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ISLAND PRIDE

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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

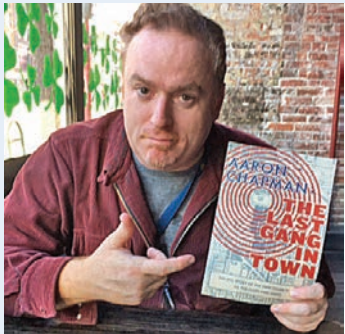
Wednesday, Sept. 22, 2021

62nd year
Issue 38
\$1.50

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14 Climate Action Coach program flies



19 Paper Covers Rock ready for readers & writers



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Anticipating victory for Green candidate Elizabeth May in Monday's election at the Salt Spring Fall Fair on Sunday are, from left, supporters Jillian Reid, Therin Gower, May and Sue Sheane. Incumbent MP May made the island's fall fair one of her last campaign stops before the vote on Monday. May easily won her seat for the fourth time, although with a lower percentage of the popular vote than in her three previous campaigns.

FEDERAL ELECTION

Elizabeth May wins riding again

Second consecutive Liberal minority government elected

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Incumbent Green MP Elizabeth May has won her fourth straight federal election campaign in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding.

Preliminary results with just over half of 236 polls reporting as of 9:40 p.m. on Monday night had May leading the vote count with 38 per cent of the popular vote (8,486 votes). She was followed by Conservative candidate David Busch and the NDP's Sabina Singh virtually tied for second spot with 20 per cent, Liberal candidate Sherri Moore-Arbour at 18 per cent, People's party candidate David Hilderman at four per cent and Dock Currie of the Communist party with less than one per cent.

While all votes had not been counted as of Monday evening when the Driftwood went to press, May's support had dropped from all three of her previous victories and

votes were clearly spread among the other main parties as they were not in recent elections. May received 48.8 per cent of the popular vote in 2019; 54.4 per cent in 2015 and 46.3 per cent in 2011.

A Liberal minority government has been elected and, while all votes had not been counted, including thousands of mail-in ballots, the seat count was virtually the same as it had been in the election held two years earlier. Liberals were leading or elected in 156 seats (157 in 2019), the Conservatives were at 121 (121 in 2019), the Bloc Quebecois at 32 as they were in 2019, the NDP at 27 (24 in 2019), and the Green party had two seats (down from three in 2019).

May told Victoria media on election night that she was glad Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's gamble to get a majority government did not pay off and that Green and other MPs concerned about

climate change could have a real impact in the next Parliament.

Soon after being elected in the 2019 campaign, May resigned as leader of the Green Party of Canada. Since her departure, the party's popularity has dropped. In the 2019 election the party received 6.5 per cent of the popular vote. That number was at 2.3 per cent on Monday night.

Some 27,201 people are estimated to have voted in advance polls in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding, up from 25,185 in 2019. That eight per cent increase was significantly less than the 18.46 per cent hike seen across the nation in advance poll voting.

Voter turn-out levels will not be known until mail-in ballots are counted, and poll-by-poll results are also not immediately available from Elections Canada.

See the Driftwood's gulfislandsdriftwood.com website for a more complete election story.

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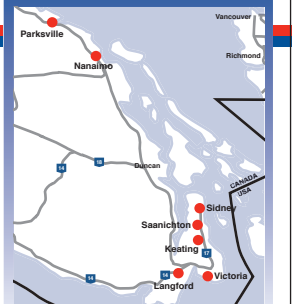
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EDUCATION

Students and staff adjust to new configuration

Class shifts at three schools seen as positive so far

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The new school year has started with several changes that impacted most schools in the Gulf Islands School District.

With the upcoming closure of Salt Spring Middle School in 2022, elementary schools covering grades K-7 and the high school grades 8-12, things look a bit different this fall.

Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS) is in transition with just Grade 7 students, who will finish their middle school years in the current building on Rainbow Road. Grade 8 students started the new school year at Gulf Islands

Secondary School, while Grade 6 students are now spending two more years in elementary school.

Grade 6 students who wanted to enroll in French Immersion moved to Salt Spring Elementary. Because of the changes, SSE has 40 more students compared to last year.

"The start of the school year went smoothly," said Shelly Johnson, principal of SSE. "Our Grade 5 cohort from last year is a great group of kids. We are happy to keep them a little bit longer. Fifteen kids from other elementary schools, including two from Galiano and Mayne, joined us this year for our French Immersion program. We had no problems accommodating these extra students; we had an empty classroom, and we transformed a multi-purpose room to a new classroom."

For the older kids, SSE created some additional opportunities.

"We have divided our recesses, and the older kids have some extra privileges. They have a lounge room with couches where they can hang out, and they are allowed to go to the skate park. I know some kids were disappointed not to have the opportunity to move on to middle school, but by and large, the kids are happy."

Lyall Ruehlen welcomed 100 new Grade 8 students and four former SIMS staff members to GISS this year.

"It is inspiring to see how the new Grade 8s transitioned into our school. They fit right in, and they seem to be excited about the new learning environment; away from the home-room feel, the new block rotations and the special teachers for drama, science and math, for example. It has been very positive so far," he said on Monday.

Every classroom at GISS is now in use. "Luckily our building can accommodate the new students. We had a few classrooms that were empty during some blocks [last year], and they are now all utilized. It is full, but it feels good."

Students from Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna also have been affected by the school configuration change. Pender Island

School now has an improved junior secondary program for grades 8-9 for the outer islands.

"We always had students here until Grade 8, but we have enhanced our program to accommodate Grade 8 and 9 students from now on," explained Adrian Pendergast, principal of Pender School.

"There are a lot of similarities with the Grade 8 and 9 school program on Salt Spring Island," said. "We work with a semester model, for example, and have exploratory courses like drama, music and food."

Over the summer, Pender School was set up for the new program.

"To step it up, we had to alter many learning spaces. We added a food lab with new stoves and fridges, a makers space for wood-working and robotics, a science lab and a foyer that appeals to the older students in the school. We also renovated our library, and we have updated devices and internet speed."

The 2021/2022 school year will be a transition year. Fifteen new students from Mayne and Galiano decided to follow the junior secondary program on Pender Island while many continued to GISS for Grade 9.

"Parents and children from Pender had the choice to continue on Pender for Grade 9 or start at GISS on Salt Spring Island. Some of them chose to go to Salt Spring Island, and we supported both choices. A lot of emotion was involved in those decisions, and I totally understand that."

All in all, Pendergast sees a lot of benefits to the change at his school.

"Students can stay closer to home for a bit longer, allowing for more after-school programs, and there is less travelling involved. I think this is positive change. The first week we did some ice-breaking activities, and you could feel the excitement of the new group."

In total, 1,500 students (1,450 full time students and 50 part-time and international students) have been enrolled in the Gulf Islands School District this school year.



COVID-19 IN BC

3 STEPS TO GETTING YOUR BC VACCINE CARD

Proof of vaccination for people aged 12 and over is now required 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
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.



TRANSIT

Salt Spring bus service enhanced

Beddis and Cusheon addition among changes

Salt Spring Island transit users have a new year-round service to enjoy beginning Friday, Oct. 1.

BC Transit and the Capital Regional District announced the introduction of bus service to Beddis and Cusheon Lake roads three times per day, and other news, on Monday.

"This route provides increased transit coverage on Salt Spring Island and serves a number of destinations and visitor accommodations," states a press release from BC Transit. "It also provides additional service along Fulford-Ganges Road, so that residents have more options for service in that area."

Service on all other routes is being adjusted to match demand and align with BC Ferries' schedules. Earlier Sunday and holiday service has also been introduced on the Ganges Local (Route 1), Vesuvius (3), Long Harbour (4), Fernwood (5) and SS Connector (6) routes.

Early service on Saturday is also being added to routes 3, 4 and 5.

BC Transit reminds customers that free transit for children 12 and under came into effect on Sept. 1.

In alignment with provincial health officer orders, face coverings are mandatory for customers on all BC Transit buses.

For more information on the service changes, fares and schedules, see bctransit.com/salt-spring-island.

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LAND CONSERVATION

Community fêtes Larmour Lands acquisition

Lot F protection secured with farming/conservation plan

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Springers looking for a good news story can find one in the successful community campaign that ended this summer with protection of two island parcels boasting important forest and wetland ecosystems.

Neighbours of the Beddis and Sky Valley roads area and partners Salt Spring Water Preservation Society (SSWPS) were able to bring about purchase of one 20-acre lot from the large estate formerly owned by Mike Larmour earlier this year, thanks to a successful donor campaign. The forests and wetlands on a second "Larmour Lands" property were secured at the end of August with help from conservation buyers Jonnie Penn and Bonny Peter, who will return farmland portions back to production and protect the rest.

"The purchase has been made possible by their binding commitment to legal protection for the upland forests and wetlands; to undertake environmental restoration within the Agricultural Land Reserve zone; and their willingness to put in both the hard work and the funds to bring food-growing potential back into production in the central heritage farm area," campaign spokesperson Rodney Polden explained in an email to donors.

The hard work has already begun. Mountains of "old-growth" gorse have been pulled in recent weeks, uncovering the ruined foundations of one of the farm's historic houses from the 1940s in the process. Penn and Peter have plans to put a fenced area that was devoted to pattypan squash back to use soon, and an intact greenhouse structure suggests other possibilities.

They feel the grassroots campaign volunteers are the real heroes, though, having managed to work out the complicated legal arrangements and successfully completing the fundraising efforts.

"We hit so many obstacles. It took us 10 months figuring out what it would look like to save this land with a ticking clock, knowing that if we didn't try to get in it could succumb to similar outcomes as nearby. God bless everybody that threw in, because it worked," Penn said.

"It's like a miracle, after everything," Peter added. "And I think it's just exciting for us because it shows us what is possible."

Polden got involved in trying to protect Lots H and F in 2019, following clear-cutting of mature forest on another, larger lot in the subdivision. Polden's original idea was to try to find a small group who could purchase a lot, put protective covenants in place and then put it back on the market. That proved

harder to do than to imagine, which is how the larger fundraising campaign was born.

"A lot of neighbours were quite frantic about it ... My sense was it was just a money issue and it had to do with property prices and timber prices," Polden said.

In the end, around 600 individual donors contributed to the project, which included outright purchase of Lot H and legal, surveying and other costs related to Lot F. Partnership with the SSWPS gave the campaign an official outlet that could issue tax receipts and fit perfectly with the spirit of the project: in addition to farming, Larmour had spearheaded founding that society and was a longtime manager at North Salt Spring Waterworks.

"I didn't get to meet Mike before he passed, but I do feel an obligation to try to maintain his trajectory and to kind of keep his legacy going," Penn said.

Peter grew up on Salt Spring and Penn was raised in Victoria, with family ties on the island dating back multiple generations. Land restoration and organic farming may be new ventures for the Lot F owners — they had been living in the U.K. since Penn is currently lecturing at Cambridge University — but the project deeply aligns with their core values.

"I didn't get to meet Mike [Larmour] before he passed, but I do feel an obligation to try to maintain his trajectory and to kind of keep his legacy going."

JONNIE PENN
LOT F co-purchaser

"I have been working in a very different world; I work in artificial intelligence and the ethics of AI," Penn said. "I basically fight tech monopolies and try to stop them stealing people's jobs, and it's so abstract it's just made me believe we need different remedies for the problems of today. And meeting these guys and seeing what they were doing and just seeing the symbiosis in what we all hoped to do, it just kind of worked."

