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Wednesday, Sept. 8, 2021

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Issue 36
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JAZZIN' UP THE TOWN: From left, trumpet players Brad Dunstan, Derrick Milton, Michelle Footz and Sarah Currie play as part of Swing Shift big band at the United Church's Boot Sale fundraiser in the meadow on Saturday afternoon. A big crowd enjoyed both the music and the sale.

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Residents push for tower reversal

Islands Trust staff to report on options

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Residents of Canvasback Place have vowed to do everything necessary to stop a new telecommunications tower from being installed virtually in their backyards, and are hoping to convince the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee to reverse its position on the tower as a starting point.

The LTC voted in July to submit a statement of concurrence to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) on the joint application by Rogers Communications and CREST Emergency Communications to construct a new 40-metre (130-foot) tower on Channel Ridge. While that letter has already gone out, the LTC has now directed staff to investigate whether any other action should be taken in light of ongoing neighbourhood pressure.

"There's a small group of us that are looking at what next steps may be," resident Elaine Senkpiel told the Driftwood. "I think [group member] Julian Clark has put it very well when he said we'll take any and all actions: political, media, potentially legal. We hope we don't

have to go that route, but we're not going away."

Residents including Senkpiel implored the LTC to reverse their decision at their Aug. 31 business meeting. Clark observed that under ISED regulations, Rogers could expand the tower height by up to 25 per cent without any further approval once it has been in existence for one year.

"A 40-metre tower exceeds (and 50 meters will vastly exceed) the surrounding tree height and will most likely require an aviation warning system, including a flashing red light that is active 24 hours a day," Clark stated in a written submission. "Rogers simply stated they will comply with Transport Canada safety requirements, but they did not clearly state what those requirements will be."

Clark additionally outlined potential harms to local residents' health, property values and community aesthetics as reasons for a reversal.

Connie Nichols-Ledger's Canvasback home lies directly downhill from an existing Telus tower close to where the new tower is pro-

posed. The tower is buffeted by a large North Salt Spring Waterworks holding tank and some surrounding forest, although that was considerably thinned after the disastrous December 2018 windstorm. The neighbours estimate the new tower will be just 43 metres (145 feet) from Nichols-Ledger's back property line and 55 metres (180 feet) from her back door.

Local governments are directed not to comment on the contentious issue of the potential health impacts of electro-magnetic radiation during the ISED referral process, as long as the proposal complies with Health Canada's "Safety Code 6" parameters. However, Nichols-Ledger relies on a pacemaker to regulate electrical activity in her heart and to keep it pumping every day. Electromagnetic interference is a known risk for people like herself; people with pacemakers must stay two feet away from induction ovens, for example. Nichols-Ledger said the manufacturer will not guarantee her pacemaker's functioning will not be impacted by the new tower.

TOWER continued on 3

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ISLANDS TRUST

ALC change could boost housing

FireSmart plan for forests also envisioned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

More flexible housing regulations in British Columbia's Agricultural Land Reserve that come into effect Dec. 31 could create positive results for large island farms not located in the ALR boundaries.

The B.C. Agricultural Land Commission made changes earlier this year that will allow secondary dwellings on ALR land without requiring the dwellings to be mobile homes or restricting them to family members, as was the case in the past. While moving business ahead at their Aug. 31 meeting to ensure local bylaws comply with the provincial policy, the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee agreed staff should also investigate extending more density to other large-scale farming concerns.

Staff have suggested the LTC could amend Salt Spring's land-use bylaw to increase density of farms that are greater than 20 hectares (50 acres) in size. Currently, these are allowed to have three dwelling units provided two of them are used by people working on the property. An amendment could increase the

ability to use the properties' subdivision potential to create more homes for farm-workers or other long-term housing. The measure could benefit approximately 55 island farms, staff reported.

The LTC voted to send the staff report and a draft bylaw reflecting the changes to ALR properties to the Agricultural Advisory Planning Committee and Housing Action Program Task Force for consideration.

In other business last Tuesday, the LTC gave initial support to a proposal to protect Coastal Douglas-fir ecosystems by managing fire risk. Transition Salt Spring member Ruth Waldick gave a presentation asking the LTC to contract a fire ecologist to prepare a risk assessment, and to identify "ecosystem appropriate techniques" specific to Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands at an expert workshop. The combined cost for the two initiatives is estimated to be \$17,000.

A second phase would involve developing fire risk strategies for key island watersheds. Salt Spring Fire Rescue and the Capital Regional District were consulted in developing the idea. Transition Salt Spring applied for a federal grant to advance both phases of the project with their support, but Waldick said the federal election has interrupted the process

and the proponents don't feel the application will be successful.

Salt Spring Fire Rescue has already created fire hazard maps of the island, revealing much of the most extreme risk is located in Crown land areas administered by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development. Waldick said existing FireSmart guidelines are a good resource for private property owners who wish to protect their homes from wildfire, but similar resources are also needed with guidelines on how to protect forest lands where there is no infrastructure and there are different models of ownership and management.

Salt Spring trustees Laura Patrick and Peter Grove both endorsed the initiative with enthusiasm.

"This summer has awoken us. If we weren't awake before, we are now. The fire risk is greater than ever before," Patrick stated.

Patrick suggested the assessment could be helpful for current landowners and those planning future development, and could eventually inform a new development permit area.

The LTC voted to direct staff to include the program in the business case for the Coastal Douglas-fir protection project's 2022-23 budget.

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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
8	0454	2.9	9.5	12	0235	0.9	3.0
	1121	1.0	3.3		1010	2.8	9.2
	1819	3.2	10.5		SU 1417	2.5	8.2
WE				DI	1951	3.2	10.5
9	0007	1.7	5.6	13	0331	0.7	2.3
	0600	2.9	9.5		1153	3.0	9.8
	1158	1.3	4.3		MO 1534	2.7	8.9
TH				LU	2022	3.1	10.2
10	0053	1.4	4.6	14	0431	0.7	2.3
	0713	2.8	9.2		1320	3.1	10.2
	1238	1.7	5.6		TU 1736	2.9	9.5
FR				MA	2104	3.0	9.8
11	0143	1.1	3.6	15	0536	0.7	2.3
	0835	2.8	9.2		1423	3.2	10.5
	1322	2.1	6.9		WE 1944	2.8	9.2
SA				ME	2214	2.9	9.5

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FUNDRAISER

'Memorial Harbourwalk' fund launched

Late project champions Arvid Chalmers, Matt Steffich honoured

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A community fundraising campaign has been launched in hopes of completing a long-stalled project with a timeline that has outlasted two of its biggest champions to date.

The Memorial Harbourwalk Fund, now open on the GoFundMe platform, has a \$100,000 target and the goal of finishing the "Matt Steffich & Arvid Chalmers Harbourwalk" at last. The fundraiser was created by islanders Wayne Tepper and Bruce Cameron.

"It's time to make this project happen. Bruce and myself have taken it upon ourselves to really light a fire under it again," Tepper told the Driftwood.

Most of the existing boardwalk was built in the late 1980s. The campaign to finish the project by bridging gaps and extending the structure around more of the harbour has been gaining steam over the past six or seven years and is now on the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation project list.

Tepper said he was close to both Chalmers and Steffich, who died in 2016 and 2020, respectively. Chalmers had built part of the original infrastructure in front of property he co-owned on the waterfront, and made several creative proposals over the years for completing the missing gaps. Steffich championed the completion project as an executive member of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and as chair of the Harbourwalk Steering Committee, which reports to the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission.

The fundraiser campaign was announced during a memorial

event for Steffich held on Aug. 22.

"Matt's celebration of life was a wonderful experience, just amazing," Tepper said. "He was well-loved by this community. This project was so important to him. So it's really time for this project to be built – in both of their memories."

Salt Spring's previous Capital Regional District electoral area director Wayne McIntyre awarded \$150,000 in Community Works Funds to initiate planning work on the project. Part of the funding was used to assess the existing boardwalk structure and the feasibility of rehabilitating or replacing sections of the boardwalk that have been closed. Archeological, environmental, geotechnical and structural studies have also been completed.

