

inside:

CELEBRATING OUR LOCAL ENTREPRENEURS
ISLAND SUCCESS
COME ON IN, WE'RE OPEN!

LAURIE'S GARAGE & RECYCLING

STORIES TO TELL
Read about the people behind island ventures

OPPORTUNITIES
Get connected... get involved

Our cover photo features Laurie's Garage & Recycling. Read about the people behind island ventures. Get connected... get involved.

HEALTH AND WELLNESS



PAGES 6+7



12 SSNAP group adds livestreamed gala

Arts and Entertainment... 12

Classifieds 10

Editorial 4

Island Life 9

Letters 5

Health and Wellness 6

What's On 9

- INSERTS:**
- Country Grocer
 - Thrifty Foods
 - The Local Liquor St.
 - Home Hardware
 - Pharnasave

Journals & Boxed cards
20% OFF

Salt Spring Books

GROW YOUR COMMUNITY

Buy Local



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, Oct. 20, 2021

62nd year
Issue 42
\$1.50

Your Community Newspaper Since 1960 • gulfislandsdriftwood.com • 250.537.9933



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

YOUNG ARTISAN: Aio Panwar holds up an example of his beautiful beadwork at Saturday's Fabulous Flea Market at Fulford Hall. Panwar was one of several vendors at the fundraiser for Fulford Hall, which was organized by Jan Jang with help from the Fulford hall committee and was the first held since the beginning of the pandemic.

COVID-19

Parents frustrated by lack of COVID info

Reinstatement of in-school notices requested

BY MARCIA JANSEN AND EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR/STAFF

After learning about recent COVID-19 cases in the school system on Salt Spring Island, parents of school kids are concerned about the slow and sometimes absent notification process by Island Health.

Parents of children who were in close contact with a student with COVID-19 at Fulford Elementary School on Oct. 4, 6 and 7 were notified by Island Health a few days after the infection was confirmed, and it took the agency until Oct. 13 to add it to a website list of potential exposures.

"When there is a COVID-19 case in a school, we don't hear about it fast enough or we don't hear anything at all," explained Adria Kray, co-chair of the District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC), articulating the concerns of local parents. "It is important to know what's happening with cases in schools so people can make informed decisions about how to keep their families as safe as possible."

DPAC had an extra meeting last week with superintendent Scott Benwell to address the concerns of the parents and talk about their children's safety in school.

"I hear and share the frustration," said Benwell. "We are trying to get the information out to Island Health as quick as possible, but that's all we can do, our hands are tied."

Because of privacy guidelines, school administrators are not allowed to share information about COVID-19 exposures with parents, he said. Only individuals at risk will be contacted, and by Island Health.

"I completely understand the frustration and anxiety of not being informed. I am a mom too," said Salt Spring Elementary School principal Shelly Johnson. "The frustration is on both sides."

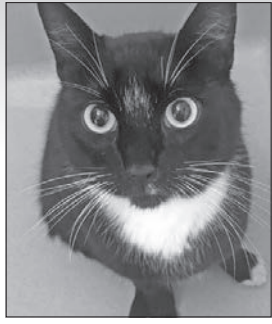
SCHOOLS continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"Being on the edge isn't safe, but the view is better."

GANGES AUTO MARINE • 250-537-9221

SERVICE & REPAIRS FOR ALL DOMESTIC & IMPORT CARS & LIGHT TRUCKS
#3 - 290 Park Drive Below Dagwoods, behind car wash • Mon.-Fri. 8:30am-4:30pm

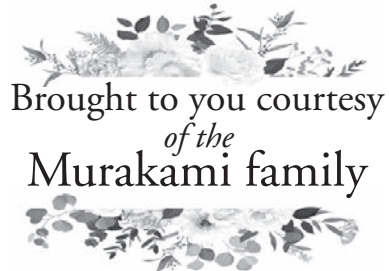
ADOPT A PET TODAY!



Violet is a very shy, under socialized girl who would love to find a nice barn of her own. If you are in need of a working cat, please contact the shelter. Please visit spca.bc.ca to fill out an application or contact the branch.

BCSPCA
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

Contact the BCSPCA at
250-537-2123



MEDIA

Reporter joins Driftwood team

Writer's introduction to the community

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Late Sunday night I was given what I assume is the standard Salt Spring welcome in the form of two little hands and one big hand waving at me as I disembarked the ferry. This sweet family of three was my first clue that I was definitely not on the mainland anymore.

I'm a Salt Spring rookie, except for a few summers spent living on a sheep farm with my verifiably hippie dad. Yes,



EMELIE PEACOCK

he did go to Woodstock and yes, he did drive a VW van. Running over bluffs dotted with arbutus trees and hawking dad's handmade bracelets at the Ganges Saturday market are some of the fond memories I've stored from here. It's great to be back on the island again, as the Driftwood's newest reporter. My background includes studying international relations at UBC and journalism at Langara College,

before heading to reporting gigs in Hope, B.C. and Yellowknife, Northwest Territories.

Thanks to these experiences, I carry a deep appreciation of the land I work on and the people who've kept it safe since time immemorial. As well, I'm keen to tell stories that capture the essence of a place and its people, what they care about and the changes they are facing.

I look forward to hearing from you, readers and community members, as I start my work here.

I can be reached at epeacock@driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com.

Island Health explains notification process

SCHOOLS
continued from 1

Julia Milner found out about the COVID exposure at Fulford school on Tuesday, Oct. 11.

"A parent told me that her children were tested positive and that was the first time I heard about it. I was glad she did tell me, but some parents found out much later. If you don't see other parents, and you're not on social media, you are completely out of the loop."

A day later, Milner found out that there was a COVID exposure in her daughter's kindergarten class, and decided to keep her two youngest daughters home for the week.