Peter said she was struck by the analysis done on the impact of clearcutting the mature forest on the lot that sparked the original protection campaign.

"It was taking 40 tons of carbon from the atmosphere every year, pre-cut, and now it's going to be releasing 40,000 tons over 16 years slowly. So it's interesting to see that impact and actually get to witness what us taking this land and being able to protect it



PHOTO COURTESY SSIWPS

Working to clear gorse from recently purchased Lot F of the Larmour Lands are, from left, Jean Wilkinson, Usha Rautenbach, Rodney Polden, Cathy Young, Bonny Peter and Jonnie Penn. The property's agricultural potential will be used and the rest of it conserved.

will do in opposition [to that]," she said.

Peter and Penn, who are 28 and 34, were able to purchase Lot F through a mortgage with Farm Credit Canada, a crown corporation that provides financing to farmers at low rates. The Young Farmers Program is aimed at people aged 40 and younger, since only 11 per cent of farmers are young.

Normally that program would be used only to increase agricultural production, not to protect land for other reasons.

"The precedent that we set was a joint conservation-agricultural piece. The benefit there is we're considering the environment, but people can still have jobs," Penn said. "Some other people other than us could have easily

come here and put in a condo or a house that they never go to. But the hope is to make this a place somewhere that people can work and feel good and just be a member of the community and set that as a template for other places and other areas."

Neighbours and volunteers are continuing to be active on the land, helping with the massive project of removing invasive species and on the legal front. Polden is preparing an application to the Islands Trust Conservancy to facilitate donation of Lot H by the SSWPS and Penn's donation of the non-ALR part of Lot F. He is also helping neighbours protect upland forest areas on adjacent properties through covenants.

WEEKLY COVID REPORT

The most recently available COVID-19 data from the B.C. Centre for Disease Control shows 13 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the Southern Gulf Islands, including Salt Spring Island, between Sept. 5 and 11.

A separate data set shows that Salt Spring Island had an average daily case rate per 100,000 population of nine cases between Sept. 10 and 16, and the islands of Pender, Galiano, Mayne and Saturna combined had a case rate of three.

As of Sept. 16, 74 per cent of Salt Spring residents aged 12 and up and 88 per cent of other Gulf Island residents had received two doses of COVID-19 vaccine.

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

	NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES			
	Week of 8/15 - 8/21	Week of 8/22 - 8/28	Week of 8/29 - 9/04	Week of 9/05 - 9/11
Southern Gulf Islands	3	4	7	13
Saanich Peninsula	10	14	25	22
Greater Victoria	65	103	97	118
Langford to Port Renfrew	39	44	51	27
Duncan Area	24	56	75	129
Chemainus to Nanaimo	37	21	56	62
Total	178	242	311	371

We're almost there!

Raising \$10.4 million to build a new Emergency Department was a lofty goal. But thanks to the generosity and kindness of Salt Springers, we are within reach of our target for contributions from the community.

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



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Nancy Johnson
PUBLISHER

njohnson@driftwoodgimedia.com



Gail Sjuberg
MANAGING EDITOR

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan
PRODUCTION MANAGER

production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Johanna Walkner
OFFICE MANAGER

jwalkner@driftwoodgimedia.com



Sky Marcano
ACCOUNT MANAGER

smarcano@driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com



Damian Richards
CIRCULATION/DISTRIBUTION

drichards@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Dennis Parker
CARTOONIST

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Pride in 2021

September has traditionally held the much-loved Pride festival on Salt Spring.

That tradition was set to shift with a new kind of program in 2020, but COVID had other plans, and no organized celebration was held in 2020.

With so many changes taking place locally and globally when it comes to LGBTQ2SIA+ issues, we did not want to let another year pass without facilitating community support for Pride and the educational opportunities that an annual focus provides.

Studies on and understanding of gender diversity continue to grow, which is one reason the terminology used is constantly evolving and demands revisiting and attention. (A list of definitions created by UBC's Positive Space group is provided in our Island Pride section this week to help get readers up to speed.)

THE ISSUE: LGBTQ2SIA+ issues today

WE SAY: Inclusivity and acceptance crucial

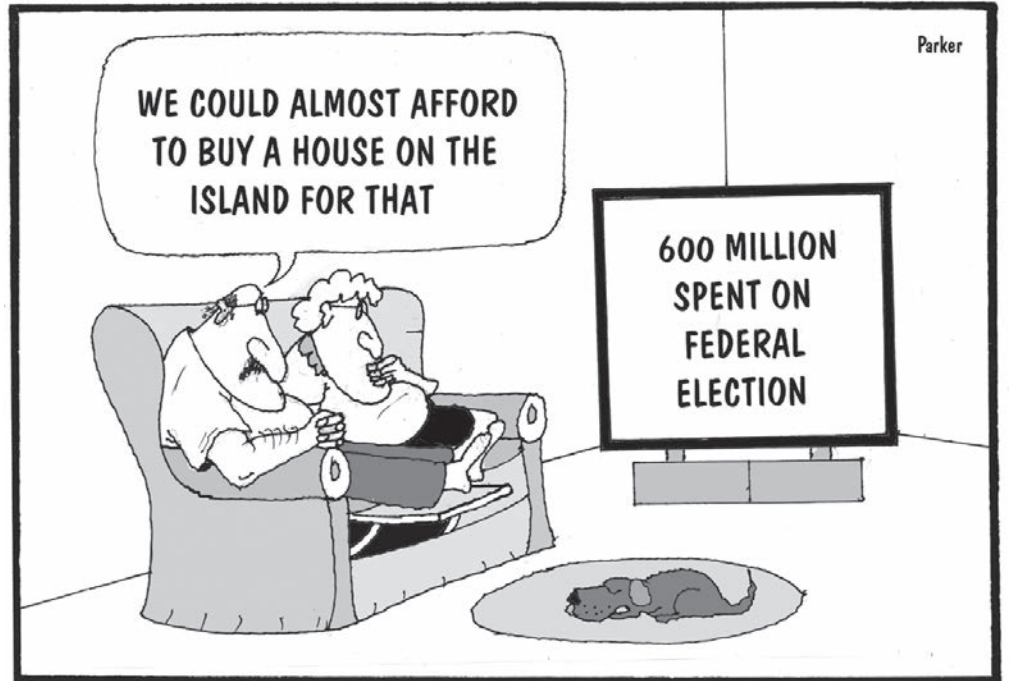
Salt Spring often touts itself as being a community that is tolerant of gender diversity, and certainly it is much more so than many places in our country and the world. But we can always do better by learning and listening more to people who are anywhere on the LGBTQ2SIA+ spectrum.

One thing people can do is to not assume someone is heterosexual, or gay or lesbian; end of story. As our understanding of gender issues continues to evolve, it is incumbent on everyone to drop all assumptions except that we are all human. It is a difficult thing to do, because labelling ourselves and others is a natural first step in trying to understand anything.

The use of the long (and evolving) LGBTQ2SIA+ acronym could be critiqued as being a label, as well, but in including a full range of possibilities, the message is that everyone on that spectrum is included. When the island's Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island group changed its name to Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island it was recognizing that change and moving to inclusivity.

Everyone's lived experiences are not the same. Many people cannot authentically imagine what it feels like to be in a body that doesn't match their gender assigned at birth or how the expectations and labels attached to male or female genders cause discomfort. But everyone can understand the need to feel safe and accepted for who they are and how they want to express their identity.

Everyone's story is different. Everyone's story is valid. Everyone deserves to be seen, heard and loved without judgement.



Vortex decision questioned

BY FRANTS ATTORP

The following letter, questioning the Dec. 17, 2019 issuance of a septic variance for the proposed Vortex development at Fulford Harbour, was sent to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) and filed with the Driftwood for publication. (Author's note: all quotes are from the staff report.)

1. Why did the LTC reject the primary recommendation of staff "to proceed no further with the application?"

- "The variance requests are not considered appropriate for the site context, which includes sensitive wetland, shoreline, estuary and freshwater ecosystems, loose soils, and archaeological resources, especially susceptible to the impacts of climate change."

- "Sensitive ecosystems are fragile and rare, and support a high diversity of species. The nearshore zone — where land meets water — holds some of the highest rates of biodiversity in the islands. Fulford Creek Watershed is the largest watershed on Salt Spring Island providing important habitat for a range of salmonid fish species."

2. Why did the LTC not respect relevant OCP policies?

VIEWPOINT

- From OCP: "The LTC should not support any development that could have a net negative impact on the marine environment of the Fulford Creek estuary, tidal flows, visual sightlines, or the inner basin adjacent to the ferry terminal."

- "Staff consider the combined proposal for 17 commercial guest accommodation units, the restaurant, the accessory retail sales, and the public plaza to be a large new commercial development. The combined variance requests could have a net negative impact on the marine environment."

3. Why did the LTC not request the crucial studies recommended by staff?

- "The site is sensitive to a changing climate, is at risk of sea level rise, and potentially tidal-dominated groundwater table."

- "The impacts of the proposed development on the marine environment would best be addressed by a professional biologist report and a groundwater hydrology detailed site investigation."

4. Why did the LTC dismiss concerns about future flooding given that the

Islands Trust declared a climate emergency just months earlier?

- "The (CRD) map shows the expected new shoreline and water depth extending throughout the subject properties. Fulford-Ganges Road (nearest the harbour) is also expected to be covered by sea water, making site access difficult."

5. Why did the LTC not question the quality of the ground discharge from the septic system that will be flowing into Soule Creek?

- From the consultant's report: "A potential advantage of the onsite sewerage system is that this ground discharge will result in recharge of shallow groundwater below the site, which could improve water status in the riparian area adjacent to Soule Creek or the estuary, as well as adding to base stream flow."

6. Why did the LTC not wait for feedback from First Nations before approving the variance?

- "The subject property (nearest the harbour) overlaps a registered archaeological site, and the majority of the two subject properties are mapped as having a high potential to contain unknown/unrecorded archaeological deposits."

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933
Email: driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com | Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday to Friday
SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00
Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST



Funded by the Government of Canada



Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782
Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Would you use the services of a 'climate action coach?' Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Have you been following the federal election campaign? YES NO

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

OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"Gender issues are important and we need to protect everyone."

JAQUELINE WIGHTMAN, 15-YEAR-OLD GISS STUDENT

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What do you like best about the Salt Spring Fall Fair?*

JESSICA HARKEMA



The community.

ANDREW OKULITCH



The people. All the people from on and off the island.

MARLEE MOULTON



I like winning all the prizes at the grad games. Especially candy!

JOHN BATEMAN



Pies, music and community — in that order.

THERIN GOWER



It's the beautiful vegetables. You see beautiful flowers a lot but not beautiful vegetables.

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

Rights and responsibilities

The pandemic has generated a lot of talk about rights, and I found myself wondering what they are. The obvious thing is that rights are human inventions and grow out of particular times and cultures. Many of what we in Canada think of as universal rights weren't even conceived here a few generations ago and aren't held now by folks half a world away.

The other thing I realized is that rights are paired with responsibilities. Do you assert a right to clean water? Then your part of the deal is to keep crap out of the watershed and pay your share of the community cost of providing clean water.

