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Harvest Time
SALT SPRING ISLAND • SEPTEMBER 2021

Two fun days at the Salt Spring Island Fall Fair

TROPHY WINNERS, PRIZE RECIPES & PHOTOS FROM THE 125th ANNIVERSARY EDITION OF THE FAIR

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Wednesday, Sept. 29, 2021

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Issue 39
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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

ENDURANCE TIME: Jack Bush holds the plank position for 16 minutes and 15 seconds, the longest of any youth participating in the Salt Spring Rotary Club's Plank in the Park fundraiser on Sunday. Some 25 kids and adults took the plank challenge, with pledges and other support bringing in \$3,200 for Salt Spring youth soccer, baseball, tennis and Tsunami circus programs.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust opens wallet for public input

Council opts for consulting help with Trust Policy Statement

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Islands Trust Council hopes to get closer to finalizing a Trust Policy Statement (TPS) update by beefing up its public-engagement activities.

Council voted by a 13-11 margin to approve the most expensive and detailed of three options presented by a consultant at its quarterly meeting last week, spending up to \$150,000 in the process, which is \$82,000 more than originally planned.

Following harsh reactions to a draft TPS amendment in June, council decided to revisit its previously suggested schedule for giving the TPS update bylaw first reading in July. Residents across the Trust Area expressed concerns about proposals to ban future dock construction and desalination plants, forestry and agriculture policies, and the process itself. Council then hired a consultant — MODUS Planning, Design & Engagement — to review its TPS updating process to date and to come up with recommendations on how to get better public input for the project. The TPS is the guiding policy document for Trust Council and all Trust islands' official community plans and land use bylaws.

"If we do what we did we will get what we got, so it's important to look for alternative ways to make people feel comfortable," said Gambier trustee Dan Rogers, who also sits on the Trust's Executive Committee, in speaking for the most comprehensive proposal presented.

Extra funds will primarily pay for ample hands-on assistance from consultants — to be hired through an open bidding process — and add a multi-day stakeholder workshop to activities.

Salt Spring trustees Peter Grove and Laura Patrick both supported the motion.

"If we are going to the job we need to do it properly," said Grove.

Saturna Island trustee Paul Brent took the opposite stance.

"I feel this is informing rather than consulting," said Brent about the chosen option. "I think we have to get back to basics and consult with islanders."

Trustees debated the merits of holding town hall meetings, an activity that MODUS planner Molly Steeves did not recommend be used.

TRUST POLICY continued on 3



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| DAY | TIME | METRES | FEET | DAY | TIME | METRES | FEET |
|-----------|------|------------|------|----------|------|------------|------|
| 29 | 0416 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 3 | 0101 | 2.6 | 8.5 |
| WE | 1332 | 3.1 | 10.2 | SU | 0809 | 1.0 | 3.3 |
| ME | | | | DI | 1544 | 3.1 | 10.2 |
| | | | | | 2130 | 2.2 | 7.2 |
| 30 | 0517 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 4 | 0215 | 2.7 | 8.9 |
| TH | 1416 | 3.1 | 10.2 | | 0854 | 1.1 | 3.6 |
| JE | | | | MO | 1605 | 3.1 | 10.2 |
| | | | | LU | 2151 | 1.9 | 6.2 |
| 1 | 0620 | 1.1 | 3.6 | 5 | 0322 | 2.8 | 9.2 |
| FR | 1451 | 3.2 | 10.5 | | 0935 | 1.2 | 3.9 |
| VE | 2111 | 2.5 | 8.2 | TU | 1625 | 3.1 | 10.2 |
| | 2330 | 2.5 | 8.2 | MA | 2220 | 1.6 | 5.2 |
| 2 | 0719 | 1.0 | 3.3 | 6 | 0426 | 2.9 | 9.5 |
| SA | 1519 | 3.1 | 10.2 | | 1015 | 1.4 | 4.6 |
| SA | 2116 | 2.4 | 7.9 | WE | 1644 | 3.2 | 10.5 |
| | | | | ME | 2254 | 1.3 | 4.3 |

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CLIMATE JUSTICE

Islanders rally for climate justice

Youth urge those in power to consider future generations

BY ROBIN JENKINSON

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

About 80 people came to the United Church Meadow at noon last Friday to rally for climate justice.

The climate justice movement embeds climate change within social justice and recognizes that the people most negatively impacted by climate change are those least responsible for creating those impacts and the least able to mitigate or adapt to them.

Presentations were made at the rally about Indigenous reconciliation, BIPOC anti-racism, queer community and youth leadership, how to address class inequity, and standing against corporate and government-sanctioned logging in the Fairy Creek area. A booth about affordable housing demonstrated this many-pronged approach.

"Climate vulnerability is rooted in economic power," Shamana Ali from the BIPOC Community Collective told the crowd.

Transition Salt Spring's Climate Action Plan 2.0 and One Cool Island strategy, available on their website, shows how it's all connected. To fix one thing, we need to fix them all.

"The decisions adults make today will affect youth like me for



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

Shamana Ali from Salt Spring's BIPOC Community Collective speaks to attendees at Friday's climate strike rally, one of several similar events held across the country and around the world.

the rest of our lives," said Azalia Vachon, a Grade 10 student at Gulf Islands Secondary School. "I don't want to leave this mess for another generation, so we must take action now."

Supporters are calling for a transformative climate emergency plan that recognizes the interconnected climate, ecological and social crises, and embeds equity, anti-racism and social justice at its core, while also upholding Indigenous rights.

FIRE DISTRICT

Fire board proposes \$4.27-million budget

Wage and benefit costs major factor

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring property owners are facing a 9.1 per cent tax hike to fund the island's fire department and keep adding to capital reserve funds in 2022.

Fire trustees have given first reading to a recommended 2022 operating budget of \$4,266,750, with all but \$11,000 of that amount to come from property taxes. While the amount being requisitioned is \$424,850 and 11.09 per cent higher than last year, debt-servicing costs have declined, explains a staff report

from CAO Andrew Peat presented to trustees at their Sept. 20 meeting.

Peat's report explains that the main reason for the increase is higher total wages and benefit costs following the results of an arbitration ruling from Judi Korbin issued in late 2020.

While some costs to the district were lowered as a result of the ruling, Peat said, "Savings are more than offset by mandated officer promotions, new hires and higher costs to backfill for vacation and sick relief. [International Association of Fire Fighters] members are exercising their right of refusal to backfill shifts at overtime, work that was previously done by paid-on-call members."

Peat also explained that the 2022 bud-

get funds both the fire chief and deputy chief positions, which has not been the case since 2017. Fire Chief Arjuna George has been on indefinite leave since June of 2020 and while the board has made a commitment to fill the deputy chief position again, that has not yet been done. Jamie Holmes is the Acting Fire Chief.

For the median-valued residential property assessed at \$633,000, property taxes for fire protection purposes would increase by \$47.56 for 2022.

The full report is available through the Ganges fire hall or by email request to info@saltspringfire.com.

A public meeting about the budget is being planned, with details to be announced soon.