"Cases kept popping up, and although most children I believe had mild symptoms, a lot of other parents kept their children home as well," continued Milner, who finally received a notification letter from Island Health on Oct. 13.

"I wish we'd heard earlier about this and not days later. Nobody knew what was going on. Island Health is really dropping the ball here. If there is a case in the school, you should hear about it within 24 hours, so you can make decisions to keep your kids, family and our community safe. This is such a small island, kids have play dates, play sports together, and I wonder what the consequences are for the other schools."

In an emailed statement, Island Health said it is following the guidance of the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) and Provincial Health Officer on how to respond to COVID-19 in schools.

In an Oct. 4 update, the BCCDC stated public health follows up with every person who tests positive for COVID-19 in school. They notify the school district, start contact tracing to find out who may be a close contact of the person and instruct close contacts to either self-monitor or self-isolate. Contact tracing could take

several days depending on when the person developed symptoms and got a positive test.

The BCCDC noted that general exposure notifications will be posted on health authority websites "when there is an increased risk to a class or school" and school community notifications may also be sent.

In the case of clusters or outbreaks — situations where COVID-19 spreads in schools — further measures are outlined by public health.

On Island Health's COVID-19 in schools website, where the Fulford Elementary School notice is posted, the health authority noted that the page is only updated after direct communication with people affected by the exposure has happened. Any delay in posting an exposure to the website "is not indicative of a delay in . . . contact tracing and case management," Island Health stated.

Because of the lack of notifications, concerned parents in the province started a BC School Covid Tracker website and Facebook page, where parents can anonymously list the name of the school and number of exposures to provide families with reliable information.

Adria Kray hopes that the notification process will change back to the way it was last year when a notice was sent home to families in the schools.

"We shouldn't have to go to a website to see if there is a COVID case in our schools, or hear it from the rumour mill. We're talking about public health, and Island Health should be more open about it."

BCCDC data showed Salt Spring with only four new cases of COVID from Oct. 3 to 9, but the average daily case rate per 100,000 population between Oct. 8 and 14 was 21. Data for Oct. 10-16 should be released on the evening of Oct. 20.

Remembrance Day Feature

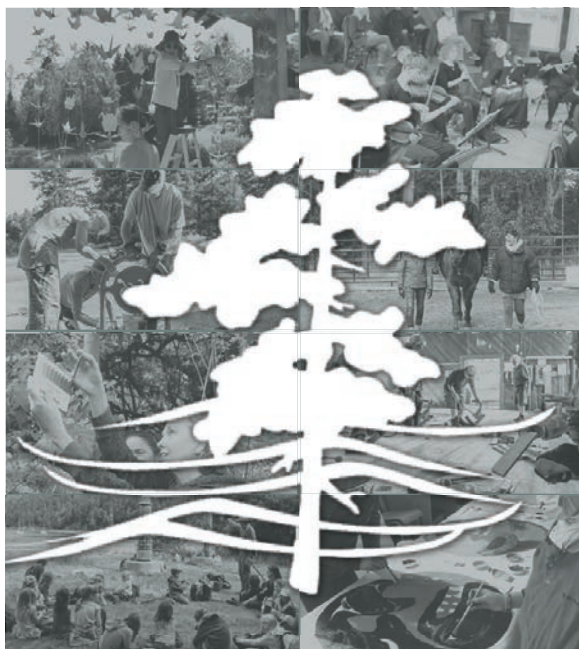
Featuring historic photos of local residents and family members who served.

Email your photos of WWI, WWII, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf Wars and Peacetime to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Honour the memory of those who served any country.

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOVEMBER 3, 2021

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



salt spring island
foundation

Supporting causes you care about

Donate today!

SSIFFOUNDATION.CA

Capital Regional District



Notice of Volunteer Opportunity Solid Waste Advisory Committee

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

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

We invite you to send us a brief summary telling us about yourself, who you represent, your relevant experience and why you would like to serve on this committee. **Deadline for receipt of applications is Sunday, November 21, 2021.**

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

Mail: CRD Environmental Resource Management
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria BC, V8W 2S6

Email: infoline@crd.bc.ca

COVID-19

CRD enacts mandatory personnel vaccinations

Staff and volunteers included

The Capital Regional District is joining other governmental organizations in mandating that its employees be vaccinated against COVID-19.

"Throughout the pandemic, the CRD has aligned its response to support the overall provincial pandemic response and has continued to deliver critical and essential services to the region, such as drinking water, waste management, social housing, regional parks, and emergency management," said CRD chief administrative officer Bob Lapham in a press release on Oct. 13. "The CRD has, and continues, to strongly encourage all of its staff to be vaccinated. While we are confident that the overall vast majority of staff are vaccinated, implementing a vaccination policy at this time is one additional measure to ensure our workplaces, our staff and our public are as safe as possible."

The CRD has approximately 1,100 employees. By Dec. 13, CRD employees and volunteers will be required to prove their vaccination status with their BC Vaccine Card to confirm they are fully vaccinated.

Accommodations will be made for the few employees who are unable to be vaccinated for legitimate medical reasons.

NEWS BRIEFS

Backyard burns allowed

The backyard burn ban was lifted for Salt Spring Island on Friday, Oct. 15.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue said that campfires, and use of burn barrels and incinerators for property owners who have a burning permit, are also allowed.

Machine-pile or land-clearing burning (known as category-3 burning) is not currently permitted.

All burning must be continuously supervised by an adult with an adequate volume of water to extinguish the fire, and prohibited materials, such as plastic, garbage or demolition waste, should not be burned.

Burn permits can be obtained at www.saltspringfire.com.

Quinitsa back on Route 6

Travellers between Crofton and Vesuvius have been adjusting to the MV Quinitsa since it returned to the route on Oct 12.

