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FALL FIX-UP **PAGES 9-12**



Return of live shows celebrated



Child's story illustrates fairy door impact

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> 62nd year Issue 41 \$1.50

ISLANDS TRUST

Housing council idea fails to fly

LTC supports trustee's suggestion but cites inadequate staff time to take it on

BY GAIL SJUBERG

The lack of affordable housing loomed large at last week's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting, despite not being on the formal agenda before the meeting began.

Observing that the crisis and its impacts seem to deepen by the week, Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick rustled around in the Islands Trust toolbox to see if there wasn't something more the Trust could do to improve the situation. Patrick suggested that the LTC lead the revitalization of the long-dormant Salt Spring Housing Council, which was created in 2011 to address the shortage of affordable housing at that time.

"I've talked to the housing advocates and I think we need to look at considering using the delegated authority that we have to coordinate a housing council-like entity. There is a housing council on Salt Spring but it has been dormant. They don't have funding. I was hoping the CRD would fund it but they haven't so it's sitting

Patrick explained that a housing council would be created under the same mechanism that spawned the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance, a coordinating body funded through a special property tax levy. She put forth a motion that would have had Trust staff prepare a 2022-2023 business case that could be taken to Trust Council for approval in the next budget cycle.

"This is an option we have — to facilitate the housing council — and to let [the council] continue to not work isn't helping the community at a time when the housing situation is not getting better, it's just getting worse,"

While fellow trustees Peter Grove and Peter Luckham said they supported the idea, they did not see it realistically happening anytime soon.

Luckham was concerned that staff resources were not available for such a major project, and Trust regional planning manager Stefan Cermak confirmed that is the case. Cermak recommended putting it on the work program for the following year instead.

HOUSING continued on 3



HITTING THE TARGET: Ronan Currey gets the feel for dousing a fire with help from Salt Saturday's Fire Prevention Spring Fire Rescue field incident technician Steve Leichter at Week open house at the Ganges Fire Hall. The event combined fun and educational activities for kids and adults.

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NSSWD

Water use restrictions eased

Early fall rainfall helps restore lake levels

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Ample September rainfall has led to the easing of water-use restrictions in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District.

As of today (Oct. 13), the 1,835 properties with hook-ups in the district will be governed by Stage 3 allowable uses rather than those of Stage 4, which has been in place since the end of July. People can now use NSSWD water for activities such as washing vehicles and topping up hot tubs and pools, and restrictions on garden-watering times and methods are less stringent.

"September and early October have seen a significant about face in the weather patterns and we have recorded higher than normal precipitation at the district's Salt Spring Island weather stations," said NSSWD operations manager Vaughn Figueira on Friday.

He said St. Mary Lake recorded its lowest level of the year on Sept. 16 at 40.118 metres elevation.

"Since that date, St. Mary and Maxwell Lake levels have been slowly and steadily recovering." The district's licence with the provincial government allows it to only withdraw water from St. Mary Lake down to the 40.0-metre level.

Figueira added that while Environment Canada personnel are non-committal regarding the amount of precipitation that can be expected in the next few months, they have indicated the area will experience lower than normal temperatures, which is another reason to feel confident in relaxing water restrictions.

"The district would like to thank ratepayers that made a concerted effort to reduce water consumption during the drought this summer."

VAUGHN FIGUEIRA Operations manager, NSSWD

With drought conditions impacting the island this summer, as a precautionary measure the NSSWD had applied to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resources Operations and Rural Development for a permit to allow the district to continue to withdraw water

from St. Mary Lake if the lake level dropped below the 40.0-metre level.

The district also organized a meeting of other individuals and groups that have licences to use water from St. Mary Lake, including the Capital Regional District, whose Highland-Fernwood water district and Maliview sewer systems use the lake's water. The purpose of the meeting was to encourage water conservation practices among all users.

Figueira said the NSSWD was pleased with how people responded to requests to conserve water.

"The district would like to thank ratepayers that made a concerted effort to reduce water consumption during the drought this summer," said Figueira. "Your efforts have certainly made it possible for the district to successfully navigate this extreme weather event. As we head into fall, your continued efforts would be much appreciated so we can achieve a quick recovery to our lake levels."

More information about Stage 3 watering restrictions, as well as how to reduce water consumption in the long term is available on the district's www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website.

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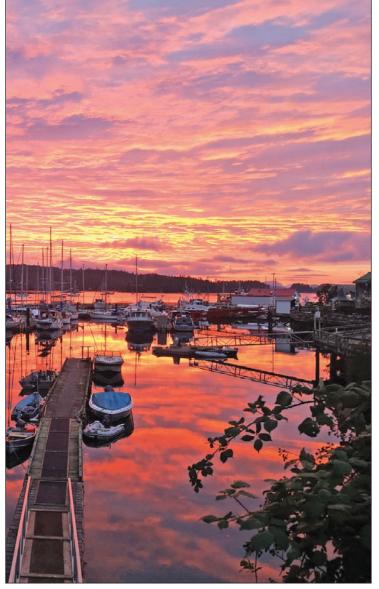


PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

HARBOUR HUES: Ganges Harbour and the morning sky are aglow during the sunrise on Friday, Oct. 8 in a photo taken by islander Stan Garrod.

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Carman Adair, entrepeneur & Chris Voute, inventor in front of one of their SolarHexx units.

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IWAV brightened by solar grant

Phase 2 of housing project to benefit

A \$10,000 grant from Vancity's enviro-Fund will help provide a solar installation for a recently completed affordable housing project on Salt Spring Island.

"We are grateful for the grant from Vancity and are excited about the opportunity to use solar for our building, keep our operating costs down and also supply energy back into the hydro grid," said IWAV executive director Kisae Petersen in a press release.

The solar electricity will offset the common heating and lighting loads of Phase 2 of the Croftonbrook housing project, which was completed in December 2020. Phase 3 is now under construction.

IWAV has partnered with Salt Spring Community Energy (SSCE) for assistance on technical details, fundraising support and procurement. SSCE is applying their experience based on the success of past projects such as the Gulf Islands Second-



PHOTO COURTESY

Artist's rendition of a solar array on the roof of the Croftonbrook apartment building.

ary School solar scholarship and, most recently, a Shaw Community Gardens solar array.

According to IWAV, plans to include solar were part of Croftonbrook's vision from the outset and the apartment building was created to be solar-ready.

SSCE president Ron Watts said, "This project will help make our island more resilient by generating energy where it is

needed rather than completely relying on generation and transmission that is vulnerable to the impact of climate change."

IWAV is a local charity that provides services for women (inclusive of cis, trans and non-binary) and children/youth who have experienced violence, abuse and sexual assault. As well, IWAV provides transitional housing and second-stage housing for women and children.

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LOCAL NEWS MATTERS

Housing group presses for action



PHOTO BY GAIL S

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee members meeting at Lions Hall on Oct. 5 are, from left, Peter Luckham (chair), Laura Patrick and Peter Grove at the first in-person LTC meeting held since the coronavirus pandemic was declared in March of 2020.

HOUSING

continued from 1

Grove said it was not practical to ask staff to invest time in a new project when considerable resources had already been put into the Housing Action Program Task Force (HAPTF), which was created earlier this year.

"I see this as changing horses in mid stream and with only a year left in our term."

He observed that the Trust always appears to have much more power than it actually does, and suggested the CRD and provincial government could have more impact on the housing file.

"Let's just do one thing at a time and hear what the Housing Action Program Task Force has to say," said Grove.

At its Aug. 19 meeting, the task force compiled a series of specific suggestions for trustees to consider, but the minutes of the meeting were not included in last week's agenda package.

HAPTF chair Rhonan Heitzmann addressed the Oct. 5 meeting and was upset about the missing minutes until being assured their omission was simply due to a staff error.

Elizabeth FitzZaland, a member of the Salt Spring Solutions group that has been working on the housing issue for the past few years, pressed the LTC at the same meeting to adopt the Aug. 19 HAPTF plan, which she articulated as:

- Deferring bylaw enforcement against long-term use of commercial and seasonal accommodation;
- Updating the standing resolution regarding unlaw-

ful dwellings to provide greater security for residents who are currently living in these homes and have nowhere else to go;

• Developing procedures to expedite approvals and permitting for affordable, supportive and social housing projects:

• And updating secondary suites Bylaw 461 to enable suites on more properties island-wide.

But not all voices at last week's meeting were promoting an increase in housing units for the island.

Maxine Leichter, president of the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society, made a delegation asking the LTC to not create a bylaw that would increase housing units on land zoned Agriculture 1 and 2, which is being considered. Leichter said too many additional densities had already been created through other bylaw changes that threatened to push the island over the 17,000 population limit set in the island's official community plan.

"To increase densities over what is allowed now will represent a further violation of our OCP, Trust policy and the Local Government Act," she said.

Also on the housing topic, Cermak shared results of a recent meeting with BC Housing officials, who stressed the importance of having land, water and zoning set for any projects they might fund. But the funding well is not a deep one, he noted.

"They don't think they can fund more than two projects in the whole Trust Area," said Cermak.

Housing will also be in focus when the Housing Action Program Task Force meets on Wednesday, Oct. 20 at 5 p.m. at the Salt Spring Baptist Church.



Town Hall Meeting

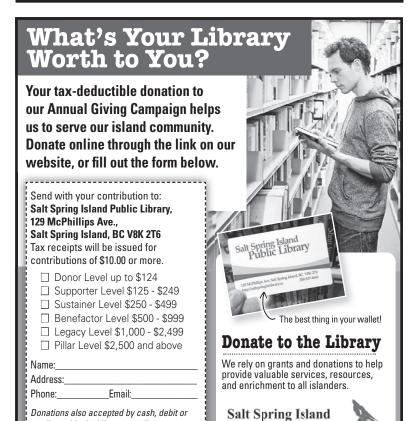
Thursday, October 14, 2021 7:00 PM

Training Room, Ganges Fire Halll 105 Lower Ganges Road

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Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we must limit the number of people in attendance, so we ask that you pre-register by email at admin@saltspringfire.com or by phone at 250-537-2531. Deadline for registration is noon Tuesday, October 12, 2021. In order to comply with COVID 19 restrictions the wearing of face masks is mandatory and attendees will be asked to provide their contact information and sign in at the door.