PARKS & REC

Public asked to take plunge into pool site survey

Online questionnaire first part of master plan input

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) wants to hear from islanders about how they envision the Rainbow Road recreation centre site being developed in future years.

On Monday the Capital Regional District and PARC launched an online survey, the first step in gathering public views about the current pool site as a 20-year master plan for the property is developed.

"This project was identified as a priority in the 2019 Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan in response to the com-

munity's desire for increased access to indoor recreation facilities for residents and visitors," explains a CRD/PARC press release.

"The site master plan will assess current and future capacity needs to identify suitable expansion opportunities. This plan will inform a phased capital planning approach for new facilities and program amenities based on input provided from First Nations, key stakeholders and the public."

The online survey can be accessed at GetInvolved.crd.bc.ca until Oct. 19. Hard copies of the survey can be picked up or dropped off at the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre and the Salt Spring Public Library. In addition to the public survey, the process will include meeting with stakeholders, online forums from October through December and a virtual open house in January 2022.

A draft master plan will then be presented to PARC members for final consideration.

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Consensus not aim of exercise

TRUST POLICY

continued from 1

"We like to utilize techniques that encourage everyone to be able to speak and everyone to be respectful of other people's voices," she said.

Town hall meetings tend to favour loud voices, she said, which discourages others from speaking up.

Lasqueti Island trustee Peter Johnston defended the value of such meetings and a less controlled process.

"I think there is a suspicion of the Trust generally . . . if we come out with consultants and other people to run the procedure it won't look very good," he said. "Now is the time to just hold big meetings on the islands; in person or electronically or both. I understand the things that can go wrong with a town hall meeting, but if it is set up so everyone has a chance to speak, I think they work best."

The MODUS report also offered insight into why the TPS process went off the rails in June.

"Communication about the project phasing and sequencing, including the way public engagement was feeding into this Policy Statement

process (how their input would be used) was not as clear as it could have been, resulting in a lack of clarity about how and when public engagement would be used," states the report.

Some community members also felt the process was rushed, input opportunities were "shallow" and that the Trust was "hiding behind" digital platforms due to pandemic restrictions, MODUS found.

Steeves said it was important for the Trust to accurately communicate how much influence public input will actually have on the final TPS document. First Nations' and other stakeholders' interests, technical/environmental considerations and the Islands Trust mandate all need to be considered, the MODUS report points out.

"We aren't moving towards consensus," she stressed. "We are listening to people's diverse perspectives and trying to understand their aspirations for the Islands Trust within these multiple inputs."

The MODUS report noted that "During previous rounds of engagement, misinformation spread rampantly on communications channels

that Islands Trust is not as active on, or within forums that Islands Trust is not part of. This misinformation has resulted in, or exacerbated, a lack of understanding about the role of the Trust and the purpose of the Policy Statement."

In discussing the effects of social-media conversations, Steeves said, "That is an incredible challenge and I would not recommend that the Islands Trust wade into individual responses."

Instead she suggested using proactive communications techniques such as creating and posting Frequently Asked Questions sheets on topics that are being discussed on social-media platforms, ensuring they are easily accessible.

The new TPS public consultation period will run from approximately the end of October through January, with a three-week break through the holiday season.

In the meantime, a group called Concerned Salt Spring Island Residents was set to hold an online forum on the TPS and related topics with panelists and guest speakers on Tuesday night.

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WEEKLY COVID REPORT

Recent data from the B.C. Centre for Disease Control indicates 10 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed in the Southern Gulf Islands, including Salt Spring Island, between Sept. 12 and 18.

The slight dip from 13 cases the week before is also reflected in the average daily case rate dropping from nine to six on Salt Spring between Sept. 16 and 22. It remained the same at three daily cases for the other Gulf Islands combined.

As of Sept. 23, 75 per cent of residents aged 12 and up, and 76 per cent of those 18-plus on Salt Spring had received two doses of COVID vaccine. That figure was 89 per cent for all age groups on the other islands.

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

| NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES | | | | |
|-----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| | Week of 8/22 - 8/28 | Week of 8/29 - 9/04 | Week of 9/05 - 9/11 | Week of 9/12 - 9/18 |
| Southern Gulf Islands | 4 | 7 | 13 | 10 |
| Saanich Peninsula | 14 | 25 | 22 | 32 |
| Greater Victoria | 103 | 97 | 118 | 200 |
| Langford to Port Renfrew | 44 | 51 | 27 | 36 |
| Duncan Area | 56 | 75 | 129 | 91 |
| Chemainus to Nanaimo | 21 | 56 | 62 | 51 |
| Total | 242 | 311 | 371 | 420 |

Data is available in the maps section of the BCCDC COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard on the BCCDC website.



SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT NOTICE OF NOMINATION THREE TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for three trustees will be received between:

**9:00 a.m. Friday, October 8th, 2021
and 4:00 p.m. Friday, October 22nd, 2021**

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road, or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Anthony (Tony) Kennedy at (250) 537-8815.

The Trustee positions are for a three-year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday November 22nd, 2021 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2024.

The Election to be held on **Saturday, November 20th, 2021** at the **Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road** from **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Advance Voting will be held on **Wednesday, November 17th, 2021** at the **Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road** from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Only persons who are qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District may hold the office of Trustee. Qualified candidates must be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Ganges Fire Hall or from Anthony (Tony) Kennedy, Returning Officer (250) 537-8815.

Those persons eligible to vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to the election day
4. Be an owner of land located within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as an owner of land, then each owner may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No person may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Salt Spring Island, B.C.
this 22nd day of September 2021

Anthony (Tony) Kennedy
Returning Officer

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Sorry we missed you in our first thank you.

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Jill Willmott

Adiel Pantoja
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Nancy Pearson

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& SALT SPRING ISLAND SOAP EXCHANGE

OPINION



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

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



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EDITORIAL

Empty promises

Canadians expressed themselves clearly in last week's federal election, although largely by not taking the time to head to the polls or complete a mail-in ballot.

Voter turn-out was low at 62 per cent and a smaller percentage of those people (32.62 per cent) voted for the Liberal party than in the past two elections. Seat results mirrored those from the 2019 election, confirming there was no valid reason to hold a \$600-million distraction in the middle of a pandemic, and Justin Trudeau's government has ended up with another embarrassment to defend. It's not that the government is a bad one by any stretch of the imagination. It has numerous achievements to be proud of, but the promise of what should have been back when the Liberals won a majority mandate under Trudeau in 2015 and the reality after six years in power is woefully mismatched.

THE ISSUE:

Federal election

WE SAY:

Breaking of electoral reform promise has impact

Despite a parliamentary committee recommending some form of proportional representation be presented to Canadians in a national referendum, the subject was dropped by the Liberals in 2017. It was a sign of things to come, with lofty words sometimes not matching actions, which a politician can only get away with for so long.

Calls for electoral reform were not silenced after that disappointment, however, and interest in revisiting the concept was shown as recently as this past June. That's when the Standing Committee on Procedure and House Affairs recommended a study on creating a national assembly for electoral reform be done. All participating party reps except the Conservatives were in agreement. While the Green party is not on that committee it obviously supports the concept of proportional representation.