The 61-car-capacity Bowen Queen has served Route 6 since April. BC Ferries lists the Quinitsa's capacity as 44 cars.

BC Ferries says that while the overall capacity of the Quinitsa "is reduced from the vessel it is replacing, the Bowen Queen, it has more overheight vehicle capacity and is capable of loading and discharging the mix of commercial and passenger vehicle loads more efficiently. This will allow for shorter turnaround times in port, assisting the vessel to maintain the posted schedule throughout the winter."

A mechanical difficulty with the Quinitsa caused sailing delays on Sunday.

Earthquake drill Thursday

Everyone is encouraged to practice the "drop, cover and hold on" response for the ShakeOutBC earthquake preparedness drill on Thursday, Oct. 21.

"You can ShakeOut at home, work, school, or even through a video conference with your colleagues," states press material from the Insurance Bureau of Canada.

Thursday's event takes place at 10:21 a.m.

FOR THE RECORD

Maxine Leichter was incorrectly identified as being president of the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society in a story in last week's Driftwood. She no longer holds that position.

PATHWAYS

Trail gets upgrade grant

Flooding issue to be addressed

BY EMELIE PEACOCK DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Work to improve the Drake Road Trail will begin this fall, thanks to \$90,127 in federal and provincial government funding announced Monday.

Also known as the Bishop's Walk or Ganges trail, the 480-metre-long connector trail runs from Cypress View Road through to Drake Road. According to a Capital Regional District press release, sloped parts of the trail flood and the trail becomes inaccessible during winter and rainy times, an issue that funds from the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program's COVID-

19 resilience infrastructure stream will address.

The trail upgrade project led by the CRD's Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission will recommend trail materials, improve drainage and direct runoff water away from the trail.

Salt Spring electoral area director Gary Holman said the upgrade is part of PARC's larger plans for an interconnected network of trails across the island.

"Active transportation contributes to emission savings, improved health and safer roads," he said of the benefits of such an investment.

People can use the trail to quickly access downtown, Moutat Park and the new affordable housing complex Salt

Spring Commons owned by Salt Spring Island Community Services. Executive director Rob Grant noted the trail upgrades are important as they provide walking opportunities year-round for Commons residents and their neighbours.

The province's tourism minister Melanie Mark noted in a press release how interest in the outdoors, and hiking in particular, has skyrocketed during the pandemic.

"Improvements to the Drake Road Trail on Salt Spring Island will help ensure that it remains safe and accessible for everyone to enjoy," she stated. "These improvements will give people reasons to get outside and walk downtown or to Moutat Park on this popular local trail."

FIRE DISTRICT

Fire property taxes up 9.1%

2022 budget bylaw

BY GAIL SJUBERG DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Costs to run Salt Spring's fire department next year will top the \$4-million mark for the first time.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) trustees were set to pass a \$4,255,000 taxation bylaw for 2022 at their Monday-night meeting, following a public town hall session last Thursday where they heard feedback from only one member of the public in attendance.

At that meeting, trustee Rollie Cook cautiously speculated that the lack of uproar at budget time, which has been seen in some past years, was a "quiet vote of confidence" in what the board and staff are doing.

"If people were mad they would be raising a ruckus, and the fact they are not here raising a ruckus I would interpret to be a kind of acceptance," said Cook.

Julia Lucich, who has long monitored the fire district and served on its finance committee at one time, had another interpretation for the lack of attendance at the meeting.

"I think in part it is a sense of futility. We can't make a difference. That things have gotten beyond anybody's control and no matter how much there may be concern or protest or what have you, the budget is going to continue to escalate and we have no way of curtailment it."

As finance committee chair, Cook referred to a Sept. 13 staff report prepared by acting CAO Andrew Peat that detailed the 2022 budget. Significant areas of increase are wages and benefits, and transfers to capital reserve funds, including \$500,000 for the new fire hall, which is set for a referendum in the spring.

Higher wage and benefit costs (\$406,050 total) have resulted from a formal arbitration decision released last year.

While the overall tax requisition is 11.09 per cent higher than in 2021, no loan amounts for apparatus purchases are outstanding, so the total tax increase is only 9.1 per cent over last year's level. For a median-valued property of \$633,000, the fire protection requisition will rise by \$47.56.

The district has publicized its draft budget in a variety of ways since it was

released in Sept. 13, including with a booth at the Salt Spring Fall Fair.

In explaining the wage and benefit changes, Cook said that the district decided to join the Greater Victoria Labour Relations Association four years ago to assist in bargaining with its unionized International Association of Fire Fighters members. Cook said one benefit of that process was 24/7 staffing of Ganges Fire Hall, which resulted in quick response times to both the Windsor Plywood and Mineral Springs fires this year.

Lucich said that the SSIFPD had created an "exaggerated expectation" for the 24/7 staffing model: that it is an urban fire service that can actually save people's homes if they catch fire, which is not realistic due to the island's dispersed settlement pattern.

She also suggested that the department not spend funds budgeted for the deputy chief position, which was deliberately not filled since on-leave Fire Chief Arjuna George was promoted from deputy to chief several years ago. Instead Lucich said those funds should be spent on more educational activities undertaken by the paid-on-call members, such as doing fire-extinguisher assessments and training at people's homes.

"Do something that it is really proactive in assisting people from keeping a fire from being able to move on and really destroy the household," she said.

Trustees thanked Lucich for her feedback.

"I think you are bang on with prevention," said trustee John Wakefield, who pointed to the proactive FireSmart program and other educational activities the department has recently engaged in.

He also said that of the eight emergency management services response goals listed, protecting property is number six on the list.

Fire board chair Per Svendsen observed that three positions are open on the board, with an Oct. 22 deadline to submit nomination papers. Peat said Monday that only one application had been submitted so far.

