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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

People protesting the introduction of the vaccine card and promotion of vaccination as a means to reduce illness, hospitalizations and death caused by COVID-19 gather in downtown Ganges on Sept. 8. About 200 individuals participated that day, with a smaller contingent coming out on Monday. See story on Page 3.

## COVID-19

# BC Vaccine Card policy kicks in

### Proof of vaccination needed for certain indoor venues and events

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Proof of at least one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine is now required to access non-essential activities and entertainment venues in British Columbia.

As of Monday, anyone born in 2009 or earlier (12+) must show the BC Vaccine Card or other proof to attend all indoor and outdoor dining at licensed restaurants, as well as movie theatres, gym facilities and fitness classes, and indoor receptions, concerts and theatre events with more than 50 people. Proof of two vaccine doses will be required starting Oct. 24. The requirement is in place until at least Jan. 31, 2022.

Proof of vaccination is not required for essential services such as health care facilities, nor for grocery stores and all other retail businesses, hair salons, banks, libraries or art galleries (unless they are the location of an event). Religious services are also exempt.

North End Fitness manager Erica Falls said she hadn't received much feedback on the vaccine card requirement on Monday morning, when it

had only been in effect for a few opening hours.

"So far it's fairly positive, and we're getting a lot of support from our current members," Falls said, adding knowledge that the card was coming had been received well.

"Especially in a small community, people feel a little safer," she suggested.

Jeremy Millsom of the Salt Spring Inn said ensuring his patrons have a safe and clean place to dine has always been a priority for his business, and use of the vaccine card aligns with that goal.

"I am protecting my guests, my staff and my business, and setting an example for our community," he said.

Some local businesses and organizations have been scrambling to meet the evolving regulations, as elements of the new provincial health order published Friday differed from the expected changes.

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation manager Dan Ovington said the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) continues to follow the guidelines and orders set out by the provincial health officer as well as other

governing bodies, including WorkSafeBC, Island Health, British Columbia Recreation and Parks Association (BCRPA), and the Lifesaving Society.

Parks staff were getting ready to process vaccine cards at the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre, but learned Friday that swimming pools and skating rinks are exempt from the new order, unless events are taking place there. Patrons will not need to show proof of vaccination to use the pool or Aquafit classes, although the card will be needed to attend other types of indoor fitness and recreation classes PARC offers, such as kickboxing, yoga and personal training. Another change is that indoor youth sports, where proof of vaccination is not required, is being defined as ages 21 and younger rather than 18 and younger, as in the past.

Ovington said parks staff had received a lot of feedback from the public, both from those opposed to vaccine cards and those who would feel safer attending recreation facilities if vaccination were required for entry.

**VACCINE CARD** continued on 3

**Zen Master Wolfgang says:**  
"Being offended does not make you right."

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## FEDERAL ELECTION

# Candidates face questions at online meeting

Salt Spring Forum event available on YouTube

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Federal election candidates belonging to four parties with representation in the House of Commons faced off last Tuesday night in an online meeting hosted by the Salt Spring Forum.

Outlining their concerns for the upcoming term and describing how they would address important issues were Saanich-Gulf Islands incumbent Elizabeth May of the Green party, Conservative candidate David Busch, New Democratic Party candidate Sabina Singh and Sherri Moore-Arbour, candidate for the Liberal Party of Canada.

Questions from the public were submitted both in advance and during the Zoom session. They ranged from the government's pandemic response and what other parties would have done differently to the climate change crisis, and from military procurement policy to taking guns off the streets. Salt Spring-specific issues such as lack of affordable housing and drought were also discussed.

May explained in her introduction why she wants to be re-elected to her seat.

"The greatest honour of my life has been to serve this community and the many communities within it for the last 10 years as your Member of Parliament," said May, who defeated Conservative cabinet member Gary Lunn for a historic Green win in 2011.

"That all feels so long ago, but the work

has been so rewarding," she said.

Busch said he ran for the Conservatives in the 2019 election because he was deeply concerned about the direction Prime Minister Justin Trudeau was taking the country. His qualifications include degrees in biochemistry, nursing and law.

"I like helping people and solving problems, and that's part of the reason I put my name forward as MP for Saanich-Gulf Islands," Busch said, adding his two young sons are another big reason.

Areas of life that islanders have been working on but could use federal government support, Busch suggested, include housing, economic development and the Lady Minto Hospital emergency room project.

Galiano resident Moore-Arbour co-founded and runs a national public affairs firm that focuses on public health, public education and inclusion.

"If there's been a theme in my career and life, it has been working, and sometimes fighting for if necessary, equity and inclusion," she said.

Moore-Arbour's husband is a school vice-principal and she has served as an elected school board trustee and school board vice-chair, which she said taught her valuable lessons about accountability to voters and about balancing outcomes with resource scarcity. She and her teenage children are Indigenous.

"I am running to bring a strong voice within a compassionate and pragmatic government," she said.

Singh identified herself as "a mother, an academic, a dance artist, a dog owner and a

wife." She has taught political science in B.C. for 15 years and has a Ph.D. in global studies and international relations. Singh has been working for the last several years with the Centre for World Indigenous Studies. Like NDP leader Jagmeet Singh, she was born into the Sikh culture, which values service to one's community.

"The NDP has an amazing platform and has been fighting for people through the past couple of difficult years," Singh said. "I want to join them in fighting for you and the environment around us. I want to join them to build an equitable world; one that we want to live in and are proud to hand to our grandchildren."

The issue of climate change was raised by multiple members of the public and was a major theme running through many of the candidates' speeches last Tuesday. May called for immediate action on the crisis rather than gradually implemented planning, including steps such as cancelling the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion, a ban on gas fracking and ending all subsidies to fossil fuel companies.

"I'm desperate about the climate emergency, and I will never break my word to you to do everything I can do to try to address it," May said in answer to a question about campaign promises and accountability.

Moore-Arbour gave strong support to the Liberal party's plan for net zero carbon emissions by 2050, stating third-party assessments had given the plan high marks for achievability and affordability.

"I think there's no arguing among the candidates here that climate change is a critical

issue that we have no choice but to address as quickly as we can," Moore-Arbour said.

In response to May's answer, she added, "I think that while it is urgent, there is also a call for us to be responsible about the transition and to bring Canadians with us. And that in my mind is a question of equity ... The reality is the have-nots are the ones who would suffer most in an economic 'black swan' event, so I think it's fundamentally inappropriate and naive to sell that sort of severe and unachievable plan to Canadians."

In her closing statement, Singh said the late NDP party leader Jack Layton was the first MP to introduce a climate change bill, back in 2006, and he set the stage for current island MPs in the party who are fighting for climate change justice on issues such as freighter anchorages, orca habitat, ocean plastics and climate target accountability. Singh said the NDP would do exactly all the things May had called for, and introduce fair taxation so the wealthy would help pay for the transition to a greener world.

Busch repeatedly urged voters to read over his party's full platform, posted on the Conservatives' website, since he felt the time allotted to answer questions was not enough to go into those policies in depth. However, he said a Conservative government would meet the 2030 Paris agreement targets and also get to net zero by 2050.

"Our plan was independently audited, and found to be as good or better than the Liberal plan," Busch said. "And our plan is going to be better for the economy."

The meeting can be viewed in full on YouTube. Find the link at [saltspringforum.com](https://saltspringforum.com).

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Elizabeth  
**MAY**

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(retired Senator)

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and environmental  
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COVID-19

# Islanders protest vaccine card

Larger event held in advance of policy enactment

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders gathered in downtown Ganges Monday afternoon for the second time in less than a week to protest introduction of the BC Vaccine Card and the mandatory vaccination to access some events and services.

Around 200 people assembled along Fulford-Ganges and Lower Ganges roads last Wednesday afternoon, with a smaller group of around 35 out on Monday. Islanders joined other protesters across the province who are asserting their right to choose whether to be immunized against COVID-19.

As protester Jen Joy Middleton explained, "I think we should get to say what we do with our bodies and what goes into our bodies, and to ask questions about it and get real answers."

Some are additionally opposing any restrictions on their regular activities and deny the pandemic is a true health emergency. Handmade signs shared statements from "resist medical coercion" and "no vaxx pass" to "Men, will you rise up to protect your

kids and wives?" and referenced "Nuremberg Code" principles against medical experimentation on non-consenting subjects.

Organizers of the Sept. 8 event had sought to stretch a line of peaceful protest from the Beachside cafe all the way to Thrifty Foods and managed to cover at least half the distance. Many vehicles passing by showed their support by honking their horns.

Last week's event also attracted a few counter protesters, including one young woman holding a sign stating "Vaccines work."

As of Sept. 9, 73 per cent of Salt Spring residents aged 12 and older and 74 per cent of adults aged 18 and older had received two doses of vaccine.

Island protesters have stayed away from Lady Minto Hospital to date, unlike some other areas in the province and country where health-care workers were attacked and patients blocked from receiving care. Salt Spring RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook said the group appeared peaceful and no complaints were received.

So far COVID-19 vaccination is not required to access any essential services, although it has been mandated for health-care workers in long-term and extend-

ed-care facilities, in addition to the requirements for attending social events and recreational activities. The provincial government and provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry say immunization is the best tool to push back the pandemic's fourth wave.

**"I think we should get to say what we do with our bodies and what goes into our bodies, and to ask questions about it and get real answers."**

JEN JOY MIDDLETON  
*Monday rally attendee*

"While substantial progress has been made in vaccinating the population of British Columbia 12 years of age and older, a significant portion of the public is unvaccinated, which is resulting in increases in cases, hospitalizations and intensive care admissions, primarily in unvaccinated people, although it is also causing illness in vaccinated people. This situation has been exacerbated by the presence of the highly

transmissible Delta variant of SARS-CoV-2 in British Columbia," Henry stated in her Sept. 10 order on gatherings.