Speaking during the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting last Tuesday, current CRD director Gary Holman reported that next steps will be to commission the detailed design drawings, along with consultation with First Nations, Ganges Marina and the public in general. A request for proposals to undertake this work is being drafted, he said.

Holman said the harbourwalk is a PARC priority, but it has been delayed because of some other opportunities that arose, such as the possibility of acquiring new parkland on Mount Maxwell and leasing the vacant Salt Spring Middle School for use by community groups. The need to act quickly on those opportunities has taken up crucial staff time, but Holman said there is funding set aside for the detailed designs and he hopes work will get underway this fall. Those drawings will also aid future grant applications, he noted, although the project is still far from the funding and building phases.

Steffich's widow Christine is listed as the GoFundMe campaign beneficiary. Tepper said she will be the keeper of the funds until there is more known on how the community can get involved.

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Alternate ridge area suggested

TOWER
continued from 1

"Maybe I'm naive, but I always thought the Trust was elected in order to look after our interests and the interests of the island. And it doesn't just mean watersheds and ecology, etc., etc. It also means the average human being," Nichols-Ledger said. "I've thought about this so much, and it just seems to me to be so inhumane not to do all of the work."

Since talking to residents, Salt Spring trustee Peter Grove has expressed concern that the Rogers and CREST application may have been misleading and that due process on consultation was not followed. His fellow trustee Laura Patrick, who opposed the original statement of concurrence, has the opposite view.

"I did vote against it because I did visit the site and I did read the package," Patrick said, noting she had voiced concerns about lack of direct consultation with area residents before the July 27 vote.

The Canvasback group has suggested the tower would be more appropriately sited on other undeveloped acreage nearby owned by the Onni Group, where roads and utilities were put in for an as-yet unconstructed Channel Ridge village site. The residents would also like to see the Salt Spring LTC follow telecommunications policy like the one the Galiano Local Trust Committee adopted in 2018, with its more cautious 500-metre siting setback and early consultation guidelines.

Rogers and CREST could have been required to provide a list of possible siting options under the Islands Trust's model antenna strategy, which the Trust's local planning committee developed in 2018 for local Trust committees to potentially adopt. Salt Spring does not currently have an approved policy of its own. Since the federal government revoked a letter of understanding with the Islands Trust some years back, ISED's default consultation procedure applies.

LTC chair Peter Luckham suggested last week that community concerns about health and property values are not things the LTC can consider in its referral, so reviewing the decision again may not produce any new results. But he encouraged the LTC to work on how it addresses such applications in the future.

"Let's get the model antenna strategy project on our work program and let's get that work done. Even as is, it doesn't require a lot of work. It's better than nothing," Luckham said.



PHOTO BY COLLEEN SHANTZ

90 CLUB: Kingfisher Cove strata's 90-plus residents join Michael Wheaton (second from left) for his 93rd birthday on Thursday, Sept. 2. The rest of the venerable group, from left, are Hu King, 91, Lyndsay Mundy, 98 and Ron Wood, 96. (Missing from the photo is Betty Rothwell, 90.) Strata residents celebrate at the homes of the residents aged 90 and older for every birthday.

SAFETY

Fire risk still extreme

No change in Gulf Islands

Despite the first substantial rain in more than two months falling on Salt Spring on Saturday, the fire risk level remains at "extreme."

As well, while campfires were allowed on some parts of the B.C. coast as of Sept. 3, Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands were not one of the areas.

"It does not apply to us," said Salt Spring Fire Rescue Capt. Mitchell Sherrin in referring to the lifting of the campfire ban.

Contact the fire department at 250-537-2531 for direction about any safety issues, such as whether chainsaws can be used.

An official notice from the B.C. Wildfire Service stated that the campfire prohibition was lifted in all regions of the Coastal Fire Centre jurisdiction except for the South Island Resource District area, which covers the southern third of Vancouver Island, the Southern Gulf Islands and other islands from Denman and Hornby south.

All other Category 2 and Category 3 open fires remain prohibited on the coast.

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



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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EDITORIAL

Civility counts

An intensely busy summer season has ended, as usual, with the Labour Day weekend that just passed.

Labour Day has more significance locally this year for two reasons. Firstly, people to provide the labour required for the services we demand have never been so scarce, and thus so valuable. Secondly, those working in the service industry have put their physical health at risk and unfairly bore the brunt of individuals' stress about the pandemic in the past 18 months.

We tip our hat to everyone — business owners, their employees, ferry workers, health-care workers and others — who survived the recent visitor season with their sanity more or less intact and is still willing to carry on working. Salt Spring Islanders can only enjoy the range of amenities we have because of the people we pay to provide them to us.

THE ISSUE: Public treatment of workers

WE SAY: Appreciation and civility are important

Why anyone would think it is OK to verbally abuse a person serving them a cup of coffee defies logic. The same can be said for the recent protests about government COVID-19 policies held outside of hospitals. There are no appropriate-for-publishing words to describe the type of person who would try to intimidate health-care workers and impede citizens' access to care at a hospital or cancer-treatment facility.

So when you're buying your groceries or a meal or coffee out this week, it would be a good time to give an extra thank-you or, if applicable, a larger tip to the staff people who are serving you. Appreciation could in fact be offered to anyone who has provided a service lately, including health-care workers, since times have been trying for everyone.

And if you are one of those people who has let your frustration get the better of you in the past while, an apology to those affected would go a long way towards lowering the stress levels of those who have been on the front lines of dealing with the public during this pandemic.

If we want to continue having the choice of businesses we currently have, island residents need to support the business owners and their employees not only with their dollars but with their compassion, patience and sense of civility.

BACK TO SCHOOL

CHECK....PENS, PENCILS, PAPER, BINDERS, LUNCHES ...VACCINATION PASSPORTS.



PARKER

Lobby for grant changes

BY TONY MAUDE

As a bit of a counter to CRD director Gary Holman's desire to see the North Salt Spring Waterworks District become a partner or subsidiary of the CRD, or amalgamate with them — or however you wish to coin it — I would like to offer my experience/history as a member of a third-generation presence in Fulford and current resident.

As a career member of a crown corporation and rising through the ranks throughout B.C., I got to be part of and see how organizations delivered services inside and out of government. We considered ourselves separate from government in the same way BC Ferries is considered separate, and many other service deliverers. The problem occurs when in growing in scale, the required custom approach and sensitivity for difference isn't part of the culture.

So the concern for me is that while I think the CRD staff on the island are generally good people trying to do a tough job, they work for an organization that mandates that a majority of what they do fits into a pre-approved framework. Unfortunately that framework isn't Salt Spring unique. Therefore there's

VIEWPOINT

friction and expense that doesn't benefit us on the island.

I also can tell you that when "economies of scale," hence less costs, are quoted, that's related to a very specific set of circumstances. The norm will turn out that operational savings will be minimal, if any, and more costly over time.

I see that model saving money, and bringing control back to the islanders and the services that serve them.

You also have to recognize there will be a number of general directives that have nothing to do with Salt Spring, and after awhile there will be an understanding that if there is a directive from off island then saying "no" is not an option.

I would be interested in seeing the water commissions look at some kind of municipal or association format that brought ownership and control back to the island of the water areas, and then an alliance or contract management role with NSSWD that allowed them a stable future — independent or not. Then they could have Salt Spring-centric staff, equipment and contracts and maybe then we would see simple solutions to simple problems and move on to the real issues.

I see that model saving money, bringing control back to the islanders and the services that serve them.

I understand the funding issues regarding how for some reason provincial and federal governments won't qualify us for grants. That's a today fact. With enough success and some noise, things could change. We should all know "never" is a one-term promise and I like to believe that reason prevails, especially if it's following success.

The writer is a volunteer member of the Fulford Water Service Commission of the CRD.

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Funded by the
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Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782

Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council

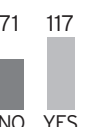
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you be getting a vaccine passport?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does Salt Spring need more traffic-calming measures?



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OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

“Maybe I’m naive, but I always thought the Trust was elected in order to look after our interests and the interests of the island.”