Svendsen said the board was most recently able to add "excellent voices" in trustees Wakefield and Wynona Cook.

"We still need more," he said.



Since 1946, the Key Tag Service has been protecting your keys and supporting our essential programs for amputees.



Order key tags online - free.

1 800 250-3030 waramps.ca

Windsor Plywood SALT SPRING



We Do House Calls and Job Site Visits!

PH: 250-537-5564 • FAX: 250-537-1207

RAINBOW ROAD

Mon to Fri 7am to 5pm / Saturdays 8am to 5pm Closed Sundays and holidays



BEDDIS ROAD

Mon to Fri 6:30am to 3pm



saltspring@windsorplywood.com

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

Table with tide data for October 2021, including columns for Day, Time, Metres, Feet, and predicted time in the table.

Full Service Marine & Equipment Repairs



248 Upper Ganges Road • Monday - Friday 9am-5pm 250-931-4020 • www.midislemarine.com

OPINION

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

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



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by
 Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Nancy Johnson
 PUBLISHER

njohnson@driftwoodgimedia.com



Gail Sjuberg
 MANAGING EDITOR

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan
 PRODUCTION MANAGER

production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Johanna Walkner
 OFFICE MANAGER

jwalkner@driftwoodgimedia.com



Emelie Peacock
 REPORTER

epeacock@driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com



Sky Marcano
 ACCOUNT MANAGER

smarcano@driftwoodgulfislandsmedia.com



Damian Richards
 CIRCULATION/DISTRIBUTION

drichards@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Dennis Parker
 CARTOONIST

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Quiet approval

Only one member of the public attended a town hall budget session at Ganges Fire Hall last Thursday and feedback to a publicly released 2022 budget document has otherwise been limited.

At that meeting, fire trustee Rollie Cook speculated the apathy indicated that citizens have confidence in the island's fire service. Islander Julia Lucich suggested it was because people know it is futile to try to reduce fire department costs. A few sets of trustees gave it their best shot in the past 10 years but soon learned there wasn't much leeway to change "the trajectory," as Lucich called it. Once the department became unionized many

THE ISSUE:

Salt Spring fire district budget

WE SAY:

Community has accepted board strategy

Interestingly, in recent years the fire board risked serious public backlash by raising property taxes substantially. The 2018 budget was \$2.57 million and the 2022 version is more than \$4.2 million. But much of that increase is due to a decision to create capital reserves, which is something that previous boards should perhaps have been doing. When it comes time for a new fire hall referendum, likely in the spring of 2022, the ask will be reduced because of those reserve funds and voters will hopefully approve the proposal.

People can learn more about the fire service and board activities at any monthly trustees meeting or the annual general meeting set for Nov. 22 this year.

Also in advance of the AGM, people with an interest in serving the community and applicable skills are encouraged to put their hat in the ring for one of three fire trustee positions coming available. As of Monday, only one individual had filed nomination papers.

With a successful fire hall referendum that could see the facility built in the next few years, it would be an exciting time to be on the fire board. It's also possible that the position won't be as stressful as it may have been in the past.

years ago there was no turning back on increases in career staff, salaries and benefits, and attempts to change service levels or find other ways to cut the budget have ultimately not made much, if any, difference. Trying to save money by not filling the deputy chief position has also not proved to be a sage move.



Housing stories shared

BY SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

Earlier this summer a surprising controversy arose over whether or not it was appropriate for our local government to find solutions to the island's workforce housing crisis.

The heated battles we witnessed over the Housing Action Program Task Force — a citizen committee with no decision-making power but whose recommendations are about to be submitted to the LTC next month — and the proposed inclusion of "healthy communities" as one of the three priorities of the Trust in the Trust Policy Statement showed us that our community has a lot to learn about how the workforce housing crisis is ravaging our community.

In July our organization asked Salt Springers to share stories of their struggles with housing, and whether they were considering leaving the island as a result of the crisis. The #GoodbyeSalt-spring campaign was born. By the end of the summer, we had received an incredible 58 written stories.

According to the stories, many fully employed people are losing sleep, working multiple jobs without days off, living in shabby spaces with mold and uninsulated walls, with no access to hot

VIEWPOINT

water, and putting up with much much more, just to keep a roof over their heads. At least three stories came from health-care workers — directly connected to the Gulf Islands' only hospital — on how the crisis was hurting their ability to keep staff and services operating.

According to the BC Non-profit Housing Association, over half of Salt Spring's population spends more than 50 per cent of their income on shelter costs. Some stories reported people spending over 70 per cent of their income.

Although the impacts of a lack of workforce housing are many, one symptom perhaps visible to everyone by now has been the increase in local businesses curtailing their hours of operation due to staff shortages. It's not just from the pandemic.

Excerpts and photos from these stories have been posted in a quilt-like display on a window generously provided by the Salt Spring Coffee cafe in Ganges, for the public to engage with. Included in the display are quotes from interviews conducted for the articles published in the Finding Home column in the Driftwood. The display

will be moving to different locations around the island including Mouat's Trading Co. and Rock Salt Restaurant & Café this fall and winter to reach as many people as possible.

The display includes a QR code to sign a housing petition asking local governments to remove their operating silos and work harder to solve the workforce housing crisis.

At the Global Climate Strike event held earlier this month, our coordinator Aina Yasué implored the community to stop thinking housing solutions for people will harm our ecosystems: "Almost every story submitted spoke about people's love for our island's natural environment and the need to protect it. Smart solutions will see us use less water, energy and resources than how we currently live and build. But we can't lose sight of something else we depend on tremendously: people. Please don't settle for simplistic 'people vs environment' or 'environment over people' responses to this pressing issue. Let's lean into the complexity and do big things together as a community that make us a more sustainable and more just place to call home."