If you want the right in a time of COVID not to wear a face mask and not to be vaccinated, you acknowledge paired responsibilities that likely include self-imposed quarantine. Otherwise your right to gather and pass on viruses is to accept the potential role of filling a scarce hospital bed and killing other people.

BOB WEEDEN,
SALT SPRING

Wrong message on signs

Okay, for those of you who were and are protesting the infringement of personal freedoms by being demanded to wear protection against the coronavirus, or be vaccinated, I would like to say a couple of things.

I think it was Voltaire who said something like this: "While I cannot defend your opinions I will defend your right to have those opinions," but I don't understand why you are accusing us of keeping you healthy. Instead of protesting you should be thanking us who have done the right thing by being vaccinated and practising social distancing and wearing our masks. By practising thoughtful and science-backed behaviours we have done a good job of keeping the virus to a very low count on our lovely island.

You should be waving signs saying, "Thank you, thank you, thank you for keeping us alive and healthy so we can participate in these marches and wave our banners."

Stop being so selfish and think of the community instead of the self.

JIM ERICKSON,
SALT SPRING

Consultation

The following letter was sent to Islands Trust Council members.

I and 88 of my family members on Salt Spring Island have formed a society with a commitment to protect our families' interests on Salt Spring Island.

I spoke at the last Trust Council meeting, informing the council that as Indigenous persons we had not been consulted on the proposed changes to the Islands Trust Policy Statement.

A few weeks ago, I requested a meeting with the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee members to make known our concerns. No response has been received.

Some of the issues that need clarifying are as follows.

1. Science demonstrates that on Salt Spring Island carbon capture far exceeds any loss

resulting from tree harvesting, yet the Islands Trust has a stated goal of managing an industry that they do not understand.

My family and my progeny have been foresters for 180 years. The proposed policy threatens my livelihood and the future of my children to prosper in harvesting the forest. I want clarity from the Islands Trust as to how they propose to compensate those affected by new Trust forestry policy.

2. The Indigenous population have a right to continue to live and work under their own legal system on reserve lands. Legal opinion indicates that Indigenous people have the same rights on land that they have purchased under the fee simple system.

The Indigenous population living under the Islands Trust umbrella want assurances that their rights are upheld and not subjected to the burgeoning interference by the Islands Trust bylaw compliance and enforcement.

DANIEL O'DONNELL,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Time to listen to real scientists and get vaccinated

BY MANDY SPOTTISWOODE

Driving through town last Monday I encountered the demonstration against vaccinations and masks.

As I was wearing my pro-vaccination button, I could not resist stopping to engage with the demonstrators and attempt to talk some reason into them. What a vain hope! These people do not listen to reason and are bent on propagating their own crazy theories and alternate reality.

To deny any mainstream science and to call what is happening today in the world a giant conspiracy is total madness. Can you deny 675,000 dead in the U.S. alone and attribute those deaths to people with existing health conditions? Of course not, but according to them and their ilk these numbers have been cooked up by evil governments and big pharma in an attempt to sell us vaccines we don't need. Every rational argument one can put to them is shouted down with crazy alternate theories that not only have no basis in science but also have no basis in reality.

One of the arguments (and signs) that are currently popular is that vaccines don't work. The "proof" of this is that even those vaccinated are ending up in hospital. Yes, yes, yes, that is true! No one ever said the vaccine was 100 per cent effective. Those fully vaccinated who are getting the virus are getting it from those who have been irresponsible enough to not get it. Or perhaps from children who cannot yet be jabbed, but who come from families who are unvaccinated. Those parents can then pass the infection on through their children, who often show no symptoms. So, yes, getting the jab does not make us 100 per cent safe, but it will likely pre-

INDEPTH

vent severe illness and death if we do get infected.

Those who refuse the vaccine may not be so lucky if they get infected. The news is full of stories about unvaccinated individuals who get COVID, and who just before they are intubated (and in some cases die) are begging others to get the jab. Of course, these stories must be fake news — right?

Look at the numbers (which they argue are invented). Most of those ending up in intensive care are unvaccinated. The strain on our wonderful health-care workers is due to these people. Those who protest outside hospitals, claiming the support of "health-care professionals" are the lowest of the low. Imagine being a nurse in intensive care and looking out of the hospital window at demonstrators denigrating what you have been doing for the last 18 months. One open letter purporting to be from such "professionals" likens the introduction of the vaccine passport to the early stages of the Holocaust, when rights and personal freedoms were being whittled away. To compare our politicians to the Nazis who murdered six million people is beyond reprehensible. And to denounce Dr. Anthony Fauci and our own Dr. Bonnie Henry as being fake scientists takes my breath away.

I am not a scientist and don't pretend to understand the science behind both the virus and the vaccine, but I choose to listen to accredited professionals, rather than those who may call themselves sci-



Mandy Spottiswoode's pro-vaccination button.

entists and doctors, but whose credentials are suspect. We have to believe someone, and I have chosen to trust our government and those who are advising them. And because we are lucky enough to live in a democracy, if we don't like the way they have handled the pandemic we can vote them out come election time. I guess Justin Trudeau's report card on his government's handling of the pandemic will have been released this past Monday!

As I shook my head and walked away from the demonstrators, one of them started yelling in my face, saying that he had leprosy and was going to give it to me. That pretty much sums up the kind of people taking part in these demos.

Please, please, please . . . listen to the real scientists and get vaccinated. It is only by everyone getting the jab that we are going to get back to a normal life, where masks and vaccine cards will no longer be needed.

If anyone would like one of my buttons, please let me know and I'll be happy to get one to you: spottyonsaltspring@gmail.com.

The writer is a longtime Salt Spring Island resident.

Rants + ROSES

Roses

A big bunch of assorted roses to the board of directors and all the other volunteers for your work putting together another successful, although different, Salt Spring Fall Fair! A beautiful rose to Marilynne for all her work over the years coordinating us gate volunteers, with Kathryn's help more recently. This year I'd like to send a bunch of colourful roses to Ann Marie and Tom for their hard work in setting up a new system (and following up with reminders and thank yous, etc.) to keep all us volunteers at the gates informed and on schedule! Fiona

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Gratitude for vaccine

I am so grateful for the researchers who developed the various vaccines and for the doctors who advise us and make it possible for us to access them. (It is great to be able to see my family and friends again.)

Do the protesters against vaccination not know what enormous proportions of the population died in the many pandemics before vaccines were developed?

Even if they don't care about their own protection and freedom one would hope that they would be unselfish enough to be vaccinated for the safety of those around them.

MARGARET HODGES,
SALT SPRING

erning body created for no other reason than "to preserve and protect the Trust area" must be bound by the precautionary principle. Strict adherence to that principle would surely simplify decision making. If the impact of a request of an individual or an organization on the health and vitality of "the Trust Area" is uncertain the Islands Trust must reject it.

In the case of the Vortex application the decision by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee to grant a variance on the location of a septic system in relation to a creek that flows into the waters of the Salish Sea is at odds with the highest standards of preservation and protection and the precautionary principle and needs to be re-examined.

GRAHAM BRAZIER,
DENMAN ISLAND

Life-saving actions

For a short period of my career as an educator, I worked for IBCB in their traffic safety department.

We worked on three very exciting and important educational campaigns: 1. Buckle Up (your seatbelt), 2. The use of car booster seats for infants and small children, and 3. Drinking and driving. Statistics showed that too many people of all ages were being injured or killed unnecessarily because they were not wearing seatbelts, in safe booster seats or they were involved in drinking and driving accidents. Many lives have been saved over the years since laws were put in place to try to insure that people in cars are driving responsibly. Of course we will never get 100 per cent of the population to behave responsibly.

Lately, I have thought about that time in my life. I have never heard a person say back then or now, "I refuse to put my baby in an infant booster seat" or "You cannot make me use my seatbelt because I do not care if my actions cost the health-care system time and money" or "You can't tell me how much and when and where I can drink."

We also did not see angry demonstrators at hospitals who were caring for the people in these accidents or schools with traffic safety clubs or at the provincial legislatures where these laws were being

made. No one said or did these things because they were crazy things to say and do.

I am baffled and disappointed that with all the scientific and medical advances we have made as humans in the last 100 years, and after how thousands of people around the world have dedicated themselves to finding vaccines for viruses, why anyone would NOT want to roll up their sleeve for a couple of free vaccinations and be a part of the solution of this epidemic.

The huge majority of Canadians are on the side of seatbelts, car seats for kids, against drinking and driving and yes . . . for vaccinations. They want to be a part of helping to save lives and getting back to a life with less tragedy and disruption. They feel it is their responsibility.

JEAN GELWICKS,
SALT SPRING

Phantom Ball campaign launched

Believe it or not, it's the 25th annual Lady Minto Hospital Foundation Phantom Ball.

For 25 years the foundation has helped fund the day-to-day operations of the hospital by holding a ball that doesn't actually take place!

This is your opportunity to help support the purchase of necessary equipment, continuing medical education and vital health-related programs at Lady Minto.

We are celebrating with a special Phantom Ball 25th anniversary prize draw. The "REDISCOVER Salt Spring Island Staycation" helps the lucky winner stay healthy and active with two e-bikes provided by Outspokin Bike Shop and numerous other gifts from local businesses to enjoy all our beautiful island has to offer. It's our thanks to you.

Phantom Ball packages have been sent out in the mail.

For more information and a list of all the prizes of the 2021 Phantom Ball or to donate online, please go to our website at ladymintofoundation.com.

Thank you for your support of our community hospital and the amazing team working there!

LADY MINTO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION


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
22	0533	2.8	9.2	26	0155	1.1	3.6
	1120	1.5	4.9		0952	2.9	9.5
	WE 1755	3.1	10.2		SU 1417	2.6	8.5
23	0007	1.5	4.9	27	0236	1.1	3.6
	0631	2.8	9.2		1115	2.9	9.5
	TH 1158	1.8	5.9		MO 1536	2.7	8.9
24	JE 1811	3.0	9.8	28	LU 1859	2.8	9.2
	0042	1.3	4.3		0322	1.0	3.3
	0732	2.8	9.2		1233	3.0	9.8
25	FR 1238	2.1	6.9	29	TU		
	VE 1827	3.0	9.8		MA		
	0117	1.2	3.9		0416	1.1	3.6
26	0838	2.8	9.2	30	1332	3.1	10.2
	SA 1323	2.3	7.5		WE		
	SA 1842	2.9	9.5		ME		

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Islands, not island

I appreciate Patricia Lockie's thoughtful response ("Forward movement," Sept. 15 Driftwood) to my letter of the previous week. Unfortunately, the website she quoted would not open. It started with islandtrust instead of the necessary islandstrust.

KEN LEE,
SALT SPRING

Decision at odds with principles

I found David Rapport's "Ecological disaster looms" Viewpoint in the Sept. 15 edition of the Driftwood alarming.

As a resident of the area under the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust I have an inherent interest in decisions made on all the islands that may have an impact on the health and vitality of the waters that we all share and I believe it is the responsibility of Local Trust Committee chairs to insure that decisions affecting shorelines adhere to the highest standards of preservation and protection.