Meeting materials can be accessed on our website https://saltspringfire.com/meeting-materials/



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LAND USE

Vortex development grabs attention

Permit application nearing time for LTC consideration

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

All eyes will be on the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee at an upcoming meeting when a development permit application for the Vortex development in Fulford is scheduled to be considered.

Trust planner Jason Youmans told last week's LTC meeting that the developer has been engaging with staff since the spring and acquiring requested studies and reports, and said the development permit application should be ready for trustees' consideration soon.

"Ideally the November meeting, but if not then the December meeting," said Youmans.

The LTC has received several letters from island residents who are opposed to creation of a commercial complex with 17 accommodation units, and retail, restaurant and other services on the site of the former Fulford Inn at the head of Fulford Harbour. Concerns expressed in the letters range from the development's potential environmental impacts

and the property's vulnerability to future sea level rise.

"Please do not allow this oversized and inappropriate proposal to endanger this estuary," wrote Sam and Ruth Tarasoff to the LTC. "Salmon-bearing streams are too important to be put at risk and the issue of rising sea water affecting the water table is a distinct possibility."

Back in December of 2019, the LTC approved a development variance permit that allowed the Vortex septic system to be situated within the usually required 30-metre setback from nearby Soule Creek.

That decision and the development's progress has led to the Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society (ISSES) acquiring a grant from the West Coast Environmental Law Society's Environmental Dispute Resolution Fund (EDRF).

"The grant will be used for legal support regarding the Islands Trust's handling of a resort development proposal within the Fulford Creek estuary, and the issuance of a development variance permit allowing for reduced sewage disposal field setbacks from Fulford Harbour, and from Soule Creek, one of two salmon-bearing streams

that flow into the harbour," states a press release issued Sunday.

"The EDRF provides grants to British Columbians who have organized to protect their communities and their environment, but who need some legal help," the release explains. "Funds from the EDRF allow Indigenous peoples, community groups and individuals to hire lawyers and experts at reduced rates, and work collaboratively with them to resolve disputes in negotiations, mediation, in court or before government tribunals."

Four years ago the ISSES made an effort to purchase the former Fulford Inn site in order to protect the creek and estuary and set up an interpretive centre there.

David Fullbrook is the southend Salt Spring resident and founder/principal of Merchant House Capital, which is proposing the Vortex development.

He said not only does the project conform to the island's official community plan and the property's zoning but it is "fundamentally a very strong application" that will benefit the island's economy. It will provide a unique visitor experience that reflects south-end Salt Spring

and highlights the estuary/harbour area, he said, while providing a community and cultural focus for the south end.

"We are really trying to create something that is a reflection of our community," he said.

Fullbrook noted that the property does not consist of green space in its natural state but has been significantly altered by road-building material deposited on the property in decades past and its previous accommodation and pub uses. As well, illegal camping and dumping of garbage on the land and in the creek continues to degrade the site.

He feels people who have expressed opposition so far don't have all of the information required to make an informed opinion about the development.

The Oct. 5 Vortex application discussion by the LTC occurred at the first in-person meeting held at Lions Hall, following all-Zoom meetings during the first 18 months of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was videorecorded, however, and should be available for viewing on the Islands Trust website.

The next LTC business meeting is set for Tuesday, Nov. 9 at Meaden Hall.

Rural islands forum on tap

Gulf Islanders are invited to attend the upcoming Rural Islands Economic Forum, which will be held virtually on Oct. 20 and 21.

Hosted by the Rural Islands Economic Partnership (RIEP) group, this year's forum theme is Strengthening Connections Across BC Rural Islands.

Salt Springers can join with fellow rural islanders to share island stories and issues via the Forum Connection Café, attend "Ask Me Sessions" featuring rural island service providers, participate in an All-Islands Arts+Product Showcase, and a "campfire style" town hall for all to share opportunities for building and strengthening community and collaboration among the islands.

The RIEP promotes "economic resilience and community well-being through collaborative initiatives and partnerships for the benefit of British Columbia's rural islands and the Indigenous communities who have traditional or reserve lands on these islands."

The first economic forum was held in November of 2019.

For more information and to sign up for next week's event, see www.riepforum.ca.

Capital Regional District

Maliview Sewer Local Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 20 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3693 (Salt Spring Island Water, Sewer and Liquid Waste Disposal Commissions Bylaw No. 1, 2010), residents within the Maliview Sewer Local Service Area are invited to attend:

Maliview Sewer Local Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, November 1, 2021

Time: 12:30pm – 2:30pm

Place: Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room

129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: **www.crd.bc.ca** four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3693, real property owners or residents in the Maliview Sewer Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is three plus the Electoral Area Director (two members must be resident electors; and one member shall be a resident elector of SSI EA). There is one position expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3693 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Maliview Sewer Local Services Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250-538-4304 or email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

Capital Regional District



Beddis Water Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 20 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3247 (Beddis Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2004), residents within the Beddis Water Service Commission Local Service Area are invited to attend:

Beddis Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, November 8, 2021

Time: 10am – 12pm

Place: Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room

129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: **www.crd.bc.ca** four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3247, real property owners or residents in the Beddis Water Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is four plus the Electoral Area Director (three members must be owners of real property; and one member may be a resident or owner of real property). There are two positions expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3247 is available for viewing on the CRD website at **www.crd.bc.ca**

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HEALTH CARE

Extra costs for rural residents documented

Research highlights inequities between rural and urban patients

BY MARCIA JANSEN

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

A recent study done by the Centre for Rural Health Research at the University of British Columbia shows that patients travelling outside of their rural B.C. communities for health care face burdensome out-of-pocket expenses.

"Data compiled in this survey highlight the inequities between rural and urban patient access to health care," said Edward Staples, president of the BC Rural Health Network, an organization that advocates for improved access to health care for rural B.C. residents.

Rural patients travelling for health care spend on average of \$856 for transportation and \$674 for accommodation for each clinical condition, depending on the mode of transportation and time spent out of their home commu-

"Although I live in a rural community myself, and we have heard anecdotal evidence regarding the barrier to care that travel some-

and families, we did not anticipate out-of-pocket spending to be so high," notes lead researcher Jude Kornelsen, associate professor at UBC and co-director at the Centre for Rural Health Research, who lives on Salt Spring Island.

The costs that are associated with patients travelling to specialist and diagnostic care, or for an acute event or planned surgery outside of their rural community, are borne by patients and their families.

"There are travel costs, costs for accommodation, incidental costs like house sitting and child care, and on top of that respondents reported a significant loss of wages," Kornelsen continued.

"All these things add a lot of stress to people who are already stressed due to health concerns. People in our survey expressed that their health was negatively impacted by all this. Some patients even decide to not see a doctor outside their community, or not to get treatment simply because they can't afford it. And that is something that nobody wants. Our health-care system is based on accessibility. There should be a safety net."

There are some programs in place in B.C. to help patients

times creates for rural patients cover the costs of travelling and accommodation. BC Cancer Agency offers subsidized housing for patients travelling from out of town, while the B.C. government supports rural patient travel through the Travel Assistance Program (TAP), but this program is focused more on alleviating costs of ferry travel for island communities and does not cover accommodation costs. Travel costs for Indigenous patients are covered through the First Nations Health Authority Medical Transportation Benefit.

"It is clear that rural patients need more support and it is time we explore more options," said Kornelsen. "Other countries have dealt with this issue in various ways. In Norway, for example, the government has set a maximum of the equivalent of US\$300 outof-pocket costs per year, to be paid by the patient."

Kornelsen and Staples both note the importance of provincial solutions including expanding the TAP program and introducing a cap on out-of-pocket spending.

"This data provides a helpful starting point for discussions on how to weave a safety net to ensure rural citizen-patients can access care outside their communities," said Kornelsen.

What is the BC Rural Health Network?

The network has the following goals:

- to share successful strategies in an effort to address rural healthcare concerns.
- to advocate for policy changes that provide all rural residents with attachment to a health care
- to identify areas of research aimed at improving access to healthcare in rural communities and to provide fertile ground for research to take place.
- to inform the BC Ministry of Health of rural healthcare concerns.
- to recommend solutions for the improvement of services to rural BC residents.
- to work in partnership with other provincial organizations to influence policy changes that improve access to healthcare services.
- to recognize the healthcare concerns of indigenous communities and include their issues and concerns as part of our work.
- to improve access to mental health services.
- to promote patient-centred, community-based primary healthcare reform.

Membership is open to any organization or individual that supports the purpose and goals of

Capital Regional District

CISID

Cedars of Tuam Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 20 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3055 (Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2003) residents within the Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Area are invited to attend:

Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday, November 4, 2021

Time: 12:30pm – 2:30pm

Place: Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room

129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3055, real property owners or residents in the Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is two plus the Electoral Area Director (one member must be an owner of real property; and one member may be a resident). There are two positions expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's fullname, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3055 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Cedars of Tuam Water Services Commission nominations, Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538.4304 or email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

Capital Regional District



Fulford Water Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 175 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3248 (Fulford Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2004), residents within the Fuflford Water Local Service Area are invited to attend:

Fulford Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Tuesday, November 2, 2021

Time: 10am – 12pm **Place:** Fulford Community Hall

2591 Fulford-Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island BC V8K 1Z4

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3248, real property owners or residents in the Fuflord Water Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is four plus the Electoral Area Director (three members must be owners of real property; and one member may be a resident). There are two positions expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's fullname, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term

Bylaw No. 3248 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Fulford Water Services Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538.4304 or email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

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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Embracing town halls

ow to get meaningful public input is a pesky quandary for any local government.

The Islands Trust thought it had a plan to do that when it launched its Islands 2050 public engagement strategy in the fall of 2019, aiming to get broadbased input for the updating of the Trust Policy Statement (TPS). Creating a website, a survey and some pop-up events with staff should have done the trick for the initial phase.

The TPS is a guiding document for crafting official community plans and land-use bylaws, and for advocacy purposes. It should not be top of mind for citizens not steeped in the business of local government. That's why the backlash to an initial draft TPS document released in June no doubt took Trust officials by surprise and sent them scrambling to reconsider how to improve on their "public engagement"

THE ISSUE:

Islands Trust public input strategies

WE SAY:

Town halls a useful option

At the September quarterly Trust Council meeting, trustees chose to seek help from external consultants to push the reset button on the public input part of the TPS project, which will cost about \$82,000 more than was originally budgeted.