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

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday to Friday

SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:

Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00

Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST



Funded by the
 Government
 of Canada



Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782
 Member of: News Media Canada BC & Yukon Community Newspapers Association



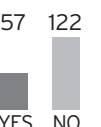
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should schools be tasked with COVID notifications?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are government bodies doing enough about the SSI housing crisis?



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: }

“When there is a COVID-19 case in a school, we don’t hear about it fast enough or we don’t hear anything at all.”

ADRIA KRAY, CO-CHAIR, SD64 DPAC

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

How will you stay fit this fall/winter?

CYRUS POLLARD



I am on the high school swim team and swim six times a week.

BROOKE FENTON



I love running in the forest.

FERNANDO MONCENA



I lift weights, and I am boxing in my living room.

JASON NEWPORT



I like to hike, play golf, walk my dog and play bocce ball with my friends.

NOLAN SEVERIGHT



I work in a liquor store and do some regular heavy weight lifting there.

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

Not needed

Fulford does not “need” the Vortex.

We have our own huge community hall and kitchen, which is a fantastic space for community events. Down the road we have Drummond Park, which is well-loved with its seaside field, playground and covered outdoor seating. These are spaces that actually belong to the community. Want to sit down for a coffee with a friend? Head over to Rock Salt in Fulford village.

Folks, this is not the Fulford Inn. The Vortex will be centred around 17 “curated resort units,” a total of 10,000 square feet of accommodation. Merchant House Capital claims they will be “the heart of the south end,” when they are in fact turning the south end into a brand they can sell far and wide for their destination resort. The head of the harbour could be restored into a beautiful, quiet estuary instead of sprawling development overrun by tourists.

Merchant House Capital (MHC) is big business, with target deal sizes of \$5 million to \$50

million, and I bet it’ll use some of that money to amplify its voice to push for that 20 per cent gross IRR it targets for its investors (according to its website). In a December 2019 meeting with the Islands Trust, MHC’s lawyer casually threatened legal action against the Trust. Are these tactics effective? In the recording from that meeting, you can hear the local trustees seem insecure about raising obstacles to the developer, and ignore concerns from the staff report about the septic being situated by an estuary with a “potentially tidal-dominated groundwater table.”

What shocked me even more was trustee Laura Patrick’s remarks with regard to flooding from sea-level rise: “The flood issue, there’s nothing we can do (. . .) how we are going to deal with development in low-lying areas, that’s our future issue.”

I’ve really had it with people kicking this problem down the road, making the challenge of climate change mitigation and adaptation worse and worse for my generation.

RYDER BERGERUD,
SALT SPRING

Biochar an option to burning

Since open burning is now allowed for those who have fire permits, I thought people might like to know that it’s possible to deal with wood waste in a way that creates an almost smokeless fire and also produces a great soil amendment, called biochar.

You can learn how to make biochar without a metal kiln thanks to a YouTube video called Finally Making Biochar by RED Gardens. Note: I dug a long trench, rather than a small pit, as shown in the video. This way I can burn longer branches without having to cut them. Feel free to get in touch via janslavkov@shaw.ca if you’re interested in more details.

Thanks to our fire department for offering FireSmart assessments, as detailed in the “Wild-fire prevention and aesthetics join forces” story in the Oct. 13 Driftwood.

JAN SLAKOV,
SALT SPRING

Immersive

David Fullbrook, whose Merchant House Capital is proposing the Vortex development for the former Fulford Inn site, says his project will provide “a unique visitor experience.”

The recent Climate Action Plan 2.0 for Salt Spring tells us that sea level rise through storm surge, inundation and salt-water intrusion is projected to increase by 0.5 metres by 2050 and one metre by 2100 and that impacts will be most severe in the areas of higher population density, such as Ganges and Fulford.

As well, washouts of major roads such as Fulford-Ganges at Isabella Point Road are highly likely within the next 50 years as a result of sea level rise and storm surge. Bearing in mind that these are conservative and most likely outdated projections, and that the reality is likely to come far sooner and be much more drastic, one can safely assume that Mr. Fullbrook’s customers’ “unique experience” will be truly immersive in every sense of the word.

MURRAY REISS,
FULFORD

Director lays out CRD spending for upcoming year

All Salt Spring CRD commissions and area-specific water and sewer utilities are currently meeting to review their budgets for 2022. The CRD budget for local, sub-regional and regional services is approved provisionally by the CRD Board on Oct. 27. Based on further consultation with the public, CRD commissions and utilities, updated property value assessments, and final data on 2021 surpluses or deficits, the final budget is approved in March of 2022.

The estimated overall increase in the CRD and CRHD (Hospital District) requisition is \$7.1 million, 3.25 per cent higher than 2021, and representing an average increase over the 2018-22 term of 2.9 per cent. The average residence on Salt Spring now pays roughly \$90 per month to support a range of public services and amenities, such as climate action, affordable housing, recycling, parks and recreation, health facilities, building inspection, liquid waste, transit, library, pedestrian/cycling infrastructure, emergency planning, community economic development and the arts.

Key drivers of the 2022 increase are core inflation, increases for regional services such as climate action and parks (identified as key priorities by the CRD Board, which I support), and increases to enhance local parks and rec services (including bylaw/maintenance), our library (IT specialist), public transit (improved Long Harbour service), and economic development (coordinator co-funded and shared with the Chamber of Commerce).

The single most important component of the local requisition increase in 2022 will be PARC’s management of the middle school under a five-year lease with School District 64. The lease and maintenance costs associated with this large, seismically upgraded facility are far outweighed by its benefits to Salt Spring. Thanks to the foresight of the school district, we have the potential to develop a true community centre that can provide



Gary Holman
CRD DIRECTOR’S
REPORT

much-needed space for non-profit organizations, and also co-location of local government and other services.