Fans of local MP Elizabeth May and the Green party may be disappointed in the drop in voter support received, but as May said on election night, the fortunes of one political party are not important to her as long as serious advances on climate change are made. May's Green voice has been influential in parliament for years despite the current electoral system, but it could have been even more so if Trudeau's 2015 election night promise had been kept.



Keep minds open to truth

BY MLA ADAM OLSEN AND
MLA SONIA FURSTENAU

In the four years that we have been Members of the Legislative Assembly, hundreds of British Columbians have reached out to talk about crown/settler-Indigenous relationships.

What we have heard consistently in these conversations is that people are frustrated that they have not been taught about the true history of our country. While there is information available, we hear people feel it is not accessible, and they do not know where to start.

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission was mandated to "inform all Canadians about what happened in residential schools." The commission's work concluded in 2015 and they published 94 Calls to Action. Action 80 was the establishment of a day to "honour Survivors, their families, and communities, and ensure that public commemoration of the history and legacy of residential schools remains a vital component of the reconciliation process."

On Sept. 30, it will be the first time in Canadian history that there will be a National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, a statutory holiday for federally regulated workers, to "recognize and commemorate the leg-

VIEWPOINT

acy of residential schools." Let's take this day to pause and open our hearts and minds to who we are, and where we have come from.

On May 27, Tk'emlúps te Secwépemc Kukpi7 (Chief) Rosanne Casimir announced that ground-penetrating radar had found the remains of children who passed away while they were students at the former Kamloops Indian Residential School. The news shook Canadians from coast to coast. Since then, several other Indigenous communities across the country have made similar announcements. There are thousands of Indigenous children that never made it home from school.

Six days after Kukpi7 Casimir's announcement, on June 3, the federal parliament passed Bill C-5. It took only six days to do what the federal and provincial governments couldn't do for six years. It is remarkable to see how quickly governments can work when they are motivated.

On Aug. 3, the British Columbia government announced that they would get to work with Indigenous, business and labour stakeholders to engage on how best to commemorate

the day in the future. For 2021, they put provisions in place for public sector employees to reduce service levels or close in honour of the day.

We are thankful to all of the people who have reached out to open a dialogue. There is no doubt that over the many years of being public officials, Canadian culture has undergone remarkable changes. It has been mostly positive.

Our provincial and federal governments have a failing grade when it comes to educating Canadians about our true history. Thankfully, that is changing, in part because they are updating the curriculum and in part because we have educators that have taken matters into their own hands to find material that gives their students a deeper, more truthful understanding of the history of our country. Orange Shirt Day has played a critical role in that movement.

It only took six days to get done what was recommended six years ago, largely because Canadians let elected officials know they care and demanded their governments take real action. We will not lose momentum if we keep our minds open to the truth and if our hearts embrace the spirit of reconciliation.

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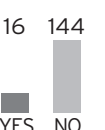
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should federal electoral reform be examined again? ☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Would you use the services of a climate action coach?



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: }

"You need the input of Elders. They know things that we don't know."

ERIC PELKEY, HEREDITARY TSAWOUT FIRST NATION CHIEF

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *How do you feel about the federal election results?*

FREEDOM BUCHAN



Whoever you vote for, it is just another puppet.

MARION YOUNG



That was a waste of money for the same result.

MARTIN MONGARD



I was hoping for some more change.

WENDY ANDERSON



Terrible. I wish they had spent those millions of dollars on vaccines for third-world countries.

RYAN JAMES



I don't really have an opinion. It doesn't interest me.

LETTERS to the editor

Sympathize with anti-vax position

In response to Mandy Spottiswoode's Sept. 22 In Depth and several letters condemning the anti-vaxxers, I would like to start by saying that I have been double vaccinated, have proof and wear a mask in all indoor places.

Why? Because it is apparently the law. But I truly sympathize with the anti-vaxxers, and this is the reason why.

The story of Louis Pasteur and his production of pasteurized milk is well known, as is his experiments with rabies and rabbits. Through his experiments, Pasteur ended up creating a successful rabies vaccination.

Then there was Mordecai Haffkine, who worked at the

Pasteur Institute developing the cholera vaccine, which was distributed throughout Europe before being exported to India during an epidemic.

But it was the British Edward Jenner who originally termed the phrase "variola vaccinae," which is Latin for smallpox of the cow, or cowpox. When this physician noticed that the milk maids seemed immune from the rampant smallpox affecting his community, Jenner concluded that the infected blisters from the cows created an immunity in the milk maids. He subsequently injected a boy named James Phipps with a concoction made from these cow blisters, so confident was he in his hypothesis. And he was right. The resulting smallpox vaccinations were delivered across Europe, and after three years finally covered the Americas, the Philippines and China.

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

Napoleon, who was invading Britain at the time, was heard to remark that Edward Jenner "was one of the greatest benefactors of mankind."

And this is why I sympathize with the anti-vaxxers: Because we have no hero. And we need a hero to speak the truth of how the latest vaccinations were created. The constant media stream loosely states that scientists from various countries have formulated various vaccines. But who are these people? Who is it that the government listening to?

Similarly, the constant bombardment of daily numbers of COVID-19 patients, both here and in the U.S., to the exclusion of cancer patients, babies born or heart attacks, has become a mind-numbing mantra.

Such a lack of personal connection is bound to create a lack of response.

To tell anti-vaxxers that they are being selfish is the wrong answer. To comprehend that they are curious, wary and have sufficient reason to be doubtful is to understand their side of what has become an antagonistic story.

I think they may be looking for a hero; someone to offer evidence, or at least an individualized proof of a struggle. Instead, we have overgeneralized media together with overgeneralized government mandates.

It would be kinder and a more compassionate approach to understand the protesters' needs for connection to an individual truth. And compassion is more effective than condemnation.

Just sayin'.
JAQUALINE ROUSSIN,
RAINBOW ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Lesser of two evils beats hot conspiracy theories

That's it. That's enough. I've had just about enough of this. If I hear one more person tell me what a fraud all this masking, social distancing, vaccination and public health mandating is, I am seriously going to toss my cookies all over anybody not standing six feet away from me.

There's no avoiding them, these anti-vaxxers and anti-maskers. They deny the numbers of fellow human beings who have been stricken by the pandemic, or pooh-pooh the severity of the virus, or even shrug off fatality rates by claiming that the casualties were health compromised already and would have died from some other cause anyway.

They mistrust the mainstream media and surround themselves with misinformation and disinformation easily gleaned off the world wide web where one fake news item is cited by another one and then commandeered by another until it seems that it must be true because why else would it be popping up everywhere?

They believe that they are the ones who are doing all the critical thinking. Anybody else, and that includes the vast majority of doctors, nurses and other health professionals, are being duped and led by the nose by those who want to restrict the rights of members of the public to make decisions about their own bodies. That's right. They see themselves as true rebels. Revolutionary heroes. Fighting the battle for truth and freedom. Let the masses line up like masked sheep waiting to get jabbed by Big Pharma.

