized an in-person all-candidates event under the auspices of a group called Democracy Saltspring at the Royal Canadian Legion on Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. Confirmed attendees besides Hilderman were not available as of Monday.

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. Elections Canada indicates advance polls will be held Sept. 10-13.

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Timing of order deemed coincidental

DOCKS

continued from 1

He questions the statements made by the ministry about harms associated with docks. In terms of access to the shoreline, he said all docks are required to be two metres above the high water mark so anyone can walk underneath, and access between land and water clearly increases with moorage infrastructure. As well, he said modern dock construction favours steel pilings over creosote-treated wood and decking material is often light-permeable. He added land-use bylaws on Salt Spring, at least, already prohibit dock construction over eelgrass beds, clam beds and other sensitive areas.

Johnson said the timing of the order is interesting given the Trust's proposed policy change. While the two initiatives may be unrelated, the provincial ban could make it easier for the Trust to justify pursuing its own prohibition.

That would have negative impacts beyond threatening the marine construction business, he said.

"Access to the water is an important part of our community and island living," Johnson said, adding safety is another paramount concern.

Islands Trust Council chair Peter Luckham told the programs committee the timing of the ministerial order appeared to be completely coincidental.

"To start with, this is not our ministry that has made this order. We report to a different ministry," Luckham said, referencing Municipal Affairs and Housing.

"It is disappointing they didn't choose to consult with us on this matter," he added. "But clearly they chose to keep their cards close to their chest."

Luckham suggested the order is also not surprising in some ways. FLNRORD made changes in January 2017 to streamline the process for residential marine docks across most areas of B.C. The order meant landowners would no longer need to apply for a foreshore lease to use Crown land if their projects met certain conditions such as size limits, environmental specifications and local government zoning or bylaws. The "general permissions" process was not applied in the waters around the Southern Gulf Islands.

Luckham suggested the two-year prohibition could be the next step in a larger overhaul to the provincial program.

"This is not an end to docks. It's a pause to consider the environmental impacts and a different permitting process," he said.

ISLANDS TRUST

Policy statement 'sticky points' probed

Public engagement on next draft scheduled to begin soon as trustees continue to disagree

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council's programs committee is continuing to chip away at its major project of updating the organization's central guiding document, although any new amendments are on hold for a public engagement and referral period.

Committee chair Deb Morrison noted there are some specific themes within the draft Islands Trust Policy Statement that have come up as problematic in community feedback so far. Attendees at Friday's online meeting were also invited to consider how the new draft could be better formatted to make it more reader-friendly. Multiple constituents have said the document is too long and needs to have a list of definitions.

Lasqueti trustee Tim Peterson gave his opinion that more education should be provided to explain what the Trust is trying to do and why it has recommended certain amendments.

"In the absence of information people jump to really wild conclusions, and I think that's what's happening with some of these sticky points," Peterson said.

Council voted in July to postpone its planned first reading of the new policy statement until December following opposition from the public and division among trustees. The executive

committee subsequently voted to contract a consultant to oversee an enhanced public consultation program this fall.

In August, the Trust announced it had hired MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement Inc. to develop a public engagement plan. The plan will include online and in-person discussion opportunities, to be considered for approval at the Sept. 21-23 Trust Council meeting.

"This was sold as an update and what we received was a rewrite."

PAUL BRENT
Saturna Island trustee

Staff meanwhile referred the draft new policy statement out to other agencies at the end of July and are now preparing for the next phase of engagement with First Nations. Letters are going out with offers of capacity funding, collaborative engagement options and next steps for First Nations who wish to engage. A further formal referral to First Nations will be sent after first reading of the draft statement.

Some "sticky points" in the updated material have settled around a proposal to prohibit new private dock construction and desalination plants across the Trust area, and for the Islands Trust to get more authority to manage tree-cutting and forestry. Morrison agreed tension in her community had arisen around the latter area, because

people mistakenly thought that meant they would not be allowed to cut any tree in the future.

Saturna trustee Paul Brent said feedback from some people in his community was the whole exercise should be scrapped and started from scratch because not enough public engagement went into the early phase.

"This was sold as an update and what we received was a rewrite," Brent said, adding he felt the new policy statement was far too directive and would therefore undermine the work individual islands had done to create their official community plans.

Morrison responded that the update required more than just a "tweak" to the previous document, which was written in 1994. The update required major changes because the Trust needs to embed two major commitments it has made to reconciliation with local First Nations and climate change preparation/mitigation. Language dealing with First Nations in the existing policy statement is not just outdated but in some cases offensive, Morrison said.

Trust Council chair Peter Luckham said he is hopeful that education will be provided as part of the fall public engagement program. He also suggested the policy statement could be advanced with consensus on the areas people agree with first, and more could be done later to address the more challenging points.

"This is an ongoing document that needs to be updated on a regular basis," he said.

More information about the policy statement update, including the draft document and a Frequently Asked Questions page, can be found under Programs — Islands 2050 at islandstrust.bc.ca.

Capital Regional District

CRD

NOTICE OF APPLICATIONS FOR VOLUNTEER SCRUTINEERS & ADVANCE VOTER REGISTRATION

Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Assent Voting

Public notice is hereby given that the assent of the electors is required with regard to Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021".

On **Saturday, November 20, 2021** qualified electors within North and South Pender Islands in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area of the CRD, will be asked to vote on the following question:

"Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopting Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021", authorizing the CRD to establish a service to contribute to the costs incurred by the Pender Islands Health Care Society in operating the Pender Islands Health Care Centre and to raise a maximum annual requisition up to the greater of TWO HUNDRED and THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$235,000) or \$0.1803 per ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) of taxable land and improvements for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the service.

YES or NO?"

Applications for Scrutineers

Applications from persons who wish to volunteer as a scrutineer for or against the question will be received by emailing legserv@crd.bc.ca OR at the offices of the Capital Regional District (CRD), PO Box 1000, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6 between 8:30 am and 4:30 pm from **Wednesday, September 8, 2021 until Friday, September 17, 2021** (excluding statutory holidays).

To obtain an application form, or for questions about the application process, contact CRD Legislative Services, by emailing legserv@crd.bc.ca, telephone 250.360.3642 or Toll Free 1.800.663.4425 local 3642 from 8:30 am and 4:30 pm, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays) or at the address noted above.

Advance Voter Registration for Non-Resident Electors Only

Advance Voter Registration closes on **Wednesday, September 15, 2021** for the List of Registered Non-Resident Property Electors for North and South Pender Islands. Please note that the CRD will be using the Provincial Voters List for Resident Electors and offering same day registration on voting days.