A presentation of the CRD 2022 provisional budget will be made at the Nov. 12 ASK Salt Spring meeting, and of the proposed final 2022 budget early next year.

Affordable Housing: The Local Trust Committee is considering ongoing funding for the Salt Spring Housing Council. I welcome this possibility, and look forward to discussions on the objectives, organizational structure, and funding options for our existing housing council, already established as a non-profit society. I’ve repeatedly offered the housing council a CRD grant in aid to finalize an incomplete study of governance and funding options, a proposal I’ll make again at the council’s upcoming meeting in November.

My priority has been to help secure a fully funded BC Housing proposal for the CRD Drake Road property. I’ve committed gas tax funding to prove additional water on the site. Meetings arranged by MLA Adam Olsen with BC Housing senior management and the housing minister regarding Drake Road have also included discussions about other properties on Salt Spring with affordable housing potential. CRD staff are examining the merits of business licences to better manage short-term vacation rentals. I’m also participating in other discussions with the province regarding the Speculation and Vacancy Tax, from which Salt Spring has been excluded. Both measures

are aimed at reducing speculative pressure on our local housing market and freeing up some housing for long-term rentals.

Community Projects: I’ve verified with CRD staff that the Wagon Wheel Housing Society’s laundromat is eligible for provincial COVID relief funding, and have encouraged the society to submit a grant application. The Transition Salt Spring (TSS) society, with support from a CRD grant in aid and other funding, has hired part-time “climate coaches” to help connect Salt Spring with an array of senior government incentives provided for energy conservation investments such as heat pumps. The CRD Stormwater and Watershed Protection service has provided funding for a modest rebate program for residential, non-potable water storage tanks, also administered at no taxpayer cost by TSS. This program, just recently announced, is already fully subscribed, saving thousands of gallons of potable water annually. I’ll be supporting funding for a similar program in 2022.

I’m happy to report that after years of work by local organizations and advocates, a composting facility is taking shape at the Farmland Trust community farm in Burgoyne Valley, hopefully to be operational spring of 2022. The Abattoir Society will operate the facility under a land rental agreement with the Farmland Trust. Agriculture Investment Canada and local gas tax have funded construction of a cement pad and in-vessel composting infrastructure. The facility, which will meet all regulatory requirements, is ideally located at the 65-acre Shaw Family Community Gardens in the Burgoyne Valley, where farmers are already purchasing compost. The facility will accept abattoir waste, green waste from businesses such as Country Grocer, and requires wood chips as part of its feedstock, providing an alternative to burning.

Contact me with any comments or questions at 250-538-4307 or directorssi@crd.bc.ca.

Transition helps islanders tap into winter rains

Residents take advantage of rebate programs

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN
TRANSITION SALT SPRING

It's an October morning in Ganeg Harbour. Crowded around the Rotary dinghy dock are assorted skiffs and rowboats, each filled with gallons upon gallons of rain-

water. Looking at the collection, you can't help but notice how prolifically these vessels collect rain when the season is right.

While mariners may need to crack out their bailing buckets, this year it's with relief that we tug on our rubber boots. We're emerging from a drought season that was longer, hotter and more noticeably harmful to our salmon, cedar and ecosystems than any in recent memory. Squelching



through soaked gardens, it's easy to wonder, "if only we could time the rains to come when gardens need it most!"

Thanks to the availability of rainwater catchment systems, it's not only possible, it's simple and affordable.

Islanders are catching on — big time. Recently, Transition Salt Spring piloted a Rainwater Harvesting Rebate program for homeowners looking to install rainwater catchment systems. Transition was overwhelmed with applications, and the program, which provides \$250 to \$500 towards the installation of cisterns, is now fully subscribed.

Shannon Cowan of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) was one of those applicants. Ever since moving to her property five years ago, she's wanted to connect her wide barn roof to a garden irrigation system.

Having put together the Non-Potable Rainwater Harvesting Best Practices Guide through her work with SSIWPA (available at <https://tinyurl.com/ssiwpa-guide>), Cowan started to envision her own system within the larger body of knowledge. The system she's designed involves installing new gutters with leaf guards and downspouts, and two new tanks and pumps. This rain storage from the metal roof of her barn will be pumped uphill to her hybrid drip-fed/spray garden irrigation system. The whole system will be set up to be drawn upon during the dry times with water from her artesian well on tap for late spring when groundwater is still plentiful.

"I have been involved with water and watershed protection for eight years," said Cowan. "It's my humble opinion that if we consider rainwater catchment as the only source of fresh water on the island with which to treat our outdoor spaces — our lawns and gardens — we'd have enough water to spare to meet housing needs and ecological needs that we are currently falling short on."

The math is compelling. If Salt Spring Islanders were to install 1,000 new 3,000-gallon rainwater catchment systems, the island would keep 3,000,000 gallons from being drawn from St. Mary Lake. That's about the equivalent of 43 Rainbow Road pools and could possibly allow housing and commercial constraints to ease. Currently, a moratorium on new water hook-ups is affecting affordable housing initiatives and holding up our community composting facility at The Root.

"Even though the onus is on the homeowner who has the funds to do this, any amount of collection and storage helps. You can literally put in a system worth \$500 and it will make a differ-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Fernando dos Santos is an islander who has installed an effective rainwater catchment system. Many others have followed suit or are planning to do so.

ence," said Cowan.

Enter Chris Dixon. A former commercial tomato grower and passionate water conservation advocate, Dixon said, "I had the privilege of running Jane Squier's commercial hydroponic greenhouse for a year back in the early 2000s. Because she runs a commercial hydroponic system, she is a master at water harvesting. I just looked at what she did and thought, this makes total sense. I went home and set myself up."