I must have missed something. When did saving the world from a runaway deadly virus become an issue of personal freedom? This virus, which is now in its fourth wave and has mutated a number of times to increase its rate of infection, has now accounted for a death toll of more than 4.55 million lives worldwide and nearly two thousand in British Columbia.

Whatever happened to looking out for the common good? Have we reached the point where we're willing to endanger the lives of others to make a point out of not allowing others to tell us how to behave? If we live in one great global village, then I must be the global village idiot because I



**Shilo
Zylbergold**
**NOBODY
ASKED ME
BUT**

just don't get it. How has this unholy alliance of far-right conspiracy theorists, anti-vaxxers and libertarian bloggers come about?

During World War II, when the German Luftwaffe flew bombing raids over the cities of England, did Londoners decide they were going to disobey the blackout orders and leave their house lights blazing because nobody had a right to tell them how to act? If you feel like driving on the left side of the road for a change, is that okay? The same goes for seat belts, motorcycle helmets and selling cigarettes to minors.

Sometimes circumstances force us to choose the lesser of two evils. Nobody enjoys having to slap on an ill-fitting mask just to enjoy a cup of java at the local café. How many of us can hardly wait for that next needle in the upper arm? Do any of us really want to pull out our proof of vaccination card if we want to go out for a family dinner or catch a hockey game?

The answer is no. Nobody. Certainly not our anti-vaxxers. They're onto the great conspiracy which aims to suppress the human race by surreptitiously stripping away our rights one by one until we all become virtual slaves to the system.

What conspiracy are we talking about? There are so many to choose from. Just round up the usual suspects. Over here we have an array of Communists, left-leaning Socialists and Jewish people who are plotting to overthrow our "free world" democracies. By getting us to surrender our individual rights, they are paving a path towards totalitarianism and dictatorship where the state has complete control over the individual.

Over there stand the industrialists and billionaire bankers who throttle worker rights

in order to perpetuate a capitalist society. In this conspiracy, Bill Gates and his cronies have manufactured a psychology of fear that can only be quelled by the injection of a dangerous or bogus (depending on which theory you believe) magic elixir vaccine whose only guarantee is that it will earn them trillions of dollars.

Just around the corner lies another conspiracy of aliens from a distant galaxy, terminator robots from the future and undead zombies trying to weaken our human race by altering our DNA so we can easily be conquered.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, folks. Throw in vaccination conspiracies by the Chinese government, 5G technology, the World Health Organization, Dr. Fauci, the Illuminati secret society, Brexit, the Freemasons, the Knights Templar and Walmart, and you get the idea that there can't be too much going on globally because everybody is too busy trying to trick the world's population into getting poked by the vaccine.

One conspiracy theory gaining popularity is that the injections are actually planting microchips in our bodies so the authorities can pin-point our location at any moment and in this way will be able to control us better (as if they couldn't do this already by tracing the movements of our cell phones).

What I don't understand is how the anti-vaxxers have convinced themselves that governments all over the globe are conspiring to put aside their ideological differences in order to impose the vaccine on the world's population. Think about it. When have all the rulers of this planet ever, EVER, agreed on anything unanimously? What has made them have this sudden change of heart? Perhaps the aliens from a distant galaxy theory isn't so far off.

Nobody asked me, but isn't it time we took a good hard look at ourselves. Maybe I'm wrong and herd immunity is just around the corner. Maybe this so-called plague from hell will fade like a whimper, as will all of our fears as they did with Y2K. But if I'm not wrong, each of us has a responsibility to one another, our children and those who come after us. Don't blow it.

Commission principles still relevant

BY JUDI STEVENSON

Thursday, Sept. 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Perhaps surprisingly, the government of Canada has declared it a new national holiday.

I couldn't be more pleased and, I guess, relieved that after so many years, Canada may at last be beginning to take steps towards the restoration of the rights of our First Peoples, and also the respect they properly deserve.

My history with these issues includes a period of research, policy analysis and drafting of the Report of the Royal Commission on Aboriginal Peoples (RCAP), which was published in 1996 – all five volumes of it.

Ironically, the final volume is titled *Renewal: A Twenty-Year Commitment*. That was fully 25 years ago now, and its recommendations have only barely been scratched in terms of outcomes since then. (The summary of those recommendations takes up 110 pages in Volume 5.)

The words "truth" and "reconciliation" are powerful ones. How much education in our schools would it take to get anywhere close to "truth?" How much restoration of land and basic rights would it take to get anywhere close to "reconciliation" with Canada's First Nations and Indigenous Peoples?

I doubt that I'll still be around when that time comes, if indeed it ever does come. But in the meantime, here are some thoughts and recommendations from the final RCAP report to illuminate our new national holiday.

The four basic principles of a renewed relationship are these:

- (1) Mutual recognition,
- (2) Mutual respect,
- (3) Mutual responsibility and
- (4) Sharing.

To summarize the first principle, mutual recognition means that non-

INDEPTH

Aboriginal people (we settlers) must recognize that Aboriginal people are the original inhabitants and caretakers of this land, and have distinctive rights and responsibilities that flow from that status. At the same time, it calls on Aboriginal people to accept that non-Aboriginal people are also now of this land, by birth and by adoption, and have strong ties of affection and loyalty here.

More broadly, mutual recognition has three major facets: (i) equality, (ii) respectful co-existence and (iii) self-government. Are we even close to this after so many years? I don't think so.

Sharing and reciprocity are important components of many Aboriginal world views

The second basic principle, mutual respect, flows from mutual recognition — recognition of the value inherent in all life forms. Many, perhaps most, Aboriginal people accord respect to all members of the circle of life: not just human beings and animals, but plants, insects, the life in the seas and fresh water, and spiritual or other unseen forces that may (or may not) inhabit the universe.

Of the many facets of mutual respect, the commission drew attention to one that is perhaps surprising: the concept of courtesy, consideration and esteem that in their view should be extended to peoples who differ from one another in many and significant ways, but deserve to be valued as fellow-members of the larger communities to which we all belong.

The third basic principle is mutual responsibility. Ideally, Aboriginal peoples and Canada will operate in a kind of partnership, primarily political and constitutional but also economic. It is an unequal partnership, however, with Canada having greatly more power to impact the health, well-being and fortunes (in the broadest sense) of the First Peoples of the land than vice versa. The evidence for that is enormous and disturbing.

The final one of the basic principles is sharing, arguably the most inclusive and significant of the four. Sharing operates on a number of different levels, but at least by some measures, especially in the economic sphere, though also more broadly at all levels of social relationships.

Sharing and reciprocity are important components of many Aboriginal world views, as among many peoples world-wide. For the Inuit, for example, it continues to be an integral part of social relations, where traditionally hunters returning to camp shared what they had with all the members of their community. The news was once shared by word of mouth, but in the modern era, it is shared on community radio and other forms of electronic communication.