Furthermore, it seems to me that a gov-

expert ADVICE

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Real Estate

House Inspections

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

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



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feature



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Thank you for persevering through all the challenges
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Wagon Wheel Housing Society was able to open the
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~ Cherie
WAGON WHEEL HOUSING SOCIETY

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**To the random anonymous donors who filled our project
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For the complete details and penalties
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Visit the Water section for conservation tips
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Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.
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Extra support offered to health-care workers

BY SHEILA MALCOLMSON,
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JONNY MORRIS,
CEO, CANADIAN MENTAL HEALTH ASSOCIATION,
BC DIVISION; &
SALEEMA DHALLA,
INTERIM CEO, SAFECARE BC

GUEST COLUMN

code needed) for emotional support or information. Indigenous peoples can call the Kuuus crisis line (1-800-588-8717)

for culturally specific assistance.

CMHA BC and the province have partnered with SafeCare BC to launch two free support programs for health-care workers: Care for Caregivers and Care to Speak. If you need to talk, Care to Speak provides free, confidential peer support for health-care workers in B.C., either through online chat support or by calling 1-866-802-7337 (PEER).

Care for Caregivers offers targeted mental health support for health-care providers, including trusted information, free workshops to support employees and managers and quick daily coping tips. Both services have been welcomed by health-care workers throughout the province: www.careforcaregivers.ca/

B.C.'s new Workplace Mental Health Hub provides targeted support to people working in tourism, hospitality and community social services. The Hub provides information, training, webinars and workshops to help manage stress, build resilience and foster positive workplaces. To access the hub, visit: www.workmentalhealthbc.ca

Many of our care teams experience extreme distress and trauma when responding to the COVID-19 and poisoned drug emergencies. The provincial Mobile Response Team provides mental health support for health-care workers in long-term care facilities and those working on the front lines of the drug poisoning crisis. For support, call 1 888 686-3022 or email: MRT@phsa.ca.

We owe a huge debt of thanks to our care providers for showing up every day to take care of others. All levels of government, community agencies, partners and the public must continue to support our care providers' mental and physical well-being.

If you are a care provider, or you know someone who is, reach out to them, share these resources and show your care.

It is not acceptable to interrupt vital, life-saving services to exercise the right to protest, and it's taking a toll on care providers' mental health.

Care providers deserve tremendous respect and support from every British Columbian.

Care providers have been at the forefront of B.C.'s health crises every day, taking care of our friends, families and neighbours who are suffering, sick, stressed and scared. They've been providing vital support to help people affected by the pandemic and drug-poisoning crises, extreme heat events and the confirmation of unmarked graves at former Indian Residential School sites. Every day, care providers support others through stressful times while they, themselves, are carrying heavy emotional weight.

Over the past 18 months, care workers have worried about bringing COVID-19 into their workplace or bringing it home to their own families. On top of these pressures, care providers are now experiencing fear and intimidation at their worksites. Workplaces can have a significant impact on mental health, and care providers need supports to keep them well during these difficult times. That's why the provincial government and community partners like Canadian Mental Health Association, BC Division (CMHA BC) and SafeCare BC are working together to provide more options to support care providers.

People in caring professions often put their own needs ahead of others. We want front-line providers to know that caring for your own mental health is vital for your family, friends and patients. It takes strength to reach out and seek help.

If you are in crisis, there is hope and help. Call the crisis line at 1 800 SUICIDE for crisis support anytime, or 310-6789 (no area



Driftwood staff at a goodbye potluck for Elizabeth Nolan: from left, Damian Richards (circulation), Russ Crouse (driver), Nancy Johnson (publisher), Johanna Walkner (office manager), Lorraine Sullivan (production manager), Gail Sjuberg (editor), Elizabeth Nolan (former reporter, back-up editor and sometimes front-office person). Missing is Sky Marcano (ad sales). Elizabeth will continue to provide some fine arts articles to the Driftwood.

Thank you, Elizabeth Nolan, for your years of service to the Driftwood and the community. We will miss you!

Congratulations on your new position
as manager of Artcraft at Salt Spring Arts.

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ISLAND PRIDE

Supporting gender diversity and inclusion on Salt Spring Island

ELDER ISSUES

Strength and friendship supports community

Different challenges for LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals as they age

BY PAT BURKETTE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

I recently spent an afternoon with seven elders from Salt Spring's LGBTQ2SIA+ community to learn about the challenges faced by aging two-spirit (Indigenous), lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex and asexual (LGBTQ2SIA+) individuals. You could call it a very unique and very interesting grey power afternoon.

We met at Caffyn Jesse's lovely seaside home. Jesse noted that research has shown that LGBTQ2SIA+ elders may actually age better than other elders.

"I can agree with that," said Jean Burgess. "I just came off a weeklong motorcycle ride. It isn't that hard for me to break stereotypes. I've had to all my life."

In fact, breaking stereotypes is just one shared experience creating closeness within the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

"Friends are typically more important than family to LGBTQ people, because family may not have been as accepting," said Robert Beringer.

An assistant professor in the University of Victoria's School of Public Health and Social Policy, Faculty of Human and Social Development, and a research fellow with the Institute on Aging and Lifelong Health, Beringer said finding those friends and partners as a LGBTQ2SIA+ person can be difficult in a small community like Salt Spring.

"When you move to a small place, it's a bit like one-stop shopping. For instance, if you join an LGBTQ support and social group like DAISSI (Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring



PHOTOS CONTRIBUTED

Above, from left, Anne Zeller, Caffyn Jesse and Debbie Louise, and Bill Turner at right, four members of Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island who spoke with the Driftwood on issues of aging for LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals.

Island), and you don't get along with someone there, what do you do? If you're in Vancouver, and you join the gay men's choir, and that doesn't work out, you have other options."

"Heteronormative culture is blind to the truth of this person and their sexuality."

CAFFYN JESSE
DAISSI member

"For people with partners," said Kristan Huthmacher, "they have their relationship to sustain them. But when that partner goes, it's a different journey. You end up as a single person and you have to rely

on the queer community as you age. We all may have to look after each other."

"There's only one set of friends," noted Anne Zeller, a retired anthropology professor whose spouse Robin has been in Extended Care at Lady Minto Hospital for three years after experiencing increasing levels of dementia, and falling and breaking both hips. Zeller and her spouse have been together for 41 years.

"She doesn't speak now, but she does hold my hand. Before COVID lockdown, she was speaking, but then for five months, I couldn't see her. I do spend a lot of time with her. I feed her."

"My husband died nine years ago," explained Bill Turner, tearing up as he spoke. "We'd been together 26 years." Turner, a former teacher, has been active in the community for years and is a board member of DAISSI.

"My family is in Delta. I can't count on them. I have many close



friends, some of them straight, and it is these people I would turn to if I became infirm." Turner credits his ability to earn the respect of a variety of people to his openness about his life as a gay man.

"If I meet someone, I share my experiences, even if I don't know them that well."

Debbie Louise, general manager of Gulf Islands Water Taxi, has no partner or family to rely on as she ages. "I have a small group of friends, all my age, so I wonder about who I will rely on."

"Most of us," noted Zeller, "don't have the backup of children."

"Intergenerational relationships are important," said Huthmacher. "All of us aging out as a generation on Salt Spring is a bit dicey."

"We now can receive support from our immediate group of friends," agreed Jesse, a retired somatic sex educator. "But what happens when you need care, or

folks coming into your home?"

Huthmacher admitted that she feels fear about facing a caregiving situation. "Will we have the respect of the caregiver in the institution?" she asked. "If you have a partner, you have an advocate."

Zeller advocated for her spouse by making a big book of pictures illustrating her life.

"Other residents of a care facility," she noted, "may have more difficulty in accepting differences."

Jesse said, "There's no recognition of our cultural differences. Heteronormative culture is blind to the truth of this person and their sexuality."

Burgess spoke about that truth. "I feel I am a spirit inhabiting this physical body, which is the same as a heterosexual body. But my spirit has been shaped by my own experiences as a lesbian person."

ELDERS continued on 13

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ISLAND PRIDE

ALLIANCES

IWAV programs provide LGBTQ2SIA+ services

Partner violence, hate and assault not just experience of one gender

SUBMITTED BY IWAV

Islanders Working Against Violence (IWAV) is a local non-profit organization that was formed in 1992 through the energy and dedication of women who created a crisis line and support in response to violence against women and girls.

This was built as a feminist organization where women served other women and children in the Southern Gulf Islands. IWAV has supported hundreds of women and children through the past 30 years.

During the 1990s and 2000s, the organization grew and added a transition house,

outreach and counselling programs for women and children. In the past decade, IWAV recognized that women being were in serious need of rental housing to stabilize and break the cycle of violence in their lives.

The focus on housing development has resulted in second-stage housing and affordable rental housing for low income seniors and people with disabilities. With the new development at Croftonbrook, there will also be housing for individuals and small families who have low to moderate incomes. All of these properties have allowed IWAV to continue to support clients who have experienced violence and abuse and provide safe and affordable housing.

Also in the last decade, IWAV has seen greater diversity of gender expression and sexual orientation in the cli-

entele. The anti-violence services and transitional housing are offered to women, inclusive of cis, trans and female-identified people, as well as non-binary folks. The affordable rental housing at Croftonbrook includes people of all genders and members of the LGBTQ2SIA+ community.

IWAV recognizes that LGBTQ2SIA+ people also experience intimate partner violence and are at a higher risk of hate violence and sexual assault. The organization welcomes LGBTQ2SIA+ people and IWAV's staff work through a trauma-informed approach and create a safe and respectful environment for their clients.

In 2019, IWAV changed their name from Island Women Against Violence to Islanders Working Against Violence. This was a fundamental shift to recognize the wider range of supporters and clientele

— of men, women and non-binary folks who were part of the organization. As well, the staff team and key contractors reflects gender diversity and includes people who identify as LGBTQ2SIA+.

munity to support survivors of sexual assault. This program provides emergency response for survivors of all genders and ages 13 and over.

There are also ongoing support services and free counselling for youth and female-identified survivors.

IWAV is proud of its roots and still deeply committed to the original mandate of responding to violence and abuse in our community. Through the anti-violence programs, IWAV supports people who are experiencing gender-based violence, intimate partner violence and sexual assault.

As well, IWAV celebrates the growth and change within the organization to better serve gender diverse and LGBTQ2SIA+ people. It takes a whole community to work together to create safety, support and freedom.

More info: www.iwav.org.

The anti-violence services and transitional housing are offered to women, inclusive of cis, trans and female-identified people, as well as non-binary folks.

The new Sexual Assault Response Program has been launched this summer by IWAV and is an important response to gaps in our com-



iwav
Islanders Working Against Violence

Safe, Free, Confidential

IWAV provides outreach, counselling, support services and housing for people of all genders in our community. We create a safe and welcome environment for all of our clients, staff and residents which includes people who identify as cis, trans and non-binary folks and members of the LGBTQ2S+ community.

www.iwav.org



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ISLAND PRIDE

Pride All Year!

With large group or festival activities not possible during the pandemic, Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island — the local non-profit society that heads up the annual Salt Spring Pride festival and other activities in support of gender diversity — created an alternative. Pride All Year is a series of COVID-safe activities that have allowed LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals and allies to socialize and both maintain established connections and to make new ones. See www.prideallyear.ca for details. RSVPs are required to participate in scheduled outings. Below are some photographs of activities that have occurred already.



PHOTO BY SUSAN HUBER

Socially distanced hike at Burgoyne Bay park.



PHOTO COURTESY DAISSI

Pride All Year Hike and Swim participants.



PHOTO COURTESY DAISSI

"A bubble of elder pride" keeps friends warm outdoors during COVID.