Henry said she recognizes the societal effects including hardships that can arise from orders restricting people from meeting with others, which is one reason the orders are continually reviewed in context with the current situation. She also recognizes the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms protects certain rights, but states those protections are not absolute and reasonable limits can be set "to prevent loss of life, serious illness and disruption of our health system and society."

The province announced there was a surge in new vaccination registrations and appointments booked by people aged 40 and younger in the days just after the limited vaccine requirement was announced last month. However, COVID cases in the Island Health region reached record levels last Wednesday with 90 new cases reported, and that number repeated on Friday.

Data published by the BC Centre for Disease Control last Wednesday reported seven cases in the Gulf Islands local health area from Aug. 29 to Sept. 4, compared to 54 in total from January 2020 to August 2021.

# COVID data reporting resumed

With COVID-19 cases rising once again, and due to requests from readers, the Driftwood is resuming the weekly chart of regional new case numbers. Data is also available on our website earlier in the week.

**Southern Vancouver Island & Gulf Islands COVID-19 case data:**

**NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES**

	Week of 8/08 - 8/14	Week of 8/15 - 8/21	Week of 8/29 - 9/04	Week of 8/29 - 9/04
Southern Gulf Islands	4	3	4	7
Saanich Peninsula	15	10	14	25
Greater Victoria	58	65	103	97
Langford to Port Renfrew	45	39	44	51
Duncan Area	17	24	56	75
Chemainus to Nanaimo	28	37	21	56
<b>Total</b>	<b>167</b>	<b>178</b>	<b>242</b>	<b>311</b>

## 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
16	0643	0.7	2.3	20	0333	2.8	9.2
	1511	3.3	10.8		1004	1.0	3.3
	TH 2043	2.7	8.9		MO 1717	3.2	10.5
JE 2346	2.8	9.2	LU 2259	1.9	6.2		
17	0743	0.7	2.3	21	0435	2.8	9.2
	1551	3.3	10.8		1042	1.2	3.9
	FR 2121	2.5	8.2		TU 1737	3.1	10.2
VE			MA 2333	1.7	5.6		
18	0112	2.8	9.2	22	0533	2.8	9.2
	0836	0.7	2.3		1120	1.5	4.9
	SA 1625	3.2	10.5		WE 1755	3.1	10.2
SA 2154	2.3	7.5	ME				
19	0227	2.8	9.2	23	0007	1.5	4.9
	0923	0.8	2.6		0631	2.8	9.2
	SU 1653	3.2	10.5		TH 1158	1.8	5.9
DI 2227	2.1	6.9	JE 1811	3.0	9.8		

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# Organizers determining when proof required

**VACCINE CARD**  
continued from 1

"People are frustrated," Ovington observed.

Organizers of the Salt Spring National Art Prize have also been watching regulations carefully, and have made several changes to plans for events associated with the exhibition opening Sept. 24 at Mahon Hall. The BC Vaccine Card will be

required and attendance limited at receptions, although proof of vaccination will not be required to attend the show on a regular exhibition day.

The full list of places and services where vaccination status is required and not required can be found at [www2.gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard.html](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard.html). People who have been vaccinated with at least one dose can access the digital BC Vaccine Card online, order a copy by phone at 1-833-838-2323

or print out a copy at most Service BC offices, including the one at 343 Lower Ganges Rd. in Ganges. People can choose to save the digital version to a device or print a paper copy. Both options are accepted everywhere.

Other forms of proof of vaccination, including the wallet-sized card given out at vaccine clinics, will be accepted through Sept. 26 to give people time to access the official card.



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## Vote in Advance Polls from Sept 10-14



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# OPINION



2019 CCNA Awards  
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)  
Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

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



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### EDITORIAL

# Majority on board

**M**any government policies have been inconvenient and controversial in the past 18 months.

The new BC Vaccine Card is the latest one, but it is just one more tool being used to help reduce the number of infections, hospitalizations and deaths due to COVID-19. Keeping those numbers as low as possible has been the name of the game in British Columbia and for that we should be thankful.

The vaccine card has two aims: to encourage people who have not yet been vaccinated to just get it done, so they can continue to access some discretionary and pleasant experiences such as restaurant dining, movies, larger-capacity concerts and on-land fitness classes; and to make it safer for those who are already vaccinated and partaking in those activities.

### THE ISSUE: BC Vaccine Card

### WE SAY: Necessary way to make community safer

We understand the attraction to not accept mainstream information and to be considered an "original" thinker or a rebel in shining armour. But if one's ego is more important than reducing harm to friends, family and community members, they shouldn't be surprised if people don't want them in their spin class.

For people who cry that vaccinated people are still getting and transmitting the illness, the numbers are still irrefutably in favour of vaccination. Between Aug. 26 and Sept. 8 in B.C., of the 358 people hospitalized with COVID, 81.6 per cent or 292 of them were not vaccinated.

Suggestions that democracy is being trampled through use of vaccine cards or restricted access to discretionary activities also fail the logic test. No definition of democracy includes being able to do what you want whenever you want and to endanger other people in the process. Democracy is simply a system of government where citizens have the right to vote for the people they will be governed by for a period of time. Our democratically elected B.C. government has set the course based on the best available information provided by experts in their fields. A massive majority is supporting that position by getting vaccinated. Democracy is alive and well in B.C. and on Salt Spring.

We need to listen to those in our health-care system who have described the horrors of a death from COVID-19, and the strain on the system itself. Maybe some people who are reluctant to be vaccinated have not had the heartbreaking experience of sitting with a dying loved one in a hospital, or don't personally know an exhausted and demoralized health-care worker.



# Ecological disaster looms

The following letter was sent to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY DAVID RAPPORT

I am writing to express my concern about the variance granted to the proposed Vortex project at the site of the former Fulford Inn.

I concur with the argument made by Frants Attorp (Driftwood Viewpoint, Aug. 18) that the variance granted for this project was ill-considered — even more so that it went counter to the advice of Trust staff and the warnings issued by the senior freshwater specialist.

To my mind, that decision speaks to thoughtlessness and gross dereliction of your charge as trustees: to preserve and protect the island's unique environment against the onslaught of developments that continue to assault the health of Salt Spring's ecosystems. During the 16 years since I arrived on the island, I have watched with dismay the ongoing assault and the resulting degradation, including large-scale clear-cutting

### VIEWPOINT

of older secondary forests, degradation of our harbours and bays, intensifying development in our watersheds leading to further loss of vitality of our inland waters, and the increased risks to human health and well-being. Much of this has been the result of the inability (or unwillingness) of past and present trustees to uphold their mandate.

Allowing a variance for the location of a septic system for the Vortex project so that the septic system and drainage fields will be situated in close proximity to Soule Creek and Fulford Harbour is playing with fire, especially so with the impending impacts of climate change, which are likely to be far more severe than currently envisioned. These impacts may well facilitate disastrous sewage runoff into Fulford Harbour.

I have heard much talk from trustees about the importance of healthy ecosystems on Salt Spring Island, but have seen very little, if any, evidence of trust-

ees standing up to projects like the Vortex that threaten the health of critical island ecosystems. While I can appreciate the importance of stimulating our economy, if that is done to the cost of further compromising an already fragile island environment, it amounts to short-sighted, short-term thinking that is mighty sure to backfire.

Based on four decades of professional experience in the field of ecosystem health, I can confidently predict that it would not take much for an ecological disaster to strike, precipitating a massive exodus from Salt Spring Island, leaving the island's economy in tatters. That, I fear, is a real possibility, should trustees continue to give priority to economic development over ecosystem health and over long-term adherence to your mandate as the primary criterion for approval of development requests.

I urge you to reconsider the Vortex project and not to proceed. The risks to the island's ecosystems, its residents, and its economy are simply too great.

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Have you been following the federal election campaign?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you be getting a vaccine passport?

265 322



Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"I am protecting my guests, my staff and my business, and setting an example for our community."**

JEREMY MILLSOM, SALT SPRING INN PROPRIETOR

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED: What do you think of the BC Vaccine Card program?**

### SHELDON HUSBAND



I think everyone should have the vaccine.

### JEN JOY MIDDLETON



I feel strongly against the vaccine passport. I think it's a slippery slope in a very bad direction.

### DAN CLIFFORD



It's a good idea. The more it prevents the pandemic and keeps people safe, the more I'm for it.

### CAROL NELSON



It's a good idea to keep the people who are getting vaccinated safe, and that approach should apply across the country, not just in B.C.

### MICHAEL DAWSON



I think it's a flagrant violation of the Nuremberg Code, which clearly states the kind of coercion the government is trying to do.

## 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

### May is a political star

After the recent colourful stories of the Green Party's inner struggles, some might feel there's no point in supporting Elizabeth May. That would be a big mistake.

Let's remember that Elizabeth has been acknowledged by her fellow MPs as one of the very best in the House of Commons. She is of course legendary for her deep knowledge, powerful voice and influence on the subject of climate change: the causes, the catastrophic consequences, and how to mitigate and adapt to it. But she also has an amazing understanding of a broad range of issues, takes her responsibility to Canadians seriously and is constantly researching, studying and deepening her knowledge.

And if you know her, you know she is a kind, highly ethical person who listens. Constituents in this riding who need help from her receive it.

Elizabeth May is a star

amongst Canada's politicians. It's surely time to reflect on how lucky we are to have her for our MP.

**BILL HENDERSON,**  
SALT SPRING

### Protecting everyone

About that vaccine passport: My daughter and I made plans to visit friends and relatives in Prince Edward Island this summer.