Sharing between Aboriginal peoples and the larger Canadian society is more complicated, and beyond the confines of this article to go into in any depth. That said, the basis of sharing must recognize the fact that it is an ideal in the Canadian federation and all or most of its institutions, and certainly not a fully or fairly realized fact of our social and economic lives at this point.

Looking back, it was my huge privilege and a source of great pride that I could play even a small part in the commission's work, and I very much hope some of the Driftwood's readers may delve deeper into the RCAP final report, given some encouragement from the brief précis provided here.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Red Dress Day

This coming Monday, Oct. 4, trees in Centennial Park will bear red dresses, hanging in honour of missing and murdered Indige-

nous women, girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ individuals.

These empty dresses speak in silence; they make present, through absence, our stolen sisters.

Indigenous women and girls, as well as queer and gender-diverse Indigenous people, experience five times more violence than any other demographic in Canada. The solve rate on these crimes is almost 40 per cent lower than the same crimes against other groups. Access to services and support for Indigenous women, girls and trans people is significantly lower. Few services, in reality, are capable of dealing with victims of violence in the intersection of racism, sexism, homo/transphobia, colonialism and intergenerational trauma, because of the complex issues that result.

Indigenous women, girls and trans are the most vulnerable, neglected and under-served population in Canada. They experience the highest rate of violence in the country and the nature of the violence they experience is by far more severe. If we believe that the measure of a society is how we treat our most vulnerable members then, I believe, we have a long way to go in Canada.

Métis artist Jamie Black is the creator of The REDress Project. Black has mounted installations in public spaces, galleries and museums across North America to bring awareness to the critical national issue of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls and trans. In 2016, Jamie Black opened her powerful aesthetic response to this travesty, inviting all to hang red dresses and make visible the human

losses the dresses represent. DAISSI has sponsored the REDress Project on Salt Spring Island for the last six years.

Oct. 4 is now the National Day of Action for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and LGBTQ2SIA+. The REDress Project on Salt Spring Island is co-sponsored by DAISSI, Salt Spring's LGBTQ2SIA+ organization, by Salt Spring Community Services, which offers a low-barrier shelter and support to people who face barriers, and by the B.C. Community Response Network, which raises awareness of violence, abuse and neglect of seniors and vulnerable adults.

Community members are invited to come to the park and be with the spirits of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, and queer and gender-diverse Indigenous people, or to hang a dress at their driveway or in their shop window. Take a moment out of your day to consider what actions you can take to create a safer and more supportive society for Indigenous women and girls and for queer and gender-diverse Indigenous people.

Dresses will be hanging between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 4. **SHELLYSE SZAKACS,**
SALT SPRING

Learn to listen

Sept. 30 is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which was created to acknowledge, commemorate and honour Aboriginal families adversely affected by the residential schools many native chil-

dren were forced to attend. I would like to share some of my relevant experience.

Our family moved to Salt Spring Island in the mid-1970s. For more than four decades, I served in the Gulf Islands School District as a psychologist, family counsellor, special education coordinator and teacher. I was also very active in school parent groups. As I recall, at that time, SD #64 was considered the most Caucasian school district in the province. Students who identified as Aboriginal were quite rare in our area. Galiano Elementary School was somewhat of an exception, having several part-time native students who came and went rather unpredictably, often living for substantial periods with extended-family relatives on Vancouver Island.

The only native student on Salt Spring Island of which I was aware attended elementary school in Ganges for several years. She and her grandmother lived together in a house located not far from the school. Grandma occasionally shared with me some of her personal experiences as a child living in a native residential school on Vancouver Island, including the time she was forced to kneel in gravel all afternoon for speaking to her sister in their native language. Total English immersion was mandated and strictly enforced 24/7.

May we as a national community listen to Indigenous voices and learn to cooperatively move forward with loving-kindness, compassion and wisdom.

RALPH MILLER,
SALT SPRING

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Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Volunteer Opportunity
Solid Waste Advisory Committee

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is seeking members from the community to serve on the Solid Waste Advisory Committee. This committee provides input on solid waste management matters and will monitor implementation of the CRD's new Solid Waste Management Plan.

The advisory committee will include representation from a wide range of stakeholder groups, including First Nations, private sector and municipal waste management service providers, non-profit organizations, business groups, the environmental community and the general public. Participation is voluntary and members will be asked to commit to meeting (minimum once a month) for up to three years.

We invite you to send us a brief summary telling us about yourself, who you represent, your relevant experience and why you would like to serve on this committee. **Deadline for receipt of applications is Sunday, October 17, 2021.**

For a copy of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, contact CRD Environmental Resource Management at the address below.

Mail: CRD Environmental Resource Management
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Email: infoline@crd.bc.ca

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ART REVIEW

History and identity inform strong SSNAP show

Finalists exhibit now on at Mahon Hall

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The opening of the fourth Salt Spring National Art Prize exhibition over the weekend reveals a program that is settling into its own maturity while providing the space to examine the most prevalent trends and concerns in Canadian art today.

The SSNAP 2021-2022 Finalists Exhibition at Mahon Hall brings together 52 diverse works from Canadian artists living across the country and abroad. Gallery manager Anthony Matthews has created a beautiful show with his arrangement of the leading entries, which the jurors selected from 2,600 submissions.

As always, this year's jurors made their selections "blind," without

access to artists' names or context, so it's fascinating to see some common themes arise. A reckoning with the past in exploration of identity provides a strong stream of work in this year's show, both by Indigenous artists and those from immigrant communities. Many explore those connections using handcrafting techniques and materials passed through generations of family. The first SSNAP of the COVID era not surprisingly finds several artists engaged with related issues and imagery, while the climate crisis forms another of-the-moment concern. Artists in this year's exhibition are also engaged in questions around the history of representation in visual art and how it can be transformed in current practice.

Indigenous artists, so long excluded from mainstream contemporary art, have a strong presence at this show. In fact, they may be the dominant force. The conflux of traditional arts and modern practice includes several works with beading over unusual surfaces. Katherine Boyer's lovely modern and minimalist piece recreates a strip of blue and white sky in a band of beading that's strapped over a bundle of polished oak and maple lumber, while Devonn Drosel beads images of Indigenous food plants and animals over a vintage flour bag, and Maria-Margaretta adds beaded ornamentation and fringes to a pair of bright yellow dish gloves. The iconic Hudson's Bay blanket shows up to expose problematic colonial history in a painting by Lauren Crazybull and a textile/sculptural work by Glenna Cardinal.

Michel Dumont deals with the traumatic intersection of national and personal history in a moving piece based on his mother's 1955 class photo at Mission Indian Day School. Dumont fired a photo transfer onto ceramic tile and then ritually smashed it with a ham-



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

Above, Gilded Pod by plant fibre artist Ralph Simpson, in front of, from left, Jamie Oosterhuis' photograph called Ruff; Laurena Finéus' painting called We'll need these wounds to clear out the mist; and Kriss Munsya's photograph called Dreams Tonite. Highway Reflections.