CONNIE NICHOLS-LEDGER, CANVASBACK RESIDENT

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

How are you feeling about back-to-school?

DANI MARSHALL



I’m excited to see my friends again.

MARIN FITZZALAND



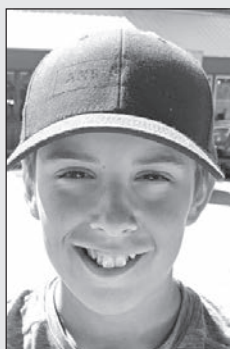
I’m excited to see my friends.

SIDNEY WAHL



We’re excited to get our daughter into the nature program at Fernwood. Where we moved from, they don’t have that.

RIVER FERGUSON



I’m getting a new teacher and I’m looking forward to meeting her.

SOYA OH



I’m glad to get the kids back into routine. There’s been too much video games.

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

Real security threats

It’s obvious the Earth’s climate is changing; whether or not those changes happen so fast that most life forms can adapt is largely up to us.

Faced with the prospect of over 1,000 trees being cut in Burnaby to make way for the Trans Mountain pipeline, activists wrote and delivered copies of an open letter: “Stop enforcing unjust injunctions: an open letter to RCMP on TMX,” which is now hosted on the RAVEN website.

We didn’t really expect that police officers would refuse to enforce these injunctions, but we invite them, and all of us, to work to bring our paid work into alignment with what we know is needed to help protect life from the worst effects of climate disruption. We hoped some might at least share our letter and speak out about their misgivings about enforcing injunctions granting companies legal rights to kill trees, divert creeks, build man camps and so on.

I’m happy to report that the detachment commander of Salt Spring’s RCMP did agree to meet with me to discuss my concerns. But as far as I know, others who requested replies or meetings have had no response.

Meanwhile, I learned that some retired and active duty police and members of the military are speaking out, but their concern is with the obligation to enforce COVID health orders. The policeon-guard.ca site even has a

“shop” page for those wishing to support the cause.

I write this letter mainly as an invitation: please reflect on the real security threats we face and ask ourselves how we can best mitigate disaster. Most forms of climate action improve quality of life in general. Let’s work to make those actions happen now.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

Vote on policy, not personality

Considering Salt Spring was once described as “a difference of opinion surrounded by water,” the silence regarding the collapse of the Greens into what appears to be a lawyered-up hissy fit of wounded egos amid accusations of racism, trans-phobia and anti-Semitism is notably remarkable. It’s as if Mom were to be discovered popping pills and boosting handbags from the Bay — too embarrassing to speak of in public.

Hindsight being 20/20, the expulsion of Andrew Weaver, the only Green with truly substantial credentials regarding climate change, would seem to indicate foundational rot. After a decade of “doing politics differently” the party has only demonstrated the road to heck is paved with happy talk about the need for “conversation” and “reaching out across party lines.”

Voting begins in a few days. For those truly concerned

about climate disruption — is that even a majority? — there are only two choices: the Liberals, whose climate plan has been endorsed by Mr. Weaver, or the NDP. If there were ever an election that needs to be decided on the basis of policy and not sentiment about personalities, this is it.

CHARLES BRETH,
SALT SPRING

Four years later

Four years ago, on Sept. 9, 2017, Salt Spring islanders voted “no” to incorporation by a resounding 3,930 to 2,419 vote margin or 61.9 per cent.

During the lively public debate preceding election day, it was generally agreed that Salt Spring’s system of governance was dysfunctional and needed major surgery.

The well-organized “no” campaign faced a dilemma. How to market the continuance of the existing CRD/Trust model. The dilemma was resolved by a promise that a lobby group called Positively No would come after the referendum. This lobby would pursue alternative government options such as coordinating services through a Local Community Commission, or a non-profit society to deliver services as has been done on Hornby Island.

Islanders voting no were assured that in the years following the referendum, a Positively No lobby would forcefully seek solutions to better governance on Salt

Spring. Nothing has happened yet. It is unlikely that another governance referendum will ever be held in my lifetime.

Could our Positively No warriors have “positively disappeared?”

KEN LEE,
SALT SPRING

Health workers supported

With great sadness and frustration I have heard that health-care workers — doctors, nurses and ambulance paramedics — have been harassed at many hospitals in Vancouver and other cities across the country.

It is well known that people who are not vaccinated are most of the ones who are getting sick. As I have heard many times, this pandemic is of the unvaccinated. It’s appalling that they would harass health-care workers, considering if these people get the Delta variety of COVID-19, the health-care workers are the people that will be helping them.

I have had nothing but great service and kindness from all the paramedics, doctors and nurses at Lady Minto and Victoria General. I, for one, stand with the health workers. I so support you and want you to know that. Thank you for your service.

KISHORI HUTCHINGS,
MAIN STREET

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Safety challenges need more than painted lines

By **GAYLE BAKER**

In response to the good question about crosswalks posed by Larry Woods in his letter to the editor in last week’s Driftwood, the following is a glimpse into the limitations and progress of the CRD’s Salt Spring Transportation Commission.

While Salt Spring’s only body with some responsibility for our roads, please keep in mind that they are all owned by the province and managed by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

The transportation commission’s mandate is to work with MoTI to enhance pedestrian safety. Examples are the sidewalks and pathways that were recently constructed in Ganges and along Lower Ganges between Booth Canal and Central. Construction of additional pathways and sidewalks remain a top priority for commissioners, CRD staff, and our CRD director, Gary Holman.

While MoTI approved three new crosswalks as a part of these sidewalk/pathway projects, it has been difficult to get MoTI approval for new crosswalks. Why is it difficult to do something as

INRESPONSE

seemingly-simple as painting pedestrian crosswalks on our streets? Amazingly, every painted crosswalk has to be studied and approved by MoTI — and MoTI is not a big fan of crosswalks, relying upon the statistics that more pedestrian accidents occur in crosswalks. While one could argue that there are simply more pedestrians in crosswalks fuelling these statistics, MoTI’s response is generally that pedestrians are safer crossing mindfully at intersections than crossing on the painted lines with — possibly — a false sense of security. (A little-known fact is that all intersections are legal crosswalks even without the painted lines.)

Now, Larry. . . I can hear you scoffing at this. . . and you will get widespread support for questioning this logic.

In response, the transportation commission, working with Gary Holman, MLA Adam Olsen and MoTI, is advocating for

pedestrian safety by:

- Installing flags at many crosswalks (thanks Peter Meyer!). They can be placed at all crosswalks if utilized enough, so, grab one when you cross!

- Working with ICBC to conduct a road safety study to identify danger areas that need signage and safety markings.

- Supporting its Traffic Calming and Accessibility Working Groups to identify pedestrian safety and accessibility needs.

- Using their recommendations, initiating a Ganges Active Transportation Study to further analyze pedestrian safety needs, presumably including additional crosswalks.

- Developing a good working relationship with our MoTI area manager to enhance pedestrian safety.

Now, I know, it would be far easier to simply paint some lines on our streets, but please understand, we are aware of our many pedestrian safety challenges and are doing our very best to address them.

The writer chairs the CRD’s Salt Spring Transportation Commission.



The Safe Grad 2021 parents would like to thank the following people and business for their wonderful donations and support for our event at Stone Bridge Farm for the grads of 2021.

We could not have done this without the huge support from the community! Thank you!

- | | |
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| | Yes She Wood |

If any parents are interested in being involved with the 2022 Safe Grad please contact the office at GISS.



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

SELLING AND SINGING: At left, Salt Spring United Church member Helen Hincliff shifts merchandise for sale at one of the church's fundraising Boot Sale booths, while Swing Shift's John Moore sings a solo at the event held in the United Church Meadow on Saturday.

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

End the 'emergency'

"Emergencies have always been the pretext on which the safeguards of individual liberty have been eroded." (Friedrich August von Hayek)

Canadians are finally standing up for their freedoms. It is very heartening to see the protests against the planned vaccination passport and COVID-19 restrictions in B.C. We have been inundated with the COVID-19 fear religion, with no end in sight to the "emergency." It is time to take back our freedoms and end the COVID-19 emergency! We must take back our freedoms guaranteed in the Charter of Rights and Freedoms. How long must this COVID-19 "emergency" go on? We were told last year it would be until herd immunity was reached. Now it seems it will never end.