Dixon has no aspiration to store drinking water; what he catches he uses to water garden vegetables and irrigate shrubs and fruit on his half-acre plot. In his heyday, he grew 380 tomato plants commercially, along with 300 feet of blueberry bushes. At that time, he was gathering 20,000 gallons in two swimming pools in the Cedar Lane water district — where drawing groundwater for commercial irrigation is strictly prohibited.

"With 2,000 wells on the island, watering our gardens out of that groundwater supply alone is unsustainable."

SHANNON COWAN
Coordinator, SSI Watershed Protection Alliance

"Now, we're on the North Salt Spring Waterworks system, so, depending on the circumstances — and this year was particularly harsh — there are watering restrictions in the district. Anything a person on the shared system can do to store water and use it locally helps the entire community."

He bought a used above-ground swimming pool and modified it to hold roughly 8,000 gallons of water, which he collects off his roof through a downspout leading directly into a garbage can. In the can is a pump with a float switch. When the can is full, the pump comes on and empties the water into the swimming pool. A floating pool cover reduces evaporation and also keeps the mosquito population down.

"There's tonnes of water: the

pool fills in two weeks once I'm into the season. I'm pretty close to having spent \$500 on the entire system."

That spend includes purchasing a second pump, available locally at a cost of between \$100 and \$150.

"With a changing climate, it's getting drier and drier every summer, and heavier downpours are running off the land faster in the winter," explained Cowan. "With 2,000 wells on the island, watering our gardens out of that groundwater supply alone is unsustainable."

The worst-case scenario? Wells could start drying up, forcing people to rely yet more heavily on water companies to truck in water.

Cowan suggests that people "collect the rain, and use it where it is, instead of moving drinking water for non-potable purposes over long distances."

Blessed with a bounty of rain — over 900 mm of it, give or take, each year — it's heartening to see the community getting organized around this precious resource in response to a changing climate.

To learn more, come to the One Cool Island Climate Action Coach webinar called How to Install Your Rainwater Harvesting System on Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. Registration is easy and free or by donation by going to Transition Salt Spring's website referenced below or to <https://form-can.keela.co/rainwater-webinar>.

While the Transition Salt Spring's Rainwater Harvesting Rebate has been fully subscribed, there is a waitlist for those who would like to install an eligible system should the Capital Regional District provide additional funding for this program. It is unclear whether funding will be renewed at all, but to get on the waitlist go to <https://form-can.keela.co/future-rainwater>.

One Cool Island is a regular series produced by Transition Salt Spring on how we can all respond to the climate crisis-together. Andrea Palframan is a member of Transition Salt Spring, and volunteer communications contributor. To support our work and read the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan, go to <https://transition-saltspring.com>.



Islands Trust

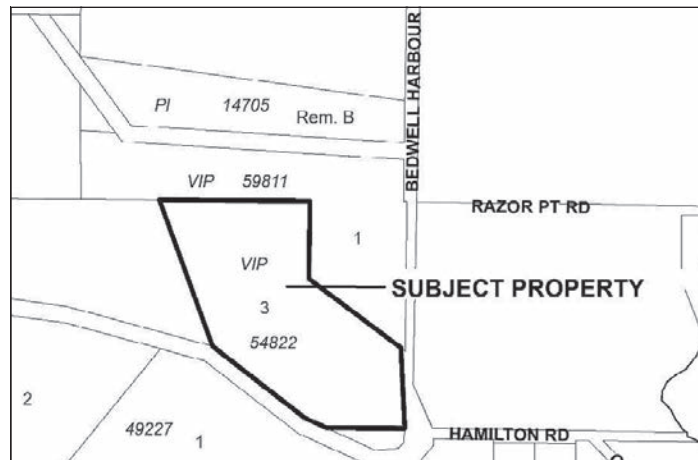
NOTICE NP-TUP-2021.8 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 3, Section 10, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP54822 (PID 018-191-941). This property is located at 4605 Bedwell Harbour Road.

The purpose of this Temporary Use Permit is to permit:

- The storage and processing of landscape materials (soil and mulch).
- The storage of gravel (aggregates).
- Storage of equipment and materials that are directly required for the maintenance and construction of the Driftwood Centre only, and specifically limited to the following: construction, electrical and plumbing material; motorized equipment and vehicles; and landscaping materials including soils, mulch, and plants.
- For certainty, and for the purposes of this permit, processing is defined as screening and sorting, but does not include crushing or washing.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached proposed permit. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years. The general location of the subject property is shown on the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **October 8, 2021** and continuing up to and including **October 19, 2021**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499 (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Kim Stockdill, Island Planner at (250) 405-5157, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., **October 19, 2021**.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **9:30 a.m., October 28, 2021**.

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

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

Obituaries

Obituaries

Merryl Cockett



Merryl Cockett, 82, of Salt Spring Island passed away unexpectedly and peacefully on October 7th, 2021. She was born in Manchester, England, in 1938 and moved to Vancouver with her husband, Ivan, and young children in 1966.

Merryl trained and worked as a bespoke tailor in Manchester, and her love for sewing and knitting remained with her throughout her life. In Vancouver, Merryl worked for Singer before becoming a well-known and well-loved fixture of Eaton's yarn and fabric departments. Merryl and Ivan first fell in love with Salt Spring Island in 1979 when they bought a cottage on Rainbow Road. They fully embraced the island life-style in 1990s when they sold their home in Kerrisdale, and built their new home and life on Creekside Drive, Salt Spring Island.

Merryl prided herself in her involvement with the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary. She was responsible for the hospital showcase window display, which meant not just collecting beautiful knitted items, but also knitting many of the items herself. It was a commitment she loved and was a huge part of her life. She also took great pleasure in meeting with good friends in her knitting and fitness groups. She adored traveling, and spending time with family and friends. She also acquired a taste for Scottish country dancing, a pleasure which combined her interests of dance, friends, and travel, and took her overseas. She always enjoyed sitting and having a cup of tea or coffee with a piece of cake.