To get into PEI a vaccine passport was required. We both had cards proving our vaccination dates. Using her iPhone we uploaded these documents and sent them in to the government. Seventy-two hours later we were sent our COVID passports by email.

After crossing the Confederation Bridge all vehicles had to stop. My daughter showed the sent passports on her phone. All very simple, except for one extra thing: we had to submit to a test. It was a very noninvasive low nasal swab. After a 10-min-

ute wait with testing results negative we were good to go.

I did not think my freedom was compromised. I was happy to commit to protecting everyone, including myself.

**MYNA LEE JOHNSTONE,**  
SALT SPRING

### Keep trusting doctors

"Doctor, my child has a high fever, please help me!"

"Doctor, I have fallen and broken my leg, please help me!"

"Doctor, my husband is having a heart attack, please help us!"

"Doctor, I have found a lump, please help me."

"Doctor, can you prescribe a medication to help me?"

Doctors say masks and vaccinations are needed to combat COVID, but what are you going to do now? You cannot turn to them since you seem to think that what they say cannot be trusted.

**SUSAN BENSON,**  
SALT SPRING

### Rights threatened by unvaccinated

The ludicrous demonstration and calls for "freedom" last week were an ignorant affront to every other historic and legitimate call for liberty.

Will they now go on to campaign for the freedom to smoke wherever the hell they want, wear a seat belt if they feel like it, drive on whichever side of the road takes their fancy?

What they are advocating, in the face of unimpeachable and resounding scientific evidence, is the right to infect and jeopardize the rest of us because they are too selfish, too pusillanimous to think about the public good. It's my right to survive this irrefutable epidemic, it is NOT their right to threaten that.

**PAUL MCELROY,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 6

## Vaccine card debate raises fascinating issues

BY BEN SUTTON

I read the recent Driftwood website article about demonstrators against vaccine passports with interest.

While the possibility of vaccine passports has been discussed publicly I was surprised that the B.C. government made the politically risky move of introducing them. Inevitably there is controversy surrounding such a restriction of personal freedom. I am certainly not surprised that there are people in our community that take exception to the idea. Any debate concerning this issue should be against a backdrop of the data and reasoning behind it.

### Vaccine Effectiveness

There is substantial evidence from B.C., the rest of Canada and other countries (in particular recent data from the U.K.) showing that vaccines are highly effective at reducing COVID infections and more significantly in preventing hospitalization and death. This is true even for the Delta variant, which is seemingly about eight times more contagious than earlier strains of the virus.

As we know, in excess of 75 per cent of cases in B.C. are among the unvaccinated who now represent the minority of adults. It is certainly true, however, that there are a substantial number of cases of infection among vaccinated people. This is hardly surprising given that the vaccines are about 85 per cent effective and vaccinated individuals represent the vast majority of adults.

### Public Health Measures

The key issue from a public health perspective is the strain on the health-care system, which stems from the level of infection in the community as a whole. We could, for example, accept that people will continue to die at some rate as a result of this virus, but no one wants a situation

where hospitals become unavailable for treatment for any range of accidents or other conditions. No one wants to see people left to die in the street.

There was also the prospect of eliminating the virus by reducing the transmission rate through vaccination and public health measures, but this looks unlikely at this point. Early in the pandemic I think nearly everyone accepted that we needed to limit exposure in public places and multiple business were closed as a result. This caused very significant harm to those business and their employees to the point where the survival of these businesses is threatened.

### Legislative Choices

The fourth wave is very much upon us and some of the same choices have to be made again. So consider the options going forward as seen by the B.C. government:

1. Keep cinemas, restaurants and the other public venues open to all and see a steep increase in case load and filling hospitals.

2. Close these venues to all as was done earlier in the pandemic and consign many to bankruptcy or ongoing government handouts.

3. Restrict non-vaccinated people from accessing these venues and allow them to continue business while preventing an exponential increase in COVID cases.

None of these options seem particularly palatable. The question is what is the right thing to do? On the one hand, option 3 seems patently unfair to people who choose not to be vaccinated.

One must remember, however, that in the last year when most people were not vaccinated none of us were allowed to access various public venues. So in that sense nothing has changed.

### Personal Freedom

Personal freedom is not something to be taken away lightly and it is a basic right. The basic rule for providing this right is that you have the freedom to do what you want providing it does not harm others.

What are the potential harms in this case? It seems they may be as follows: a). Runaway COVID case loads that impinge on broad access to public health b). Added cost to the taxpayer to treat the resulting patients c). Killing off your old but vaccinated grandmother and by extension others.

I recognize a number of people demonstrating on Salt Spring recently and I certainly don't feel they are unreasonable people and I do understand the personal choice issue. The idea of forcibly vaccinating people seems abhorrent and these measures might feel the same. I think a reasoned public debate is the best path forward. The last thing we want is polarized anger like we have seen south of the border.

Certainly any debate must be founded on the facts backed up by actual data. The data on infection rates, vaccine efficacy and side effects are all out there. If you don't believe it as many don't then you must believe our public health officer is a crook along with all the public health experts globally. Also as an aside, please don't tell me mRNA vaccines are going to change my DNA. I seem to remember learning in high school in the early 1970s that DNA makes mRNA, which makes protein, not the other way round. Amazingly this fact has stood the test of time.

This is an important issue. Please share your thoughts on the issues and the reasoning behind your thoughts.

*The writer has been a Salt Spring resident for 20 years.*

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## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

### Process shortfall

Regarding your Sept. 8 article "Residents push for tower reversal," I appreciate your continued interest in this story, as do many other residents that find it alarming that the Local Trust Committee (LTC), in the face of significant opposition, could agree to site a 40-metre-high cell tower in the midst of a neighbourhood – within 500 metres of more than 30 homes.

Just to clarify something attributed to me in your article: I have never suggested potential harms to local residents' health, property values and community aesthetics as reasons for a reversal. Rather I raised these issues in my letter to the LTC to demonstrate that the decision to site a cell tower is of enormous consequence, and hence the decision process should be diligent, comprehensive and meet established standards.

The reason I implore the LTC to reverse their concurrence decision is the lack of due process. In my opinion, the protocol undertaken was woefully inadequate, the public consultation Rogers and CREST claimed to have completed was not done, and even the minimal standards estab-

lished by the federal government were not fulfilled. In the event the LTC finds this to be true, they must acknowledge the shortfall and revoke the concurrence decision.

**JULIAN CLARK,**  
CHANNEL RIDGE

### Right spot

First off, let me say I fully support and commend the Islands Trust for following the federal process for tower sitings and providing concurrence for the CREST/Rogers tower application on Channel Ridge.

As we all know, the Gulf Islands is woefully underserved by the important wireless services that can be provided today. Wireless services are not only cellular phones but carry critical emergency services, highly sophisticated data services and with new applications and features that will improve our community's safety, security and wellbeing.

The Telus tower was constructed in the early '90s with an aeronautical obstruction light on it before housing was built around it. It has been quietly providing wireless services to the north end, which to my knowledge has not been any concern until now. I humbly suggest most people on the island don't know this tower even exists, which is just what a

good tower location should be. The location is right, it's on the high point of land, it meets all federal technical standards and requirements and it already has an access road and power line, so developmental impact will be minimal. Suggesting to look for another location would be yet again just "kicking the can down the road" with no outcome.

As for the towers lowering property values, that has long been disproven nation-wide. Radio waves from towers affecting pacemakers have been studied, peer reviewed and concerns dismissed. That being said, it is recommended to not put your cell phone in your breast pocket, as that could affect your pacemaker. In the early days, hospitals were very leery of this technology and rightfully so. But with time and peer-reviewed science, hospitals now use multiple wireless systems to provide critical care to their patients. If you look at a lot of the hospitals today, they have wireless sites on their roofs!

Peter Luckham's suggestion that developing a workable model for wireless services on our island is long overdue and is right on the mark.

**R. CARLSON,**  
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 7

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## COVID-19 IN BC

# 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.

- 1  Visit [gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard](http://gov.bc.ca/vaccinecard)  
Enter your Personal Health Number, date of birth and date of vaccination.
- 2  Get your BC Vaccine Card  
Save it to your mobile device or print it.
- 3  Have your BC Vaccine Card ready  
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.



# Rooster dumping not responsible

SUBMITTED BY JULIE NOWELL  
FOR THE SSI POULTRY CLUB BOARD

## INDEPTH

The Poultry Club on Salt Spring Island has grown exponentially since COVID hit our island in March of 2020. We have been thrilled to have so many new poultry keepers and family members get involved in the club, and in raising poultry on their farms and in their gardens.

However, we have noticed a disturbing trend over the summer time: an abundance of roosters bring dropped and "released" around the island, as well as large batches of "spent hens" left to fend for themselves. It's difficult to imagine that the bundle of baby chicks you bring home will turn into large, potentially aggressive roosters, or if you are even more unlucky, the most favoured pet of your child, but the reality is that on average, 50 per cent of those eggs that hatch will be boys.

As handsome as they are, too many roosters can be a concern to the average farm, and especially the neighbours of the farm, but not having a solution for these excess robust boys is a bigger problem.

While the average heritage hen will lay for up to five or six years, the hatchery bred "browns" are meant to lay heavily in the first two years and then "be sent for processing/retirement." Multiple times poultry club members have found dozens of brown hens dropped in local parks and forested areas, scared, injured and left to feed the racoons and eagles.

You may think that letting your boys or older girls go out into the woods to "live free and die" is a good solution, one that will save you the pain of having to deal with them. We want to encourage you to find another way.

### Rogue roosters and hens can spread diseases

Chickens are a flock animal and will look for the nearest farm, with or without other chickens, to make their home. This can bring in disease and cause bio security issues for local farms.