Disclosure questions common

ELDERS

continued from 9

I left Jesse's house with a lot to think about, and asked Beringer to provide me with some research studies about aging LGBTQ2SIA+ individuals elsewhere.

Those studies verified concerns expressed by the individuals I met. Care providers repeatedly acknowledged having little knowledge about the life experiences and psychosocial needs of lesbian women, and similarly transgender or non-binary people. The heteronormative and gender binary language and structure of medical intake forms were found to alienate LGBTQ populations.

A Nova Scotia study found that many bi-sexual and lesbian women even avoided routine or preventative health care due to health-care providers' heteronormative assumptions. One participant explained, "I shouldn't have to go into a doctor's office and be like 'I'm going to be misgendered and I need to prepare myself for that and put on my armour.'"

By email, Beringer talked about that need for armour while aging in what he calls a "heteronormative landscape."

"A heteronormative landscape is one in which everyone is presumed to be heterosexual. When we (LGBTQ2SIA+)

wander out into this landscape to shop, attend an event or engage with health-care professionals, many of us do so with a 'filter' where we continually evaluate our surroundings, asking ourselves 'is it safe to disclose my sexual identity in this situation?' In many ways this is the result of a life course filled with a history of discrimination and oftentimes abuse.

"The heteronormativity described here of course refers to sexual orientation, so it is important to also recognize that we also live in a landscape that is dominantly cisgender normative. As such, transgender individuals often find themselves carrying on his/her/their lives with a filter that guards and is used to negotiate everyday interactions. To provide contrast, think of an older heterosexual woman leaving her home to shop, attend an event, or go to a health-care appointment. It is highly unlikely she does so thinking 'will it be safe to disclose I am a heterosexual today?'"

Burgess added: "We have forged positive new pathways over many decades. The wisdoms and strengths we have gained are now serving us in the challenges of our last stages of life."

Since there aren't too many blacksmiths around these days, maybe it's time we all looked at a landscape redesign.

Please consider donating.

Make it possible for us to organize Salt Spring Pride and D.A.I.S.S.I. events for the community throughout the year.

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ISLAND LIFE

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COMMUNITY ACTION

Climate Action Coach program gets rolling

Transition Salt Spring group provides individualized assistance and more

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN

TRANSITION SALT SPRING

With 250 recommendations for actions we can take as islanders to address the climate crisis, the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan can be a bit of an overwhelming read.

Starting in October, Transition Salt Spring will be offering a helping hand to people who want to take action but may not know where to start. With funding support from the Salt Spring Foundation and VanCity, the new Climate Action Coach program was created to put the Plan into action. It will do this by helping islanders access the many rebate programs that reduce emissions and build our community's resilience in the face of climate change.

But first, let's introduce you to our climate action coaches, Rob Lowrie and Maia Carolsfeld.

Maia recently finished her master's degree in carbon management at the University of Edinburgh. She's busy putting together communications materials that will introduce islanders to the new program and hopefully help deepen our personal commitments to climate action.

"I am really excited to be able to take action with Transition Salt Spring as a climate action coach," says Maia. "I feel that a lot of what can be done in a small community is reflective of what can be done on a global scale. And I think Salt Spring has all of the amazing pieces: this island is a really awesome example for communities everywhere."

Since development of the climate action coach program got rolling in early August, Rob Lowrie has been busy reaching out to local business owners. "At this stage in my life, I've probably created a fairly



large carbon footprint," says Rob. "I'm committed to working in earnest to work that off, by encouraging others to become more aware and take action — because it's urgent. We have to address this now. And I feel I have some of the skills to contribute."

Climate action coaches will offer one-stop shopping for resources available to islanders to reduce their carbon footprint at home and in their businesses. The idea behind the initiative is to provide a central place for islanders to learn about the many regional, provincial and federal programs available. These include rebates to retrofit their homes, add rainwater catchment systems, buy electric vehicles, and if Transition Salt Spring secures the funding, even incentives to change out wood stoves to more efficient models.

"We act as navigators," explains Rob, who has decades of experience as a broadcaster. "Often it's hard for people to invest their time and attention into figuring out what's even out there. We're taking that off of their shoulders by helping them get information more quickly and in ways that are easier to understand. We hope this will inspire them to take that next step to actually make the changes they want to make."

He adds: "One exciting part of the program is Transition's new pilot rainwater catchment incentive that we are deliver-

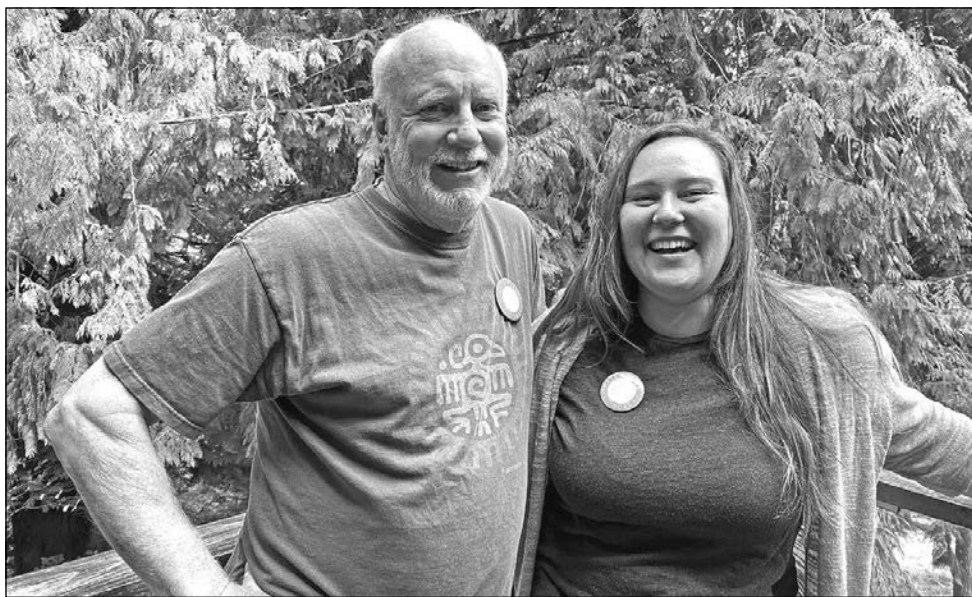


PHOTO COURTESY TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Rob Lowrie and Maia Carolsfeld, climate action coaches with a new Transition Salt Spring program that helps islanders access resources available to reduce their carbon footprint at home and in their businesses.

ing with the proud support of the Capital Regional District and Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance. Here, people can install eligible rainwater catchment systems on their property and get a rebate for a portion of the costs. After a brutal summer drought season, it's a no-brainer that we should be investing in rooftop rainwater catchment to take the pressure off stressed aquifers."

Transition Salt Spring is also building relationships with other incentive program managers like those offering significant rebates to install heat pumps. They are also even applying for funding to launch a wood stove upgrade rebate for Salt Springers. Emissions from fossil fuel-based home heating like oil and propane can be reduced 100 per cent by switching to heat pumps and switching out that 20-year-old wood stove for a more efficient, less polluting one that uses firewood more efficiently.

The climate action coaches are collaborating with the managers of the Clean BC program with their library of incentives for everything from efficient double-pane windows, solar panels, and air sealing — all of which can reduce climate impacts and home-heating costs.

Transition Salt Spring had a big-sized presence at this year's fall fair, where islanders met and chatted with our climate action coaches and volunteers.

"Along with all kinds of information for people to take home," says Rob, "we had a demonstration heat pump, along with a booth where people took photos as a Climate Action Super Hero. We were pretty excited to meet community members and share what we're learning about all of the opportunities to decrease our environmental footprints and increase our savings."

CLIMATE COACHES continued on 18

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL LEARNING

Mentorship program supported

Registration now open for free sessions for boys held at Bullock Lake Farm

SUBMITTED BY THE CIRCLE

As a new school year has started, and the pandemic seems far from over, it is important for schools to help students not only flourish academically but also socially and emotionally.

With over a year of limited meaningful connections with each other, working on relationship skills and how to treat one another respectfully is more crucial than ever.

Even before the outset of the pandemic, mental health issues were on the rise for Canadian youth. A report by Statistics Canada in 2020 revealed that youth mental health challenges become more prevalent with age. On a declining trajectory from Grade 6 to Grade 10, youth perceived less support and kindness amongst peers and reported a decline in perception of positive school climate and community support.

While COVID-era research into the effects on youth well-being continues to emerge, preliminary findings show that the pandemic has not made things better. In 2020, Statistics Canada identified that parents are worried about the impact of the pandemic on their children's loneliness and general mental health. In British Columbia, this concern is supported by preliminary research indicating that as many as two-thirds of B.C. youth have been experiencing mild or moderate mental health challenges during the pandemic, a one-third increase since 2019. A push to expand mental health supports in B.C. schools and increase access to preventive resources is a key component of the B.C. government's COVID recovery plan.

The Circle Salt Spring Education Society has played a leading role in social-emotional learning for more than 25 years by offering various programs in schools, such as the Respect Project for Grades 6 to 8 students and the Empathy Project for Grades 3 to 5, on Salt Spring Island and beyond. With research findings that are emerging, The Circle's executive director Janine Fernandes-Hayden is more steadfast in getting such programs to children and youth.

"Strong relationships will be essential to students' academic success and well-being this coming school year in particular, to help them cope with uncertainties ahead. Leading with tolerance, empathy, respect and understanding – our culture is faced with this need with so many issues and at so many levels," she said.

Funding such programs, however, is not easy at a time when funders are needing to re-prioritize to address imminent areas of need. Programs for boys are particularly hard to fund, even at the best of times.

"If we want to create meaningful change, especially when dealing with issues of gender, it seems a given that boys and men should be included into the equation in talking about



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE CIRCLE

A photo from an outing during last year's Pass It On Boys program. A new session of The Circle's program begins at Bullock Lake Farm on Oct. 22.

healthy relationships with self and others. It feels deflating to have to struggle so hard to justify the need for programming for boys."

Thankfully, a grant to The Circle from the federal department of Women and Gender Equality has come to recognize this and will fund the Pass It On Boys program for the next three years. This grant will keep the Pass It On Boys — an after-school cross-peer group mentorship program — free of charge.

"At the beginning of the summer, we were at a place of having to charge fees for our after-school program," Fernandes-Hayden continues. "While many youth recreational programs recognize this as a reality, it felt uncomfortable for programming that really needs to be accessible to all youth. We are thrilled to be able to continue to offer our Pass It On programs at no cost and to be able to have the funds be a bit more creative."

This year, The Circle will be collaborating with Bullock Lake Farm for the Pass It On Boys program. This unique partnership will offer participants the opportunity to

explore concepts of care, independence, leadership, and responsibility for themselves and others through hands-on, farm-based activities and projects. Says Sophia Gregory, the CSA manager at Bullock Lake Farm, who is working on a fellowship with the Pathy Foundation to explore farm-to-school programming, "Bullock Lake Farm offers a playful and dynamic landscape for participants to engage with the outdoors, practise new skills and develop a sense of belonging through team building, acts of service and connection to the local food system."

Starting Oct. 22, the program is set to run Fridays from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at Bullock Lake Farm. Registration is limited to 15 participants. Send an email to info@thecircleeducation.org for more information and registration.

"Strong relationships will be essential to students' academic success and well-being this coming school year in particular, to help them cope with uncertainties ahead."