Interestingly, the motion to buy the top-

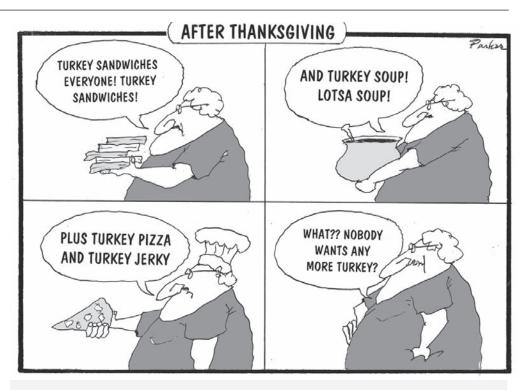
level package was approved only by a 13 to 11 margin and the discussion preceding the vote was spirited. One topic discussed was the use of town hall meetings to garner public input.

No elected official wants to face a hostile crowd. However, the Islands Trust has strict meeting decorum rules, and holds town hall meetings regularly. They have become a valued part of Islands Trust Area governance culture.

Facilitated public input sessions can feel phony and as if the outcomes are manipulated. That can exclude the very people the Trust is now trying to appease. Town hall meetings might intimidate some members of the public, but small group discussions can do the same.

People involved in government often think that if only the public can be given enough information or "educated" about a controversial issue then their opposition will disappear. In reality, a small fraction of people may change their mind, but opponents are usually quite committed to not doing so.

It requires true courage to face detractors head on and to hear them out. But as some Islands Trust trustees argued at the last council meeting, some well-managed (and cheaper) town hall meetings may have been all that was required for islanders to feel heard about the Trust Policy Statement update.



Young musicians inspire

BY GEORGE SIPOS

On Oct. 6 Carnegie Hall presented its first live concert in the 18 months that have passed since the beginning of the pandem-

It was quite an event. The New York audience heard a Shostakovich piano concerto, a Bernstein overture, Beethoven's Fifth Symphony, and a new work by Canadian composer Iman Habibi.

What does this have to do with us on Salt Spring? I'm glad you ask.

In the summer of 2007 Iman Habibi was a music student at UBC just finishing his degree in piano and composition when ArtSpring invited him and a handful of other young musicians from Vancouver and Victoria to spend a week working with and being mentored by young American pianist Grace

The reason Grace Fong was here was that Salt Spring resident Simon Rook had heard her play at the 2006 Leeds Piano Competition and wondered if she could be brought up from California to perform at ArtSpring. We said sure, but why not invite her

VIEWPOINT

concert; how about having her work with some young B.C. talent? And so it came about.

The young pianists were billeted with local hosts who had pianos in their homes. All Saints by the Sea volunteered their nice Yamaha to supplement ArtSpring's Steinway, and the students spent the week playing their hearts out. One afternoon Norbert Schlenker took them all out for a break on his sailboat.

Little did we know when the students left that Iman would go on not only to earn a Ph.D. in music from the University of Michigan but to make a significant name for himself as a contemporary composer with work commissioned by such venerable orchestras as the Toronto Symphony, the Philadelphia Orchestra, and many others.

His piece played at Carnegie Hall the other night is called Jeder Baum Spricht (Every Tree Speaks). It is a meditation on climate change based on Beethoven's regard for for more than a single the natural world.

Little did we also know, and probably neither did Iman, that he would in due course marry another of the students who spent the week on Salt Spring that summer, Deborah Grimmett. The two have gone on to establish themselves as a duo piano ensemble called Piano Pinnacle. They play across North America, win prizes, and have a great time exploring this sometimes unusual repertoire.

As a happy story this is no doubt serendipitous. But it gives me great satisfaction to know that a small venture we attempted, basically on a whim, played at least a small part in the careers of two talented Canadian musicians.

You probably know the age-old joke: A visitor asks a New Yorker, "How do I get to Carnegie Hall?" The reply: "Practise, practise, practise."

I'm inclined to modestly revise the answer, even if it ruins the punchline: "Be bold, love music, believe in the young."

The writer was executive director of ArtSpring from 2006 to 2014 and still resides on Salt Spring Island.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are government bodies doing enough about the SSI housing crisis? Yes

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is expanding the school mask mandate a good idea?



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:

"I see this as changing horses in mid stream and with only a year left in our term."

PETER GROVE, SSI LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE MEMBER

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: What was a highlight of your Thanksgiving weekend?

JENNIFER MAKSYMETZ



My family from Vancouver came over for a turkey dinner.

WAYNE MCINTYRE



Dinner with family at a restaurant. It was a small group, but it is a good step forward compared to last year.

DONNA DE ROO



I made a traditional Dutch apple pie.

NEIL KERRIGAN



Having friends and family over for a casual outdoor gathering and soup around a campfire.

NANCY MERCER



It was my husband's birthday and we went to a cidery for a tasting and snacks.

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**

Density count

The population of Salt Spring must be limited to protect the island's resources, fragile ecosystems and rural character.

The 2016 census found our population to be 10,557. Our official community plan (OCP) states that the total population of the island at buildout (when all existing and potential lots are developed) must not exceed 17,000, and emphasizes "exceptions to this policy are to be few and minor and only to achieve affordable housing and other objectives of this plan."

Despite this stipulation, our locally elected trustees continue to add new densities (dwellings allowed).

In 2017, they passed a bylaw allowing an additional 1,578 suites. In 2020 they passed another allowing for 411 full-time rental cottages. In addition, over time, other densities have been added for affordable housing and other amenities. The total new densities added isn't even known.

Since the Local Government Act requires all bylaws to be consistent with the OCP, Salt Spring is in violation. Whether the Local Trust Committee creates new lots or allows more households onto existing lots, the end result is the same: constant growth.

What happened to the basic tenets of environmentalism and sustainability: living within our

means, not going beyond the carrying capacity of our environment, providing the basics — like water — and disposing of our sewage safely? Living on an island forces us to face these difficult constraints.

If trustees want to override key elements of our OCP, they should follow the required public review process. There is a set procedure for making fundamental changes to our OCP.

MAXINE LEICHTER,

Just transition

Since the election, thousands of people intervened in Justin Trudeau's consultation on Canada's long-awaited Just Transition

We need a Just Transition Act that guarantees good green jobs, puts people first and aligns with climate science.

We have recently learned that Canada is among the world's top 10 contributors to greenhouse gas emissions. The Trudeau government is currently on track to only reduce national emissions by a mere 16 per cent by 2030, when our Paris commitment is to reduce emissions by over 40 per cent.

After a summer of heat waves, wildfires, smoke and floods, this is unacceptable.

There is lots of talk of renewable energy and support for fos-

sil fuels; talk and mine; talk and log: "blah, blah, blah" won't bring trust or justice.

It is critical that the Trudeau government rapidly bring the kind of Just Transition Act that is being advocated by many organizations, including 350. org, Council of Canadians, David Suzuki and thousands of us ordinary citizens.

The Just Transition Act needs to build a climate-saving energy system for all people, working together to transition equitably on a livable planet.

EILEEN WTTEWAALL, BRINKWORTHY ROAD

Offleashed

I'm new on island and my first morning here I forged friendships with several neighbours thanks to my big, dark, very independent dog, Guinness. Guinness is a rescue who had a pretty nasty start to life way up north and I would have never met him without the BC SPCA. The BC SPCA is actively working throughout every region in B.C. rescuing animals in distress, operating shelters, busting puppy mills and helping humans care for their animals when times are tough.

On top of all that the BC SPCA is creating ground-breaking policies, working with all levels of government and pioneering new ways of helping each com-

munity deal with specific needs.

For seven years I've been doing an event called "Offleashed," hoping to help educate people about what animals need and what the BC SPCA is doing about it. This year, the event is virtual and everyone can register

The second thing I did after moving on island was visit our BC SPCA branch. It is small and staff can't do everything they wish they could but they are so passionate I just had to interview them for Offleashed. I hope you'll support them by registering and tuning in.

The event is on Friday, Oct. 15, with a special interactive kids preprogram at 6:30 p.m. followed by the main show at 7 p.m. You'll see lots of warm stories and loads of super cute animals.

Animals seem to know the pain we are scared of and they do something to wiggle right through our walls to lodge securely to our hearts. And while we pamper our family pets and care for our outdoor animals, it's scary to imagine there are animals right now in crisis. Together, we can make a difference, just by learning, thinking and talking together. I really encourage you to sign up: HYPERLINK "http://offleashed.spca.bc.ca/" Offleashed.spca.bc.ca/" Offleashed.spca.bc.ca.

TRACEY WADE,

Channel Ridge site ideal for affordable housing

By TOBY FOUKS

I live near the area where the proposed communications tower is apparently to be built, much to the chagrin of neighbouring property owners.

In the Sept. 8 edition of the Driftwood, an alternate location for the tower was suggested by someone in the concerned group: the deforested area originally cleared for the Channel Ridge village fantasy project.

Online a website had made the new Channel Ridge development look very real and soon to happen, but eventually the consortium that had purchased the land from the Lindholm family (the original owners and developers) declared bankruptcy and later the Onni Group from Vancouver bought it "for a song."

I haven't been up there for some time so it has been a few years since I've seen the model home and surrounding area, but I imagine it remains a wasteland, no longer a habitat for wildlife.

This site has been on my mind lately, but not as a location for a tower. In fact, I am not sure the elevation would even be suitable. Instead I picture that area as a potential site for the development of affordable housing, and building housing is the very kind of thing that Onni, the corporation that owns it, is engaged in.

Were we a municipality we might be in a position to approach Onni. Possibly that has happened although who would approach them I don't know. I believe that much of the infrastructure was put in place before the consortium declared bankruptcy.

INDEPTH

I wonder if Onni would consider building a variety of dwellings on this land that they already own, and in that way make it possible for more working individuals and families to remain on Salt Spring. There might be government incentives that would encourage them to consider this as we are told that affordable housing is a government priority.