### It's not as fun as it seems

While a rooster will try to fend off an attacking eagle, it is no competition to a hungry racoon. Hens do even worse against a wild predator, and when left in large flocks they become a buffet to

the wild animals. By releasing your birds into the woods you are dooming them to stressful days and nights and an eventual violent death by a predator. They will be hungry, scared, cold and then die . . . not the idea of "living free" you had in mind.

### Irresponsible animal husbandry

Farming is challenging. Sometimes you just can't find a home for those extra roosters or old hens. You post ad after ad and get no response. They say if you have livestock, you have deadstock. You have a responsibility to the animals in your care to ensure that they are raised well and, when needed, responsibly sent to the happy coop in the sky. We know not everyone can process their own birds, but you still have options.

1. The Salt Spring Abattoir has a culling program. You can have them cull and dispose of your birds for you, without processing them for meat. See [saltspringabattoir.ca](http://saltspringabattoir.ca).

2. The Salt Spring Poultry Club will be offering a "culling and butchering" workshop in the hopes of supporting the island community in processing their own birds, or at least dealing with the excess rooster issue. Additionally, there are club members who will offer support or culling services to families who need the deed done but prefer to think that "Mr. Freckles" went off to rooster camp.

3. Control your breeding. We ALL love fluffy chicks, puppies, baby bunnies and just about anything newly born, but before you breed, have a plan to deal with the chicks, the grow-outs and to support the people who are buying your birds with their future roosters and spent hens. Additionally, breeding heritage birds over "mixlings" will allow you a better opportunity of rehoming your boy (or mature lady), and ensuring you are raising hens that lay less frequently but over a longer duration.

We love that you love your chickens, and we want you to continue to learn to farm and live sustainably, but releasing your boys or girls into our local island environment is not good for them or for your community. Ask for help when you need it!

**MORE LETTERS**

**Service BC option**

If you have been struggling to get your vaccine passport without a smartphone, it is very easy to get it at the Service BC office here in Ganges.

It took about a minute to get mine printed out, and it was done with a smile!

**KERRY LEE,**  
SALT SPRING

**Forward movement**

In response to Ken Lee's concern about the fate of the Positively No "warriors" (in his Sept. 8 "Four years later" letter), I would like to reassure him that that we are alive and active under our post-referendum name Positively Forward. Our activities for the past 18 months have, however, been somewhat muted due to pandemic priorities and challenges.

Mr. Lee asks what progress has been made in the pursuit of alternative government options since the 2017 referendum. Let me outline some of the initiatives undertaken by Positively Forward in the intervening years to try to address the need for structural improvements in local governance.

Firstly, in September 2018, prior to the last local government elections, we released a 44-page report on how to improve CRD service delivery on Salt Spring. Designed as a blueprint for change, a team of researchers and two lead writers worked for 10 months interviewing current and former CRD directors, CRD staff, commissioners and other volunteers about their experiences and concerns. Prominent among the report's 13 recommendations is the creation of an elected Local Community Commission (LCC).

In addition, several Positively Forward members participated in the work of the Community Alliance's broadly based Governance Working Group, which included current CRD director Gary Holman. The GWG report also suggested consideration be given to an LCC. Both reports may be viewed online at [https://islandtrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/tpc\\_2018-10-15\\_AGD\\_PKG.pdf](https://islandtrust.bc.ca/wp-content/uploads/2020/06/tpc_2018-10-15_AGD_PKG.pdf).

Finally, Positively Forward's leadership met with director Holman earlier this month. We strongly urged him to move forward on his commitment to implement the public process to determine whether or not to establish an elected Salt Spring LCC. This process would include the formation of a community-based study group, possible hiring of a provincially funded local governance consultant, discussions with the CRD concerning powers to be delegated, public meetings to dis-

cuss LCC pros and cons, and a referendum to give voters the final say.

We encourage others to join us in supporting this process.

**PATRICIA LOCKIE,**  
FOR POSITIVELY FORWARD

**Stop sign needs enforcement**

Since May of 2021, with construction ramping up at Croftonbrook at 132 Corbett Rd., the truck traffic has been incessant. Unfortunately, the drivers of said vehicles seem immune to the suggestion implied by a stop sign.

Earlier in the spring a large yellow sign was installed at the entrance of Croftonbrook telling drivers about the stop sign. Shortly after, the yellow sign was removed, but the stop sign remained.

As a resident of Cottonwood Close, my only path out of my strata is along Corbett Road. This entire area is a 55-plus community with ages stretching well past 90 years in many homes. Because of the advantages offered by strata living, many of the residents are blind and deaf and some are challenged by both conditions, as well as physical impairments that require use of walkers and canes.

Trucks and cars racing out of Croftonbrook throughout the day and never hesitating before plowing ahead on Corbett are frightening. Because I walk my dog three or four times each day, I have witnessed this constant flouting of the basic law in traffic control.

Walkers must jump to the ditch as trucks take a wide turn on the hill at the first blind spot opposite of Roscommon. Recently a white truck carrying equipment charged past the IWAV office exceeding the five-kilometre posted speed limit and sped through the stop sign, causing my friend walking from the opposite direction to jump to the ditch to avoid getting hit. During the same short interval, a very large dump truck travelling to and from the construction site breezed through the stop sign. When I waved the driver over and inquired about whether or not he had seen the stop sign, his response was, "Yeah, so?" Within minutes a courier delivery van didn't even hesitate at the sign. Considering the number of trips through each strata the courier makes each day, these infractions are not minor.

Do we need to witness a tragic accident before this stop sign will be reinforced? We have only one road in this community and as a walker and long-term driver, I fear for myself and fellow citizens. Can something be done: perhaps a large speed bump or control gate or a traffic camera?

**LORRAINE ZIOLA,**  
COTTONWOOD CLOSE



**NORTH  
SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT  
NORTH SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS DISTRICT**

**IS STILL 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.
- **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.

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**lyndsaysavage@shaw.ca**  
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## VISUAL ARTS

# National art prize excitement builds

SSNAP month kicks off  
Sept. 24

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island is preparing to welcome the best in Canadian and Southern Gulf Islands art this month as the Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) enters its fourth biennial season at historic Mahon Hall.

The finalists' exhibition featuring submissions from across the country opens with a limited ticketed event on Friday, Sept. 24, and will be fully open to the public the following morning through to Monday, Oct. 25. Gulf Islands artists will be in the spotlight at the Parallel Art Show at ArtSpring, which also opens to the public on Sept. 25 and runs to Oct. 17.

SSNAP founding director Ron Crawford said organizers are looking forward to another strong exhibition, despite the climate of uncertainty around COVID risks and regulations.

"It's been the most difficult SSNAP so far, but in a funny way I think that makes it the most important," Crawford said. "I'm really glad we are doing it, that we are going to have a real show and didn't delay it."

After three successful editions so far, SSNAP is now firmly established as a national prize. Pre-COVID, Crawford said the plan was to improve the experience for locals and to keep building exposure across the nation. Some ambitions had to be dropped, but submissions to the prize increased by 40 per cent over 2019-20, including a large jump in the submissions from eastern Canada.

"That was in itself really rewarding for growing the prize," Crawford said.

The increase also meant jurors had a great body of work from which to select the 52 finalists who will be vying for a prize. Finalists may be selected to win one of 10 awards at the end of the exhibition month — six selected by the jurors and four selected by public vote — with the top prize totalling \$15,000 in cash plus a residency valued at \$5,000.

The jury is another strong point to the 2021-22 offering. They are Judy Anderson, a University of Calgary Canadian Indigenous studio art associate professor who was the 2017-18 SSNAP winner; Art Gallery of Nova Scotia in K'ijipuktuk/Halifax senior curator David Diviney; artist/curator/foundation creator Ydessa Hendeles; and Michelle Jacques, chief curator at the Remai Modern.

New this year is the position of a full-time



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Part of the crowd on opening night at the 2019 Salt Spring National Art Prize Finalists Exhibition in Mahon Hall. This year's opening night at the hall is a limited-capacity ticketed event due to COVID-19, but the show will be open to the public on Saturday, Sept. 25, continuing daily until Oct. 25. The Parallel Art Show runs at ArtSpring from Sept. 25 to Oct. 17.

gallery manager for the SSNAP exhibition. Curator, collector and artist Anthony Matthews will fill that role, as well as responsibility for hanging/installing the finalists' exhibition.

**"I'm really glad we are doing it,  
that we are going to have a real  
show and didn't delay it."**

RON CRAWFORD  
SSNAP founding director

"I've hung lots of shows but I didn't choose the art this time — I'm not the curator," he noted. "I've only seen the pieces in photographs, so I'll be working to arrange it into an interesting, dynamic, creative installation. In terms of the art itself, I'm really excited."

Matthews said the finalists include another round of strong painters, as well as artists working in diverse media, from beading to conceptual art and installations to photography.

This year, in another first, the People's Choice Awards will go national. Every citizen in Canada over the age of 18 will get one opportunity to vote for their favourite artwork online or in person at the exhibition. The prize category additionally has a new sponsor in BMO.

SSNAP's goal of showing the rest of Canada how strong locally produced art can be is largely manifested through the Parallel Art Show, which is going to the next level this year. Participating artists (who must live in the Southern Gulf Islands and have submitted to SSNAP 2021-22) were selected by jury for the first time. Also a first, SSNAP hired an independent exhibition manager who could lend her full focus to producing that show.

SSNAP's usually festive gala events are being limited this year to mainly include artists and sponsors because of provincial restrictions on gatherings during COVID. The new BC Vaccine Card will be required to attend those events, although it will not be in effect on regular exhibition days.