JANINE FERNANDES-HAYDEN

Executive director, The Circle

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The last season of the year, the final quarter, has begun. 2021 has already been eventful and dramatic but it is quite possible that the next three months will make the previous 9 seem like the three periods leading to overtime in the playoffs. And yet it will also prove disrupting and confusing especially as we progress through October and following the culminating New Moon in Libra that occurs on October 6. Metaphorically, imagine you were at a very large indoor gathering and it is very dark outside and suddenly the lights go out completely for several minutes and then, just as suddenly, turn on again with all the flood lights as well causing something of a blinding, startling effect that disrupts your entire mindset, perception and attitude prior to the event. Add to this that something significant that was in the room prior, like the head table, was no longer there. It will be interesting to see how this metaphor manifests as various outer synchronicities. P.S. Mercury Retrograde: September 27 - October 19.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)
 The Sun in Libra will activate your desires and this should already be evident. Managing this burst of passion and drive will require extra effort. In some respects you will not want to, while in others, you may not be able to. Striking the middle ground, you could impress yourself and others with diplomatic charm and subtlety.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)
 Venus in Scorpio will whet your whistle even more this week than it did since entering a couple of weeks ago. You will work diligently to fulfill your desires thanks to the Sun, Mercury and Mars in Libra. Mercury there will already increase your critical thinking faculties yet will also support you to exercise refinement and grace in your communications.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)
 You have entered a creative and expansive cycle. It could inspire you to feel more playful, romantic and adventurous. On the other hand, you may also dive into a creative project. Just be aware that, either way, you may be asked to give more than you want. Meanwhile, new perspectives may change your attitude towards certain people.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)
 A busy time close to home continues. Cleaning, clearing and purging all for the sake of beautifying and establishing a new flow and state of harmony are central themes. This focus could be directed at yourself or family members, as well, and not necessarily to the outer environment. Either way, you aim to get to the bottom of things.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)
 Your mind is extra busy of late. You yearn to learn, know and understand. A commitment to being awake and aware is part of the plot. You are also motivated for the sake of expansion publicly and professionally. Yet, it is likely that achieving your larger goal will take time, years even. Paying your dues is part of the plot. Focus to enjoy the process.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)
 Focusing to ground and establishing what began weeks ago is now in focus. This can also be understood as digesting and assimilating knowledge ingested. And then there is the elimination process, which includes clearing the way for new rounds. The learning curve will also continue steadily for some time and is pushing you to integration.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)
 You continue to forge ahead taking new leads and strides. With Mercury in slow motion ready to turn retrograde this week, your focus will get sharper. Positively, you will activate a healthy skepticism, willing to question beliefs, perceptions and interpretations, both your own and those of others. Replacing fears of loss with commitment to truth is your power key.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)
 A period of retreat continues. It may not be total, but the lean towards less exposure is there. You could be busy doing inner work to address subconscious fears and doubts. Or, you might simply want to escape. Yet, there is also an expressive side that wants to come out. Together, these could produce artistry. Yet, you must face your fears to claim your gifts.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)
 A stronger sense of individuality than usual is running through your being. Themes of fairness and justice are strongly featured. Beyond ethics, security concerns are also playing a major role. Your own security and that of others in general, but especially that of your family, is strongly felt. Compassionate feelings vie with frustration and rebellion.


Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)
 The time has come to make your desires known. This includes a push for leadership. You want the recognition you feel you want, deserve and have earned. A process of building upon more solid foundations has been underway all year. This process will continue for some time yet. Investments of various kinds are central to the plot.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)
 You find yourself in a philosophical mood. However, thoughts are not enough at this time and you feel motivated to take more deliberate action. To this end, you are in search of the specific tools and methods required to achieve your goals. To this end, you will likely reach for several options and aim to approach the situation from multiple angles.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)
 An inner process of change and transformation continues and deepens. Handling these complex forces gracefully and successfully will require awareness, wisdom and will power. The thing to understand is that the process will last for several weeks. If you handle it successfully, you will emerge renewed and empowered.

Obituaries

TONY (ANTHONY NORMAN) EYLES
 1979 - 2021



Tony (Anthony Norman) Eyles died unexpectedly on September 8th in Vancouver.

Born in Nelson, B.C. in 1979, Tony grew up on Salt Spring Island, was part of the first Kindergarten class at Fulford School and graduated from GISS. Tony worked at a variety of jobs from bar tender to Food and Beverage Manager and over the last few years trained as an elevator mechanic.

Twelve years ago Tony met Caitlin Pender, the love of his life. They married in September 2012 and have two children, Haven age 8 and Piper age 6. Tony adored his family and they were his priority in life. His motto was "Family First". He lived by it and expected the same of others. He was thankful that both his union and his employers supported him in this. Tony was a loyal friend, a loving son and brother, a devoted father and an adoring husband.


The family are devastated by this loss but very grateful for the outpouring of love and support they have received.

Tony is also survived by mother Carole Eyles, father David Eyles, sister Natasha Ayton, brother-in-law Ciarán Ayton, niece Saoirse Ayton, nephew Oisín Ayton and a large cohort of aunts, uncles, cousins and extended family. Predeceased by brother Nathan.

A private funeral will be held in Maple Ridge. The service will be live-streamed and recorded for those who are not able to attend.

Obituaries

Jody Slakov
 1928 - 2021



Mom died September 3rd at age 93 with Medical Assistance in Dying (MAID) at home, on her own terms.

She was fiercely independent, stubborn, interesting, unique, and loyal. But above all, she loved her family. Her caring and concern sometimes spilled over into worry, but that never stopped her from wanting us to live life to the fullest.

She also loved nature, and planted trees wherever she lived, first in Vancouver and then on Saltspring for the past 20 years.

Mom knew, firsthand, how fleeting life can be, and how quickly the underpinnings of our world can evaporate. It was wrenchingly hard to say good-bye, and yet our last days together were filled with joy, laughter, wonderful meals and memories to treasure.

She is survived by her five kids and their families, including 11 grandchildren.

We are grateful for everyone who enriched Mom's life, including those who fought for end of life rights.

Since Jody was passionate about protecting a healthy future for her family and all beings, donations to the Land Conservancy in her honour, or simply working to protect forests and plant trees are good ways to honour her passing.

*"For all that has been, thanks,
 For all that is to come, yes!"*

In Memoriam Gifts

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RAYMOND EVERETT PHILLIPS
 1936 - 2020



A year later, we honor the life and death of Ray Phillips...

Raymond died on September 24th 2020 at the age of 84 at Lady Minto hospital from complications due to multiple strokes in recent years.

Ray was born in New Westminster, B.C. on February 15, 1936 to father Harry and mother Dorothy (nee Beaton) as the second of two children.

Ray spent much of his youth working in his father's store, Phillips Appliances in New Westminster. He attended the University of British Columbia and graduated with a BA. Over the course of his life, Ray had many careers, from stock brokerage, to sales, to real estate consulting. It was not until mid-life, however, that Ray discovered his real passion, where depth psychology and quantum physics meet. This passion led Ray to pursue a master's degree at Pacifica Graduate Institute and to spend the rest of his life working on his magnum opus exploring the intersection of new physics and psychology through the lens of his own life story.

Ray reveled in being a father and grandfather, taking immense delight basking in the presence of his children and grandchildren. Family meals and snuggles on the couch were among his favourite things in the world. Ray also loved golf, a good drink with friends, and the simple pleasure of solitude, while having a good "think" and a glass of red wine.


Ray was preceded by his parents. He is survived by his brother Gordon Phillips, daughters Heather, Chelsea, and Amy, his son, Cam (Tanya) and his three grandchildren, Lyra, Connor, and Nathan as well as his two ex-wives and dear friends, Jean and MarySue.

Due to covid complications, details for a celebration of life will be announced at a later date.

Joseph Campbell's famous phrase "Follow Your Bliss" was very meaningful to Ray. To honor his memory we invite you to "follow your bliss" in some way.

In Memoriam

Celebration OF Life



TONY CLAIR
 Sept. 15 1960 - Aug. 13 2021


Tony left us suddenly and unexpectedly, please join us to share some stories and memories of his varied life, as we seek comfort at his passing.

Please bring your memories, thoughts and friendship.

The celebration will take place on September 25th, 2021 at 1:00 pm outside under the tents at the Legion grounds. Meaden Hall.

In Memoriam

ALISTAIR HAYNE
 May 11, 2001 - Sept. 24, 2017



Alistair, as we mark the 4th anniversary since your passing, we celebrate all the days that you lived. We think of your beautiful smile and your open, loving heart and remember the lessons of kindness, humour and authenticity you brought to us. You are so missed by us all and in that missing we deepen in our love, for you and for one another. You are never far and may your spirit know how cherished you are.

Forever your loving Dad, Mum, Sister, Grandparents, Aunties, Uncles, Cousins and many, many friends.

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Murakami family

Coming Events

LIBRARY HOURS

M-W-F	10AM-5PM
TU-THUR	9AM-5PM
SAT	10AM-3PM
SUN	CLOSED

Salt Spring Island Public Library
179 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T6
http://saltspring.bc.libraries.org



The Salt Spring Abattoir is a community facility providing farmers with custom slaughter services for lamb, beef, pigs and poultry.

Earlier this year the abattoir was awarded a Community Economic Recovery Infrastructure Program (CERIP) Grant for an expansion to increase processing capacity and help meet the demand for local food.

We are seeking authorized general contractors for construction of this expansion. If you would like a copy of the Request for Quotation (RFQ) and available plans please email Chris Clark at: Chris@thinkapg.com before Sept. 30, 2021.

Coming Events

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

Coming Events

Building Supplies

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Employment

Employment



The Driftwood is seeking a delivery driver to work 4 - 5 hours on Wednesday mornings. Must have a valid driver's license and your own vehicle in good working condition.

Please call Nancy at the Driftwood office to apply or for more information: 250.537.9933.



what's on this week



Wed. Sept. 22

ACTIVITIES

DAISSI Pride All Year: The Queer Dog Walk.
Meet at Duck Creek Park with or without your dog and rainbow Pride colours. 11:45 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please RSVP to Jenny via www.prideallyear.ca or email jpetrak@gmail.com for further information.

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.
At the Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday.

ONLINE

Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting.
Watch proceedings from 9 a.m. to about 5 p.m. See schedule, agenda and link at islandstrust.bc.ca.

Thur. Sept. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Thur. Sept. 23

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.
See Wednesday listing.

ONLINE

Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting.
Watch proceedings online from 10:30 a.m. to noon. See schedule, agenda and link at islandstrust.bc.ca.

North Salt Spring Waterworks District Trustees Meeting.
Observe meeting through Microsoft Teams. 10 a.m. Link is on the northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website.

Fri. Sept. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Seiche.
At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.
See Wednesday listing.

Fri. Sept. 24

ACTIVITIES

Climate Strike Rally.
Learn about and demonstrate support for climate justice activities. United Church Meadow. 12 noon. Bring a sign.

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

Ask Salt Spring.
Cancelled for this week due to the Climate Strike Rally.

Sat. Sept. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park.
Saturday market runs in Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Sat. Sept. 25

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Movie Matinee.
Family-friendly movie at the Salt Spring Public Library. 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.
See Wednesday listing.