Canadians will be divided into two classes by the vaccine passport. We must fight for our rights. Say "no" to the COVID-19 passport.

WILLIAM STEINER,
SALT SPRING

Climbing wall facility to remain closed

Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) will be discontinuing the operation of The Wall indoor recreational climbing facility at 268 Fulford-Ganges Rd.

The Wall has been closed for over one year as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and will not be re-opening at its current

site. The decision to close The Wall was based on a combination of factors.

1) It has been increasingly more difficult and costlier to secure the proper insurance. It requires extra and specialized insurance that has not been available as part of standard liability coverage.

2) The location of The Wall has become increasingly less sensible as the main SSICS site has shifted to being a busy central point for adult services such as the Housing First program.

3) The operation of The Wall is not central to the mission of SSICS. With many other priorities facing SSICS daily, it is felt by SSICS management and Board that the operation of a recreational facility is best left to an organization with the right focus and expertise.

The closing of The Wall is in no way linked to the value of the program to the community. It is the opposite. Over the past 25 years we have seen the benefits of recreational climbing to many individuals and groups, ranging from dedicated sport climbers to groups and families using climbing as a stimulating social and recreational pursuit. We know there is great potential for the use of an indoor recreational climbing facility to increase. We encourage people in the climbing community, in recreation leadership, and other interested individuals and families to explore possibilities for continuing this activity on Salt Spring. We know there are locations and operational models that can build and improve on where we have been able to bring The Wall.

We would like to thank all of the people who kept The Wall going for all of these years, from Jack Rosen, who is responsible for its very existence beginning on May 20, 1995, to Chantelle Pohl, who has been the diligent volunteer coordinating The Wall activities until COVID hit last year

ROB GRANT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SSICS

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Real Estate

Buyers: How to compare prices and value?

Comparing homes with similar attributes can provide valuable insights. Consider the age of the: roof, decks, septic field, appliances and "deferred maintenance". How dated are the bathrooms and kitchen and flooring? Would you want to replace them? The cost of replacing each of these items could be considerable. Make up a comparison chart accounting for these differences.

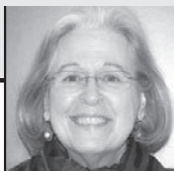
When planning a second viewing, ASK FOR AN INFO PACKAGE & PERMISSION TO TAKE PHOTOS. Take notes. Identify chattels that you may wish to have included such as: window coverings, appliances and their brand name, built in vacuum and/or hot tub accessories, shelving, firewood on hand, riding lawn mower, water filters, garden sheds, building plans, etc. Note what items are excluded on the feature sheet to assist you in making plans for replacing. Then you will likely conclude that...

The most affordable home is rarely the lowest priced home!

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(BC) - GOLD AWARD 2020 (VREB)

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JAN MACPHERSON

Marketing

What is Frequency?

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

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

Across all media, the first couple of exposures to an ad have more impact than later ads – although they do build.



NANCY JOHNSON
PUBLISHER



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ISLAND Connoisseur

Salt Spring is overflowing with fresh produce at this time of year, making it a perfect time to try new recipes. The following pages contain some recipes submitted to us by Driftwood readers this summer, as well as two of this section's advertisers. We hope you are inspired to try them, and to share some of your own next year!



Can you taste it?



Pam Wilson's Cucumber Pickles

Submitted by LINDA KOROSCIL of Love My Kitchen

PLACE IN BOWL:

- 4 c. thinly sliced cucumbers
- 1 red pepper, diced
- 2 large onions, sliced

Cover with water and 1/4 c. pickling salt. Stand for 3 hours. Drain.

ADD:

- 1 c. cider vinegar
- 2 c. brown sugar
- 1 Tbsp. mustard seed
- 1/2 tsp. turmeric

Bring to a rolling boil for 2 or 3 minutes. Pack into hot jars and seal with hot lids. Makes 4 pints.

My Mom's Dutch Apple Cake

Submitted by Linda Koroscil of Love My Kitchen

- 2 c. flour
- 2 tsp. baking powder
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 4 -6 apples, sliced
- 2 eggs, beaten
- 1/2 to 3/4 c. sugar
- 6 Tbsp. butter
- 1/2 c. milk
- Brown sugar and cinnamon to sprinkle over

Sift dry ingredients, cut in butter to pea size. Add sugar, egg and milk. Pour into greased nine-inch pan. Press apples into batter til they squish down, then cover generously with brown sugar and cinnamon.

Pour over about 1/2 c. melted butter.

Bake at 350° about 20 minutes or til cake comes out clean on a knife.

The best apples to use are sour!



LINDA

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Election candidates respond to questions

The Driftwood posed three questions to the six candidates running in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding in the Sept. 20 federal election. The following three candidates were the first to respond. These answers as well as the other candidates' responses will be posted on our website www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com with the other candidates' answers to also be printed in next week's issue of the paper.

As well, all candidates have responded to a request from Salt Spring Islander Brian Smallshaw to answer a question he posed in an Aug. 25 Driftwood Viewpoint piece regarding old-growth logging. Those answers are also viewable on our website.

SABINA SINGH New Democratic Party sabinasingh.ndp.ca/



SABINA SINGH

Q. What do you believe are the two most urgent issues requiring federal government attention at this time, and why?

A. Climate justice and social justice. I know there can't be one without the other. That's why I am standing for bold climate action that builds on the leadership of First Nations and creates good green jobs to support families and communities. Our plan is comprehensive and will address both the affordability issues that are holding us back and the climate emergency that threatens our children's future. Jack Layton presented the first Climate Change Accountability Act in 2006, and we have built on that work ever since. We will introduce an Environmental Bill of Rights and create and fund a Climate Accountability Office, to provide independent oversight of federal climate progress.

Q. Describe one of your party's platform policies that you are particularly happy to promote.

A. We will create a 10-year nature plan to reverse species loss and curb the trade of wild animals. We will protect our waters by reducing emissions, expanding marine protected areas, reducing key threats to ocean ecosystems, and implementing a national freshwater strategy. We will support Indigenous-led nature conservation, land-use and climate planning, including by growing the Indigenous Guardians Program and working together to advance the protection and restoration of wild Pacific salmon.

Q. How do you feel the Liberal government has handled the pandemic response? What would be the same and what would be different about your party's response?

A. Justin Trudeau promised to have a national vaccine passport by the end of October. Now he says it may not be in place for a full year. Like so much else it's taking too long. We will create a passport that allows Canadians to travel internationally, and mandate vaccination leave for federal workers.

We would make it a Criminal Code offence to harass or obstruct someone from accessing medical care and amend the Criminal Code to make it a more serious offence to assault a health-care worker.

We'd also create workplace vaccine clinics, so access is convenient, support school-based vaccination programs, restore the Canada Recovery Benefit to \$2,000 and extend pandemic support for workers and small businesses.

DAVID HILDERMAN People's Party of Canada peoplespartyofcanada.ca/david_hilderman



DAVID HILDERMAN

Q. What do you believe are the two most urgent issues requiring federal government attention at this time, and why?

A. The federal government should be upholding the constitution and be on the side of personal bodily sovereignty. Medical freedom is of the utmost importance and medical information should remain private. This election is quite literally the last chance for freedom in Canada.

Also, the federal government needs to stop out-of-control spending. During the pandemic, Canada borrowed the most as a percentage of GDP of any nation in the G7 and is still spending and borrowing like a drunken sailor. Income assistance being doled out by the federal government is creating a workforce shortage and needs to end along with all lockdown measures.

Q. Describe one of your party's platform policies that you are particularly happy to promote.

A. Freedom. A woman sent me an email who left Poland 35 years ago. She is terrified. What she sees happening in Canada with dividing us over vaccination status as eerily similar to Poland's history. It took 50

years to end the tyranny in Poland. We need to end the tyranny now.