The exhibition month will include noon-time artist talks by 10 SSNAP and Parallel Art Show finalists, and an evening talk by the SSNAP jurors is also planned.

Details on the upcoming events will be posted to saltspringartprize.ca.

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**Stopping the Violence Counselling for Women**  
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**Program for Children and Youth Experiencing Violence**  
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## EAST meets WEST

Gallery 8 would like to invite you to our  
**EAST meets WEST** exhibition  
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**David Goatley** and **James Stewart**.

Looking forward to seeing you soon.

**Open Friday September 17th  
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ARTISTS IN ATTENDANCE



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**Gallery 8**





# ISLAND LIFE



**HOUSING**

## Frontline workers affected by housing shortage

Transition home employee has broad insight into situation

### FINDINGHOME

BY AINA YASUÉ  
SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS  
FIFTH ARTICLE IN A SERIES

Cindy Orser works at a transition home, one of the many anti-violence and safe housing programs provided by Islanders Working Against Violence (IWAV), assisting women who are experiencing intimate partner violence.

The transition home shelters women for a 30-day transition period while finding a safe place for them to settle into. However, it has become increasingly difficult to find housing for the clients.

"Our job is to help women get out of difficult situations," she says. "Trying to find them housing is next to impossible."

Cindy's landlords are selling their condo and moving back into the cabin that she has been

renting on Salt Spring. She is paying more than 70 per cent of her income to rent and utilities. Cindy and her elderly mother were stressed about moving out due to the competitive housing market.

"The housing crisis has affected my sleep. It's amazing how many months of stress it takes up. To think about where to go, how to get there. At this age, moving is not that easy," she says.

Cindy and her mother eventually found a place to move to in October, although it will cost more, leaving Cindy with only a couple of hundred dollars left each month for food and personal necessities. It's her second year on the waitlist for social housing yet, she says, "You basically have to be homeless to get in."

And even then, it's not enough. "Many people who come to the shelter live in their cars. We're get-



PHOTO COURTESY CINDY ORSER  
Salt Spring resident and transition home worker Cindy Orser, who knows first-hand about the island's housing challenges.

ting so many calls about women who are on the streets, and lots of seniors who don't have places to live. There is no place for them here."

Issues of homelessness and

abuse are interconnected. As Cindy observes at her work, homelessness can leave people vulnerable, finding themselves in dangerous situations which can lead to abuse. Many people end up moving from one transition home to another, never finding stability, or eventually, sadly, returning to the place from which they fled. The challenges are especially hard on young mothers, who must constantly re-organize logistics to be able to continue to work and keep their kids in school.

"It's very stressful and disappointing to send them to another shelter. The main thing is they just need a place to live. They need

a room, a bathroom and a little place to cook."

Cindy said that the need for housing is greater than ever, specifically pointing out frontline workers.

"There has to be more housing. Or there has to be more people willing to rent out their spaces long-term. But it seems there's no incentives for landlords to do that," she says. "Why don't we think our frontline workers are important, that they need a place to live? They work so hard. They work all day long, all week. And that money isn't enough to give them a place to live? Something is definitely wrong here."

Capital Regional District



### Membership Opportunities

### Water and Sewer Commissions

The Capital Regional District (CRD) invites applications for volunteers to serve as members of various Water and Sewer Commissions. Terms are for two years, starting January 1 each year.

- ▶ **Beddis Water System Commission** (2 positions) – includes 4 members within the Beddis water service area (3 members must be owners of real property; and 1 member may be a resident or owner of real property). The service consists of 137 parcels and provides drinking water to 128 connections.
- ▶ **Cedar Lane Water System Commission** (1 position) – includes 3 resident or owners of real property within the Cedar Lane water service area; or a person who is prepared to represent the service area. The system provides drinking water to 37 connections.
- ▶ **Cedars of Tuam Water System Commission** (2 positions) – includes 2 members within the Cedars of Tuam water service area (1 member must be an owner of real property; and 1 member may be a resident). The system consists of 16 parcels, and provides drinking water to 17 connections.
- ▶ **Fulford Water System Commission** (2 positions) – includes 4 members of the Fulford Water service area (3 members must be owners of real property; and 1 member may be a resident). The system consists of 102 parcels, and provides drinking water to 97 connections.
- ▶ **Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission** (2 positions) – includes 4 members Fernwood and Highland Water service area (3 members resident electors; and 1 member may be a resident elector of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area). The system consists of 333 parcels, and provides drinking water to 321 connections.
- ▶ **Ganges Sewer Service Commission** (4 positions) – includes 5 members Ganges Sewer service area (4 members must be residents or owners of a business; 1 member may be a resident or owner of a business within the Electoral area; and 1 of the 5 members may be an employee or member of the school district, hospital, or community care facility which owns or manages property within the service area). The service consists of 416 parcels, and provides sewer service to 591 connections.
- ▶ **Ganges Sewer Service Commission** (4 positions) – includes 5 members Ganges Sewer service area (4 members must be residents or owners of a business; 1 member may be a resident or owner of a business within the Electoral area; and 1 of the 5 members may be an employee or member of the school district, hospital, or community care facility which owns or manages property within the service area). The service consists of 416 parcels, and provides sewer service to 591 connections. 4 positions available.
- ▶ **Maliview Sewer Local Services Commission** (1 position) – includes 3 members of the Maliview Sewer service area (2 members must be resident electors; and 1 member shall be a resident elector of SSI EA). The service consists of 94 parcels, and 100 connections. 1 position available.

Please submit your letter of interest and background information no later than **October 30, 2021** to:

**Mail:** CRD Electoral Area office  
Suite 108 121 McPhillips Avenue, BC V8W 2S6  
**Email:** saltspring@crd.bc.ca  
**Phone:** 537-4448 for more information



Islands Trust

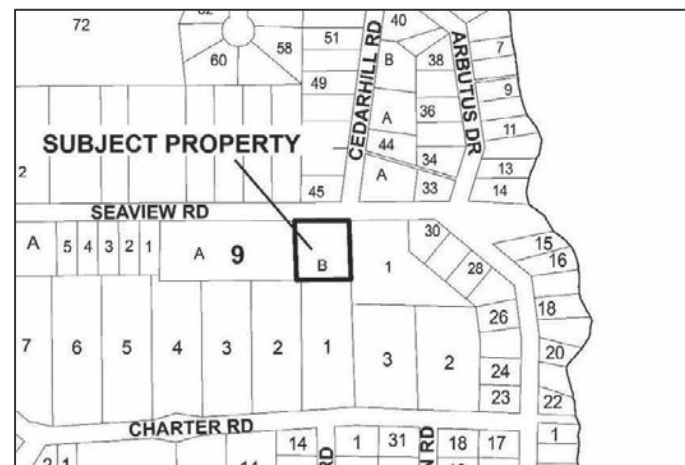
### NOTICE MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE MA-TUP-2021.3

**NOTICE** is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply Lot B, Section 9, Mayne Island, Cowichan District, Plan 27798 (PID: 000-625-281). This property is located at **752 Seaview Road**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental** use within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of the use would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached permit. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for up to an additional three (3) years.

The general location of the subject property is shown in the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **September 3, 2021** and continuing up to and including **September 16, 2021**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 494 (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Mayne Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867; by fax at (250) 405-5155; or by email to southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before **4:30 p.m., September 16, 2021**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **1:00 p.m., September 27, 2021**.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

# Climate, housing, COVID top candidate issues

The Driftwood posed three questions to the six candidates running in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding in the Sept. 20 federal election. Answers provided by the first three candidates to respond were printed in last week's issue of the paper. All are available on our gulfislandsdriftwood.com website.

## SHERRI MOORE-ARBOUR

Liberal Party of Canada  
sherrimoorearbour.liberal.ca



SHERRI MOORE-ARBOUR

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

A. The two most urgent issues are climate change and continuing to support Canadians through the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

A. We know that climate change is now the overriding environmental issue facing our communities and our planet.

Page 42 of the Liberal Platform includes a report card on key actions to fight climate change the Liberal government implemented since 2015. Two key actions we have taken include:

- In December 2020, Environment Minister Jonathan Wilkinson announced our Liberal government's new Strengthened Climate Plan for a Healthy Environment and Healthy Economy, including 64 new measures and supported by an initial \$15 billion in investments to help build a better future.

- With a national price on carbon (rising to \$170 per tonne by 2030) and other measures, we will cut Canada's greenhouse gas emissions by 40 to 45 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. This is an increase from our previous pledge to cut emissions by 30 per cent by 2030.

- In June, the Liberal government passed the Canadian Net-Zero Emissions Accountability Act (Bill C-12), to set legally binding emissions targets to reach net-zero emissions in 2050. Bill C-12 improves transparency and consistency on climate action and will enable Canadians to hold the federal government to account for meeting emissions reduction targets. Most of the leading environmental organizations in Canada, Mark Jaccard of Simon Fraser University, Andrew Weaver and others endorsed this legislation.

**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. When the pandemic began, our Liberal team quickly procured vaccines to keep Canadians safe and healthy. We provided support to the provinces and territories, and to all Canadians to ensure they have access to strong public health leadership, supplies and funding to support health services.

Thanks to the hard work of Canadians, we're among the top countries in the world for COVID-19 vaccinations. Canadians want to finish the fight against COVID. They want to send their kids back to school knowing they'll be safe. They want to visit loved ones and take vacations, and our small businesses and our communities want to get back to normal.