You are entitled to vote as a Resident Elector or Non-Resident Property Elector if you are:

- ▶ 18 years of age or older on general voting day (November 20, 2021); and
- ▶ a Canadian Citizen; and
- ▶ a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before the day of registration; and
- ▶ a resident or non-resident owner of real property on North or South Pender Island within the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area in the CRD for at least 30 days before the day of registration; and
- ▶ not disqualified under the Local Government Act or another enactment from voting; and
- ▶ **For Non-Resident Property Electors**, the property cannot be held in trust for a corporation or another trust; and if there is more than one registered owner of the property, the written consent form must be signed by the majority of the owners designating one owner to register and vote.

For more information about registering as a Non-Resident Property Elector, visit www.crd.bc.ca/penderhealth-vote, or call Toll Free 1.800.663.4425 local 3642 or 250.360.3642.

Dated this 1st day of September, 2021

Kristen Morley
Chief Election Officer

For more information, including a synopsis and copy of Bylaw 4441, visit www.crd.bc.ca/penderhealth-vote

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

Labour Day blues

Back-to-school anxiety has found a whole new meaning under COVID-19.

Kids and parents can have many worries when facing new scenarios and settings in September, but some of these concerns are usually eased as routines settle in. Having a global pandemic could produce unbearable strain for people whose physical and/or mental health is already at increased risk.

Individual school districts in British Columbia can mitigate some anxiety and danger of viral spread through investments in ventilation and barriers, high-intensity cleaning programs and arrangement of physical space, but they are also largely limited to the provincial response. In the first full pandemic school year of 2020-21, the B.C. government decided interactions between groups of students and teachers would be contained to small groups.

THE ISSUE:
B.C.'s back-to-school plan

WE SAY:
Extra safety measures required

Extracurricular activities that would have brought those groups into contact were put on hold or radically altered. Neither of those measures will be returning this September, despite the rise in new cases stemming from the more infectious Delta variant. Since the vast majority of those cases are in the unvaccinated, the province is pushing immunization as the best defence — but Salt Spring has the lowest vaccination rate in the Capital Regional District aside from the Juan de Fuca area, and so far there is no vaccine approved for children under the age of 12.

The Gulf Islands School District also has a new factor this fall. Provincial back-to-school plans happen to coincide with increased student numbers at several island schools. On one hand, the official closure of Salt Spring Middle School has left just the grade 7 students behind in that vast space. On the other hand, Salt Spring elementary schools are now making room for new Grade 6 classes, and Gulf Islands Secondary has a brand-new Grade 8 cohort. Pender's school is also welcoming new Grade 8 and 9 groups.

The B.C. government could alleviate the risk in places like the Gulf Islands by taking steps to ensure a safer return for all. Models exist in provinces like Ontario, where the mask mandate starts in Grade 1, and Manitoba, where teachers are required to be fully vaccinated by Halloween or undergo regular testing.

The province says in-person learning provides students the best educational, mental health and social results. It must not sacrifice overall health and safety for that experience.



Vaccination encouraged

SUBMITTED BY:

ADAM OLSEN (MLA, SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS),

GARY HOLMAN, (CRD DIRECTOR),
LAURA PATRICK (ISLANDS TRUST TRUSTEE,

PETER GROVE (ISLANDS TRUST TRUSTEE)

We, your elected officials, understand that some Salt Springers are hesitant to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. We understand that your body is your own, and that we all look after our bodies in the ways we personally deem as important.

This pandemic has shown us that we also have to look after one another.

As neighbours, as family and friends, as Salt Springers and Gulf Islanders, we have come together to protect our communities for the past year and a half. We supported our healthcare and frontline workers with a nightly cheer. We checked in on each other when we were all asked to stay home. We are all exhausted by COVID-19, but the pandemic is not over. We are encouraging all our constituents to make community health a top priority by getting vaccinated.

As of Aug. 23, 71 per cent of eligible Salt Springers had received both doses of a COVID-19 vaccine. Unfortunately, this is the second lowest rate in

VIEWPOINT

the Capital Region.

Vaccines have dramatically reduced the number of people who get sick and the severity of illness when they encounter the virus. The fourth wave is being driven primarily by the Delta variant. This variant is proving to be challenging as it is more contagious and is making unvaccinated people very sick.

Vaccines are proving to be an effective measure in our collective fight against COVID-19. It is important to acknowledge that getting vaccinated does not only provide you better protection but it also protects people in the wider community, and in particular, children under 12 who cannot yet be vaccinated.

Thank you to everyone who has taken the step of getting vaccinated against COVID-19. People who get the vaccine have a much better chance to protect themselves and their loved ones; across all of B.C. and especially within your communities. Rising case numbers across our province are frightening for many, but we're more prepared than ever with the availability of vaccines.

If you are feeling uncertain about the vaccine and have health questions, you can call HealthLink BC at 8-1-1 toll-free in B.C., or if you are deaf and hard of hearing, call 7-1-1 or 604-215-5101 to contact Video Relay Services.

Vaccines are safe, they are effective, and they are available to us all on a daily basis at the walk-in clinic at the Salt Spring Island Health Unit located at 160 Fulford-Ganges Rd. You can either book an appointment by calling 250-538-4880 or walk-in to the clinic. Thank you again to all who have been vaccinated and who will be, for protecting our special island and the people who call it home.

The provincial government has announced that they will be introducing a vaccine card. Starting on Sept. 13 proof of vaccine will be necessary to attend certain discretionary events.

Please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/vaccine/proof> for more information. Additionally, the provincial government has reinstated public health orders regarding the use of masks indoors. Please visit <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/covid-19/info/restrictions> for the latest information.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do Salt Spring roads need more traffic calming measures? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does news about local COVID cases change your behaviour?

NO	90
YES	105

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: }

“We must work together to preserve what we have for our children and our grandchildren and our great grandchildren.”

JAMES CHARLIE, PENELAKUT ELDER

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *Is there anything you'd like to do before summer ends?*

LAURA CRAVEN



“We're doing it! We're on vacation now and this has made my summer.”

MARV COULTHARD



To take out my Morgan. I've got one more car show this summer.

SUE LEHMAN



I want to take my grandson out on the boat.

SUE NEWMAN



I'd like to visit my daughter, who's working on a giant puppet in Scotland.

WINONA SUTTON



Just spending more time with my kids and my dad.

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

How low can you flow?

Three heat waves with no rain this summer. Our rain-reliant water systems are not happy.

That said, my wife and I have always prided ourselves on being water conservationists. We built our house with low-flow toilets and we use low-usage best practices in challenging times like now (reduced toilet flushes, reduced dish and clothes washing, garden mulching, dish water onto the garden). We read the North Salt Spring Waterworks District newsletters and follow the usage rules. We harvest and use as much rainwater as we can. Mission accomplished. All good.