I have one of the smallest homes in this area, but at today's stratospheric prices its selling price would be far from affordable. If people think that affordable housing is low-income housing, and fear a decrease in the value of their own property, then they are greatly mistaken. "Affordable housing" means that a single person gainfully and steadily employed will be able to afford to live on the island because rental accommodation will be available and rents will be reasonable. It means that working people, often with two incomes from steady jobs, will be able, if they wish, to make a down payment and carry the costs of a mortgage. These days an affordable dwelling would be quite presentable. We are not talking about shacks. Low-rise condos or townhouses, semi-detached homes or detached homes — all could fall into this category. I don't know if co-ops are still being built but perhaps they could be. Only the current low mortgage rates have made it possible for the prices of formerly affordable homes to rise insanely as if filled with helium, since buyers are able to get extremely inexpensive financing. The more people can afford with low-cost mortgages the higher the properties list for.

It has definitely been a case of a rising tide lifting all boats, even leaky ones.

A lot of rental accommodation has disappeared from Salt Spring. Owners of properties formerly rented or owner occupied with rental suites have found that the value of the property has increased so much it would be a good time to sell. It's hard to blame them. People who had intended to sell in the future might have found selling now to be a very appealing option.

The land that Onni purchased has already been zoned for building. I am not sure about water and I know they would need to do something about wastewater.

What I do know is that this is an option that needs to be considered not by individuals like me but by people who are in a position to connect with Onni. Onni is building luxury residences on Vancouver Island and the mainland, and the last thing Salt Spring needs is more luxury residences. We need to be able to provide accommodation for the people who make the gears run because without them the machinery for a vibrant community can do no more than grind away.

O | WEDINES

Practising compassion

BY JAQUELINE WIGHTMAN

Freedom of speech is very important in this day in age. It lets people know who you are as well as giving you a chance to voice your opinion.

But there are ways freedom of speech can hurt other people, for example, by discrediting the existence of others, such as when people believe or say "being gay is a choice," or by using what you are good at to make others feel insignificant.

Voicing opinions is a good thing. It can make people feel seen, and bringing up important topics that aren't talked about enough can help people move forward. But often freedom of speech is used to put others down and arouse suspicion on perfectly normal things. Often, rousing suspicion is a perfectly normal response to being scared or not knowing how to ask the right questions, but nowadays with the internet the people who like creating

GUESTCOLUMN

chaos are using that fear and spreading it without consequence for themselves.

For example, there is a lot of suspicion about COVID. Part of how conspiracies are made is from people being scared for their lives, not understanding how to ask the right questions as well as not understanding that this is a real and serious pandemic. There are also people who use the common fear of the unknown and feed it for their own amusement or, some individuals don't want to be scared alone so they try to drive people against everyone else.

We as a world right now need to be empathetic and caring. This is a major issue right now, just like so many. We need to listen to all sides of each story and understand that not everything we have been taught is true. The world is full of the unknown and we need to discover it together as one world, and that takes understanding, patience and change.

Freedom of speech is a very positive thing if used correctly. It can help spread awareness and knowledge for the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour issues that keep occurring. But the privileged people or people in power generally shut those kinds of things down. I am not saying privileged people are bad, I am saying there is generally an ignorance that goes with privilege.

We need to use the knowledge we have and compassion to teach what we know to others who don't understand. This world is a confusing place and we need people in power to help everyone come together and create a better world.

The writer is a Grade 10 student at GISS..

Physicians share COVID update

SUBMITTED BY THE LADY MINTO HOSPITAL MEDICAL STAFF ASSOCIATION

Thanksgiving gives us the opportunity to reflect on all the things we have to be grateful for. One of these is the fact that Salt Spring has so far been spared the worst impacts of the COVID pandemic.

However, we have not been immune to the presence of the SARS-CoV-2 (COVID) virus in our community. In fact, as the fourth wave of the pandemic has swept across B.C., September saw the highest number of confirmed cases of COVID on the island and already in October, we are seeing higher numbers of confirmed cases than previously. The Delta variant of COVID is proving to be much more easily transmissible with lower level of exposure and causes severe illness with lower levels of virus exposure than the original "wild type" COVID virus that was circulating this time last year.

Fortunately, the mRNA and viral vector vaccines are proving to provide high levels of protection against severe illness from the Delta variant, including hospitalization and ICU admission. They also decrease the amount of virus present and duration of ability to spread the virus to others in vaccinated people who do still catch the virus. In order to prevent serious illness and death, to prevent overwhelming our local health care services, and to limit the spread of the virus amongst family and friends, we urge all eligible people to get vaccinated if you have not already done so

The vaccines are safe, effective and a key component of the overall strategy to

end the pandemic and return to normal

Since the vaccines do not offer 100 per cent immunity for individuals, and with the increasing number of cases on the island, it is crucial that we do not allow ourselves to become complacent and ignore the other control measures. We still need to wear an effective mask covering both nose and mouth at all times in public spaces to avoid spreading or inhaling viral particles, maintain physical distance from others to avoid coming into contact with viral particles, limit the size of gatherings and to limit the number of people potentially exposed to the virus, and continue frequent hand washing to reduce contamination of surfaces and the spread of all viruses, including influenza and other respiratory viruses.

If you have symptoms, including symptoms that you might otherwise think are a cold, get a COVID test, since vaccinated people may only have minor symptoms. And if you are ill, and especially if you have a positive COVID test, maintain self-isolation.

If we all keep going with these measures, and encourage our friends and neighbours to get vaccinated if they have not already done so, we will get through this pandemic.

As your physicians, we want you to stay safe and healthy. We also want to be able to provide you with the care you need in the event of illness or accident and to have facilities, staff and equipment available if and when you need care.

Capital Regional District

CBD

Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 20 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2118 (Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Additional Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 1993) residents within the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Area are invited to attend:

Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday, November 5, 2021 **Time:** 12:30 pm – 2:30 pm

Place: Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room

129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: **www.crd.bc.ca** four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2118, real property owners or residents in the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term. Total membership on the committee is five plus the Electoral Area Director (five members must be persons entitled to vote on Salt Spring Island for the Electoral Area Director; one member must be from the Ganges Sewer Local Services Commission; and one member must be from the Maliview Sewer Local Service area). There are two positions expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 2118 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538-304 or email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

Capital Regional District



Cedar Lane Water Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. The available meeting facilities cannot accommodate more than 20 people in person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3505 (Cedar Lane Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2008), residents within the Cedar Lane Service Commission Local Service Area are invited to attend:

Cedar Lane Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, November 8, 2021

Time: 12:30pm – 2:30pm **Place:** Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room

129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: **www.crd.bc.ca** four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3505, real property owners or residents in the Cedar Lane Water Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is four plus the Electoral Area Director (3 resident or owners of real property within the Cedar Lane water service area; or a person who is prepared to represent the service area). There is one position expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3505 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Cedar Lane Water Local Services Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538.4304 or appails sharpham@cred the ca







FALL FIX-UP

LANDSCAPING

Wildfire prevention and aesthetics join forces

Autumn is the ideal time to prepare for next fire season

BY MITCHELL SHERRIN

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

When is the best time to fix a roof leak? Not when it's raining. The same adage stands true for wildfire preven-

Now that we've almost escaped fire season, autumn is actually a great time of year to assess your yard for wildfire safety. And if you are not sure where to apply your best efforts, you can get help from Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR).

As it happens, Salt Spring Island actually receives many brush fires in the autumn. So, it's still vital to remain vigilant about wildfire. Have you assessed your home and yard for wildfire safety?

SSIFR has trained several members to make residential FireSmart assessments. To conduct a FireSmart assessment, FireSmart representatives walk around your yard and look at the types and volume of vegetation in proximity to your home with an eye toward reducing the risk of wildfire. These assessments are free of charge, and they will provide you with an array of optional recommenda-

In addition, island seniors (age 65 plus) and people with disabilities can be eligible for a \$250 rebate through SSIFR when they hire contractors (landscapers, arborists, etc.) to mitigate fire hazards around their property.

A few themes appear in every FireSmart assessment: most yards can enhance fire safety by judicious pruning, thinning and removal of vegetation near the home. This doesn't mean that you need to create a "moonscape." A FireSmart yard can be an attractive and lush garden.

One of the advantages of conducting a FireSmart assessment in the fall is that this season is an excellent time for pruning and thinning (yes, you can use your chainsaw again). Autumn can be a great time to plant fruit trees, transplant native species, collect branches from the yard, and conduct open burning (backyard burns are still banned - but the prohibition will open soon, weather permitting).

Many home maintenance activities typically done in the fall also enhance fire safety. Cleaning gutters and roofs of debris reduces fire risk. Maintaining roof vents and soffits (no holes in screens or vents) can prevent embers from being drawn into an attic space. Raking leaves away from drains reduces fuel for wildfires. A clean inspected chimney by a certified sweep is another excellent idea. So,



Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue firefighter Hayato Tanaka discusses FireSmart property improvement plans with homeowner Juliana Sandi-Mathe.

while you do the chores you'd planned anyway, you can pat yourself on the back for improving the fire safety of your home and your community.

To book a FireSmart assessment or to learn more information about FireSmart, contact SSIFR (250-537-2531), drop by the Ganges Fire Hall (105 Lower Ganges Rd.) or check the SSIFR website at www. saltspringfire.com/firesmart-ssi/.

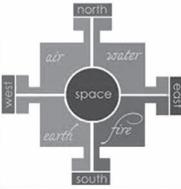
The contributor is the local FireSmart coordinator and a fire captain with Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue.

General Contracting Project Management

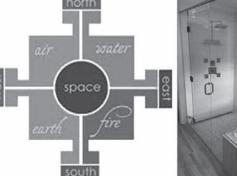
> Green Building Additions & Renovations

Property Management Outbuildings Roofing, Foundations





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PHOTOS BY RICK CARLSO

WINNERS' SEAT: From top, Greenwoods Foundation president Wayne Glover watches Braehaven resident Bev Wertman pull the winning ticket in the foundation's annual garden bench raffle, and winners Dwight and Anne Nelson and their dog Fumie enjoy the piece made by island craftsman Luke Hart-Weller. The event raised more than \$10,000 to help improve the care and comfort of residents of Greenwoods and Braehaven.