## DOCK CURRIE

Communist Party of Canada  
votecomunist.com/saanich-gulf-islands-dock-currye/



DOCK CURRIE

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

A. The most urgent issues facing our society right now are the climate crisis and the housing crisis. Young people, working people, Indigenous people, vulnerable and marginalized people are living increasingly precarious, anxious, impoverished lives because of the unavailability and exorbitant expense of housing, and because of the looming threat of rapid anthropogenic climate change and catastrophic weather events. The Communist Party of Canada promotes the building of publicly owned, social housing, with rent geared to income such that no one need spend more than twenty per cent of their income on housing, and promotes the nationalization of the energy industry such as to rapidly transition from fossil fuels to renewable energy.

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

A. The Communist Party of Canada promotes public ownership and democratic control over critical sectors of the economy, from energy, to finance, to telecommunications. The NDP has abandoned its normative commitment to public ownership, and their spending commitments in effect hand over public money to private interests to achieve desired ends, exactly as the Liberals do. Public investment is good, but what is required is a fundamental transformation of production, exchange, communication and distribution in our society from being oriented around the ends of private profit to being oriented around the achievement of definite, determinate, social, political, and ecological needs.

**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. The pandemic took us all by surprise and dealing with it in government was a tremendous challenge. Nevertheless, our party critiques the lopsidedly pro-capitalist and imperialist elements of the Liberals' response. First, Canada was, shamefully, the only G7 nation to raid the COVAX reserve, intended for use by the global south, and failed to make its contributions to COVAX in a timely manner. Second, the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy amounts to a permanent and ongoing no-strings-attached public subsidization of the private economy, which has been paid out in huge dividends to wealthy shareholders. And, third, handing over \$5.4 billion of public money to Air Canada, a private company, without making that bailout contingent on a public equity stake in the company, is perfectly representative of how the Liberals work for their wealthy donors, not everyday Canadians.

## ELIZABETH MAY

Green Party of Canada  
www.elizabethmay.ca



ELIZABETH MAY

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

A. The climate emergency and handling the COVID pandemic, as well as post-COVID recovery. The "why" is that we are running out of time to avert catastrophic climate change. The most recent IPCC report, dubbed "Code Red for Humanity," should have galvanized all parties to put climate at the top of the agenda. Ideally, post-COVID recovery is aligned to the transition away from fossil fuels and the enormous economic opportunity it represents.

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

A. Greens have the strongest climate plan and policy of any party. We are the only party to fully recognize that we are in a climate emergency and take the steps necessary to avoid unstoppable, self-accelerating global warming. We must reduce GHG by 60 per cent below 2005 levels by 2030. One critical key to global progress has been recognized by Greens, and no one else. That is to take on directly the obstacles to climate action created by the World Trade Organization. Our platform calls for the creation of a revamped World Trade and Climate Organization to ensure that trade is consistent with a global carbon budget.

**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. More than a Liberal government effort, my sense of the response is that it was an inspiring non-partisan effort. Parliament acted as Team Canada. All the bills passed between March and September 2020, a total of \$80 billion in emergency relief, from CERB to CEWS and various patches, business loans and other programs, were passed unanimously. The mechanism of unanimous consent meant that any one MP could have, at any point, called out "nay" and stopped one or another element of the COVID response measures. I wish all Canadians could have heard the phone calls I had with key ministers, the emergency briefings and the fortnightly meetings between the four opposition parties and the Minister of Finance. I especially wish that partisanship had not reared its ugly head. The pandemic parliament worked well by focusing on Canadians' health and working round the clock to help.

Greens would have ensured greater collaboration and coordination between the federal government and all provincial/territorial health officers.

**Voting day is this Monday, Sept. 20, with polls open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Check your voting card or visit elections.ca to find your assigned poll location.**

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# Old-growth logging election positions provided

In the Aug. 25 issue of the Driftwood, Salt Spring Islander Brian Smallshaw wrote an open letter to the candidates in the current federal election asking their position on old-growth logging.

The question was:

If you form government after this election, what steps will you take to end all logging of ancient forests in coastal British Columbia, and Canada as a whole, and how will you ensure that the First Nations where these forests exist are economically advantaged by this ban?

The following are their responses, listed in the order received.

## Elizabeth May Green

I am happy to confirm that I am a strong supporter of protecting old-growth forests. I have long campaigned for old growth, including in the 1993 Clayoquot campaign when I organized a train load of forest defenders — the Clayoquot Express (actually starting as a van load from St. John's, Newfoundland to more than 100 arriving at the Vancouver train station in November 1993). I am the author of the only comprehensive review of forest ecosystems and forest policy from coast to coast (At the Cutting Edge, first published in 1998, with a substantial update and expansion, republished in 2005 by Key Porter Books).

As a federal MP, I have advocated for a reconceptualization of the constitutional constraints that have restricted jurisdiction over forests nearly exclusively to the provincial governments. In light of the climate crisis, acknowledged to be an emergency by a vote of parliament on June 18, 2019, and confirmed by the Supreme Court of Canada to be a matter of national concern, it is time to expand our understanding of forests from "forest management" — the setting of stumpage rates, TFLs and annual allowable cut — to a matter of urgent carbon mitigation

and adaptation. We need federal engagement to respond to the climate crisis through tree planting (now supported by the Liberals as carbon sequestration) and through protecting the existing carbon sinks in old-growth forests.

We also need to act to protect the biodiversity uniquely found in old-growth forests. Only the Greens have made this point in Parliament. Paul Manly, Green MP, sponsored a petition on this issue, but I also promoted it and presented it in parliament.

I have also publicly denounced the excessive use of force and illegal actions of the RCMP. The court has been clear that the establishment of exclusion zones is outside the injunction granted to Teal Jones and is illegal.

I hope my commitment to protecting old-growth forests is clear. I hope to be able to continue doing this work in parliament should I have the honour of being re-elected.

## Dock Currie Communist

I, and my party, absolutely support an old-growth logging ban. Moreover, I resent how the NDP portrays the police brutality at Fairy Creek as a narrowly federal issue, and blames Justin Trudeau, Bill Blair, etc., when it is the Horgan government that is responsible for the logging. I do not believe that the "resources sharing agreements" with local band councils really reflect free, prior and informed consent of Indigenous peoples, and that these agreements are signed under incredible duress.

I would support the utilization of all existent federal and provincial measures to protect old-growth forests, and the creation of new ones in accord with the Convention on Biological Diversity.

In broader terms, our party supports the nationalization of industry, including energy and forestry, such as to abolish the tar sands and manage our natural resources

through rational planning, which would include an absolute ban on the logging of old-growth forests.

In short, it is a crucial issue for me as well, and I hope that you will look into our party's platform at VoteCommunist.com and consider voting for me on Sept. 20.

## Sabina Singh NDP

I understand why people want to protect old-growth forests because I too want to protect them. They are a vital part of our ecosystems and are culturally important to the First People of this land.

I'm pleased that the B.C. government accepted the request from the Pacheedaht, Ditidaht and Huu-ay-aht First Nations. Both protecting old-growth and respecting Indigenous peoples' land management rights in their territories is important.

Reconciliation and environmental protection must go hand in hand.

Each First Nation has the right to determine what is best for their respective members and territories. Some want to protect more or all of the old growth, while others want to protect old growth but sustainably harvest for cultural uses and opportunities that support families and communities. It's important to me that their right to make these decisions is respected.

On the issue of the RCMP, we would like to see the arrests stop. We believe in a person's right to protest safely. Many believe that the provincial government is directing the RCMP, but this is not the case. The private company sought an injunction from the court. The injunction was granted, and the court is directing the RCMP to enforce it.

The Green party does not support a moratorium on old growth or a pause on all harvesting of old growth. Just like the NDP, they support the recommendations of the independent Old Growth Review. Those recommendations focus on protecting more old growth while

putting Indigenous peoples at the centre of land management decisions in their territories.

## David Hilderman PPC

Old-growth forests are precious. The last statistic I read said that only 2.7 per cent are remaining in the province. We have been logging old-growth forests now for over 100 years.

Now that we are giving First Nations control over lands having old growth, many are wanting to use this to economically help their communities. We need to encourage and support First Nations in using this precious resource in a way that will benefit them for generations, not just when the forests are cut down. People all over the world want to experience this. We need to work with First Nations to create tourist attractions that can monetize this.

I will consult with the people in my riding to work towards resolving this important issue.

## David Busch Conservative

You are correct in noting that forestry is a provincial jurisdiction and a Conservative federal government would be reluctant to create policies in conflict with a provincial government and First Nations that have already protected a significant portion of B.C.'s old-growth forests.

Some of our current plans with respect to forestry are:

- Canada's Conservatives will create a powerful incentive for agriculture and forestry sectors to protect the environment and sequester carbon by allowing for greater creation of land-based offset credits.

- We will invest an additional \$3 billion between now and 2030 in natural climate solutions focused on management of forest, crop and grazing lands and restoration of grasslands, wetlands and forests.

- These solutions can have multiple benefits: not only will they

help sequester carbon, but they can also provide protection for communities and additional benefits for wildlife.

- Conservatives will increase the ability of the agricultural and forestry sectors to create land-based offset credits by improving the carbon sequestration of agricultural lands and managed forests, and incentivizing environmental protection in those sectors. This will generate emissions reductions at lower cost, and protect Canadian jobs.

- We will work with provinces, territories and the agriculture and forestry sectors to identify and support ways in which the sectors can contribute to enhancing carbon sequestration.

- We will invest in forest health and wildfire prevention and early detection.

## Sherri Moore-Arbour Liberal

I understand how vitally important it is to permanently protect more old-growth forests in our beautiful province. This is an integral step to fight climate change and ensure these iconic, sacred, non-renewable and globally significant ecosystems must be protected for generations to come.

In our platform, we have committed to protecting these iconic and ecologically important old-growth forests by:

- Ensuring First Nations, local communities and workers are partners in shaping the path forward on nature protection. Our Indigenous leaders across B.C. should have a say in how we approach protecting these vital ecosystems.