Then I read Curt Firestone's letter in the Aug. 18 Driftwood and that inspired me to take another look. And guess what? Not all good.

Those low-flush toilets were to code in 1996 (six litres per flush), but the code was changed

in 2011. It is now 4.8 litres per flush (1.2 litres wasted per flush — ouch!). And as we age, we pee more often. (As my doctor said, “Get used to it.”) I Googled around a bit and found that it is estimated that the average family home will save 80,000 litres of water by just switching to a low-flow toilet.

So our journey begins. What else has happened in water conservation appliances? Research is the next step. Should we upgrade our units with basic updated code versions? What about dual-flush units? Maybe bidets? What is the optimal solution to reduce the impact on our precious water systems (and if possible, reduce our paper use as well since forests are in trouble too).

Fortunately, North Salt Spring Waterworks District provides usage charts with their bills every other month, so tracking the results of our water-saving actions should be easy.

JIM STANDEN,
VESUVIUS

Dying is an election issue

Do you want to have a peaceful death, perhaps surrounded by your loved ones?

If, like most people, you want to be able to have a say in how and when you die, please become an advocate for Medical Assistance in Dying (MAiD).

Significant advancements in Canada's law on MAiD were made last March when Bill C7 passed into law. A parliamentary review committee was also set up to consider further crucial changes, most importantly the ability to make an advance request for MAiD by those who fear that dementia may prevent them from accessing MAiD at a later time, and the eligibility for MAiD of mature minors and those with a mental illness.

But the election has put a stop to the work of the committee. This means further delays for Canadians who are

suffering and unable to access end-of-life choice.

A national poll conducted by Ipsos earlier this year found that an overwhelming majority of Canadians support access to MAiD, including for advance requests. If you share this view, or are concerned about other aspects of MAiD to be covered by the review, such as safeguards for people with disabilities and the state of palliative care in Canada, please contact your candidate and ask them to commit to promoting the re-establishment of the review committee as soon as the new parliament resumes.

Dying With Dignity Canada has published on its website an excellent guide on the issues and how to reach your candidate at www.dyingwithdignity.ca. Don't delay. None of us knows when we or a loved one might need to apply for MAiD.

CHRIS BRADLEY,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Malevolent summer no longer a season to eulogize

Alright, who screwed up summer? It used to be fun, la douceur de l'été, which for you monoglots out there is French (which is easily distinguished by all the twiddly bits over the letters the French are so fond of). It translates as “the sweetness of summer,” which is rather lovely, n'est pas? Lovely, but entirely inappropriate.

Summer was once something to look forward to: long, lazy days, shingles in your sandals and sand in your egg and cucumber sandwiches, wasps, peeling noses and nut-brown knees.

Stop me if I'm over-eulogizing, but that was how I remembered them. Only later did the smell of barbecues drift into the heady mix of sweet pea, woodbine, honeysuckle and freshly mown grass. (Alright, stop me now. I've been carried away by a sudden and unaccountable outbreak of lyricism. Woodbines are better remembered as an especially noxious but cheap brand of cigarettes my dad smoked and so my actual abiding scent of summer is the smell of cigarette smoke in a dingy caravan somewhere on the British coast, or the “seaside” as we called it then.)

Sixty years ago the seaside was a place you arrived at after a long, frustrating drive at a sedate 10 km/h in an endless traffic jam that felt as if it stretched from Aylesbury to Kamloops, travelling so slowly it was possible to pick blackberries as the car crept (when its radiator wasn't boiling over) towards a grubby caravan or grubbier bed and breakfast beside the sea. But we did it every year that we lived in the U.K. We looked forward to it and loved every one of the invariably dreary, wet days. It was summer and summer was to be enjoyed even if the rain meant spending the day in the cinema or playing the slot machines at the end of a pier.

And then, occasionally, the sun shone, and the drab beaches of Weston-super-Mare or Walton-on-the-Naze would



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

come into their own again as kids in woolly knitted swimsuits built sandcastles and paddled in the icy Bristol Channel or North Sea while their parents sat in the sun on rented deckchairs and broiled.

Not so today. Summers have become brooding, malevolent months plagued by the threat of forest fires and premature death for lack of a decent air-conditioning unit. When the day isn't hotter than a pizza oven, the sky is melancholy with heavy clouds that refuse to give up their rain.

Sunshine! Now there's a word that once spoke to the joy of summer instead of the misery of relentless hot, arid days of even more sunshine. Chirpy weather forecasters telling us: “It's going to be sunny again” as though it were somehow exactly what we wanted. Just this week we were promised “another lovely sunny day” for crying out loud! My suspicion is that they are suburbanites, city slickers with a potted geranium on their 20th-floor balcony which they occasionally water with the melted ice from their gin and tonics, otherwise they'd be less sanguine about the days without rain which leave the rest of us out here in the boonies reduced to spitting on our tomato plants to keep them from an untimely death.

Personally, I wouldn't know a tomato plant from a peony, but I know a drought when I see one, especially now that Mrs. Mc insists I take a bucket into the shower with me so that I can play my own small

part in preserving her garden. I've also been instructed to spend less time in the shower which, when you're my size, means washing in installments.

And trees shouldn't be threatening. Trees are for shade and clean air, for climbing and for watching squirrels play. Now they are just so much kindling, would-be Roman candles already whipped up and dried out by fetid winds that carry with them the scent of devastating fires elsewhere. Even the crows have become less raucous, sapped like the rest of us and merely keeping up appearances with an occasional low-energy spiritless squawk.

So roll on autumn, season of anything but this relentless drought, but if it IS raining as you read this, don't blame me, blame the weather. It just can't be trusted anymore . . .

• Two weeks ago, we were unmasked and ready to greet the world full on. The blessed Bonnie had won the day and we were free to get on with our lives.

But in the blink of an eye everything went belly up and we're expected to mask up again because COVID has unleashed its revolting offspring, as if we'd narrowly avoided being run over, only to be hit by the car behind.

But then the good news, a vaccination passport which, while it doesn't go anywhere near far enough, is at least a step in the right direction. You'll have no doubt read the respondents to the Salt Spring Says street interviews last week, in which just one of the five thought the passport requirement was just what the doctor ordered — quite literally. One described it as “Orwellian,” for goodness sake, and moaned that it would create a two-tiered society. Well, good! What we need precisely are two tiers, which excludes the willfully unvaccinated and prevents them infecting the rest of us.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca



NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT
**NORTH SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS DISTRICT**
IS NOW IN
**STAGE 4 WATERING
RESTRICTIONS**
Per Bylaw 301
Stage 4
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Comprehensive
Water Ban

ALL WATERING IS BANNED EXCEPT:

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

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

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

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca
(250) 537-9902

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
Every Drop Counts!