Commission applies climate lens

BY HOLLY MACDONALD

In order to be clearer about the connection between climate resilience and economic capacity building, the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Sustainability Commission has identified the components we believe demonstrate how our approach to economic growth is in alignment with climate initiatives.

Funding economic capacity-building initiatives contributes to climate action.

Built Environment

There's a lot of economic opportunity in retrofitting the existing infrastructure to a climate-resilient one. The Capital Regional District manages most of the public infrastructure. However, there are many privately owned buildings (or owned by other public entities, such as Island Health, SD 64, BC Ferries), all with roofing, water storage/systems, paving, landscaping, etc. Working with the business community, we'd like to encourage the expansion of green building practices (for new builds and renovation), shared purchasing discounts on climate friendly infrastructure, education and support for different sectors. We can also see the potential to support climate change readiness practices through audits, toolkits and more.

Innovation

The world needs innovative solutions to tackle the climate crisis. There's economic opportunity in participation on this. Our vision was to position Salt Spring as a place where innovators could test their products, working with organizations and institutions to be a rural testing ground. We'd also like local innovators to have a virtual and physical place to demonstrate innovations and provide ways for them to connect to a larger market (Green Learning Lab). We want the green economy on Salt Spring to be vibrant.

Shop Local

By investing in local businesses, who serve a local population, we can help people who live here develop a livelihood, and circulate money on the island. We can also reduce single vehicle off-island shopping by being more coordinated about delivery and encouraging greater connectivity with businesses that have

a physical presence on the island. Shared spaces, pop-up shops, "fulfillment centres" and other ways to practically help goods come on and off the island.

Co-operative Principles

Shared marketplaces, buying groups, shipping groups and other ways to encourage enterprises to work cooperatively. Our shared business services initiative is an example of this.

Preserving Natural Assets

There is (counterintuitively) economic opportunity in preserving the natural assets, such as forests and water preservation. Draw from sources such as: https://conservationtools.org/guides/94-economic-benefits-of-land-conservation and explore here: https://adaptationlearningnetwork.com/climate-adaptation-competency-framework.

Tourism

We've long been advocating for a longer, gentler tourism season that can reduce the frenzy of summer visitors and encourage visitors to join us at other times of the year. We've also strongly encouraged the type of tourism that contributes to the community, not detracts. We'd like to see a greater emphasis on visitors who come here on foot, bikes or other low-carbon transportation. This might mean advocating for greater public transit or encouraging private electric shuttles.

Engage Industry

We strongly believe that there needs to be ongoing stakeholder engagement with industry to learn about their challenges and gain insights to enable our commission to be more informed about what's important to them, but also to tap into their innovative ideas. Business can be a force for good, but there's an assumption that they are going to resist climate initiatives. Let's engage our business community!

The writer is a member of the Salt Spring Island Community Economic Sustainability Commission, which is a volunteer body of members appointed by the Capital Regional District..

Capital Regional District

Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 20 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3911 (Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2015), residents within the Highland and Fernwood Water Local Service Area are invited to attend:

Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, November 1, 2021

Time: 10am – 12pm

Place: Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room

129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: **www.crd.bc.ca** four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3911, real property owners or residents in the Fernwood and Highland Water Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is four plus the Electoral Area Director (three members resident electors; and one member may be a resident elector of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area). There are two positions expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3911 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538.4304 or email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

Capital Regional District



Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 20 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 1906 (Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 1991) residents within the Ganges Sewer Local Service Area are invited to attend:

Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday, November 5, 2021

Time: 10am – 12pm

Place: Salt Spring Island Library Meeting Room

129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: **www.crd.bc.ca** four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 1906, real property owners or residents in the Ganges Sewer Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is five plus the Electoral Area Director (four members must be residents or owners of a business; one member may be a resident or owner of a business within the Electoral area; and one of the five members may be an employee or member of the school district, hospital, or community care facility which owns or manages property within the service area). There are four positions expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 1906 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538.4304 or email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca





ISLAND CULTURE

Island fairy door magic has lasting impact

Door creator and author makes appeal for people to stop assault on fairy doors

BY ROGER BRUNT

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Every time I hear about a Salt Spring Island fairy door being tampered with, or removed altogether, it breaks my heart.

I suspected Lynden Wyland-Oberling was ill when I met her and her family at the Salt Spring Saturday Market. She was from Denver, Colo. She looked like a waif, a tiny frail waif, with already one foot in another world. As I was to learn when I got to know her and her family, she had come to Salt Spring on a road-trip/holiday. Lynden loved the mountains and the sea and the forests with their mountain trails. It was on the Chris Hatfield Trail that she got to see a fairy door. It, along with the trail itself, meant a lot to her, far more than I realized

While here, Lynden wrote a letter to the elves and, after she got home, received an answer in the mail. Thousands of other children and adults who have written to the Salt Spring elves in their magic mailboxes located inside fairy doors around the island have received an answer too.

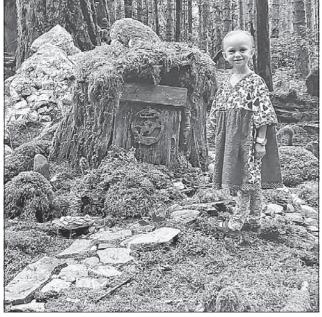
As a letter to me from Linden's mother explained, after Lynden passed away in hospital in Denver, at just five years of age, the memories of her time on Salt Spring Island and her visit to the elves' home meant more to her than almost anything else. I like to think that perhaps she imagined she might become an elf or fairy herself.

Here are excerpts from a letter her mother sent to me about this sad event:

Dear Roger;

The timing of your package is amazing. When I awoke this morning, I was thinking of you and hoping our mail had found its way to you. Just now, our mail arrived along with your package.

When I saw the book and photos of the Chris Hatfield Trail I wept and wept. I was so glad to have these visual



Five-year-old Lynden Wyland-Oberling at the site of a Salt Spring fairy door.

reminders of this much beloved trail. After returning from our first trip to Salt Spring, I'd found myself struggling to describe the incredible nature sculptures and fairy village on the trail. I'm so grateful the wonder of the trail and its changing landscape has been documented by your friend, Doug Wahlsten.

Salt Spring Island and the Chris Hatfield trail brought Linden such joy, healing and magic. She carried that with her the rest of her days. Our whole family feels such a deep connection to Salt Spring. Words cannot express how much it would mean to have the Chris Hatfield book dedicated to Linden.

Though Linden's time with us didn't feel nearly long enough, she had an incredible impact, touching so many lives and leaving meaningful, lasting change. She absolutely loved nature. Even after a week's stay in hospital for chemo, she'd ask that we drive her to her favourite spot in the mountains on her way home. It truly helped sustain her and bring her joy, and it's now what helps us feel close to her.

With deepest gratitude,

And here is another story about the power of our fairy doors. This story is quite different, but the message is the same: come upon a fairy door and very likely you are seeing far more than you are likely to understand because a fairy door is far more than just a painted or carved piece of wood fastened to a tree or rock. You are getting a glimpse of the spirit of not only those who created and installed it but also the spirit of all those who have seen it and loved it and appreciated its magic.

This story concerns one of the families that donated land that eventually became the park that now protects Mount Erskine. To commemorate their contribution, the family constructed a fairy door and installed it on the property that had been theirs. It was a very special door, different from the others, but very beautiful. And it was theirs.

Shortly afterwards, an unforseen tragedy led to the death of the man of the family. By and by, his widow hiked up Mount Erskine to sit by THEIR door and remember times together there.

But the door was gone! All I could think to tell her was that maybe the door had somehow found its way to be with her departed husband.

Fairy doors have been here on Salt Spring Island for at least 30 years, probably for much longer judging from the remnants found along mountain trails, including an old doorknob embedded in the ashes of a fire-blackened stump. The Green Door on Mount Erskine near Lassie's Trail is at least in its fourth incarnation, fastened to the same rock one after another, as various photos over the last three decades testify.

As I said, when I learn of a fairy door that has been damaged or destroyed, it hurts. Those who would do such a thing have no idea the impact of their actions, be they park wardens fulfilling their mandate of no man-made objects in the woods or persons unknown with their own agenda.

The writer makes fairy doors, is the author of several books about Erskine the Elf and other characters, as well as The Fairy Doors of Salt Spring Island, and has replied to countless children's letters written to Erskine the Elf.

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Real Estate

Buyers: How to compare prices and value?

Comparing homes with similar attributes can provide valuable insights. Consider the

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

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

The most affordable home is rarely the lowest priced home!

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



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Marketing

Don't pull back on advertising



When business revenue streams are choked by circumstances like the coronavirus pandemic, it can be tempting to sacrifice the marketing budget. Cutting back on advertising is not the best strategy, however.

Businesses that maintain visibility through tough times will thrive when compared to competitors that remain silent and give up their share of voice. Revenue growth for businesses that advertise has been found to occur in the short term, definitely, but even more so in the long term.



250-537-9933 241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island driftwood@driftwoodgimedia.com www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

COMMUNITY

RNSG program holds celebration

Online event this Sunday

A Salt Spring Island Foundation (SSIF) program that impacts the island through small projects is celebrating its current cycle with an event on Sunday,

Some 28 projects funded by the SSIF 2021 Responsive Neighbourhood Small Grants program took place over the summer.

"From a concert on Booth Canal to a tiny sharing brary at Burgoyne gardens, puppet shows for sic kids to memory books for the elderly, this season has been one of the most creative yet," the SSIF said in a media release.

Sunday's event, which begins at 1 p.m. on Zoom, will be a celebration of the diverse projects. The community is welcome to hear reports from the project leaders and to get more information on how Neighbourhood Small Grants work. To participate, people should email info@ssifoundation.ca.

The foundation thanks its community partner Salt Spring Community Services, funding partners the Victoria Foundation and Clayoguot Biosphere Trust, and the donors of the Salt Spring Island Foundation for making the grants available.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DIETRICH: Long-time islander and one-time Salt Spring CRD director Dietrich Luth, right, is fêted on his 80th birthday held at the Seabreeze Inn last Wednesday. Also seen in this section of creative 360-degree camera footage captured by Paul Marcano are Dan Horth, left, and Tom Toynbee.