- Reaching a nature agreement with the province of British Columbia to protect more of the province's old-growth forests and expand protected areas.

- Establishing a \$50-million B.C. Old Growth Nature Fund and working with partners to attract additional funding to further support the protection of important old-growth forests.

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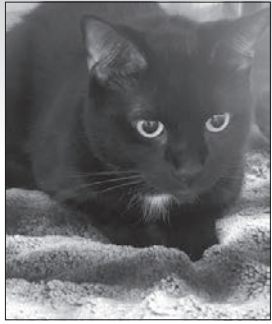
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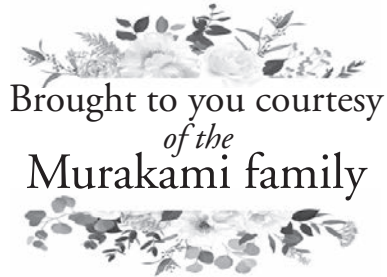
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## FUNDRAISER

# Fox event takes one-week route

Easy to participate or to support local team online

The 41st annual Terry Fox Run will be virtual again this year, with islanders invited to run, walk or bike or otherwise raise funds for the cause from Sept. 19 (National Terry Fox Day) to Sept. 26.

Many local groups are already planning their "event." The Salt Spring Sneakers will be dedicating their usual Saturday run to Terry Fox. Noel Back has already been receiving donations and is looking forward to a strenuous hike with his father ames on the significant day.

Helen Hinchliff and Angie Trarup will be running and raising funds amongst their friends in Brinkworthy again this year. Last year, they raised \$1,140, contributing to the overall \$7,000 that the Salt Spring Terry Fox site raised, the most ever in recent years and during COVID.

"It is really hard to organize a 'non-event' two years in a row and I have been having a really hard time building momentum and motivation. However, I am persevering this year in honour of my mother who overcame uterine cancer last year and then this year received treat-



PHOTO COURTESY SSI TERRY FOX EVENT

Angie Trarup, left, and Helen Hinchliff during last year's "do your own thing" Terry Fox fundraiser. Rather than taking place on the same day and time, people are invited to do fundraising activities for the Terry Fox Foundation from Sept. 19 to 26.

ment for breast cancer," said run organizer Janine Fernandes-Hayden. "If there is a deep reason for you to persevere and 'do your own thing' for Terry, I hope that you will."

The specific link to direct Terry Fox donations towards the Salt Spring Island site is: <http://www.terryfox.ca/terryfoxrun/>

SaltSpringIsland. Participants and donors are asked to the cut and paste the link, and specify "SSI Site 100," including in the field labelled "credit a community run."

For more information, contact event organizer Fernandes-Hayden at [janinefernandeshayden@gmail.com](mailto:janinefernandeshayden@gmail.com) or 250-537-8314.

# what's on this week



Wed. Sept. 15	Thur. Sept. 16	Fri. Sept. 17	Sat. Sept. 18	Tues. Sept. 21	Wed. Sept. 22
<p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>SugarBeat.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.</b> At the Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.</p>	<p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>Open Mic &amp; Jam.</b> At the Legion. 7 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw at 5 p.m.)</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.</b> See Wednesday listing.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> This week's guest is Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. United Church Meadow, but at the Portlock Park pavilion if it is raining.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Movie Matinee.</b> Family-friendly movie at the Salt Spring Public Library. 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.</b> See Wednesday listing.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Tuesday Farmers' Market.</b> Weekly market of fresh produce and food/drink products at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Celebrating Aging</b> Aging as a catalyst to meaning, purpose and self-transformation, facilitated by JayaLynda Cole via Zoom from 1 to 3 p.m. More info and register at <a href="mailto:staroftheseassi@gmail.com">staroftheseassi@gmail.com</a>.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.</b> See last Wednesday listing.</p> <p><b>ONLINE</b></p> <p><b>Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting.</b> Watch proceedings from 9 a.m. to about 5 p.m. See schedule, agenda and link at <a href="http://islandstrust.bc.ca">islandstrust.bc.ca</a></p>
<p><b>Thur. Sept. 16</b></p> <p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>Festival Afloat: Luke Wallace.</b> An on-the-water, paddle powered concert afloat presented as a fundraiser for RAVEN: Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs. View from paddle-powered vessels or the shoreline in Ganges Harbour by The Local pub. 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available online at <a href="https://tinyurl.com/floatsept16">https://tinyurl.com/floatsept16</a>.</p> <p><b>Ange Hehr.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p>	<p><b>Fri. Sept. 17</b></p> <p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>Tom, Dave &amp; Auntie Kate.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>Jose Sanchez.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>StoryWalk.</b> 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><b>Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.</b> See Wednesday listing.</p>	<p><b>Sat. Sept. 18</b></p> <p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>29 East.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>Rough &amp; Tumble.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Salt Spring Fall Fair.</b> At the Farmers' Institute grounds. See pages 8 and 9 of this issue of the paper for the schedule.</p> <p><b>Saturday Market in the Park.</b> Saturday market runs in Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>StoryWalk.</b> See Friday listing.</p>	<p><b>Sun. Sept. 19</b></p> <p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>Tom Hooper.</b> Live music at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Salt Spring Fall Fair.</b> See Saturday listing.</p> <p><b>StoryWalk.</b> See Friday listing.</p> <p><b>Mon. Sept. 20</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>StoryWalk.</b> See Friday listing.</p> <p><b>Salt Spring Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting.</b> Public welcome to attend meeting at Ganges Fire Hall. 6:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ONLINE</b></p> <p><b>Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting.</b> Watch proceedings online from 1 to 9 p.m., with a town hall session at 8 p.m. See schedule, agenda and link at <a href="http://islandstrust.bc.ca">islandstrust.bc.ca</a>.</p>	<p><b>Islands Trust</b></p>

**THE FRITZ CINEMA**

The Fritz shows **Free Guy** from Friday, Sept. 17 through Tuesday, Sept. 21 at 7 p.m. nightly plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements, and limited seating, in place. **More info: [thefritz.ca](http://thefritz.ca)**

**EXHIBITIONS**

- **Allison Brodie and Carolyn Houg** show acrylic paintings and sculpture until Sept. 22 at Salt Spring Gallery. Hours are Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Gallery 8** presents **East meets West**, artworks by **David Goatley and James Stewart**, with an opening event scheduled from 3 to 6:30 p.m. on Sept. 17.
- **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 Sunday, Sept. 19.

**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.
- **The Photosynthesis** group holds its **2021 show** virtually at [www.photosyn.ca](http://www.photosyn.ca).

**Salt Spring Fall Fair**  
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**Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Anniversaries** **Anniversaries** **Anniversaries**



**Mary-Ann Garner**  
 Sept. 3, 1942 - Sept. 3, 2021

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Mary-Ann Garner on September 3, 2021, after a long battle with dementia.

Mary-Ann was born in Duncan, BC and was the only daughter of three children. She was predeceased by her brother, Jimmy, and is survived by her brother, Kenny. She leaves behind her children; Shona, Kara and Cameron as well as her beloved grand-daughter, Rachel.



Her passion for animals great and small led her to run a large farm on Galiano Island. She was best known for breeding and showing Arabian horses. She moved to Langley and continued the farm life. Eventually, Mary-Ann returned to Galiano in retirement.

Mary-Ann was best known for her big smile and her sense of humour. She will be greatly missed by her family and friends.

Her family would like to thank the wonderful staff at Hawthorne Seniors Care Community for their care of Mary-Ann.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Alzheimer Society of British Columbia, or any charity of your choice.

**Happy 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**  
*Mom & Dad*

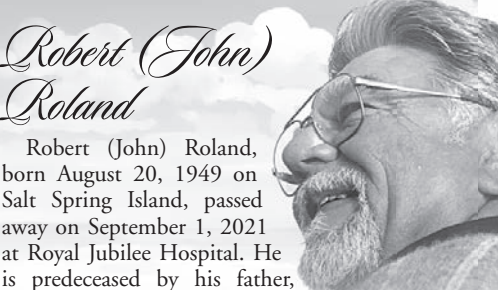



**Native Islander, George Laundry married his one true love, Florence Steadman on August 26th, 1961.**

Together they raised 4 children, and spent many happy years surrounded with love, laughter (and a little chaos) before returning and retiring to their Salt Spring farm where they enjoy visits from family and friends.

We're inspired to see you still so in love.

*A thought of sweet remembrance from one who thinks of you.*



**Robert (John) Roland**

Robert (John) Roland, born August 20, 1949 on Salt Spring Island, passed away on September 1, 2021 at Royal Jubilee Hospital. He is predeceased by his father, Harry (Jack), and mother, Laura, as well as sister Ethel and brother Herk.

He leaves to mourn his partner Michele (Becky, Dane, and children Arlo, Emmett, and Wylie). He will be dearly missed by sons Josh (Michelle), Adam (Raina), and Peter (Ai), and their mother, Donna; his grandchildren Sydney, Carter, Hinome, Michi, Isla, and Ivor; and his siblings Leona, Marina, Josie, David, and Cathy.

John grew up the eldest son in a pioneering Fulford Harbour family. After graduating high school, John moved to Victoria and began his career in the marine industry. His life's work was on the water: whether you needed a boat sold, designed, or built, a marine survey conducted, a marina built, or a skipper for your yacht, John, the quintessential marine consultant, was your man. He made friends in the industry working all over the world, from the Caribbean to the Mediterranean, from Alaska to Panama, and all points in between.

John was known for his many pithy one-liners, and perhaps would want to leave us with this final one: "He's okay...he's dead now."