At right, from top: Christine de Vuono's For Your Own Good installation of carved soap figures in jars, and Lucas Hale's multi-media Skateboarding is Medicine piece.



mer while reciting the names of each child from that class. He then rejoined the pieces with a metallic gold-tinged adhesive — referencing "the Japanese art of Kintsugi to show the beauty in the broken" — and framed the work in live-edge cedar and historic barn board. This is a piece where concept, process and end result are perfectly combined.

SSNAP's only local artists this year are Salt Spring's Connie Kuhns and Pender Island's Joanna Rogers, both of whose works stands up to their national peers. Kuhns' photo Canadian Farmhouse is set between an atmospheric sky and a swath of grey asphalt. The sharp focus and small print size give the work a jewel-like clarity. Rogers' incredible woven cotton hanging contains a multitude of gentle natural dye tones and the anti-Madame Defarge message Save Our Souls embedded in

Morse Code. Nearly local is David Gluck, whose incredible oil painting combines modern portraiture with the lighting and depth of a Rembrandt.

As always, the installations are impressive in creativity and scope. Viewers will marvel at For Your Own Good, Christine De Vuono's collection of around 100 tiny figures sculpted from soap bars. Each figure is individual and distinct, and each is isolated in a Mason jar and shelved: a comment on the fate of lonely seniors in care who were protected at cost during the pandemic. This is another perfect marriage of concept and execution, where the statement has a stunning visual impact.

The SSNAP Finalists Exhibition continues daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. to Oct. 25, with prize winners to be announced on Oct. 23. The companion Parallel Art Show featuring

Gulf Islands artists is at ArtSpring from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. to Oct. 17. See next week's Driftwood for a review of that show. See the gulfislandsdriftwood.com website for a longer review of this show.

People can visit saltspringart-prize.ca for details on upcoming artist talks and events. Proof of COVID-19 vaccination is required to attend all exhibitions and events.



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Advertising Deadline Change

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be closed on **Monday, Oct. 11 - Thanksgiving** and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Tuesday, Oct. 12.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

Wednesday Oct. 13 edition will be as follows:
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DANCE PERFORMANCE

Wen Wei Dance opens new ArtSpring season

Collaborative work runs Oct. 7 and 8

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

Salt Spring loves to dance: In community halls, on pub dance floors, in green open spaces, in dance school studios. It's something we can't resist when the music picks up, an elemental way of expressing ourselves.

Watching dance shows comes a close second, though. They are some of the most popular events we have here in the theatre. It's fitting then that our 2021-22 ArtSpring Presents season officially launches with the return of Vancouver-based contemporary company Wen Wei Dance.

Previous visits to Salt Spring, in 2012 and 2015, were close to sell-out performances for the team led by artistic director and choreographer Wen Wei Wang. They are joining us again with a recent production dedicated to Wang's late mother, Ying Yun, performed flawlessly by five female dancers.

Celebrating the power of women, Wang and the dancers present a work that interprets his mother's story and honours her spirit, while allowing the five young women to express their own intersectional experiences.

The creation of the piece, which is the first that Wang has produced for an all-female group of dancers, was a truly collaborative endeavour. The team talked about their backgrounds, their own mothers and translated these shared stories into highly physical athletic and balletic movements.

Accompanied by a minimalist sound design — breathing, counting, clocks ticking — and a hypnotic electro-acoustic score, the work is a true treat for the senses.

Ying Yun runs Thursday, Oct. 7 and Friday, Oct. 8 at 7:30 p.m.

There will be a post-show talkback with the five dancers, facilitated by ArtSpring's dance outreach coordinator Aina Yasué.



ISLAND LIFE

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Beddis Castle property open for apple festival

One orchard's story illustrates depth of apple tree history on Salt Spring

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

After a one-year hiatus, the Salt Spring Apple Festival is back this weekend.

One of the participants from the very beginning has been Beddis Castle, a private orchard garden that began as a homestead orchard in the late 1870s. It only opens its gates to the public one day a year.

Samuel Beddis, who arrived on

Salt Spring Island in 1871, planted the first orchard on the property close to what later became Beddis Beach. It is said that he and his family used seeds from fruit they had eaten on their voyage from Bristol, England to Canada. Later on, Beddis grafted young trees using scions from more than 40 varieties of apples shipped from Ireland.

Today, some of the varieties planted by Beddis are still growing in the orchards of Beddis Castle, with many of them still producing apples. When the Beddis house changed hands to the Booth family, a partially burnt notebook from Samuel Beddis was discovered, containing a list of apple varieties he planted over the years.



PHOTO COURTESY SUSAN BLOOM

Beddis Castle property next to Beddis Beach as seen from the air.

"I have no idea how many varieties we still have here. It is a mystery, honestly," said Susan Bloom, who

bought the waterfront property in 1986. "We never had an apple expert over, but we have trees that

are more than a hundred years old and we do our best to keep them happy and healthy in their old age."

When Bloom moved to Salt Spring Island, the orchards and gardens had been severely neglected. "When I saw the property for the first time, I was totally smitten, but I knew it needed help. Many trees hadn't been pruned in decades. It was wild."

In the past 35 years, many talented gardeners like Sue Beckley, Kaaren Arsenault, Sandra Proffitt and current head gardener Carol Adam transformed the neglected orchards into a manicured estate garden.

APPLE FEST continued on 12

what's on this week



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Wed. Sept. 29

ACTIVITIES

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

Thur. Sept. 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House. See Wednesday listing.

VIA ZOOM

Salt Spring Literacy Society AGM. Annual general meeting for members held via Zoom at 1 p.m. Link through info@saltspringliteracy.org.



Fri. Oct. 1

ACTIVITIES

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

Paper Covers Rock: Storytime with Vancouver Mom Book Club.

Free reading of children's books with Jenn Wint. Suitable for children up to age 7. Salt Spring Public Library. 2 p.m.

Paper Covers Rock: Cedar Bowers Reading.

Author reads from Giller long-listed novel *Astra* at the Salt Spring Public Library. 3 p.m. Tickets through papercoversrock.ca.

Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.

See Wednesday listing.

ASK Salt Spring.

This week's guests are the island's mental health professional team, led by David Norget. In the United Church meadow from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Moved to the Portlock Park pavilion in case of rain.

Fri. Oct. 1

ONLINE

Paper Covers Rock Online Workshops.

Stacey McLachlan: The Art of the Pitch at 10 a.m., and Aaron Chapman: History and the Hazards of Non-fiction at 12:30 p.m. papercoversrock.ca.

Sat. Oct. 2

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park.

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

Paper Covers Rock Workshops.

At The Cottages: Aislinn Hunter - Writing as Witness at 11 a.m., and Darrel McLeod: Writing Memoir - Taking it Deeper at 1 p.m. Register through papercoversrock.ca.

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Movie Matinee. Family-friendly movie at the Salt Spring Public Library. 1 p.m. **Salt Spring Museum at Bittancourt House.** See Wednesday listing.

Sun. Oct. 3

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Apple Festival. Vendors outside at Fulford Hall, plus 13 host orchards open for self-guided tours. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Tickets and maps outside at Fulford Hall and the Ganges Visitor Centre.