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA MARSHALL

BLOCK PARTY: Cusheon Lake community residents, from left, Nomi Lyonns, Marc Davis, Robin Williams and Connie Hardy show new signs created to encourage people to drive 30 km/h and increase safety in their neighbourhood. See their letter to the editor, below.

Calm Cusheon

This letter is from a group of concerned Cusheon Lake residents and is addressed to our fellow Salt Springers. Many of you may have noticed the new signage along our road. We have tried for many years to draw attention to our rural road in order to slow down traffic, but to no avail.

In fact, Cusheon Lake Road is now commonly used as a commuter road, although it has never been intended as such. Unfortunately, speeding is the norm along this road.

We ask that our fellow island residents please respect the speed limits and drive slowly. As you know, if you've ever driven along it, our narrow road has many twists, turns and hidden driveways.

We are worried that our children, our seniors and indeed all of our residents are at risk of being hit by a speeding car or that a vehicle could launch itself into one of the houses or into the lake itself. Cusheon provides drinking water to about 200 households.

This signage campaign is instituted to "Calm Cusheon," in order to ensure the safety of all.

Thanks in advance for helping us achieve this goal.

**CONCERNED RESIDENTS OF
CUSHEON LAKE ROAD**

Rental housing scam

This is a report of a friend upon whom a scam was attempted. The person wants to stay anonymous and I am writing on his behalf. Because he figured out the scam before losing money, the RCMP chose not to take a report.

This scam is being perpetrated on people who advertise online that they are looking for Salt Spring Island housing. They get an email from a person who says that they wish to rent out their Salt Spring house. The email gives an address of a house with a For Sale sign on it. The email says that the owners have changed their minds and have decided to rent their house instead of selling it. Furthermore, they have suddenly had to move to the U.S. for employment purposes. The potential victim is told that the house is scheduled to be taken off the for-sale market.

My friend was asked to fill out and return a rental application. If he was accepted as the renter, he would then be asked to send the first month's rent and security deposit. A rental contract would be sent back after the cheque was deposited and the application accepted.

My friend drove by the house and saw that it was occupied. He inquired of the occupant, only to find out that the house was in fact for sale, not for rent. He was the second person upon whom there was

an attempted scam.

The advice is simple: if you are looking to rent housing on Salt Spring Island, make sure you are talking with the owner/manager and have been shown the inside of the property. Do not enter into any agreement or send any money by email. Renting housing should occur in a face-to-face meeting only after you have inspected the property.

CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

Brutality not alleged

Some 180 islanders turn out to protest RCMP brutality at Fairy Creek (the equivalent for the Greater Victoria area would be about 6,000 people) and the Driftwood gives it one 2¼ inch by 3¾ inch photo?

Oh, and a misleading caption: There's nothing "alleged" about that brutality as even a few minutes looking at videos and photos and reading journalists' eyewitness accounts confirm. Protestors point to broken ribs, torn rotator cuffs, choke marks around their necks. RCMP officers pepper spray protestors in the face at close range. Drag them through gravel and drop them on their heads. Or wield chainsaws insanely close to immobilized forest defenders. If the RCMP's political masters don't step in to stop them — that's Mike Farnworth, provincially; federally, Bill Blair — it's only a matter of time, I fear, before they kill someone.

MURRAY REISS,
FULFORD

Editor's note: The Aug. 23 event was occurring as the Driftwood was being finalized for press and all space had been allocated for that issue. More photos were published on our Facebook page.

Pedestrian hopes

I am a supporter of the recent CRD path-building project running from Booth Bay Road to Central, as well as recent crosswalk work on Lower Ganges Road and (even more recently) on Rainbow Road near the swimming pool.

That said, a few questions remain in search of answers. I believe they are best put to CRD director Gary Holman and his Salt Spring Transportation Commission colleagues. First, why are there no crosswalks at the turn-offs to Booth Canal, Wildwood Crescent, Atkins Road, and linking Blain Road to Country Grocer? Are these coming, perhaps?

Second, having recently seen and been a part of near misses involving these new and old crosswalks, I submit that signage announcing any new crossings be posted and maintained for a healthy amount of time.

LARRY WOODS,
KINGFISHER COVE

Trees are not separate from water

BY SHAUNA DOLL AND ALEX MCLEAN

Nearly 18 months ago, the Islands Trust undertook the task of updating the Trust Policy Statement (TPS). This policy is the filter through which all decisions are made across the Islands Trust area. After some debate it was decided the TPS would go to first reading in December 2021. This is an exceptional opportunity for the Trust to reevaluate how it upholds its mandate to “preserve and protect [the] unique amenities and environment” of the 13 major islands, 450 smaller islands and waters of the Salish Sea within its jurisdiction. It is likewise an opportunity for the province to reconsider the authority it has delegated to the Trust to uphold that mandate.

Nowhere else in British Columbia or Canada is a governance structure built around the retention and protection of ecological integrity and biodiversity.

And this unique structure is needed. The ecosystems characteristic of the Gulf Islands are mostly within the “Coastal Douglas-fir (CDF) biogeoclimatic zone,” one of the most biodiverse regions in the country, with some of the greatest carbon storage capacity. These coastal ecosystems are intrinsically connected to the Salish Sea and have tremendous ecological and cultural significance.

The southern islands are known as the relatives of the Saltwater or WSÁNEC people, with many addi-

INDEPTH

tional Coast Salish peoples calling the islands home. Yet, across the CDF’s range, ecosystems have been dramatically fragmented, with up to 50 per cent having been converted by development. According to B.C.’s Conservation Data Centre, nearly every ecological community in the CDF is provincially listed as threatened or endangered; a 2020 study on southern Canada’s most significant and threatened places for biodiversity conservation describes the CDF’s entire range as a crisis area.

Despite the rapidly escalating need to protect these ecological communities, the tools granted to the Islands Trust to protect them are a fraction of what has been granted to municipalities. Given the special mandate and structure of the Trust, it should have an even stronger ability to pursue environmental protection than municipalities. As droughts worsen and temperatures rise, significant policy shifts are needed.

As Adam Olsen, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, described it during a webinar hosted by Raincoast in July 2021, the inadequacy of environmental protection policy, not only in the Islands Trust but across B.C., is because “laws have been designed with the premise that we cut trees in this province.” He calls this a “funda-

mental flaw” resulting in a “patchwork of legislation.”

This sentiment echoes assertions made by municipal law expert Deborah Curran during a Comox Valley Land Trust webinar in November 2020 exploring the pitfalls and promises of development permit areas for protection of the natural environment (EDPAs). Curran, like Olsen, calls for comprehensive environmental protection policies to conserve ecologically sensitive landscapes.