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**RECYCLE THIS NEWS PAPER.**



**Coming Events**

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

**Computer Services**

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**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**  
 Mars joining Mercury in Libra and the Sun soon to follow bring a charged emphasis to your relationship life. Passions and desires will be strong with Venus in Libra meanwhile. Pushing for engagement will prove stronger than usual leading you to take extra measures you might not usually. Expect emotions to get heated and edgy.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)**  
 Mars just recently and the Sun later this week entering your sign and joining forces with Mercury will bring energy and resolve to your focus. Venus in Scorpio meanwhile will bring emphasis to financial matters. This combination of factors will challenge you to see people and situations beyond your own interests.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**  
 Creative expressions guided by beauty and excellence with attention to detail, is a spotlight theme. This trend will continue well into October. The workload will prove heavy, but you will feel determined to meet the challenge. Desires for love and romance is a featured theme all the while adding depth and color to the plot.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**  
 A lingering emphasis on home and family comes with playful highlights. Yet, there are complex patterns to contend with as well. These imply the need for extra efforts especially due to the degree and scope of intensity and stress on the social scene. Understanding what is going on or will challenge you to examine why you believe what you do.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**  
 Circumstances of late have been guiding you to think more critically and independently. This includes questioning why you perceive, believe and interpret things the way you do. Are there other angles worth considering? Your power as the skeptical sign of the Zodiac will deepen and expand when you direct such scrutiny to your own nature, conditioning and thought processes.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**  
 Although not much, there remains some time to gain the recognition and reward you feel you have earned and deserve. Are you after a raise or a promotion or perhaps a new job altogether? In these very complex and changing times, much is shifting publicly and this will continue. Such shifts create opportunities too. Above all, you want your truth heard.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)**  
 Your mind is racing with thoughts and ideas these days. Circumstances have and continue to push you to dig deeper than usual to see matters more clearly. This could have a renovative effect especially regarding what you deem important. Despite a veritable metamorphic process underway within, you have reason to feel rewarded.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)**  
 Practical concerns and considerations are at the forefront of your thoughts and actions of late. These are activating your determination to expand your scope of opportunity. Increased commitment and a willingness to make any and all extra efforts to succeed will support your focus. Gathering tools and resources required are featured.

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)**  
 Taking new leads and initiatives continues. Your resolve has been strong, but your follow-through has been challenging due to outer factors. Taking a philosophical approach to it all has been necessary. Yet, your ambitions have been deepening and you have begun to push harder and this trend will continue and escalate this week.

**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.

**Fall Fair FOCUS**  
*"Be kind, be patient, be considerate. Thank you for your cooperation."*

**CURRENT HEALTH ORDERS FOR THE FALL FAIR ARE:**

- Masks are required to enter all buildings and barns.
- Masks are required to ride the shuttle bus
- Masks are recommended on the grounds
- Be considerate of physical distancing.

*See you at the Fair Sept. 18 & 19!*



# NATIONAL DAY OF



## TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION SEPTEMBER 30TH

The Driftwood office will be closed on Thursday, Sept. 30 in support of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which has been created to recognize and commemorate the intergenerational harm that residential schools have caused to Indigenous families and communities, and to honour those who have been affected by this injustice.

**Driftwood** GULF ISLANDS 250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd  
driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**SUPER CYCLIST:** Cycle of Life Tour rider Blake Gold, second from right, receives a gift certificate of thanks for helping raise thousands of dollars in the annual fundraiser for Vancouver Island-area hospices. From left are event volunteer Sheryl Taylor-Munro, Salt Spring Hospice vice-president Kathleen Horsdal and president Kitty Martinho, and Country Grocer community support rep Tami Moulton. Country Grocer donated an extra \$250 to this year's fundraiser in Gold's name.

### COMMUNITY ARTS

## Teens dispense poetry



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Salt Spring Public Library teen volunteers Charlotte Voysey, left, and Sophie Voysey with the box they created for people to leave a poem or take one written by someone else.

nity," they explained. "The inspiration for the poem box was sparked from our interest in literature, especially poetry. We also recognize that there are many talented people who live on this island and as well as visitors, and we wanted to give them the opportunity to showcase their talent. Our goal is to eventually publish the collection of poems so that more people can enjoy them." Charlotte and Sophie were part of the Salt Spring Public Library's teen program this summer, which encourages youth to create and champion their own projects.

"We work at the library as volunteers and we just love anything to do with literature so that's why we decided to work there," said Charlotte. "We love English, we love poetry, literally anything."

Sophie continued: "Reading, writing ... especially when we're on Salt Spring because it's so beautiful here. There's lots of inspiration."

The girls' interest was encouraged even further over the past year thanks to a creative writing English class where they spent a lot of time producing work.

The poem box is located on top of the piano closest to the library, at the steps to the Creekside building. The Voyseys started out by writing around a dozen original poems and typing them up for distribution in the "take a poem" side of the box. They have been pleased with the take-up and with the success of the "leave a poem" side, as tens of poems were generated in the first couple of weeks.

They note a lot of people have written about the piano where the box is located and about the surrounding town. Many of the poems are anonymous, which seems to encourage openness and creativity.

"There's not really any rules, just everything friendly, nothing inappropriate, no hate speech or anything like that," Charlotte said.

During fall and winter months they hope the poem box can move into the library. The girls also envision adding locations such as a booth at the Saturday market.

"We thought this was a really perfect place, but we'd like to have a second one, maybe down by the water, because that will be more inspiration. It's been such a hit, we thought 'Why not have a second one?'" Sophie said.

### Poem box offers both 'take' and 'leave' options

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Anyone feeling the yen to release some creative words out to the world, or to read poetry filtered through this community, can find the place to take or leave a poem right in downtown Ganges.

Islanders have likely grown used to finding pianos outdoors on Salt Spring during the summer as a product of community-building individuals. Now one of those pianos has become the base for a new participatory arts initiative launched by teens Charlotte and Sophie Voysey. The twin sisters attend Crofton House School in Vancouver, where they will be entering Grade 11 this week, but they have been spending holidays at their Salt Spring house since they were three years old.

"We have grown to love the community here on Salt Spring and decided we wanted to give back to the commu-



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# 2021 Fall Fair Entertainment & Events Schedule

THIS SCHEDULE BROUGHT TO YOU BY THESE COMMUNITY MINDED BUSINESSES.

## Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute Fair Grounds • 351 Rainbow Road

### SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 18

- 7:30 ..... Admission gates open / Indoor judging
- 8:30 ..... Start of livestock judging continues all day
- 9:00 ..... Commercial vendors & exhibitors open
- 10:00 ..... Free bus shuttle from town to/ from the fairgrounds  
Food concessions open / Games open / Horse Show begins
- ♪ 10:00-10:30 ..... **Vaughn Fulford**
- ♪ 10:40-11:10 ..... **David Carl Band**
- 11:00 ..... Indoor sections open in the Main Building  
Sawmill Demonstration  
Blacksmith Demo ongoing
- ♪ 11:20-11:50 ..... **Ruwadzano Marimba Band**
- 11:30 ..... Sheep Dog Demonstration
- ♪ 12:00-12:30 ..... **Kathy Stack with Tom Bowler**
- 12:00 ..... Livestock judging continues  
Chicken races
- 12:30 ..... Threshing Demonstration
- ♪ 12:45-1:25 ..... **Bill Henderson**
- 1:00 ..... Zucchini Races  
Horse Show Continues
- ♪ 1:40-2:20 ..... **Doug and The Buds**
- 2:00 ..... Tractor Pull
- 2:30 ..... Sheep Dog Demonstration
- 3:00 ..... Sawmill Demonstration
- ♪ 2:35-3:15 ..... **Synergy**
- 3:30 ..... Chicken races
- ♪ 3:30-4:10 ..... **Sunny Siders**
- ♪ 4:25-5:05 ..... **Buck Dodgers**
- ♪ 5:20-6:00 ..... **Rough and Tumble**
- 6:00 ..... Gates closed



### SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 19

- 7:30 ..... Admission gates open
- 9:00-10:30 ..... Admittance to the Main Building. Open only to people with special needs and residents of Senior Facilities
- 9:00 ..... Commercial vendors & exhibitors open
- 10:00 ..... Pet Parade registration  
Free bus shuttle to/from the fairgrounds / Food concessions open / Games open
- ♪ 10:00-10:30 ..... **Alan Moberg**
- 10:30 ..... Indoor exhibits open to all fair-goers
- ♪ 10:45-11:15 ..... **Alvaro Sanchez**
- 11:00 ..... Pet Parade  
Sawmill Demonstration  
Blacksmith Demo ongoing  
Most fragrant rose judged
- ♪ 11:25-11:55 ..... **Terry Warbey and Craig**
- 11:30 ..... Sheep Dog Demonstration
- 12:00 ..... Chicken races
- ♪ 12:05-12:35 ..... **Two Point Oh**
- 12:30 ..... Threshing Demonstration
- ♪ 12:50-1:30 ..... **Everyday People**
- 1:00 ..... Zucchini Races
- ♪ 1:40-2:20 ..... **Valdy**
- 1:45 ..... Longest lasting rose bloom & dahlia announced
- 2:00 ..... Tractor Pull  
Rooster Calling Contest
- 2:30 ..... Sheep Dog Demonstration
- ♪ 2:40-3:20 ..... **Marianne Grittani Quartet**
- 3:00 ..... Sawmill Demonstration
- 3:00 ..... Rotary Club Muffin Madness
- ♪ 3:30-4:10 ..... **Duck Creak**
- 3:45 ..... Chicken races
- 3:00-5:00 ..... Prize money may be collected behind the main building
- ♪ 4:20-5:00 ..... **SugarBeat**
- 5:00-6:00 ..... All entries must be removed (not earlier)



**GATES CLOSED FOR ANOTHER YEAR**

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