DAISSI Pride Hike.

The 5th and last 2021 DAISSI Pride Hike: Cardiac Hill Climb on Reginald Hill. 2 to 4 p.m. Allies and queers welcome. A steep climb to a beautiful lookout at the summit. RSVP on www.prideallyear.ca.

Paper Covers Rock Workshops.

At the Cottages. Cecily Nicholson: Sense of Place at 9 a.m.; Alexandria King: Writing Family Stories to Heal Your Lineage at 11 a.m.; Thomas John: The Secret Craft of Comedy at 1 p.m. Register through papercoversrock.ca.

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.



Mon. Oct. 4

ACTIVITIES

Red Dress Day. Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls and 2SLGBTQIA+ honoured with red dresses hanging in Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Tue. Oct. 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blues Sessions Concert: David Mariner, David Gogo and Harry Manx.

Beaver Point Hall. 8 p.m. (Doors open at 7:30 p.m.) Masks mandatory indoors; proof of vaccination required upon entry, along with government-issued ID. Limited seating. Tickets at <https://www.brownpapertickets.com/event/5241341>

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. In-person monthly business meeting at Lions Hall. 9:30 a.m. Masks required; vaccine card proof not required.

Tue. Oct. 5

ACTIVITIES

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

Wed. Oct. 6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blues Sessions Concert: David Mariner, David Gogo and Harry Manx. See Tuesday listing.

ACTIVITIES

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

Paper Covers Rock

Salt Spring writers and readers festival

Fri. to Sun., Oct. 1 to 3

See papercoversrock.ca for all the details

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THE FRITZ CINEMA

Paw Patrol shows at The Fritz from Friday, Oct. 1 through Tuesday, Oct. 5 at 7 p.m. nightly plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee.

See www.thefritz.ca for 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** runs daily at Mahon Hall 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 until Sunday, Oct. 17, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

• **Salt Spring Gallery** presents **LIFT**, new paintings by Lisa Lipsett, until Oct. 13.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Figure as Index**, work by Luther Konadu, the 2019 SSNAP winner, runs at The Point Gallery until Oct. 25, by appointment daily from 1 to 5 p.m. except on Tuesdays. pointgallery@shaw.ca.

• **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.

EXHIBITIONS

• **The Calligraphy Group** on Salt Spring exhibits poems, quotations, etc. at Country Grocer's café area on the subject of food during October.

• **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.

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DAVID MARR

David Marr, loving father to Isobel Basi, step-father to Sarein Basi-Primeau, brother to Ken, uncle to Kevin (Olivia) and Kassy and a friend to all whose lives he touched, passed away on the morning of Tuesday, September 14 at the age of 68 after his courageous battle with cancer. He was pre-deceased by his granny Helen McNeil, mother Isobel, father Spencer, and sister Sandra Cooper.

"The mountains are calling and I must go"
- (Muir).

David was a man of few words but expressed his heart and soul through his painting and raising his daughter. His love of nature took him on endless adventurous hikes and camping trips; there were always stories to share upon his return. His greatest joys were sharing nature with his daughter and taking deep pride in all of her successes.

David, we will miss you but we take comfort in the thought that your spirit is at peace now and you are climbing a mountain.

The family would like to express our appreciation to everyone involved with his care, particularly Dr. Forghani, at Victoria General Hospital and the Victoria Hospice in his final weeks.

There will be a private family service at David's request. In lieu of flowers please donate to a charity whose mandate is to conserve and protect nature.



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Coming Events

Salt Spring Literacy Society AGM

September 30th,
1:00pm on Zoom

Contact office for more info:
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| TU-THUR | 9AM-5PM |
| SAT | 10AM-3PM |
| SUN | CLOSED |

Salt Spring Island Public Library

179 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC V8B 2T6
http://saltspringpubliclibrary.org

Information

Information

HAPPY SENIORS' DAY

Thank you for all you have and continue to contribute.



SSICS Seniors' Program
and Salt Spring Community Response Network



The Laundr-Mat

& SALT SPRING ISLAND SOAP EXCHANGE

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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.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer
www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com
TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Mercury retrograde could have the effect of increasing your charm. The main issue is that it could lead to saying what you think others want to hear. This step away from your usual assertiveness could win approval, but prove costly. Meanwhile, your sights are set on the future and in your heart of hearts you want to fight the good fight.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

A busy time working on important changes, both within and without, are underway. You are willing to do your part, but you also want help. The workload is heavier than usual, but you feel charged to overcome obstacles. Your mood is passionate and determined but your direction may be more like a zigzag than a straight line.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Finding reason to play and have fun is inspiring, yet requires extra effort. Looking at the world stage, you may feel nervous. Guided by the appreciation that there is power in numbers, you are seeking associations you believe in and feel you can rely on. You are happy to feel things out for now but you will be more committed soon.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Focusing to create more beauty and flow close to home continues. This process includes some measure of design. You may also feel the need for change, which could amount to more than anticipated. For better or worse, returns for past choices and actions are part of the plot. Now it is time to set a new future direction.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

Many new thoughts, perspectives are flowing through your mind. By now, you are already taking action on these and the momentum is likely to build steadily over the coming weeks. With your social horizons undergoing a steady rate of expansion, the time is right to commit to steady growth and to invest as necessary.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

Building upon new foundations for the sake of realizing dreams is a central theme now. Dealing with ongoing uncertainties appears to be woven into the plot. Positively, you are turning the stresses that these delays and misses produce into spiritual victories, which is their destined purpose. Faithful, patient perseverance will pay off.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

You are in a pioneering mood. Your focus is sharp and your pace is assertive and determined. As much as you recognize the need to be patient, doing so will prove extra challenging. The issue with this is that you may be thinking more about what you believe and listening less to alternate viewpoints. Financial concerns and considerations are featured.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

A busy time behind the scenes continues. Ironically, if you are confronting inner issues head on you will likely feel emboldened and energized. Yet, if you are trying to escape, you may find yourself feeling extra tired. Meanwhile, while you feel the desire to express yourself, doing so may seem extra complicated. So do the inner work.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Your sense of individuality is in full throttle. This includes themes of fairness, justice, equality, freedom and democracy. To this end, you are willing to fight for just causes. On the downside, you may feel scattered and overwhelmed with options and objectives leaving you unsure where to begin. Reaching out to exchange ideas is a likely choice.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Getting the recognition and attention you feel you want and deserve continues. Your sights are set on the future and you know that you need to both fortify your foundation and clear away everything that has become unnecessary. What is clear is that you need allies to fulfill your ambitions and this may include financial support.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Over the course of 2021 you have really begun to see the big picture more clearly. Consequently, some of your values and priorities have changed measurably. Now, you are looking for the tools, resources, knowledge and key players you need to advance to the next step. Maintaining a philosophical perspective on things all the while feels important.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

A prior time of change and transformation continues. Your ambitions are running strong all the while and you feel determined to take action that leads you to greater returns. This process will continue throughout the month. Patient determination and both willingness to change and acceptance that it is required will support your process.