Q. How do you feel the Liberal government has handled the pandemic response? What would be the same and what would be different about your party's response?

A. I think the Liberal response has been nothing short of disastrous. If we had followed the science from the Great Barrington Declaration, which thoroughly described best practices for pandemic response, that would have protected the vulnerable and caused minimal harm to the rest of the population. We would have promoted early disease treatments that have been effective in other countries to drastically reduce hospitalizations and death. We would not have allowed censorship of doctors and medical researchers. Mental, physical, and economic health outcomes would have been much better for Canadians.

DAVID BUSCH Conservative Party of Canada davidbusch.ca/



DAVID BUSCH

Q. What do you believe are the two most urgent issues requiring federal government attention at this time, and why?

A. The cost of living: The cost for food, transportation and housing are rapidly rising out of reach for many Canadians. The housing supply locally is insufficient to meet the demands of our growing population with the benchmark price for a single family home now exceeding \$1,000,000.

Health care: Far too many residents in the riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands do not have a family doctor. Wait times for medical testing, and procedures are unreasonably long. Recently the Saanich Peninsula hospital had to close its ER overnight to due a lack of staff. Meanwhile Salt Spring is unable to recruit and retain needed health-care professionals for Lady Minto Hospital.

Economic recovery after the pandemic: We, as a country, need to get back to work and be as productive and creative as possible both to support ourselves and our families and to help to pay back the debt individuals and the country have incurred during the pandemic.

Q. Describe one of your party's platform policies that you are particularly happy to promote.

A. I am proud of our whole plan, which

can be read at www.conservative.ca/plan/

Q. How do you feel the Liberal government has handled the pandemic response? What would be the same and what would be different about your party's response?

A. While the Liberal government obtained vaccines, they arrived well after other developed countries. Our current high vaccination rate is a tribute to our provincial health officers and the drive of Canadians.

The Trudeau Liberals failed to provide leadership on this issue. They refused to listen in January of 2020 when the Conservatives, NDP and the Bloc called for the borders to be closed. Likewise the Liberals saying in April of 2020 that masks were of no value did nothing to instill trust in the medical system.

A Conservative government would not have partnered with China for a vaccine. We would have negotiated with reputable pharmaceutical companies first to obtain vaccines in a timely manner. A Conservative government would have worked with the provinces to provide all available information and ensure it was public so as to minimize fear and address the concerns of those reluctant to be vaccinated.

Finally, a Conservative government would not have called an election when the health officers were warning of a fourth wave, needlessly risking Canadian lives.

All-candidates Meetings

The Salt Spring Forum hosted a Sept. 7 online all-candidates event with Sherri Moore-Arbour of the Liberals, the Green party's Elizabeth May, Conservative candidate David Busch and Sabina Singh of the NDP. See the www.saltspringforum.ca website for a video recording of that event, and the Driftwood's website (and next week's paper) for a report.

As well, a group called Democracy SaltSpring that supports People's Party of Canada candidate David Hilderman is hosting an in-person all-candidates debate at the Salt Spring Legion on Tuesday, Sept. 14 from 4 to 7 p.m. Committed to attending that event are Hilderman, May, Moore-Arbour and Communist Party of Canada candidate Dock Currie.

Election day is Monday, Sept. 20, with advance voting taking place from Sept. 10-13. Registered voters should have received their voting cards in the mail by now. See elections.ca for more details.

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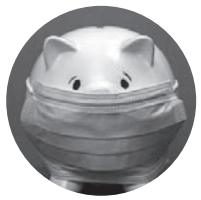
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ISLAND LIFE

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ENTERTAINMENT

Weirdwood game prototype gets local test

Islander Mike Cassie leads design and development for Wasabi Entertainment

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An award-winning children's app that spawned an entire fictional universe over multiple platforms is preparing to enter the board games domain thanks to a made-on-Salt Spring partnership — and play-through events taking place at Foxes at Play will give islanders the chance to influence the end product.

Salt Spring's Paul Pattison and Mike Cassie have teamed up to create *Weirdwood Manor: The Board Game*, which draws on the world Pattison helped invent for *The Incredible Tales of Weirdwood Manor* app. Fans of modern board games who are part of the 20 to 40 age bracket are being invited to play the prototype and provide input over three evenings from Sept. 19 to 21.

"We're positioning the game to appeal more to the adult player. It is a cooperative game, and because of that we think it will get played in some family settings ... but sort of the first focus is really the adult demographic," Cassie said.

"The real key thing here is the more we test this and get people's feedback, the more we make it better," Pattison added.

The app behind the board game is the brainchild of Pattison and Sacha Raposo, who founded Relish Interactive studio together in Toronto in 2007. Their main work at first was creating games and



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Wasabi Entertainment co-founder Paul Pattison, left, and board game designer Mike Cassie display the prototype of a new game they are developing based on Wasabi's award-winning app *The Incredible Tales of Weirdwood Manor*.

digital products on contract to other entertainment firms. They started Wasabi Entertainment later on as the branch to develop their own original projects and produced *Weirdwood* after working on the side over four years.

The interactive storytelling app for kids aged six to 12 was an instant hit with families and won numerous awards after launching in 2016, inspiring the creators to

expand the world of *Weirdwood* through a book series and an animated TV series, to start. The board game will steer the concept firmly into the adult world for the first time.

Cassie (a digital product designer, artist and former architect) and his wife Aidan (herself an award-winning children's author and illustrator) bought the *Weirdwood* app for their daughter when it first

came out. So he was quite familiar with the content when he first met Pattison at a Salt Spring Digital event in November 2019.

Wasabi had recently launched a branch studio on Vancouver Island and Pattison moved to Salt Spring. During introductions, Cassie told Pattison he was strongly considering giving up his digital design career for full-time devotion to board games.

"You want a good game but you also want something that stands out from the crowd."

MIKE CASSIE
Designer, Weirdwood Manor: The Board Game

"I said 'I've been designing games as a hobby, I play them, I love them.' And Paul said, 'We've been thinking about designing a game based on this world, *Weirdwood*,'" Cassie recalled. "And I was like: 'I know that world!' So that got us talking about the idea."

Cassie thought *Weirdwood* provided a rich world full of great characters, locations and stories that would work well for a board game. After some back and forth, Wasabi decided to go ahead with the project, and Cassie wrapped up his existing business. He started designing the game in August 2020 and doing the first tests last Christmas.

The premise of the game revolves around an evil monster threatening the manor. Different rooms can open up depending on how the game's concentric rings shift, and each room provides the players with

different resources and abilities.

Cassie said game stores and cafes have proliferated over the past decade and the board game industry is now worth billions. Kickstarter, where many new games are now launched, had 29,750 unique projects listed as of Sept. 1. That's one reason why he designed the *Weirdwood* game with a round playing board.

"Being round is a little unusual, and the way the components move and shift is also a little unusual," he said. "You want a good game but you also want something that stands out from the crowd, whether there's some physical components like this or how the game's played."

The game can change depending on how the room tiles are laid down, which characters players decide to be and which monster is on the attack. Players join forces, figure out how to tackle the threat, and then may part ways as they travel through the manor. The monster is also moving around, and players are trying to predict where it is and what it's going to do.

"The state of the game changes from play-through to play-through, so it always feels a little fresh in some way," Cassie said.

Most games will take two hours, so play-throughs at the Foxes at Play shop will take around three hours, including 20 minutes time to learn the game and another 30 afterwards to discuss the experience and give feedback. One play tester will receive a gift certificate to the store as a reward. Those interested in participating should contact the store for details.

More information on the game development process can be found in the YouTube vlog. Search for *We're making a board game?! // Weirdwood* to find episodes.

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

PET PICTURE PERFECT: Young artists in a Me and My Pet workshop led by Tracy Harrison (seated, centre, with Diego) show pictures they drew of their own pets as part of the free multi-media session held Saturday. Participants also did collages, talked about their pets and pet care, and went for a nature walk, where an owl flew in front of the group and landed in a tree above them. It was the first workshop held in Harrison's new outdoor patio space, which was made possible through a B.C. government recovery grant. The workshop itself was one of 32 small projects funded by a Neighbourhood Small Grant from the Salt Spring Island Foundation for the summer cycle.