TRAVELS

Falklands presentation at library

SUBMITTED BY THE TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

The Falkland Islands — also known as the Islas Malvinas — are home to some of the most spectacular wildlife in the world.

Here you can see five species of penguin, the world's largest colonies of Blackbrowed Albatross, rare endemic birds, as well as elephant seals and sea lions, in a virtually untouched and empty landscape.

Salt Springers Nick and Jenny Coghlan spent two austral summers in these remote islands off the tip of South America before the war in the South Atlantic briefly thrust the Falklands into the world's headlines in 1982. The Coghlans have returned many times since, most recently in March 2020 before the onset of the pandemic.

At a Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club event set for Thursday, Oct. 21 at 7 p.m. in the Salt Spring Library Program Room, they will describe not only the wildlife but also the unique way of life in the Falklands, pre- and postwar, and give practical suggestions, including the best time to visit and good viewing locations, for prospective visitors.

Pre-registration for the Wildlife of the Falkland Islands presentation is required with the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, which is cosponsoring the event with the library. Only 50 pre-registered guests with B.C.'s vaccination cards and wearing masks will be admitted. People can preregister by emailing their name and telephone number to info.sstnc@gmail.com.

TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

OCTOBER 2021 PST (UTC-8h) When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table METRES FEET 13 1.3 3.2 1.8 3.4 2.7 11.2 WE10.5 5.9 1915 2023 8.9 0503 8.9 0.8 14 **18** 1.5 3.2 1.5 4.9 10.5 TH2225 2203 2.8 1.7 3.1 1.3 9.2 5.6 10.2 0418 15 **19** 0941 3.3 FR TU 1604 MA 0513 **20 16** 6.2 1023 WE 10.8 ME

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t'S on this week



Oct. 19

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Oct. 20

Wed.

ACTIVITIES

SSNAP Artist's Talk:

finalist Connie Kuhns

presents How I See It:

a 60-year trip through

documentary and street

photography, exploring

Hall. 12 to 1 p.m.

Gulf Islands Board of

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

At Your Service - The

Robert Service, Part 1.

performed by Jeffrey

Advance tickets only.

At the Legion, 7 p.m.

(Preceded by the meat

draw beginning at 5 p.m.)

Open Mic & Jam.

Original play written and

Renn. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Life and Yarns of

via Zoom at 1 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Thurs.

her artwork and insights

into the art world. Mahon

Education. Public meeting

Connie Kuhns. Salt Spring

photographer and SSNAP

Oct. 13 | Thurs.

Oct. 14

ACTIVITIES Salt Spring Fire Protection District Budget Town Hall. Learn about and give your feedback about the proposed 2022 fire

Oct. 15

Oct. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

department budget.

Ganges Fire Hall. 7 p.m.

At Your Service - The **Life and Yarns of Robert** Service, Part 1. See Thursday listing. Everyday People. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw beginning at 5 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

family activity from SS Public Library through Mouat Park toward the Rainbow Road Pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. **Outsider Art Emerging** Artist Talk. Event at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room with **Outsider Art Emerging** exhibit of Artists From the Fringe (Art Jam program) artists on display. 3 to 4 p.m.

StoryWalk. Self-guided

VIA ZOOM

Fri.

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. via Zoom. Send an email to ask@asksaltspring.com for the link.

Oct. 16

Oct. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

At Your Service - The Life and Yarns of Robert Service, Part 1. See Thursday listing.

ACTIVITIES

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

Fabulous Flea Market. Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vaccine passports and masks required.



ACTIVITIES

Sun.

Salt Spring Forum: Kathryn Harrison on Climate Change, COP26 and Canada. UBC political science professor Kathryn Harrison is the guest speaker. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Advance tickets only through ArtSpring. Proof of vaccination, government ID and masks required. StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Oct. 18 Mon.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting. Ganges Fire Hall. 6:30 p.m.

Climate Change Impacts for Salt Spring and What We Can Do About It. A Canadian Federation of University Women Salt Spring Island chapter event with Transition Salt Spring (TSS) chair Bryan Young at the Lions Hall. 10:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. Bryan will give an overview of the kev recommendations coming out of their Climate Action Plan 2.0, and what TSS is doing to mobilize the community and government. Public welcome. Proof of vaccination plus social distancing and masks required.

Tues.

Oct. 17

ACTIVITIES Tuesday Farmers' Market. Weekly market of fresh produce and food/drink products at Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m. Salt Spring Parks & **Recreation Commission** Meeting.

Regular meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 3 to 5 p.m. Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue

Recruit Info Session. Learn about becoming a paid-oncall firefighter or fieldincident technician. Contact SSIFR at 250-537-2531, drop by the Ganges Fire Hall, or visit saltspringfire.com/ recruit for more info.

Wed.

ACTIVITIES Islands Trust Housing Action Program Task Force Meeting.

Public welcome to observe meeting at Salt Spring Baptist Church. 5 p.m. **Central Hall Society Board** of Directors Meeting. Public welcome to attend. Lower hall of Central Hall.

VIA ZOOM

7 p.m.

Rural Islands Economic Forum.

First of two-day event. 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. See www.riepforum.ca

Fabulous Flea Market Fulford Hall

Saturday, October16 | 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Vaccine passports and masks required,

RIFTY FOODS

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THE FRITZ CINEMA

No Time To Die shows at The Fritz from Thursday, Oct. 14 through Thursday, Oct. 21 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.

More info: thefritz.ca



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.
- The Art Jam group shows new work in the Salt Spring Public Library program room through October, with a talk set for Friday, Oct. 15 from 3 to 4 p.m.

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@
- Today (Oct. 13) is the last day to see East Meets West, artworks by David Goatley and James Stewart, at Gallery 8 in Grace Point Square.

EXHIBITIONS

- Kelly Kiss presents an exhibit of mixedmedia and oil paintings called Bloom Into Life at Dragonfly Art Supplies through October.
- The Calligraphy Group on Salt Spring exhibits poems, quotations, etc. at Country Grocer's Café area on the subject of food during October.
- The Photosynthesis group holds its 2021 show virtually at www.photosyn.ca.

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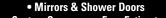
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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBS

FABRIC FIENDS AND FRIENDS: Salt Spring Rotary Club members and friends take a break from a Fabric Frenzy work party to show a tiny fraction of the mountains of quality fabric, sewing notions, yarns and all kinds of craft kits and equipment that have been donated to the first ever fundraiser of its kind on the island. The sale runs at the Farmers' Institute from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 23 and 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 24. Organizers say enough items have been donated to fill a full-size fabric and crafts store, and the prices are phenomenally low. Proceeds will support Salt Spring youth mental health programs.

CHARITY

Gift box program gets underway

Operation Christmas Child

Salt Spring's Community Gospel Chapel community is once again organizing the Operation Christmas Child initiative.

People are asked to provide shoeboxes filled with gifts for needy children living in West Coast Africa and Central America.

"Your gift could go to a child who has never received a gift before," said islander Gail Neumann.

"This is a wonderful activity to teach your children and grandchildren compassion and generosity," she adds. "You can shop together or craft items that another child will cherish. Be sure to include a note and maybe a photo, so the child will know there is a real person somewhere in the world who thought of them. It's guaranteed that adults will have as much fun as the kids."

Neumann said great items to pack include a "wow" gift, school and personal care items, crafts and activities, clothing and accessories, but nothing that wouldn't be allowed on a plane or that could frighten a child. People are

asked to provide \$10 to pay for shipping. Cheques can be written to Samaritan's Purse.

Completed shoeboxes should be dropped off before Nov. 14 at Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Rd., Monday to Thursday, between 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. The phone number is 250-537-2622.

There is also an option to pack and ship boxes online.

More information is available at www.samaritanspurse.ca/what-we-do/operation-christmas-child.

TIP OFTHE WEEK: By now, the Libra New Moon seed is showing its colours. The triple conjunction of Sun, Moon and Mars in the Aquarius Decan was packed with potency. Yet, the exact degree was linked to Neptune which was unaspected. So, it is possible that some of the otherwise charged potency fizzled as a dud, in terms of outer events. Much of the expression may also have occurred behind the scenes and/or at subconscious levels, symbolic of Pisces. Positively, it activated spiritual realizations. Yet, the

Full Moon in Aries on Oct. 20 is bound to pack a punch, true to the nature of this combination. Expect it to be laced with revolutionary fervour with

ardent determination to get to the bottom of things once and for all.

THIS WEEK'S Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer HOROSCOPE

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Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

You are in a need-to-know mood. You are willing to be diplomatic, but you want the real goods. Anything less will leave you feeling disappointed, impatient and annoyed. Themes of truth, justice, democracy and freedom are strongly on your mind. You are willing to fight for what you believe and this cycle will invariably leave you feeling transformed.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

A growing desire for freedom should be evident now. What kind of freedom depends on you. Yet, the emphasis is upon both your lifestyle and your public and professional life. These areas are experiencing both contraction and expansion simultaneously. However, the contraction must be addressed first for the expansion to occur.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Libra time tends to be a happy cycle for you. This year it does come with various complexities. Given the extent of drama and stress on the world stage, this should come as no surprise. Making efforts to be philosophical about it all is likely yet may also manifest as a swinging pendulum between hopes, ideals, denials and wishful thinking.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

A process of getting to the bottom of things somehow continues. The emphasis may be centred on the home front but home may simply be where you are conducting your research on larger world issues. Circumstances are pushing you to deepen your research in order to come to a clearer realization of what is fact and what is fiction.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Many thoughts are running through your mind these days and clamouring for your attention. Positively, you are able to do the rounds and give each their fair share of time. Otherwise, you may be dealing with overwhelm. Yet, you remain determined to expand your front just the same. The key to success now is faithful, patient commitment.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

Part of you wants to retreat while the other is eager to enter new territory. This is a complex blend of energies as with one foot on the gas and the other on the brakes, so to speak. Feeling as confident as you would like is a lingering issue and the world crisis is compounding it. You yearn to expand your outreach yet you may feel the need for more knowledge.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

You are in a strident mood. You may feel propelled by convictions that you deem absolute. However, financial interests and responsibilities are motivating factors. At worst, these may be clouding your judgment. Positively, you have something to say and have the energy and resolve to both say it and to be heard. Of course, boldly sharing your views might ruffle feathers.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

A busy time behind the scenes or in the back of your mind involves an active imagination. Finding reason and opportunity to express your thoughts and feelings is also featured. Circumstances of late are leaving you feeling both frightened and confident. Your courage and conviction will increase as you confront your fears.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

The drums within are beating loudly now. A rebellious urge vies with feelings of empathy and compassion. At worst, this inner conflict is leaving you confused regarding your best course of action. A commitment to knowledge and truth is necessary to satisfy both sides of this inner struggle. Sharing your findings is the other end of the deal and requires courage.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You yearn for attention, especially from those with power and means. You realize that advancing to the next level requires your commitment and willingness to invest. Yet, you are open to support and assistance, especially if you feel that you have earned it and are due. Some of the return you need is awareness but security has more value.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Libra time tends to be a philosophical cycle for you. Seeing a bigger picture is a cornerstone impulse. Yet, it also includes a playful attitude where variety and discovery of unexplored thoughts, feelings and experiences become more interesting. If not new tools or equipment, at least new attitudes may be required.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Purging, clearing and stripping layers at least approximates the current cycle you are experiencing. Breaking free of old habits that no longer serve and replacing them with new and better ones is featured. At deeper levels, feelings of surrender and acceptance of what is have also taken hold. This should not be interpreted as defeat or giving up. In fact, it represents a form of spiritual victory.