This summer has been among the driest in recent memory, with eastern Vancouver Island and many Gulf Islands at drought level 4, “where adverse impacts on fish and ecosystems are likely.” Water security is predicted to become more precarious across the Trust area, where freshwater availability is dependent on rainfall. But maintaining water supply is not as simple as letting lawns go brown or taking shorter showers. Conserving intact forests is essential to maintaining water supply, while also providing better habitat for many species, stabilizing soil, and absorbing carbon. During a panel discussion earlier this year, Eric Pelkey, hereditary chief of Tsawout of the WSÁNEC Nation, highlighted the importance of honouring the interconnectivity of ecosystems: “All of these things are tied together: the trees, the plants, the soil. They are not just individual standing living things, they are a com-

munity of living things.” This interconnectivity means that we cannot follow the frameworks that have dictated land-use decisions in B.C. since colonization.

According to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change’s most recent report, we are out of time. We must act swiftly to avoid the catastrophic conditions expected from 2°C of warming. The single most important avenue to avoiding this level of warming is the preservation and protection of intact ecosystems. While re-planting and afforestation efforts are important, it is orders of magnitude more so to maintain existing ecosystems; for example, forests and trees that are standing now can sequester carbon most effectively in the near term.

We must protect forests to protect water and to protect ourselves. The provincial government’s hesitancy to implement strong environmental policy and refusal to grant the Islands Trust the policy tools necessary to uphold its preserve and protect mandate has resulted in significant and ongoing ecological losses. We ought to expect and demand more from those with the power to enact change.

Shauna Doll is the Gulf Islands forest project coordinator for Raincoast Conservation Foundation. Alex McLean is a second-year law student at the University of Victoria. He worked as Raincoast’s summer tree policy protection intern.

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ADVERTISING DEADLINE CHANGE

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 6 - Labour Day and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Tuesday, September 7.

Deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday Sept. 8 edition will be as follows:
Advertising deadline:
Wednesday, Sept. 1, 12 noon

Driftwood 250-537-9933
241 Fulford-Ganges Road
driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com • gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Rants + ROSES



PHOTO COURTESY SSGCC

Salt Spring Golf and Country Club members with “super volunteers” Elaine Shaw and Harry Kirwin standing at back, directly in front of Bentley’s Bar.

Roses

The Salt Spring Island Golf Club thanks all of the volunteers who worked on the club restaurant renovation. The planning, organizing and a great deal of the work was completed by Elaine Shaw and Harry Kirwin, two dedicated club members who have been dubbed super volunteers by other members who enjoy improvements to the clubhouse and grounds carried out almost every day by Elaine and Harry. The club wanted to recognize Elaine and Harry for all their work, but

they don’t like to be acknowledged, so the members decided to rename the bar Bentley’s Bar after their beloved dog Bentley.

A car full of thornless roses to all the people, paramedics, firemen, ambulance attendants, police and others who rescued me from my car overturned in a blackberry thicket. Thank God that no one else was hurt, and for the blackberries that saved me from serious injury. I’m sorry it was such a thorny job getting me to safety. You all deserve a nice piece of blackberry pie. *Nancy Wigen*

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INDIGENOUS ART

Youth mural artwork celebrated



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salt Spring Public Library chief librarian Karen Hudson distributes gifts to youth artists participating in the library's Indigenous mural project at a Thursday ceremony.

Hudson praised the youth for their bravery in coming to a place and staying with people they didn't know.

"[The project] was so much more than putting art on this beautiful wall. I am so proud of each and every one of them for everything they have done," she said.

Participating Indigenous artists besides Johnny were RJ (Stadskun Johnnie-Mills), Marie Hardisty, Brendan Hardisty, Kie Lynn Dick-Charleson, Jesselyn Johnny, Tinaye Joy-Mujuru, Joeluke and Darius Yellowhorn, Linda James and Sarah Jim.

Mike Charlie is a Penelakut elder who also spoke at the event, and explained how he ended up having input into the final product.

Charlie said he had visited the site the previous week and asked Johnny where the sea urchins were in her design, since they were a staple of his peoples' diet. Johnny ended up free-handing four lively mauve urchins at the bottom of the mural, while the rest of the images were created using stencils. Charlie also requested an eagle, which will likely be added at a later date.

Charlie's brother James Charlie praised the mural artwork and its creators, and spoke about the need for everyone to work together for the land and humans' future.

"There will be no more ocean and no more forests if we don't work together," he said. "We are only here for a short short time and we have done more harm in the past couple hundred years than at any other time in our history. We must work together to preserve what we have for our children and our grandchildren and our great grandchildren. We must work as one. Learn from one another. Share your knowledge with one another. Share the history."

Additional funds were provided by the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation, and invaluable support came from Arnett, the Salt Spring Arts Council, Joe Akerman and the Stqeeeye' Learning Society (Xwaaqw'um Project) and the School District 64 Indigenous Education department.

Commitment to truth and reconciliation in place

BY GAIL SJUBERG
 DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A once bare cement wall at the side of the Salt Spring Public Library has come alive with ocean imagery created by young Indigenous artists.

A project envisioned by chief librarian Karen Hudson a few years ago came to fruition this month and the results were unveiled at a moving ceremony on Thursday, Aug. 26.

"I really wanted to honour the land, the sea and the sky and the ancestors who paved the way for us to be here today, to be able to live here and thrive off these lands," said Charlene Johnny, the Quw'utsun artist who designed the mural and led the project, to the by-invitation gathering.

The mural was funded primarily by a \$10,000 Salt Spring Island Foundation grant.

Hudson told the Driftwood that she saw the huge wall as a perfect spot for an Indigenous-themed mural after seeing some First Nations place-name artwork Salt Spring Elementary School students created with local Indigenous history expert Chris Arnett some years ago. With the area's First Nations having different

names for the same places, incorporating those would not have been practical, Hudson said. Instead, the project fostered cooperation between Indigenous youth and elders of more than one nation and area.

"We want this to be a visible symbol of the library's commitment to truth and reconciliation," said Hudson, adding that she hoped other Indigenous-themed murals would be created in Ganges.

Local MLA Adam Olsen of the Tsartlip First Nation provided the ceremony's welcome and members of the Quw'utsun Tzinquaw Dancers group performed, spoke and blessed the mural.

Lead artist Johnny expressed her gratitude to the elders and to everyone involved in the project and ceremony.

"It's always been a goal of mine to come home and create art on my home territory," she said. "... I always knew I would be sharing what I know with the youth. I just didn't think it would come so soon, so I am grateful for the elders for lending us teachings.