SOCIAL EVENTS

Pride hike hits Channel Ridge

Outing planning for next Saturday

Pride All Year events continue next Saturday, Sept. 18 with a Channel Ridge hike for queers and allies.

The by-registration-only event sees participants meet at the end of Epron Road at 10 a.m. for a moderate six- to eight-kilometre hike. The hike goes through cool forests, open meadows and lovely arbutus groves, with some

more difficult steep sections included. People should bring snacks for the viewpoint stops. Dogs are also welcome.

People should RSVP to save their spot at www.prideallyear.ca. The event organizer will provide further information and confirm the booking once registration is complete.

The event is organized by the social committee of Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island. See www.prideallyear.ca for more information.

what's on this week



<p>Wed. Sept. 8</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Aaron Trory. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House. At the Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.</p>	<p>Fri. Sept. 10</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Summer Outdoor Concert Series. Nashville-style writers' round with Safiya, Valdy, Suzanne Gay, Peter Prince and Julia Beattie. Centennial Park. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>David Carl Band. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p>Phoenix Lazare and Hownd. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>StoryWalk. Self-guided family activity from SS Public Library through Mouat Park toward the Rainbow Road Pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> <p>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House. See Wednesday listing.</p> <p>Ask Salt Spring. This week's guest is CRD director Gary Holman. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. United Church Meadow, or Portlock Park Pavilion in case of rain.</p> <p>Friday Games Night. Board games gathering at the Salt Spring Public Library. 6 to 10 p.m. Limited numbers. Sign-in required.</p>	<p>Sat. Sept. 11</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Summer Outdoor Concert Series. Salt Spring Underground are the headliners with opening act Lena McKenzie at Centennial Park. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>Rough and Tumble. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Saturday Market in the Park. Saturday market runs in Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> <p>G2G Pop-up Emporium. 'Elevated' garage and treasures sale fundraiser for the Grand(m)others to Grandmothers group's contribution to the African Grandmothers Campaign Stephen Lewis Foundation. 125 Knott Place (Symmetric Design). 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>Fall Fair General Entry Deadline. Submit completed entry forms at Foxglove, Island Savings and Visitors Centre by the end of today.</p>	<p>Sat. Sept. 11</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</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. 12</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Tom Hooper. Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>StoryWalk. See Friday listing.</p>	<p>Mon. Sept. 13</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting. At the lower hall. Public welcome. 7 p.m.</p> <p>StoryWalk. See Friday listing.</p>	<p>Tues. Sept. 14</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Tuesday Farmers' Market. Weekly market of fresh produce and food/drink products at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.</p> <p>Federal Election All-candidates Meeting. Hosted by Democracy Saltspring at the Legion. 4 to 7 p.m.</p> <p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Poetry of the Heart. Facilitated by poet Lolla Devindisch. Bring a poem to share that is close to your heart or simply come to listen to poems brought by others and share your response. 7 to 8:30 p.m. More info and register at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.</p>	<p>Wed. Sept. 15</p> <p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Greg Pauker. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House. See last Wednesday listing.</p>
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Poetry of the Heart

Tues., Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. via Zoom

Email: staroftheseassi@gmail.com for the link.

THRIFTY FOODS

Ganges, Mouat's Centre
7:30am to 9pm
Customer Service
250-537-1522

THE FRITZ CINEMA

The Fritz shows **Respect** — a film about Aretha Franklin — from Fri., Sept. 10 to Tues., Sept. 14 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** until Sept. 19.
- The **Photosynthesis** group holds its 2021 show virtually at www.photosyn.ca.

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. until Sept. 19.
- **Doug McMillan's** photo show called **Covid Faces** runs in the **Salt Spring Public Library program room** through September.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

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

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

Under the waxing light of the Virgo new Moon seed, Venus enters Scorpio on September 10 and Mars enters Libra on the 15th. These are both complicated sign transits for the celestial lovers. Venus in Scorpio will activate deep desires and Mars in Libra can prove edgy and provocative. Yet, they are also in 'mutual reception,' meaning each is in the other's ruling sign, which contributes a positive influence. It is never a given how these influences will manifest, as is always true in astrology. There is a subjective factor at play and it too has many layers of complexity. Yet, the synchronicities are ever occurring and seeing the true value of the planetary alignments and how these are aligning with and activating your birth chart is where consulting an astrologer comes to the fore. In fact, so prevalent are they that existence itself can be understood as a symphony of synchronicities at a cosmic scale.

Obituaries


Obituaries

Coming Events

Computer Services

Concrete & Placing

Garth Robinson
November 2, 1951 – September 1, 2021



Having worked in the hospitality industry, Garth developed a love of good food and great wines and thus learned to cook some mouth-watering dishes. Many of his friends and family were lucky to have had meals cooked by Garth but learned to not arrive hungry as a normal dinner hour for him would be 10pm or later.

Garth was born in Vancouver and grew up in Kelowna and North Vancouver. He lived on Salt Spring Island for the past decade and before that in Yellowknife, Lake Louise and Spain.

During his final year, Garth was always telling his family how grateful he was to his medical teams and the health care workers who would fill his days with conversations.

There will be no memorial service; instead raise a toast to Garth with your favourite beverage. Cheers Garth, you were loved and will be missed!

Salt Spring Literacy Society AGM
September 30th, 1:00pm on Zoom
Contact office for more info: info@saltspringliteracy.com

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ALL CANDIDATES MEETING
Tuesday, Sept. 14th
4pm - 7pm,
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THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY
Monday
SEPT. 13, 2021 at
7:00 pm in the lower hall
at 901 North End Road.
Public welcome.

In Memoriam Gifts

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Fall Fair FOCUS



All entry forms for General Entries and Pet Parade are due SATURDAY SEPT 11

Actual exhibits for Photography, Needlework and Spinning and Weaving need to be placed WED. SEPT 15 BETWEEN 3:30pm-7:30pm.

All livestock, and general entries are placed on FRI. SEPT 17 BETWEEN 3:30pm-7:30pm.

See you at the Fair Sept. 18 & 19!

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
As the late summer shift unfolds, you remain eager to make improvements and refinements where they make sense in your world. The focus may prove more social and relational than material, especially towards next weekend. This is especially true with Venus entering Scorpio lending to a deepening of your resolve to fulfill your passions.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)
While the completion process of current projects will take on extra emphasis, your focus will also shift to your relationship life. You yearn to engage and to be engaged. To this end, you are willing to make extra efforts. This will include strategic planning regarding your best approach. You recognize the need to concentrate for the sake of expansion.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)
Balancing work with play continues. While not an uncommon theme, the work side of the deal has been emphasized especially over the past 2-3 weeks. But the play side has been growing steadily and has been getting you excited about weaving it with travel and adventure. Dealing with the politics of our times may be an issue, but the desire remains strong.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)
Creating beauty close to home is a strong theme these days. To this end, you may want to really get into the corners – a spring cleaning attitude. In the deeper end, you are steadily undergoing deep changes all year, which can be described as a metaphoric process. Meanwhile, the urge to get away has been strong, as well. You yearn for adventure.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)
Many thoughts are vying for your attention. Positively, new ideas are coming in for your consideration. Due to a growing ambition to increase your income or earning potential, these may be received as opportunities. The urge to expand your scope of outreach is part of this plot but doing so does require commitment and a willingness to 'pay your dues.'