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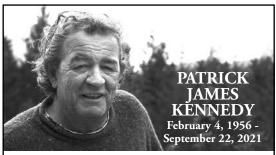
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Obituaries

Obituaries



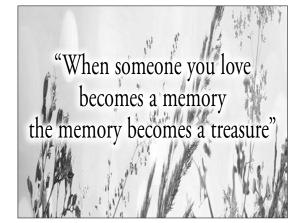
It is with heavy hearts we share that Patrick died suddenly and unexpectedly of natural causes on Salt Spring Island, his home of the past 19 years or so.

Patrick was well known on Salt Spring for his colourful and talkative nature. He was a great lover of music, good food, flowers, and travel adventures. He cared a lot about how to make the world a better place.

Patrick is survived by his daughter Lyyli Kennedy who was the great light of his life, and three brothers Mike, Nick and Danny.

A celebration of life will be held at the Portlock Park outdoor covered area on Sunday, October 17, 2021 2-5 pm. Service 2-3 ish, Jose Sanchez Cuban band 3 - 5 pm. Everyone welcome. Please bring your own chair.

Patrick's ashes will be spread at a later date on Matilija Creek near Ojai, California as per his wishes.





Salt Spring Island. She is survived by her loving daughter, Madison Ann Greggains, brother Craig Lavoie (Dana), nephew Ryan and niece Alexia, and father Lawrence Lavoie. She was predeceased by her husband Ben Greggains and her mother Mora Lavoie.

Born in Truro, Nova Scotia on June 19th, 1970, Margo's early work experience included a summer at Walt Disney World, followed by hotel and restaurant work in Banff, Alberta. In 1997 she moved to Salt Spring Island with her husband Ben and daughter, Madison, where she worked as a server at Moby's for close to a decade. She went on to start a thriving business in home care services (Access Care Management) which she sold in 2019. Margo loved helping people and always volunteered in the nity, supported her neighbours and and was a second mother to many.

She will be remembered as a remarkable woman who was strong, warm-hearted and a lover of a "good chat". Her friendship was her strength and her generous gift to us all.

Madison would like to thank Dr. Crichton her GP, Dr. Bernstein, her oncologist, and the amazing staff at Lady Minto Hospital for their compassionate care of Margo over the years, especially at the end of her

A Celebration of Life will be held in the spring, details to be announced. In lieu of flowers, please donate to your local SPCA or the Canadian Cancer

Coming Events



Salt Spring Farmland Trust Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

October 25, 2021 On line - 6:00pm

Please RSVP for Zoom link to: Chair@ssifarmlandtrust.org

At Fulford Hall Saturday, October 16, 2021 10am - 2pm

Table Rentals: - \$15.00 / 8 ft. - \$30.00

Call: 250 537-5482 COVID PROTOCAL WILL BE IN PLACE

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

Wednesday OCT. 20, 2021 at 7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.

Public welcome.

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Coming Events

Coming Events



NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL **MEETING**

GreenwoodsFoundation

GREENWOODS ELDERCARE

SOCIETY AND THE

GREENWOODS FOUNDATION

NOTICE OF

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

Date: OCTOBER 28TH, 2021

Time: Greenwoods Eldercare Society:

10:00 A.M. - 11:15 A.M.

Greenwoods Foundation:

11:15 A.M. - 12:00 NOON

Where: Via Zoom or teleconference.

RSVP to wayne.glover@greenwoodseldercare.org

for the link to the meeting.

MEMBERSHIP is open to persons who have

reached 19 years of age, who reside in the

Gulf Islands, who have made written

application for membership in the Society and have paid the \$20.00 membership fee.

Applications available upon request to

wayne.glover@greenwoodseldercare.org.

VOTING PRIVILEGES: Memberships from

2019/2020 were extended for one year in 2020

and all members in good standing are entitled

to vote. Persons who have applied for membership during the past membership

year are eligible to vote providing their

membership application and fees were

submitted by October 14th, 2021.

Salt Spring Island Golf and Country Club 6pm Thursday Oct. 28, 2021 This meeting will be conducted via ZOOM.

Meeting link and agenda will be posted in Club House and emailed to all members.

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SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 17





NOTICE

Notice of intention to dispose of a vessel under section 39 of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act

Motor Vessel 13K77862 - located in Port Browning, North Pender Island, British Columbia, is currently considered to be abandoned.

This notice serves as official notice of the Minister's intention to dispose of this vessel after November 12th, 2021, 30 days from which this notice was given.

Should you have any questions, you may contact, Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program at NPPPAC-PPNPAC@ tc.gc.ca or 604-775-8867 and reference file W2019-500020

COMMUNITY

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YOUR

PERFORMING ARTS

Live performances return to Salt Spring venues



PHOTO BY RON WATTS

Performing at Beaver Point Hall in a PitchFork Social blues session event last Tuesday are, from left, Harry Manx, Steve Marriner and David Gogo. The Tuesday and Wednesday concerts, plus two previous ones with Manx in September, were sold out.

Performers and audiences adapt to changes

BY MARCIA JANSEN

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It has been quiet in the theatres and music halls for a while, but things are opening up

Last week the ArtSpring Presents season kicked off with a dance performance by Wen Wei Dance, while Salt Spring musician Harry Manx performed with musical friends at Beaver Point Hall.

As British Columbia reopens safely and responsibly, audiences are welcomed to come and enjoy performances as they are meant to be seen — live and in person.

Although things are still a little bit different than they were before COVID-19, Cicela Månsson, ArtSpring executive and artistic director, is excited about the new season.

'Slowly but surely life is creeping back into the theatre," she said on the day of the opening show in ArtSpring. "We had to close mid-March last year, opened up again in the fall of 2020 for six weeks when we had four shows before we were shut down again. Although there are some limitations, we are delighted that people can enjoy live performances again.

ArtSpring has a slightly lower number of planned performances than usual.

"But we have a solid season ahead of us," Månsson continued. "We are allowed to open with half of our normal capacity. That means that we can have about 129 visitors per show. We want art to be accessible for as many people as possible, so we booked performers two days in a row and effectively we have the same amount of seats."

As required by law, everyone who wants to attend an ArtSpring event needs to show proof of vaccination and wear a mask.

"There won't be intermissions for now, and when you book a seat, special software allows a free seat between every party. In the fall we had to do this manually, so this is much easier. The season has just started, but people have been good about those rules. They know that we don't make the rules, and

they can be assured that our theatre is a safe, comfortable place that they will hopefully want to come back to."

Salt Spring musician Harry Manx, in conjunction with PitchFork Social, played Beaver Point Hall for four sold-out shows in September and October.

"We were so excited to have Harry play here," said Elizabeth Zook, who is the booker for Beaver Point Hall. "He's bringing back live music to the hall. We haven't had that in a long time, even before COVID-19. Harry brought his PA system because we don't have one, but we are planning to fundraise money so we can buy our own.'

Zook is also happy to see the hall coming

"Luckily, we were able to host some small weddings and birthdays past summer, but it has been quiet for a long time."

Zook pointed out something positive that came from the COVID shutdown, though.

"After 84 years, the hall needed a new floor. Except for funding, the main problem was that we had to close the hall for a month or more to get the job done. The pandemic handed us the unoccupied time, and we managed to fundraise enough money. With the new floor, the hall is ready to host events so local community members can have a nice night out."

Harry Manx will return to Beaver Point Hall in February and March. On Feb. 18 and 19 he plays with John Reischman, and on March 19 and 20 he will be accompanied by The Yaletown String Quartet. All shows are operating at 50 per cent capacity with social distancing rules in place. Go to www.pitchforksocial. com for more information.

The 2021-2022 ArtSpring season brochure can be perused at artspring.ca.

The Bach on the Rock (BOTR) chamber orchestra and choir is another group happy to be returning to in-person practice and performance, even if masks must be worn by the musicians and singers.

"It is what we have to do, to be able to do what we love, and to keep everybody safe," said Joi Freed-Garrod, president of the board, and a member of the choir herself.

Since September, after a one-a-half-year

hiatus, the orchestra and choir are "Everybody is double vaccinated, is wearing masks, we have the doors thrilled to be able to sing together again. I know some choirs were rehearsing on Zoom, but that took all the fun out of it. You can only hear one other person and yourself sing, and it was difficult for the conductor to help. It is a real struggle, so we decided to not do that."

This year's BOTR season begins with a Nov. 6 concert at Fulford Hall, led by Marco Vitale, the first of three guest artistic directors.

"After the sudden passing of our director Michael Jarvis at the end of 2020, which was really devastating for us, we had to look for a new director. As it is hard to find the right person, we are welcoming three artistic directors this season who will be each responsible for one concert. At the end of the season, our members can vote and we will know who is the best fit for us, and hopefully, that person wants to stay as well."