Coming Events

Coming Events

The 21st Annual Salt Spring Island (BC) Apple Festival

Celebrating Mother Nature

Sunday, Oct 3, 2021, 9 AM to 5 PM

Tickets outside Fulford Hall and Ganges Info Centre. A chance to visit Apple Heaven while still on earth!

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PROTECT OUR PLANET...



RECYCLE THIS NEWS PAPER



NATIONAL DAY FOR TRUTH & RECONCILIATION



RECONCILIATION

Listening to the Elders, honouring the ancestors



Artist's concept of a memorial that will be placed behind the Creek House complex in Ganges to recognize the 2011 disturbance of six individuals in a First Nations grave site.

Burial site protection among acts of reconciliation

BY PHIL VERNON, CHRIS MARSHALL AND MAGGIE ZIEGLER

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In January 2018, the Salt Spring Public Library hosted an event for local Indigenous Elders to speak and share their concerns.

The gathering was part of programming to commemorate the successful campaign of the Salt Spring community and six First Nations to protect the ancient Coast Salish cemetery on Grace Islet, where the property owner was building a house over burial cairns. During the event, the Elders were asked how Salt Spring Islanders could be better allies with the Indigenous peoples of our area.

One of the speakers was WECKINEM Eric Pelkey, a hereditary chief from Tsawout First Nation. He spoke of the importance of involving Elders.

"I think the biggest help you can give is by bringing our Elders onto the scene and letting them educate you. It was my father who really was the main educator for me, in passing on what he knew from his Elders, in particular from his grandfather Chief Louie Pelkey.

"You need the input of Elders. They know things that we don't know. I remember there was a development proposed near our Fulford Harbour reserve. So I got together with our Elders, and they told me there's a bunch of the remains of our ancestors in there, in what they call cairns. I said, 'We better go out there and have a look.' And you know to my unpractised eye I couldn't see anything. But my Elder walked right up and said, 'There's one right there, and look, there's another one right over there. And there's another one right over there.'

"We've come to Salt Spring for reburials many times when the remains of our ancestors were uncovered. And I'd tell my dad about it and he'd say, 'Son, you're going to find those forever. Everywhere there's a shoreline you're going to find the remains of our people and the evidence of our living there.'

"So what we need is for people who live here to let us know when you find those remains, when they're uncovered, or even when they're trying to be hidden. Because you know, for years and years it went on that as soon as somebody found the remains of our people they were told to shut up, hide it, tuck it away somewhere or destroy it.

"We need to have eyes and ears out there, and we need support. Because there is so much destruction going on, and so much of our history is being hidden that we need allies to help us. HÍSWKE SIÁM (Thank you)."

The late Laura Sylvester, Elder and traditional grave worker from Penelakut Tribe was also at the gathering, and spoke of the importance of listening to Elders, and honouring the ancestors.

"You know," she said, "when Grace Islet happened, I didn't know anything about it until I talked to my mother. She was the one that told me about Grace.

"You have to protect all burial sites. It's so important for Native People, no matter where you're from, to protect and look after the remains of your ancestors. In my way, I look after mine. No matter how old they are, no matter how long ago they left me, I still look after them, and I do it in an honourable way. I feed my ancestors once a year because where they are they can't help themselves. So I have to help them, the best way I can. And that's where my role comes in. Every reserve has got that teaching, every reserve."

Salt Spring now has a variety of community initiatives working with local First Nations to raise awareness and to support the resurgence of language and cultures and the healing of the land. Among these is the Salt Spring Indigenous Signage Project, funded by the Salt Spring Island Foundation, the CRD, Mouat's and the Donna Martin Legacy Fund. The group is working with Indigenous leaders and Elders on a series of interpretive panels about their deep history, heritage and continuing presence here.

One aspect of the signage project has been to develop a memorial commemorating the 2011 disturbance of ancient burials during Phase III of the Creek House development in downtown Ganges. At that time, the remains of six individuals were removed and reburied at another location under the care and direction of Indigenous grave workers. After 10 years, a memorial promised by then-architect Jonathan Yardley and then-owner Leon Aptekmann will soon be installed in a quiet area behind the Creek House building. A plaque acknowledging the importance in Coast Salish culture to honour and care for the ancestors will be mounted on a cedar post there. Funding is being provided by Aptekmann, current owner Hardal Management and the SSIF Neighbourhood Small Grants program.



PHOTO BY CHRIS MARSHALL

Part of the crowd of some 1,500 people, including an estimated 55 from Salt Spring, who attended an Aug. 2 March for the Children in Chemainus to honour children who died while at Canada's residential schools, including one on Penelakut Island.

PHARMASAVE SUPPORTS

Proceeds to: **The First Peoples' Cultural Council**



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The First Peoples' Cultural Council was formed by the BC Gov't in 1990 to administer the First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Program. The FPCC is supported by legislation: First Peoples' Heritage, Language and Culture Act.

The mandate of FPCC is to assist BC First Nations in their efforts to revitalize their languages, arts and cultures.

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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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Outdoor activities celebrated

Festival returns in slightly amended format

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The Salt Spring Apple Festival 2021 is happening this Sunday, Oct. 3, with some minor changes due to the ongoing pandemic.

Fulford Hall is still the beating heart of the festival, but there won't be an apple display this year. Ticket sales will take place outside, along with the vendors who will be using tents.

Thirteen host farms are open for self-guided tours, but apple tastings are discouraged due to COVID-19.

"There are some changes, and



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY
Captain Apple at the 2011 Salt Spring Apple Festival.

some farms are taking a break this year, but I am happy that we are able to celebrate all the apple varieties again that are grown on the island,"

said organizer Harry Burton.

"In the supermarket, you can generally find 10 or fewer varieties," said Burton. "We are growing over 500 on Salt Spring Island, including 60 varieties of red flesh apples."

Burton said the apple festival is all about connecting people to the island's farms.

"It is giving exposure to all those different kinds of apples so we won't lose them in the future."

Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Ticket sales (adults \$10, students \$5, kids free) are at Fulford Hall and outside the Ganges Visitor Centre.

Apple identification samples will be collected at Fulford Hall for identification later.

Good apple year noted

APPLE FEST

continued from 9

"This is a unique property," said Adam. "The combination of ancient orchards, manicured plant and flower beds and even a vegetable garden is pretty special."

Although the orchard gardens are far from wild, wildlife still frequent the property that is named after the iconic house, sitting on a low promontory jutting out into the sea and made of 900 tons of local rock.

"We regularly see raccoons, otters, eagles, seals and even deer are welcome in the orchards. They bring their babies and leave them in the beds while they forage."

Most of the apple trees are still full of apples in the week before the festival.

"It has been a good apple year for us," Adam said. "The apples will be picked after the festival and we start juicing the same week. Our trees produce 600 to 900 litres of juice every autumn."

Everybody visiting the Beddis Castle property during Sunday's apple festival is asked to bring a mask and to leave dogs at home. Beddis Castle itself is not included in the tour.



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