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)
The Sun in our own sign or in our first House, when our Ascendant is Virgo marks a time of new beginnings. Synchronistic events manifest as outer circumstances have the effect of making these appear random and subject to coincidental events. Positively, you are in the mood to push forward and this probably includes leaps of faith combined with a steep learning curve.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
The time period leading up to the Sun entering our sign, which for you begins on or about September 22 each year, is generally a time when you yearn to retreat. Yet, it can also prove to be a busy time behind the scenes and not very restful. This is likely to be true this year but also includes a more assertive expression of your thoughts and feelings.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
There are indications that you are in a rebellious mood. Assertions of your sense of individuality may come across as aggressive to some. There may be counter attacks to contend with, as well. At worst, you feel confused and may silently wonder and worry if you are as certain about your position as you would like to believe. Expect this trend to continue for weeks to come.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
Getting the attention you want and feel you deserve is a central theme. You have and continue to make extra efforts to this end. These may include reaching out to stimulate your social network. Things could shift to a more rebellious posture over the coming week, which will extend through most of October. Aim to be more informed and aware.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
You want to be seen, heard and heeded. To this end, you are making even more efforts to pay closer attention to the details of the bigger picture than usual. Coming to a realistic assessment of matters feels extra important. This may require new tools, techniques and methods as well as new information sources. You are determined to increase your power going forward.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
Deep changes are underway. Some of these may be clearly indicated externally, but you are also both feeling and recognizing them within. Some measure of renovation is indicated and this will require extra efforts, some of which emerged quite suddenly and unexpectedly. Positively, you feel charged and empowered to forge ahead.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
Some rather intense exchanges on relationship fronts are underway. This includes a personal transformation of some kind, a process of death and rebirth. Pretty much every aspect of your personal life is being impacted, such as your home, family and lifestyle in general. It is also probably affecting your social and professional life, as well.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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LIVE PERFORMANCE

ArtSpring opens its doors to a fresh season

Safety protocols in place for concerts and other events

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

The wait is almost over. The ArtSpring stage has remained dark for all but 22 days of the past 18 months. The galleries have fared a little better, with several exhibitions and of course the vital work of the island's vaccination clinic. But we're certainly ready to have the building filled once again with the sight and sound of live music, dance, theatre, visual art, conversation, laughter and applause.

The ArtSpring stage is where national and international touring artists and incredible local performers entertain our very lucky community, and our own ArtSpring Presents 2021-22 season promises something very special.

The season begins on Oct. 7 and 8 with Wen Wei Dance Ying Yun, a sublime piece choreographed for five female dancers. There's another chance to see part one of Jeffrey Renn's masterful one-man show, At Your Service (part two is in late November), followed by our first live music presentation, Victoria folk trio West My Friend. November brings contemporary Indigenous dance company Red Sky Performance (Trace) from

Toronto, and beguiling singer-songwriter Stephen Fearing.

The new year launches our classical music programming with baroque violin/viola duo Chloe Kim and Joanna Hood, and the long-awaited performance by concert pianist Angela Hewitt. Making very welcome returns to ArtSpring are pianist Michael Kaeshammer, and the Indigenous company Dancers of Damelahamid (Spirit and Tradition). Canadian bassoonist George Zukerman emcees a celebration of Beethoven's early music with a 10-strong ensemble in The Young Beethoven, and dynamic quartet The Fretless return to push folk music to exciting new heights.

Into the spring, we have guests from afar — Argentinian soprano Maria Cristina Kiehr and lute player Ariel Abramovich — and close to home, with Christina Penhale and Jeffrey Renn performing some of Shakespeare's most iconic love scenes in Lovin' Shakespeare. The season closes with Canadian dancer/choreographer Peggy Baker (unmoored).

Along with the joy of reopening comes new safety protocols. Proof of vaccination is required for all patrons age 12+ until at least Jan. 31, 2022, and masks must be worn at all times. Audience capacity is 129 seats.

Executive and artistic director Cicela

Månsson has been reflecting on the work and achievement of ArtSpring.

"All of us at ArtSpring are excited to reopen and have community as well as visiting artists back on the stage, and in the gallery. It is, after all, what we do. We all know there will be challenges, but with our staff, board, volunteers, and supporters we have the capacity to meet those bumps in the road. And in the end, when we see how loved and heavily used this space is by the community it really makes it all worthwhile."

Ticket sales start on Tuesday, Sept. 14 (for members and 2019-20 season subscribers) and on Tuesday, Sept. 21 for general sales.



PHOTO BY CHRIS RANDLE

Wen Wei Dance members perform Ying Yun.

We're almost there!

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3 STEPS TO GETTING YOUR BC VACCINE CARD



Effective September 13, people aged 12 and over will be required to show proof of vaccination to access many events and businesses. The easiest way is to show the BC Vaccine Card. Are you vaccinated with your first or second dose? Get your electronic or paper BC Vaccine Card today.

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Show with ID.

Need extra help? Ask a friend or family member to print your card or call 1-833-838-2323 to get your card mailed to you.





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 Watering Restrictions Comprehensive Water Ban

ALL WATERING IS BANNED EXCEPT:

- **Micro or Drip Irrigation of trees, shrubs, and gardens:** Odd numbered civic address may use micro or drip irrigation to water trees, shrubs, and gardens on odd numbered days and even numbered civic addresses may do so on even numbered days before 10:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. for a maximum of two (2) hours per watering day.
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For the complete details and penalties
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Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
Every Drop Counts!

ART REVIEW

Materials lead process



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Left: Diana Sanderson's delicate forms made from hog gut over wire. Right: A cheesecloth vessel from Melanie Thompson's Holding IV series, with Shape in willow seen behind.

Artcraft exhibit on to Sept. 19

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Artcraft Showcase titled "Material Considerations - It isn't What it Is" is an exploration of form and texture by Melanie Thompson and Diana Sanderson, whose apt subtitle is the key to works offering multiple depths.

Both artists are drawn to materials first and are inspired to produce objects that investigate and reveal those materials' properties. What emerges can be playful and seemingly simple but is in fact deceptively nuanced, while aesthetically pleasing at the same time.

Fibre-based craft informs the backstory to this show, as Thompson has much expertise in the field of basketmaking and Sanderson has similarly expert experience in weaving fine silk on the loom. For this joint show, the two women decided to stick to a palette of mainly indigo and browns, using natural dyes from Sanderson's studio. The rich, deep tones carry a hint of autumn's glamour and earthy organics. Sculptural installations and art objects carry this through-line with forms that appear to be natural but perhaps previously unknown. Both artists also love found materials, from branches and dried vines to metal mesh, wire and rope. Their work is complementary and arguably in dialogue while remaining equally strong as individual expression.

Thompson's Holding series is hard to categorize, but ephemeral sculpture may sum it up best. In Holding IV, rounded vessels are made from dyed cheesecloth that stiffened into shape like papier-mâché as it dried. Some of these globular shapes started to fold together at the top to become pods or pouches. The open edges are left loose and feath-

ery, also suggesting invertebrate marine life.

The forms of Holding III are more basket-like. Horizontal strips stitched together employ materials such as grocery bags, navigation charts and cheesecloth, causing the exterior surfaces to suggest both natural rock strata and industrial decay.

The wall installation called Shape is at once simple and complex, combining dozens of individual pieces. Thompson started with a bunch of willow branches and pulled each one into a unique twist, held together with humble cable ties. Shown together, they seem to reveal a message in a secret alphabet that is not quite English. Shadow, which has been a major component of Thompson's past work, complicates the simple lines into double vision.

Sanderson's small rounded forms, made of hog gut stretched over skeletal wire frames, can variously recall paper lanterns, husked fruit such as ground cherries, or delicate skittering creatures with claws. They tumble from baskets like rough jewels, emerge from wispy rattan pods and bob like bubbles under a cascade of indigo-dyed steel netting.

Hanging On features orbs and fractured crescent moons with just a light wash of natural dye, gracefully suspended from a willow branch along with a spidery draping of steel yarn. Excellent shadow play behind the piece underscores the haunting appeal.

Once Suspended is large installation that starts at the wall and extends out into the centre of the gallery floor. Sanderson created the bridge-like structure with pear branches bound by hand-spun and hand-braided hemp rope, tied in "endless" knots. The span is strewn with twisted gut pieces dyed in indigo shades, scattered like fall leaves from another world. Sanderson states she was inspired to create this work by a photo of a wisteria suspension bridge in Japan and another bridge she once saw in the Andes. Doing the slow repetitive knotting work to create the piece gave her time to reflect on the people that created the rustic bridges mentioned above, and how such processes can build community.