"I am grateful to the singers and the dancers for sharing their time and their art and their craft because we are all one. I have lots to learn. We all have lots to learn. I am super grateful to the community for hosting us and encouraging us and saying kind things to us. It's a lot of work to have done in the last two weeks."



Executive & Artistic Director

Island Arts Centre Society (ArtSpring) is inviting applications for the position of Executive & Artistic Director, ArtSpring - the performing and visual arts centre on Salt Spring Island, BC.

Please visit artspring.ca/job-postings for a full job description and how to apply.

Applications close at 5pm,
 Friday October 8, 2021.

Island Arts Centre Society (ArtSpring) values an inclusive workplace and we encourage applications from members of diverse communities.

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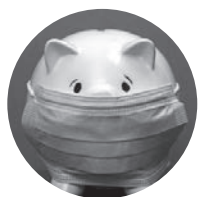
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ISLAND LIFE



LADY MINTO HOSPITAL CAMPAIGN

Couple shares donation tale



PHOTO COURTESY NEWMAN FAMILY

Cedric and Cathie Newman in years gone by at a BCSPCA Wiggle Waggle Walkathon fundraiser.

Newmans use stock donation for campaign

BY BRUCE CAMERON

STRENGTHEN OUR LIFELINE CAMPAIGN

Cathie Newman and her husband Cedric have lived on Salt Spring since 1992 and have been blessed with good health for many years.

"I rarely have to take even an aspirin," said Cathie.

This year she had a bit of a health scare when she noticed a rash on her arm had gotten progressively worse. A trip to the emergency department at Lady Minto Hospital ensued and she fondly recalls the quick attention and great care she received.

"The staff were so good to me, but I realized that the emergency space was just too cozy. Although the staff did an amazing job, they were working in such tight cramped surroundings, and I

overheard a lot of other patients' conversations."

After seeing the doctor on duty, she was prescribed an anti-viral medication.

"We know we have been fortunate and have had a good life, but it's time to start divesting."

CATHIE NEWMAN
LMH emergency department
campaign donor

However, a negative reaction to the anti-viral medication caused severe nausea, resulting in a loss of weight and strength to the point where she needed to be taken by ambulance back to Lady Minto Hospital where, once again, she received outstanding care.

Safely recovering back home weeks afterward, Cathie and Cedric discussed how each year they donated to Lady Minto Hospital, but they started thinking that it was time to step up and do more to build a new emergency department.

"We know we have been fortunate and have had a good life, but it's time to start divesting. So, we decided to do something with some of the wealth we have. We were happy to help a younger family member put a down payment on a house, but we also thought it's time to invest right here in our community to the new emergency department. And it helped us avoid a big capital gains tax bill too!"

The Newmans decided to donate a sizable number of shares of bank stock, which they originally purchased decades ago, to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation Emergency Department campaign. Cathie explains that by donating the shares to Lady Minto now, she and her husband will avoid costly capital gains taxes on the stock, while at the same time benefitting the hospital and the community.

"We're all getting older, you know," she added.

"Donating some of our stock portfolio was one thing we thought we could do to give back, and I know there are many more fortunate people here on Salt Spring that could do the same thing."

For more information on how to donate to help build the new Lady Minto Hospital emergency department, you can go online to ladymintofoundation.com/donate or call or email Roberta Martell at 250-538-4845 or Roberta.martell@ladymintofoundation.com.

ISLANDS TRUST GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE NOTICE OF WAIVER OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee is waiving the public hearing for proposed Bylaw No. 271, cited as "Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127, 1999, Amendment No. 1, 2019". The public hearing is being waived under the authority granted in Section 467 of the *Local Government Act* that states that a local government may waive the holding of a public hearing on a proposed bylaw if an Official Community Plan is in effect for the area that is subject to a proposed zoning bylaw, and the proposed bylaw is consistent with the Plan. Upon adoption, Bylaw No. 271 will be consistent with the Official Community Plan for Galiano Island.

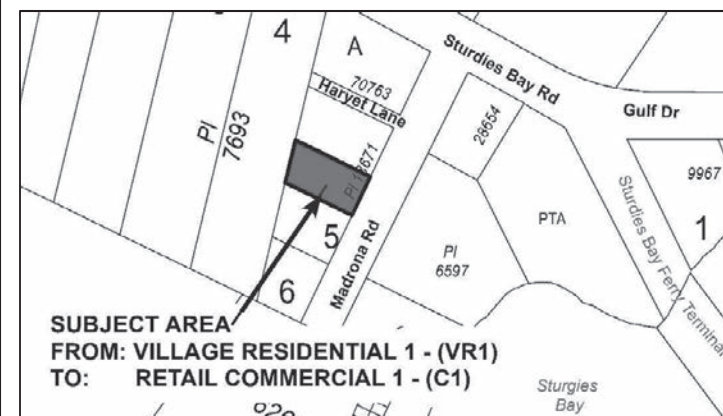
The Galiano Island Local Trust Committee will consider further readings to the bylaw at its electronic business meeting scheduled at 12:30 p.m., Tuesday, September 7, 2021.

Proposed Bylaw No. 271 – The purpose of the proposed bylaw is to amend the zoning classification of the subject property from Village Residential 1 (VR1) to Retail Commercial 1 (C1). The proposed change in zoning is consistent with the current Official Community Plan (OCP) land use designation of 'Community Facility/Commercial' for the subject property.

A staff report is available on the Galiano Island Islands Trust application webpage:

<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/galiano/current-applications/>

The location of the subject properties is shown on the following sketch map.



A copy of the proposed bylaw may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, #200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday, inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, **commencing August 23, 2021, and up to and including September 7, 2021.**

The proposed bylaw can be viewed at <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/galiano/current-applications/>

Inquiries regarding the proposed bylaw may be directed to the Islands Trust Office, Brad Smith, Island Planner, at (250) 405-5194 or, for Toll Free access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

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Gwendolyn Amy McCarthy

Passed away Tuesday July 20, 2021 peacefully with family by her side at the Carpenter Hospice in Burlington Ontario.

Survived by her sons Christopher and Greg, daughter Jennifer, brother Ted (Nancy), sister Debra (Gerry), grandchildren and great-grandchild, nieces, nephews, family, friends and the Guild of "Happy Hookers".

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Coming Events

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

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Fall Fair FOCUS

Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute

Deadline for submitting entry forms:

SEPT 4 DEADLINE FOR -

- Livestock
- Poultry
- Horse Show

SEPT 11 DEADLINE FOR -

- Pet Parade
- All Other Sections

See you at the Fair Sept. 18 & 19!