Sunday, Sept. 26

ACTIVITIES

Plank in the Park.
Salt Spring Rotary Club fundraiser for youth tennis, baseball, soccer and circus programs. Starts at 10 a.m. at Portlock Park with competitions to hold the plank position starting with youngest kids and working up to adults 50+, all in a festive atmosphere with music and more.

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Mon. Sept. 27

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.
Meets in the Salt Spring Public Library program room. 9 a.m.

Tues. Sept. 28

ACTIVITIES

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

VIA ZOOM

All Our Voices: Property Rights, Local Livelihoods and the Islands Trust's Proposed Climate Change Policies.
Panelists Eric Booth, Elizabeth Nickson and Shauna Doll, and citizen speakers. A Zoom conversation on Trust Policy Statement revisions. 7 to 9:30 p.m. Email info4allourvoices@gmail.com.

Wed. Sept. 29

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.
See last Wednesday listing.

Salt Spring Apple Festival
Sunday, October 3rd

Orchard visits and outdoor vending at Fulford Hall

See: saltspringapplefestival.org/

THRIFTY FOODS

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

THE FRITZ CINEMA

This week's Fritz movie information was not available when the Driftwood went to press. See www.thefritz.ca for the update and more movie info. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements, and limited seating, in place.



EXHIBITIONS

- **Salt Spring National Art Prize Finalists Exhibition** opens to the public at Mahon Hall on Saturday, Sept. 25 and runs daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Monday, Oct. 25.
- **Parallel Art Show**, a juried exhibition of work by selected Gulf Islands artists who submitted to SSNAP, is in the ArtSpring gallery from Saturday, Sept. 25 to Sunday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
- **Figure as Index**, work by Luther Konadu, the 2019 SSNAP winner, runs at The Point Gallery from Wednesday, Sept. 29 through Monday, Oct. 25, by appointment daily from 1 to 5 p.m. except on Tuesdays. pointgallery@shaw.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Gallery 8** presents **East meets West**, artworks by David Goatley and James Stewart, Mondays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sundays.
- Today, Sept. 22, is the last day to see acrylic paintings and sculpture by Allison Brodie and Carolyn Houg at Salt Spring Gallery, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **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.

Individuals' actions can have real impact, says TSS

CLIMATE COACHES

continued from 14

One challenge in dealing with such a massive problem as climate change is knowing where to start. Maia recom-

mends the Lighter Footprint app, being developed with the support of VanCity and the BC Institute of Technology.

"It's an exciting tool that gives you a more localized view of your carbon footprint, as opposed to other tools which

tend to use national or international data."

A lot of these incentives focus on homeowners, but there are also options for renters within the Climate Action Coach program.

"First of all," said Rob, "we can introduce you to a whole lot of other people who want to take climate action. And for people with modest incomes, we can point you to BC Hydro's free energy saving kits that include many household measures you can take, whether it's water-saving shower heads, kitchen and bathroom faucet aerators, or weather stripping: it's all in the kit."

Climate action coaches are also reaching out to local service providers and contractors both on and off the island to assemble a list of businesses that are available to help islanders reduce the juice and their footprints. Qualified contractors or installers are invited to contact Maia and Rob.

"One of the questions that comes up again and again in our outreach is, 'What's the point?'" says Maia. "People wonder why individual action is important when big companies are responsible for doing the most to change the climate. But, your own individual influence actually goes a lot farther than you think."

"Climate change is a massive systemic problem. As with all systems, there's a lot of little cogs. And so an individual is as



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Climate action coach Rob Lowrie in the Climate Action Super Hero cutout at the Transition Salt Spring's fall fair booth over the weekend.

much part of the system as the big players. I know that my influence impacts the people around me: what I choose to do influences the people that I speak with and influences my family, my friends, their acquaintances, and it ripples out from there. So I would say 'Don't underestimate your individual impact.'"

To contact Maia and Rob, send an email to climatecoach@transitionsaltspring.com. You can also register for our upcoming Climate Action

Coach program kick-off webinar called All About Heat Pumps, delivered in collaboration with CleanBC, by going to <https://bit.ly/3hpbvCxB>.

One Cool Island is a regular series produced by Transition Salt Spring on how we can all respond to the climate crisis together. Andrea Palframan is a volunteer communications contributor for TSS. To support our work and read the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan, go to transitionsaltspring.com.

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1 Prices, unless otherwise stated, reflect all applicable rebates and offers. Federal and Provincial taxes are not included in our prices. Pricing in effect Sept 16-29, 2021 while stock lasts. Actual products may not be exactly as shown. The flyer reflects the most current information available at the time of printing. If despite our vigilance, errors occur, a notice will be printed in store. 2 Receive a \$50 delivery rebate on qualifying purchases of \$500 or more. One delivery offer per customer. Conditions apply. Offer is valid Sept 16-29, 2021. Ask in-store or online for full details.

Capital Regional District

Membership Opportunities

Volunteer members wanted to serve on various Commissions

INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED? Terms are for two years, starting January 1 each year.

- ▶ **Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission** – includes 8 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The PARC serves in an advisory role to the CRD and is responsible for the establishment, ongoing operation and maintenance of facilities, community parks, trails and recreation services. 4 positions available.
- ▶ **Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission** – includes 8 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The Commission serves in an advisory role to the CRD and to BC Transit on matters related to the transit service and to transportation related community needs and projects. On transit matters, the Commission advises on bus service funding, schedules, routes and other details of the service. 4 positions available.
- ▶ **Salt Spring Island Community Economic Development** – includes 7 to 9 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The Commission works cooperatively with adjacent local governments on economic development projects. 4 positions 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: 250.537.4448 for more information

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.

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LITERARY EVENTS

Paper Covers Rock chapter unfolds

Workshops and readings all weekend

A new annual readers and writers festival will feature author readings and workshops on Salt Spring on the Oct. 1 to 3 weekend.

Paper Covers Rock was launched by its founder Terri Potratz this spring with online workshops held on March 5, 6 and 7. Next weekend's offerings will shift mainly to in-person events.

Exceptions are two virtual workshops on Oct. 1. Vancouver historian Aaron Chapman will run through an entertaining and informative account of the city sleuthing he achieved for books like *Liquor*, *Lust and the Law* and *Vancouver After Dark*. Western Living & Vancouver Magazine editor-at-large Stacey McLachlan will lead an online workshop on *The Art of the Pitch*, designed not only for freelance magazine writers but also aspiring novelists who want some general pitch pointers.

At 2 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 1, caregivers and children are welcome for a free reading at the Salt Spring Public Library program room. Jenn Wint, columnist for the Vancouver Mom Book Club, will read a selection of titles from B.C. children's book authors, including a few book giveaways. Pre-registration is recommended to reserve a seat.

A reading with Cedar Bowers, who was just longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize for her debut novel *Astra*, will take place from 3 to 4 p.m. on Friday at the library event room. This is a ticketed event and includes a reading and Q&A.

In-person workshops run throughout Saturday and Sunday, and are limited to 12 participants maximum. In addition to general admission tickets, a pay-what-you-can option is in place for each workshop.

Aislinn Hunter, author of *The Certainties*, will suggest aspects of craft and creative strategies that can enhance a writer's engagement with their real-life subject matter. This workshop will especially appeal to poets and non-fiction writers, or fiction writers with an interest in place or historical events.

For memoir writers, Darrel McLeod will walk participants through seven specific techniques for taking their writing to a deeper level with respect to the development of characters, scenes, plot and rich descriptions. McLeod's latest novel — *Peyakow: Reclaiming Cree Dignity* — is a finalist for the Hilary Weston Writer's Trust Prize for Nonfiction. This book is the follow-up memoir to *Mamaskatch: A Cree Coming of Age*.

Local author and professor Natalie Meisner is leading a fun, hands-on workshop for people to create their own short play for audio, podcast, digital or other new formats.



PHOTO COURTESY PAPER COVERS ROCK

Clockwise from above, Cedar Bowers, Darrel McLeod and Natalie Meisner, three of several Paper Covers Rock workshop leaders.

This workshop will combine a discussion of key topics in contemporary dramatic writing with focused live creative exercises to help writers sharpen an existing idea or invent a new one.

Cecily Nicholson won the Governor General's Literary Award for Poetry for *Wayside Sang*, and is presenting a workshop on *Sense of Place*. This will include visual, aural and haptic examples from contemporary art to gain new perspective and insight into writing practices.

Alexandria King, local author of *The Moon in You*, is facilitating healing through writing about memorable moments in one's life, with breathing exercises and journaling as guidance.

And finally, local comedy writer Thomas John will help sharpen satirical skills as his workshop participants learn about comedic shortcuts and writing styles and come out all the funnier for it.

A free happy hour reception sponsored by Salt Spring Books will take place on Saturday, Oct. 2. This event will be held outdoors, and is subject to weather conditions. All registered festival attendees will receive event details and location via email. The store is also offering discounts as well as signed copies of books by Paper Covers Rock speakers.

Potratz has recently incorporated Paper Covers Rock as a non-profit society in B.C.

See the www.papercoversrock.ca website for more information and to register for events.



WEN WEI DANCE Ying Yun (英云)

Thur Oct 7 & Fri Oct 8
7:30pm

\$30 adult | \$5 youth

Sponsored by Joan Farlinger and Salt Spring Coffee
Supported by Made in BC Dance on Tour

artspring.ca
250.537.2102 | tickets@artspring.ca



LadyMintoHospitalFoundation NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



CAROL BIELY
CHAIR, CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEE

My husband and I have relied on the wonderful people staffing the Emergency Department on multiple occasions, always coming away knowing that something needs to be done to give them more space and us more privacy. Now I have the opportunity to give back and encourage all Islanders to join us in this important project.

ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline

Strengthen Our Lifeline



The Salt Spring National Art Prize Finalist Exhibition 2021/2022

Saturday, September 25 - Monday, October 25

Open Daily 10am to 5pm at historical Mahon Hall
Award winners announced Saturday, October 23 at the SSNAP Gala Awards Night
All BC Covid Protocols will be respected • 52 Artists juried from across Canada
Noon Hour Artist Talks
Online and in-person voting for the People's Choice Awards
Begins Friday, September 24, 6pm | Closes Friday, October 22, 5pm
www.saltspringartprize.ca for event details



ART EXHIBITION

SSNAP's 2019 winner shows work at The Point

Luther Konadu residency exhibit at The Point

In addition to the Salt Spring National Art Prize Finalists Exhibition and Parallel Art Show opening this weekend, The Point Gallery in Fulford is

LadyMintoHospitalFoundation
NEW EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT



DAVE TAYLOR
INCOMING CHAIRPERSON, LMHF

The week we made the offer on our house, I spent a couple of hours in the Emergency Department with a broken foot. When we returned a few weeks later to take possession, I discovered the Emergency Department had literally saved a friend's life. The Emergency Department is the heart of Lady Minto Hospital. The new Emergency Department will serve the community well for decades to come.

ladymintofoundation.com/lifeline
Strengthen Our Lifeline

holding an exciting SSNAP-related exhibition beginning next week.

From Sept. 29 to Oct. 25, the gallery will host an exhibit of the 2019 SSNAP winner Luther Konadu.

Konadu's prize-winning entry for SSNAP 2019 will be on exhibit by kind permission of its Salt Spring owner and is given context with additional pieces worked on during Luther's prize-winning residency on the island this past spring. All of the work is part of "Figure as Index," an ongoing and continuous project.