Material Considerations is the final Showcase exhibition of the Artcraft season. It can be seen daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sept. 19.

LadyMintoHospitalFoundation NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



HUMBERTO MARTINHO
CAMPAIGN TEAM MEMBER

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

ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline
Strengthen Our Lifeline

Can you taste it?

Chimichurri Argentino

Submitted by ALVARO SANCHEZ

Chimichurri is a condiment from Argentina. It's traditionally used on grilled meats (asado). Another way I use it is spooning it inside and over whole pink salmon before I put on the grill. It's also very good on toasted baguette with homemade mayonnaise and grilled cherry tomatoes. It's trendy in Canada now and I've seen strange concoctions online and on restaurant menus under that name. This chimichurri recipe has the authentic taste I remember from growing up in Buenos Aires.

- 2 c. chopped fresh parsley
- 3 garlic cloves
- Hot peppers (any kind will do, depends on how hot you like it, chilli flakes are fine)
- 1 tsp. oregano
- 1/2 c. apple cider or red wine vinegar (Bree Eagle's Salt Spring Artisan Vinegar is the best).
- 1/4 c. olive oil
- Salt and pepper

Purists claim that it has to be chopped with a knife. I do it in the food processor or blender and nobody has complained so far, but it looks better if you chop it with a knife.



Zucchini Dip

Submitted by MAGGIE SQUIRES

Slice several zucchinis into 1/4-inch thick slices. Chop 2-3 cloves garlic. Sauté together in oil until soft. Blend the squash and garlic. Add 1 Tbsp. tahini and juice of one lemon. Add herbs such as parsley and thyme. Salt and black pepper to taste.

Instant Pot Risotto

Submitted by ANNA HALTRECHT

4 c. low or no-salt chicken or other broth (or 6 c. broth for larger batch)
2 Tbsp. butter, coconut oil or other cooking oil
1 medium onion or leeks, finely chopped
3 cloves garlic, minced
1 Tbsp. fresh thyme leaves or other herbs of choice

2 c. arborio rice (or 3 c. arborio rice for larger batch)
1/4 c. dry white wine (I sometimes use homemade kombucha or tea as an alternative flavour)
3/4 c. freshly grated Parmesan or other hard cheese

4-5 mushrooms, chopped (optional or other vegetables)
Salt
Freshly ground black pepper

Warm the broth. Set Instant Pot to "sauté" function and melt butter or oil. Add onion and cook until soft, 5 minutes, then add garlic and thyme and cook until fragrant, 1 minute more. Add rice and stir until toasted, 2 minutes. Deglaze pot with wine. Cook until most of wine is absorbed, then turn sauté function off. Add warm broth and place lid on Instant Pot. Add mushrooms. Set to "pressure cook, high" and set time for 5 minutes. Turn valve to quick release. Remove lid and stir in Parmesan. Season with salt and pepper.



Blue Cheese Burgers

Submitted by JAMES HATCH

- 1 1/2 pounds of lean ground beef
- 2 ounces blue cheese, crumbled
- 1/4 c. minced fresh chives
- 1/8 tsp. Worcestershire sauce
- 1/2 tsp. black pepper
- 3/4 tsp. salt
- 1/2 tsp. dry mustard
- 6 French rolls or hamburger buns



1. In a large bowl, mix the ground beef, blue cheese, chives and hot pepper sauce, Worcestershire sauce, black pepper, salt and mustard. Cover and refrigerate for 2 hours.
2. Preheat grill for high heat. Gently form the burger mixture into 6 patties.
3. Oil the grill grate. Grill patties 5 minutes per side or until well done.

Orange Date Muffins

Submitted by JOANN GREY

- 1 whole organic orange, unpeeled and cut in sections with seeds removed
- 2 eggs
- 1/3 c. cold butter
- 2 c. flour
- 1/2 c. brown sugar
- 1/2 c. frozen orange juice concentrate
- 1/4 c. water
- 1/2 Tbsp. baking powder
- 1/2 Tbsp. baking soda
- 1/2 tsp. salt
- 1 c. chopped dates

Put orange, eggs, butter, juice and water into blender and blend so that everything is well mixed. In a large bowl, add flour, sugar, baking powder and soda and salt. Whisk to combine. Add chopped dates and stir. Add contents of blender to bowl and mix. Divide mix amongst 12 greased or papered muffin cups and bake 22 to 24 minutes at 350° F. This recipe is based on one that appeared years ago in the Westcoast Celebrity cookbook.

White Stallion Cookies

Submitted by BRITINE HATCH

- 1 c. Crisco shortening
- 1 c. white sugar
- 1 c. brown sugar
- 2 eggs
- 1 tsp. vanilla
- One 6-ounce package white chocolate chips
- 2 1/2 c. flour
- 1 tsp. baking soda
- 2 c. coarsely crushed potatoes chips



Preheat oven 375 degrees. Cream shortening and sugars. Add eggs and vanilla; beat well. Add potato chips and white chocolate chips. Sift flour and baking soda and stir into creamed mixture. Drop onto greased cookie sheet. Bake at 375° F for 10 to 12 minutes.

Can you taste it?

Easy Oven Yogurt

Submitted by ROSAMUND DUPUY

Makes 3 one-kg jars. Keeps well in fridge for 3 weeks. Heat 10 cups milk* with 1 can evaporated milk on medium or med-high to 75° C. Takes about 10 minutes. Preheat oven to 250° F. (yes, Fahrenheit). Pour two milks into second saucepan and immerse to just below rim in sink of cold water till milk is about 42° C. This takes about 10 minutes. Whisk a cup of the warm milk into bowl with 3 thawed yogurt cubes** and 1 1/2 cups powdered milk, then whisk this well into the pot of milk. Pour into 3 jars***, cover with cling wrap & screw on lids. Place 3 jars into large pot and wrap with towel. Put yogurt into oven, leave the oven light on but turn the oven OFF. Leave jars in oven for 12 to 14 hours, cool on counter with lids and cling wrap removed and store in fridge.

* I use organic milk: 1 litre 2%; 1 litre plus 2 cups 3.25% (or grass-fed milk, which makes a thicker yogurt).
** Yogurt starter: Buy a good-quality plain yogurt, such as Liberté Greek extra creamy 5%, and spoon into ice cube trays. Once frozen, remove from trays, wrap in threes and keep frozen till needed.
*** I use Adams Peanut Butter jars, as they are the right size and have a wide mouth.



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Can you taste it?

Apple Butter Banana Muffins

Submitted by PERI LAVENDER of Ciderworks

Makes 12 medium-size muffins

- EQUIPMENT:
Medium mixing bowl
Small mixing bowl
1/3 c. measure
1/2 c. measure
1 c. measure
1 tsp. measure (x2 -- one wet, one dry)
1/2 tsp. measure
Sieve or flour sifter
Table fork
Small bowl
Spoon for stirring batter
Muffin pan
Shortening for greasing the pan



- INGREDIENTS:
1 very ripe banana
1 c. apple butter
1/3 c. vegetable oil
1/2 c. sugar
1 tsp. salt

- 1 egg, well beaten
1 tsp. vanilla
1 1/2 c. all-purpose flour
1 tsp. baking powder
1/2 tsp. baking soda
Pinch of cinnamon

METHOD:
1. Preheat the oven to 350° F.
2. Using the shortening, grease the muffin pan. Set aside.
3. Sift the flour, baking powder, baking soda and cinnamon together into the small mixing bowl. Set aside.
4. Break the egg into the small bowl. Beat gently with a fork to break the yolk and blend the white. Set aside.
5. In the large bowl, mash the banana using the fork. Add the apple butter and stir until combined.
6. Add the oil, sugar, salt, egg, and vanilla to the apple butter/banana mixture and mix until thoroughly combined.
7. Add the dry ingredients to the wet, and mix gently, until just combined.
8. Scoop batter into the prepared muffin tin.
9. Place muffin tin in the centre of the oven and bake for 15 minutes. Turn in and bake for another 6 minutes. Test centre for doneness.
10. Remove from the oven and place on a rack to cool.

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