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

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

READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
Balancing social activities with a steadily stronger orientation towards practical interests continues. Meanwhile, bringing your truth down to earth to be heard and shared also remains strong. Your sense of individuality has and will grow stronger. Your sights are set on a brighter future and you will fight for it as necessary.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)
The emphasis on creative projects continues. Making improvements, refinements, repairs, and any other adjustments required to increase the beauty and efficacy of your focus is featured. Taking new leads and strides professionally is part of the plot and although the going may be tough, you are determined to push through any opposition.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)
Cleaning and clearing the clutter was phase one and may continue. Phase two included a creative focus to increase and expand. This may include the lure of adventure. A philosophical mood also lingers but requires you to take pioneering leads into uncharted territory of knowledge. You are aware of the social revolution yet you may also feel confused about it.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)
Healthy is beautiful and you are focused to prove this true. Cleaning and clearing is a feature of healthy and you may feel inspired to dig into the corners. Changes continue to rumble on relationship fronts, meanwhile. You would also like to make changes and improvements in this arena, as well. Yet, you may not feel sure of your position or what to do.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)
Focusing to increase your income stream includes a process of critical analysis. Adjustments are probably required and you may feel the need to strengthen your overall foundation. Increasing the scope and quality of your outreach and communications is featured. You yearn for harmony in this regard and are committed to expand, on your terms.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)
Taking new leads and strides continues. This may include new employment opportunities. These may come to you and you may also reach for them. A learning curve is implied and you may feel a little nervous about that. Yet, your confidence levels combined with your ambitions will push you to persevere and to break free of internal resistance.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
A time of retreat, reflection and contemplation continues. Yet, you are also putting the feelers out there. This may include diplomatic measures as you aspire to win the recognition, favour and patronage of potential clients and business partners. Although you recognize the need to be patient, this is perhaps your greatest area of challenge.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
Your sense of individuality is continues. It is pushing you to take a stand. This may also be stirring fears. Yet, these are countered by a powerful impulse to assert yourself as an individual, emphasizing your rights and freedoms. How you interpret these is another matter and you may be confronted with opposition. While sympathetic, you will not be easily swayed.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
New developments on public and professional fronts continue. This process includes social and intellectual exchanges. You may find yourself aligned with new groups, clubs and networks. You may even feel called to start new ones. Although you have many demands on your focus, you are determined to emphasize your democratic rights and freedoms.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
Understanding the bigger picture and feeling the impulse to make a difference continues as a central theme. Getting clear on what you deem important, factual, true and integral is all part of the plot. You could even undergo a complete reversal of prior held notions. You feel determined to build for the future but you need to have faith in it.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
Society is undergoing tremendous changes and so too are you more personally. Your changes may be understood as directly related to the outer state of affairs, yet they are destined to occur now just the same. The good news is that this mini-metamorphic process, which will continue for another few weeks, could lead to a new sense of freedom.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
Shifts and changes on relationship fronts continue. These include subtle but sure and very real inner changes in your perceptions and interpretations, as well. This process will continue well into October so focus to cooperate as consciously and patiently as you can. Many of these changes are happening subconsciously as well and will be destiny, so surrender faithfully.

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club resumes in-person outings

Reunion event runs
Sept. 14 at Ruckle Park

Tuesday, Sept. 14: The 2021-2022 season will begin with the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club Reunion at Ruckle Park, Group Camping Site #2. Ice cream and blueberries provided!

Club members will meet at 10 a.m. (Ramblers at 10:30 a.m.) and hike, walk or ramble to whet your appetite. Lunch at 12 noon. Bring your own lunch. Don't forget your bowl and spoon!

Precautions: Servers will wear masks and gloves. Wearing your mask when approaching the table is encouraged. You may also want to bring a camp chair for physical distancing.

Following ongoing COVID precautions, participation in club activities is restricted to members only. Membership fees: \$25 until Sept. 30. You may bring your completed form and fee to the reunion. (E-transfer is also available.)

Pick up a form at the Gangs Visitor Centre or print one from the club website <https://saltspringtnc.ca>.

For the remainder of September, activities are as follows. Please note that it is strongly recommended for all club activities, and for carpooling, that members are double vaccinated.

HIKERS

Sept. 21: Bob Keates will lead a hike on the Maxwell side of Burgoyne Bay. Starting on the Girlfriend Trail, we will branch left above the pool to link up to an old logging road leading to open grassy terraces on the Burgoyne flank of Maxwell. Then back down via the big arbutus and giant boulders. Some rough and rocky sections. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at ArtSpring to carpool or at 10 a.m. at the Burgoyne parking area.

Sept. 28: Ashley Hilliard will lead a hike on Mount Maxwell from the Seymour Heights side. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at ArtSpring to carpool or at 10 a.m. at the junction of Seymour Heights and Armand Way.

WALKERS

Sept. 21: Kathleen Maser will lead a nature walk beginning at 10 a.m. For details, check the club's website.

Sept. 28: Deborah Miller will lead a walk from ArtSpring parking lot, beginning at 10 a.m., through Moutat Park, to Baker Beach for lunch. Return by way of Gangs trails.

RAMBLERS

Sept. 21: Marjie will lead today through Blackburn meadow. Meet at the Salt Spring Conservancy parking lot at 10:15 a.m.

Sept. 28: Ann will take us to Burgoyne Bay. Meet at the triangle at the bottom of Lee's Hill at 10:15 a.m.

CYCLING

Ruckle Park gets new outlets

Salt Spring's e-bike infrastructure grows through collaboration

E-biker users now have access to four charging outlets and two bike racks in the upper parking lot of Ruckle Park.

The project was initiated by Brenda Guiled of the Friends of Ruckle Park Heritage group, Jean Gelwicks from Island Pathways and Ron Watts from Salt Spring Community Energy, with help from a Salt Spring Island Foundation Neighbourhood Small Grant.

Other support was provided by Salt Spring's EV Group, K2 Services, HillEater E-Bikes, Bear-foot Renewables, Motherwell Accents electrical contractors, Capital Regional District, Salt Spring Community Energy, Salt Spring Historical Society and Archives and with collaboration from BC Parks.

An accompanying sign is in the works, telling some of Salt Spring's cycling history back to 1887.

The list of local e-bike charging stations now includes the Harbour House Hotel, Salt Spring Golf and Country Club, Salt Spring Public Library, Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre, Portlock Park, Country Grocer and El Loco Taco.



PHOTO BY RON WATTS

Taking a break from work on Ruckle Park's new e-bike charging station are, from left, Peter Lamb, Jean Gelwicks, Ron Watts, Brenda Guiled, Don Gillespie and Gary Lehman.

LadyMintoHospitalFoundation
NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



ELIZABETH OUGHTRED
CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBER


The new Emergency Department will be for everyone on the island. It will provide space for improved patient privacy and staff accessibility. I am enthusiastic about working with this dedicated team to make it happen.