"This started out as a self-portraiture pursuit, but then that idea of the self extended to include his family of friends within the African diaspora here in Canada," said The Point's owner and curator Margaret Day.

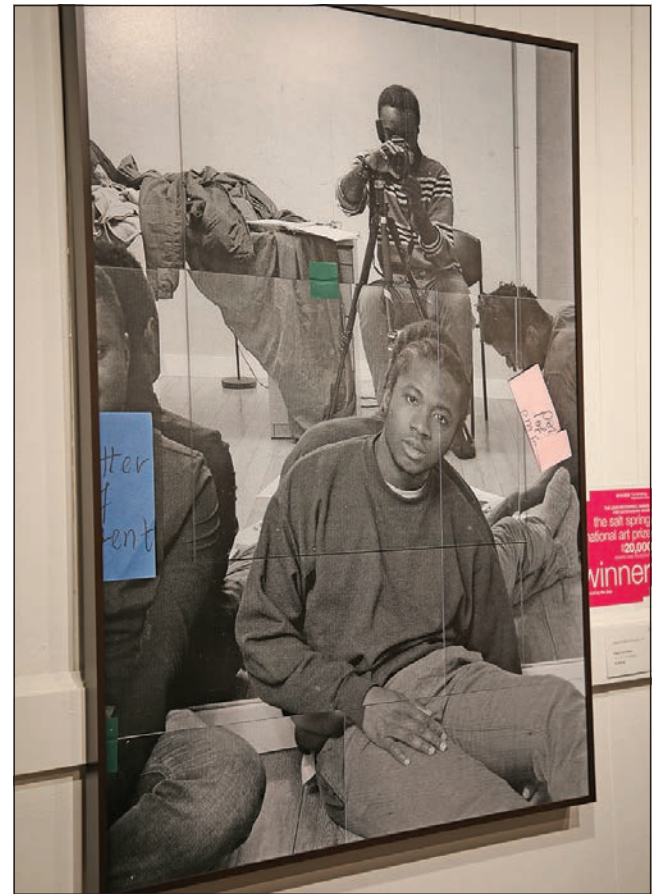
She also points out that since being awarded the SSNAP 2019 prize, Konadu has gone on to win the National BMO 1st Art! Competition, the New Generation Photography Award from the National Gallery of Canada and, in 2020, the Sobey Art Award. In Canada he has had solo exhibitions in the National Gallery of Canada's PhotoLab6; the Museum of Contemporary Art in Toronto; PAVED Arts in Saskatoon; the White Water Art Gallery in North Bay; Latitude 53 in Edmonton; and the New Gallery in Calgary.

Day also says that in the U.S., Konadu's work has been exhibited in Manhattan's Aperture Gallery, Brooklyn's Red Hook Labs and Chicago's Filter Photo gallery. In 2019 he was hired by The New Yorker to photograph American avant-pop musician Helado Negro. He's been profiled on CNN and was a finalist of Fotografiemuseum Amsterdam's 13th Foam Talent Call.

In the spring of 2021 he was resident at the Art Gallery of York University's Lead Time program, in addition to completing his Salt Spring SSNAP residency.

Konadu is also the founder and editor-in-chief of the online cultural forum Public Parking, and a regular contributor to the art criticism blog called Akimbo.

The exhibit can be viewed at The Point by appointment from 1 to 5 p.m. daily except on Tuesdays. Contact Day at pointgallery@shaw.ca.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Luther Konadu's photograph called Figure as Index, which won the top prize in the 2019 SSNAP Finalists Exhibition. Results of his SSNAP residency are on display at The Point Gallery from Sept. 29 to Oct. 25.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photosynthesis returns online



reprise



Stairway to ?



Ladder Against Burano Wall

Screenshot of a snippet of the Photosynthesis virtual show with photographs by Timothy Gibbon (reprise), Alan Lalonde (Stairway to ?) and Ann White (Ladder Against Burano Wall). Clicking on each image brings up a large version of the photograph, information about it and links to the photographer's other digital platforms.

Virtual format includes links to artist pages

For the second year in a row, the annual fine art photography show known as Photosynthesis has gone virtual.

"Due to the uncertainty of COVID-19 restrictions, members of our group agreed to have a virtual show again this year instead of our usual gallery gala show at ArtSpring," states a press release from Photosynthesis.

One or two images per photographer are featured on the www.photosyn.ca site for the 21st annual show.

"We created an alternative show featuring stunning new images in a virtual gallery setting," explains the group.

Participating photographers for the 2021 show are Seth Berkowitz, Alan Bibby, Roger Brooks, Gregg Eligh, Birgit Freybe Bate-man, Howard Fry, Timothy Gibbon, Tamar Griggs, Diana Hayes, Christina Heinemann, Susan Huber, jOenzi, Avril Kirby, Greg Klas-sen, Alane Lalonde, Michael Levy, Doug McMillin, Judy McPhee, Amy Melious, Larry Melious, Bernadette Mertens-McAllister, Maureen Milburn, Pierre Mineau, Osman Phillips, Anette Schrage, Julianna Slomka, Chris Stackhouse, Michael Wall and Ann White.

Contact information is provided on each photographer's page, as well as more information about the photo in some cases.

Comments can also be left in a guest book on the site.

The Salt Spring National Art Prize presents

The Parallel Art Show

Saturday, September 25 - Sunday, October 17

Open Daily 10am to 4pm at ArtSpring Gallery
PAS Award winners announced at the SSNAP Gala Awards Night, Saturday, October 23
All BC Covid Protocols will be respected
51 artists juried from the Southern Gulf Islands
www.saltspringartprize.ca for event details



ISLAND PRIDE ISLAND PRIDE

GENDER & YOUTH

Youth calls for awareness, openness and unity

Sense of safety, respecting pronouns among issues

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Jaqueline Wightman is a 15-year-old Grade 10 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

She describes the process of gender identification as an ongoing journey.

"I started out born female and I currently feel most like a demigirl, who is someone whose pronouns are they/she," she explained in a Driftwood interview last week.

Queer Undefined defines a demigirl as someone who identifies as "feeling partly a woman, but also feeling partly of another gender."

Wightman has a safe and supportive family and circle of friends, so feels confident in asserting her gender identity and sharing her thoughts about where she is at this point in her life.

"It is so joyful to figure out who you are and just live. When you discover that part of yourself that has been missing it just makes you feel complete," she said.

At the same time, she still senses stigma associated with not being cisgender, which

is someone whose identity aligns completely with their sex at birth.

"There is a lot of stigma around people who don't feel right in their body. Some people can't seem to wrap their head around that — because we all separate there is the 'queer community' and what people assume are 'normal people' — when instead I think we need to think about it as 'we are all one community.'"

"We butt heads because there has been so much pain and hurt in the past that no one can give chances anymore because it's the way we have been taught to think. We can't seem to be part of one community because we've been separated and it's hard to get back what we've lost. A lot of people don't understand the difference or why it is important, but it is so important to have something that makes you feel like yourself."

At school she observes that some teachers



JAQUELINE WIGHTMAN

still refer to students as "ladies and gentlemen" instead of using all-inclusive terms or pronouns.

"It's not their fault they're like that, but they need to be open to change."

Wightman said "calling people out" when they use terms that exclude gender-diverse individuals or display misunderstanding about related issues can be problematic.

"I'm not trying to call them out, I am trying to call them in," she explained.

Calling in is "more like 'Hey, I've noticed you are doing this. I would like to help you to change for the better. You might not have known.' It's a nicer way of helping people get comfortable into the change. If we snap at everyone who does something wrong then they're never going to want to change because they are not going to feel safe to do so."

Safety is also a key issue for gender-diverse individuals.

"I surround myself with safe people, but there are a lot of people out there having difficulty . . . they have parents who don't accept them; or friends who don't accept them or know how to accept them because they never had that issue themselves."

How can people best support youth who are expressing their gender identity in whatever

way that is unfolding?

"I think the best support is just being there and listening," said Wightman. "Every person's journey is different and everybody needs different things. Just let your child or family member know that they can feel safe enough to be themselves around you and show them who they really are; support them and let them lead their own journey. Just be there if they need you, if they need someone to talk to or stand up for them, or just sit back. Some people just want to go on their journey alone."

She also suggests that friends and their family members can be helpful to teens whose homes are not physically or emotionally safe spaces by offering them a place to stay for the night or helping them stand up to their parents.

"Make sure they are OK and you can ask what you can do to help. The best you can do is to just support them and tell them you love them no matter what."

Wightman said it is important for people to do research about gender issues, grasp the concept that everyone is different and to not make assumptions about a person's gender identity and what it might mean.

"The world is changing and we need to change with it. Gender issues are important



Jaqueline Wightman smells a flower in her garden.

and we need to protect everyone. We need to come together as one big community, not 10 separate communities where we all huddle in a corner bullied by one community."

Wightman sees parallels between racism and gender discrimination.

"We have been raised to think that some people are better than others, but we need to work together to make people safe . . . We need to be open to changing everything and say, 'Hey, it's not the way the world works anymore and it never should have been,' so here's how can we can do that."

LGBT2SQIA+ TERMS EXPLAINED

L LESBIAN A self-identified woman who is romantically/sexually attracted to other self-identified women.

G GAY A self-identified man who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with other self-identified men. "Gay" can also be used to talk about both men and women or, more generally, the "gay community", but it commonly refers to men.

B BISEXUAL A person who is romantically/sexually attracted to or involved with people of the same gender or another gender, "both"/all genders, or is open to such attraction. Note: the word "both" appears in quotation marks to reference the root of bi as meaning two, but also to challenge the binary notions that there are only two genders.

T TRANS, TRANSGENDER OR TRANS-IDENTIFIED A term for people whose gender identity, expression, or behaviour is different from those typically associated with their assigned sex at birth. Transgender is a broad term and "Trans" is shorthand for "transgender." (Note: Transgender is correctly used as an adjective, not a noun, thus "transgender people" is appropriate but "transgenders" is often viewed as disrespectful).

2S TWO-SPIRIT A contemporary term that refers to the historical and current First Nations people whose individual spirits were or are a blend of male and female spirits. This term has been reclaimed by some Indigenous Native American LGBT communities in order to honour their heritage and provide an alternative to the Western labels of gay, lesbian, bisexual, or transgender.

Q QUEER An umbrella term for a social, intellectual, and/or political movement that seeks to encompass a broad range of sexual identities, behaviours, and expressions. It is also a personal identity that has been "re-claimed" because 'queer' has been historically used as a vicious insult. The letter "Q" added to the end of the acronym LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender) can refer to either queer or questioning.

Q QUESTIONING A questioning of one's gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, or all three is a process of exploration by people who may be unsure, still exploring, and concerned about applying a social label to themselves for various reasons.

I INTERSEX A term to describe people who are born with reproductive or sexual anatomy that does not fit typical definitions of male or female. The terms 'intersex' and 'trans' are distinct and should not be used interchangeably.

A ASEXUAL A newer term used to describe people who do not experience sexual attraction. Asexuality is not the same as celibacy, which is the willful decision to not act on sexual feelings. Asexual people are quiet capable of loving, affectionate, romantic ties to others. In fact there is a lot of diversity in how asexual people experience things like relationships, attraction and arousal.

+ PLUS SIGN A plus sign (+) is added to represent the infinite variety of identities outside of, or not represented, by this acronym.

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