As well, Salt Spring Island resident Don Conley will back to rehearsing together again. lead the 10th-anniversary edition of the annual Singalong Messiah on Nov. 28 at Fulford Hall.

"This community gathering, when everybody is and windows open, and we are so welcome to sing along with us, is one of the highlights of our season," said Freed-Garrod. "Unless the regulations change, everybody who wants to come and sing with us needs to wear a mask so it will be safe for everyone."



SALT SPRING 778.353.3012

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ArtSpring Gallery All BC Covid Protocols will be respected 51 artists juried from the Southern Gulf Islands www.saltspringartprize.ca for event details



NSSWD WATERING RESTRICTIONS HAVE CHANGED

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

STAGE 3 WATERING RESTRICTIONS AS OF OCTOBER 13, 2021

Stage 3 Watering Restrictions:

SPRINKLING

- Even/odd numbered addresses can sprinkle on even/ odd dates between 7pm and 7am up to a maximum of 1 hour per day.
- New lawns can be sprinkled during the hours stated above for 1 hour per day or outside those times with a special permit.

MICRO OR DRIP IRRIGATION OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS

 Even/odd numbered addresses can water trees, shrubs, and gardens with micro or drip irrigation on even/odd dates before 10 am or after 5 pm up to a maximum of 3 hours per day.

HAND WATERING OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS (with a bucket or hose with spring-loaded nozzle only)

 Even/odd numbered addresses can hand water trees, shrubs, and gardens on even/odd dates between 7 pm and 7 am up to a maximum of 2 hours per day.

WASHING OF VEHICLES & BOATS

 Vehicles and boats can be washed anytime using a hose or pressure washer with a spring-loaded nozzle.

FILLING POOLS, HOT TUBS, FOUNTAINS, & GARDEN **FEATURES**

May be topped up but not filled.

WATERING OF PUBLIC PARKS & PLAYING FIELDS

May be watered only with a special permit.

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

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca (250) 537-9902

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated. **Every Drop Counts!**







PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN **EAST MEETS WEST:** Featured artwork at Gallery 8 this month is the East Meets West exhibit of sculpture by James Stewart and paintings by David Goatley. Above is a partial view of the exhibit space, with Goatley's 'Displaced'

LIVE MUSIC

Folk trio visits ArtSpring

West My Friend on stage next week

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

It's always exciting to welcome performers who've never been to ArtSpring before, and we get to do that next week with threepiece folk group West My

Based in Victoria, the trio of Jeff Poynter (accordion/ vocals), Eden Oliver (guitar/ vocals) and Alex Rempel (mandolin/vocals) may be new to us but not to the Canadian folk scene, with 12 years, over 700 shows, numerous tours and four albums together. Their music is described as layered, deeply symphonic, baroque and mysterious, with the standouts being their beautiful vocal harmonies combined with exceptional musicianship and story-telling.

The musicians draw particular inspiration from connecting with audiences in the more intimate venues where folk music works best, but believe in the importance of people gathering and celebrating music anywhere and everywhere. This love of live performance has seen them play not just in traditional folk clubs and festivals, but on a 100-yearold streetcar on a high-level bridge, at a nudist resort, on a sailboat, in a hayloft, and in many libraries, bookstores and museums.



West My Friend band members, from left, Jeff Poynter, Eden Oliver and Alex Rempel, who will perform at ArtSpring on Oct. 21, 22 and 23.

Spreading the love through music education is also a big part of their performance schedule. The three musicians regularly run workshops for schools about Canada's rich folk music history, introducing young students to classics of the Canadian songbook, and the great artists behind them. They'll be doing just that at Gulf Islands Secondary School next week

Their recently released fourth album, In Constellation, was not only an Independent Music Award nominee, but sees the band open up their achingly poignant music to the backing of a full symphony orchestra. On it you'll hear the beautiful sound of violins and trumpets swell, collapse and tumble between their bold

When we first heard about their collaboration with the Victoria Conservatory of Music orchestra we reached out to friend of ArtSpring David Visentin, the department head of postsecondary studies. He expressed what wonderful musicians and collaborators they are.

ArtSpring Presents West My Friend on Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Oct. 21, 22 and 23 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are sold in advance only.

Please note that as per the current public health order, proof of at least one vaccination is required for everyone age 12+ attending this event. Patrons age 19+ are also required to show a piece of valid government photo ID. Masks must be worn at all times while at ArtSpring.

FALL-FIX-UP

Lots to consider when expanding a forest or a future food source

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

Experts share advice on planting trees for climate change and more

BY ROBIN JENKINSON DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Autumn is the best time here to

Would you like more fruits, nuts, firewood or lumber in the future? Did this summer's heat make you wish for more shade? Did the windstorm of 2018 leave gaps in your forest, or could you increase diversity and wildlife habitat there? If you don't have land, could you plant an acorn or start a tree seedling in a pot for someone else?

Whether you're planting trees for food or forestry, it's good to anticipate the changing climate. Farmers around here have trailblazed new crops for Canada, such in the Burgoyne Valley, Joe Clemente's palms and bananas, Gary Gagne's almond orchard, or Jane Squier's citrus, paw paw and avo-

"We don't know exactly what and others may not." the climate is doing, so plant diver-

Jay Bourdin

Serving Islanders since 1980



Three generations of the Staines family, from left, Gramma Marjorie, Scott, as tea in Westholme, olive groves Chantal and Ema have planted more than 250 trees on their hilltop property over the past five years, with a focus on fruits, nuts, native species and soil

variety of trees, some will thrive

sity," advises Squier. This goes for Squier waters new trees several both orchard gardens and natural times. After that, it's tough love.

areas. "When you plant a wide This year, Squier is adding pecan and pine nut trees to her farm and has also ordered a variety of native For the first several summers, shrubs and wildflower species to diversify her Douglas-fir forest out

action we can all take towards a healthier tomorrow. Trees not only capture carbon, but for honey farmer Tara Galpin, the shoulder-season nectar they provide her bees is essential. She and partner Milo Stuart just wrappedup an island-wide tree-planting campaign where they were able to plant about 240 fruit, nut and pollinator trees for free on public and private properties around Salt Spring. Their most visible planting was with students along Rainbow Road in front of Gulf Islands Sec-

"People can get overwhelmed with the idea of planting a tree, especially with all the deer on this sland," said Stuart. "So, we helped demonstrate to landowners how quickly and easily one can dig, plant, cover with cardboard and hay mulch, and deer-cage new sap-

Stuart recommends planting nuts such as hazelnuts and walnuts for future food security, and in particular sweet chestnuts (the Euro-Japanese variety), if you've

"Don't just plant one tree, plant several," he suggests. "Then if a few die, you have some left, or you can harvest firewood down the line."

Permaculturist Moe Wendt echos

Planting a tree is a manageable this advice: "It's useful to think about what you like to eat before you plant food trees, but plant lots of nuts. One cannot live on apples alone, but you could maybe survive on apples and nuts."

> Something we can count on is more drought years, so Peter Wilson at Tree Eater Nursery on Denman Island, which specializes in edible perennials suited for climate resilience, suggests choosing figs, chestnuts, pine nuts and grapes over more water-hungry varieties like kiwis, paw paws or stone fruits. "For drought-tolerance, the rootstock used for fruit trees is make-or-break," Wilson cautions. This fall, his nursery offered their first regional food forest grant of \$1,000 worth of free trees plus consultation time, and expect to offer Beyond gardens, native forests

must also adapt. If you have some plantable openings in your forest, Salt Spring's new Climate Action Plan suggests you consider assisted migration. For example, coastal redwood could be planted where western red cedar would have thrived, bigleaf maple is a solid pioneer species that builds soil. black walnut is a valuable wood and nut producer, and in uplands try California bay, black locust or



Salt Spring Elementary School students add Chilean guava, hazelnuts and other berries and herbs from Seven Ravens Farm to their school garden as part of a food forest project undertaken with help from the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust.

When you look around our forests, there's very little undergrowth due to deer predation," cautions Michael Nickels of Seven Ravens Farm. So, to protect your new seedlings, he recommends using the tree-protection socks made by a Cowichan Tribesowned company called Khowutzun Forest Services.

good seed source for your forest plantings is incredibly important. This is one more essential reason to save oldgrowth forests like Fairy Creek. Many of the trees are 1,000-plus years old and have withstood the test of time with massive droughts and shifting weather and offer the best genetic seed sources

This fall, while the soil is not too wet yet and the trees are slowing down, is the ideal time to plant trees. Until the soil cools to five degrees Celsius, the roots will continue to grow, giving them a headstart on spring. Just remember, as the wisest tree planters all say, the best time to plant a tree . . . was 20 years ago. Or right now!

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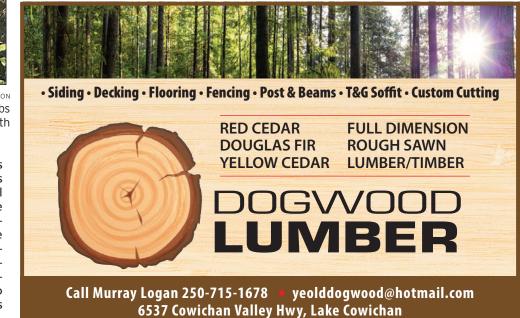
Replace or repair?

It can be hard to know if a major component of one's home should be replaced entirely or can be repaired. Here's some ways to answer that question.

FALL FIX-UP

close? Are the frames damaged? Is one of them If properly installed and regularly maintained, cracked? It should be noted that you can avoid having it can help keep your home warm and dry for to prematurely replace your windows by regularly many years. Additionally, numerous roof issues cleaning the tracks, replacing old caulk and performing are easy to repair such as damaged shingles other maintenance tasks. In addition, hiring a or an uneven layer of gravel. However, every professional to conduct repairs when needed is a roof eventually reaches the end of its lifespan. must. Nevertheless, it's best to replace windows that Have you noticed signs of water damage on the let in a draft, have fog between the panes, show signs ceiling or in the attic? Are the shingles faded and of water damage or are in poor condition. Be sure to starting to curl? In these situations, the sensible choose models that have the Energy Star certification. option is usually to replace the entire roof.

Are the windows in your home hard to open and The roof is an essential component of your home.





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