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what's on this week



<p>Wed. Sept. 1</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Nicky Mackenzie. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House. At the Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.</p> 	<p>Thur. Sept. 2</p> <p>VIA ZOOM Poetry Open Mic. With featured poet Moe Clark. Join at 6:45 p.m. to sign up to read a poem and at 7 p.m. to listen. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com to get the link.</p> <p>Fri. Sept. 3</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT The County Line. Under the big top outside at the Legion. 7:30 p.m. Everyday People. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. Self-guided family activity from SS Public Library through Moutat 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 MLA Adam Olsen. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. United Church Meadow. Friday Games Night. Board games gathering at the Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 10 p.m. Limited numbers. Sign-in required.</p>	<p>Fri. Sept. 3</p> <p>ACTIVITIES 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.</p> <p>Sat. Sept. 4</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Duck Creak. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. Storytime With the Dino Wranglers of Enchanted Fables. All-ages fun from Victoria group. At the Saturday market. 2:30 p.m. A Salt Spring Public Library event. The Regulars. Live music at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES Saturday Market in the Park. Saturday market runs in Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p>	<p>Sat. Sept. 4</p> <p>ACTIVITIES SS United Church Car Boot Sale. Multi-family garage sale fundraiser, plus entertainment by Swing Shift Big Band, hot dogs, baking and refreshments. United Church Meadow. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.</p> <p>StoryWalk. See Friday listing.</p> <p>Movie Matinee. Family-friendly movie at the Salt Spring Public Library. 1 p.m.</p> <p>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House. See Wednesday listing.</p> 	<p>Sun. Sept. 5</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Tom Hooper. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.</p>	<p>Mon. Sept. 6</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Music Under the Big Top. At the Legion. 12 noon. Terry Warbey and Craig McKerron. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.</p>  <p>Tue. Sept. 7</p> <p>ACTIVITIES Tuesday Farmers' Market. Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.</p> <p>VIA ZOOM Federal Election All-candidates Debate. Salt Spring Forum sponsors a Zoom event with four of six candidates in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding. 7 p.m. See www.saltspringforum.com for the link. It will also be available for viewing on the forum website later.</p>	<p>Wed. Sept. 8</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Aaron Trory. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House. See last Wednesday listing.</p> 
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THE FRITZ CINEMA

The Fritz shows **Jungle Cruise** on Wed.-Thurs., Sept. 1-2 at 7 p.m. Then from Fri., Sept. 3 to Tues., Sept. 7 the movie is **Roadrunner: A Film About Anthony Bourdain** at 7 p.m. nightly plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. COVID-19 protocols, including mask requirements and limited seating, in place. **More info: thefritz.ca**



EXHIBITIONS

- **Material Considerations** is a Showcase gallery exhibit of sculptural artwork by **Diana Sanderson** and **Melanie Thompson** on the stage at **Artcraft at Mahon Hall** from Sept. 2 to 19, with an opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. on Sept. 2 and an artists talk set for Sunday, Sept. 5 from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

EXHIBITIONS


- Today, Sept. 1, is the last day to see **Tree Stories - Oil Paintings** by **Cheryl Long** in the exhibition space at **Salt Spring Gallery**.
- **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. until Sept. 19.

Poetry Open Mic

With featured poet Moe Clark
Thurs., Sept. 2 at 7 p.m.
via Zoom
Email: programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.

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COMMUNITY

Fall fair set to mark 125th milestone



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Ready with chickens and zucchinis for the Salt Spring Fall Fair on Sept. 18-19 are, clockwise from top left, junior horticulture co-coordinator Gail Neumann, Bryn Pyper (holding Esmerelda), Buddy Pyper and Jasper Egan (holding Buffy). Both Buffy and Esmerelda have won prizes in past sanctioned poultry competitions.

Islanders urged to participate with homegrown and creative exhibits

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring Islanders and visitors can look forward to the return of the fall fair this year as it marks the 125th year since the first fair was held in 1896.

The event will proceed at the Farmers' Institute grounds under COVID-19 regulations in effect for the Sept. 18-19 weekend.

In order to ensure the halls are filled with exhibits, people are encouraged to get a copy of the 2021 fall fair catalogue to determine if they have anything to enter. Flowers, produce, preserves and hobby arts are just a few of the items included.

Farmers' Institute president Marguerite Lee said it's hard to know what the indoor exhibits will look like because of the drought's impact on island gardens this year.

"We are encouraging people to exhibit no matter what their entry looks like," she said.

The fall fair catalogue contains descriptions of all the categories, entry forms (with submission deadline dates)

and regulations. It is available on the Driftwood website at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com under the Publications tab.

The catalogue also contains the preliminary event schedule. It usually doesn't change much from the final version, which will be published in the Sept. 15 issue of the Driftwood.

At this point it is not known if the province's "vaccine passport" will be required for fair entry, said Lee, as no details are yet available from the provincial government.

"I have spoken to other fairs and they don't have any more information, so it is a wait-and-see game," she said on Sunday.

Masks will definitely be required to enter buildings on the grounds, she said.

How many people will attend the fair is obviously still a question mark.

"We don't know whether people are going to be reluctant to come or whether they are just ready to break out of Dodge, or if everybody wants to attend and visit and catch up with people. WorkSafeBC has given us a go-ahead and we are very fortunate because our buildings are so open air."

Some changes have also been made to the layout of the fair to reduce the possibility of crowding, said Lee.

BC livestock producers who sell any meat directly to consumers, are invited to complete an anonymous survey, closing **September 10th**

SSMPA

Complete online: smallscalemeat.ca/survey
Or call: 250-999-0296

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250-538-5568

Program for Children and Youth Experiencing Violence
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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

SEPTEMBER 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
1	0622	1.0	3.3	5	0155	2.9	9.5
	1531	3.0	9.8		0929	0.7	2.3
WE				SU	1721	3.1	10.2
	ME				DI	2225	2.5
2		0715	0.9	3.0	6	0254	2.9
	1605	3.1	10.2	1007		0.7	2.3
TH	2134	2.8	9.2	MO	1741	3.1	10.2
	JE	2338	2.8		9.2	LU	2252
3	0803	0.8	2.6	7	0353	2.9	9.5
	1634	3.1	10.2		1044	0.8	2.6
FR	2150	2.7	8.9	TU	1759	3.1	10.2
	VE				MA	2326	2.0
4	0052	2.8	9.2	8	0454	2.9	9.5
	0848	0.7	2.3		1121	1.0	3.3
SA	1659	3.1	10.2	WE	1819	3.2	10.5
	SA	2206	2.6		8.5	ME	

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