Merryl was predeceased by Ivan in 2004, and is survived by her daughters Stella (Paul) and Freda (Randell) and her precious grandchildren Hannah and Evan, as well as family and friends both here in Canada and England.

She left us in such a peaceful way, which we think is wonderful, although we wish she had been with us for a few more years.

An event honouring her life will be held pending Covid restriction changes.

DRIFTWOOD Classifieds **250-537-9933**
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com OR 1-855-310-3535 • OVER 20,000 CLASSIFIEDS ON-LINE UPDATED DAILY

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Coming Events

Coming Events

In loving memory of
Sheila Zoltay



Sheila Innes was born in Kelso, Scotland to Isabella and Hector Innes. She grew up with her two siblings – her older brother Hector (who lives with his family in Scotland) and her younger sister Isabel who sadly passed away earlier this year. Caring and compassionate by nature, it was inevitable that Sheila pursued and excelled at a career in nursing. Adventure and exploration were always in her heart, likely sparked from the many books she consumed as an avid reader and her curiosity about the world. Not one to let her feet grow roots and combining her passions, she set out for Canada in her twenties. Landing a post in Newfoundland, she worked her way across the country as a RN. On the Westcoast of Canada Sheila met Andy Zoltay, a forestry engineer, who shared her love of photography and adventure. They married and had a son (Hugh Andrew). Sheila and Andy settled on Salt Spring Island for their retirement years. While there, Sheila established the Home Care Health Program for the island, continued to read books on all topics, and dabbled in writing, painting, and astronomy. After Andy died, she remained on Salt Spring Island for several more years before moving to Victoria to be closer to her son.

*The world is a little less bright without her in it
and she will be missed dearly by her family and friends.*

SALT SPRING ISLAND GOLF CLUB EST. 1928
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
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.

Coming Events
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.

Coming Events
Wagon Wheel Housing Society AGM
Thursday,
Oct. 28, 2021 @ 3pm
151 Lawn Hill Drive
*All Are Welcome!
Please Car Pool.*
Wagon Wheel Housing Society

Concrete & Placing
GULF COAST MATERIALS
Serving the Gulf Islands
• Concrete
• Concrete Pumps
• Sand/Rock
• Colour & Sealers
Call to schedule material.
All payments to be made by credit card over the phone.
345 Rainbow Road
250-537-2611

Garage Sale
MULTI-FAMILY GARAGE SALE
Household, kids clothing, books, tools, furniture & more!
10am-4pm Saturday and Sunday, Oct 23 & 24
Rain or shine
1020 Beaver Point Road

Drafting & Design
LET'S GET STARTED
Bring your sketches & ideas & together we'll design (or upgrade) your dream home. Through the use of computer-aided drafting, we'll quickly produce the working drawings you'll take to your contractor.
HELSET DESIGN
250.537.1037
Ask for Jim

Computer Services
CALL BOB'S COMPUTER
service for troubleshooting, software & networking support. Remote desktop support available.
250-537-2827
or cel. 250-538-7017
rmtech1201@gmail.com
Please back-up your important data now!

Building Supplies
INTEGRITY POST FRAME BUILDINGS since 2008. Built with concrete posts. Barns, shops, riding arenas, machine sheds and more.
Adam.s@integritybuilt.com.
1-250-351-5374.
www.integritybuilt.com

Medical Health
GET UP TO \$50,000 from the Government of Canada. ALL ages & Medical Conditions Qualify. Have a child under 18 instantly receive more money.
CALL BRITISH COLUMBIA BENEFITS
1-(800)-211-3550 OR
Send a Text Message with Your Name and Mailing Address to (604) 739-5600
For Your FREE benefits package.

Help Wanted
Driftwood
The Driftwood is seeking a delivery driver to work 4 - 5 hours on Wednesday mornings. Must have a valid driver's license and your own vehicle in good working condition.
Please call Nancy at the Driftwood office to apply or for more information: 250.537.9933.

Coming Events

Coming Events

In Memoriam Gifts

GREENWOODS FOUNDATION
GREENWOODS ELDERCARE SOCIETY AND THE GREENWOODS FOUNDATION NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS
Date: OCTOBER 28TH, 2021
Time: Greenwood's 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@greenwoodseldecare.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@greenwoodseldecare.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 Hospice
Looking for GRIEF SUPPORT?
Hospice offers 1-on-1 and group help.
Call for info
250-537-2770
250-537-2770 - saltspringhospice.org

Financial Services
GET BACK ON TRACK!
Bad credit? Bills? Unemployed? Need Money? We Lend!
If you own your own home - you qualify.
Pioneer Acceptance Corp.
Member BBB.
1-877-987-1420
www.pioneerwest.com

SEE WEEKLY HOROSCOPE ON PAGE 9

Coming Events

Coming Events

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE - RESCUE
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Meeting Notice
The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will be held on **22 November 2021** at the Training Room Ganges Fire Hall No.1
105 Lower Ganges Road
Commencing at 6:30pm
The election results will be announced, as well, the District Auditor's Report, Fire Chief's Report & Trustee's Annual Report.
A motion to set Trustees' remuneration will be called for.
A meeting of the SSIFPD's Board of Trustees will commence following the AGM.
Due to COVID 19 restrictions, we must limit the number of people in attendance, so please pre-register by email at admin@saltspringfire.com or by phone at 250-537-2531. Deadline for registration is noon Friday, November 19, 2021. In order to comply with COVID 19 restrictions the wearing of face masks is mandatory. Attendees will be asked to provide their contact information and sign in at the door.
Fire District ratepayers and the general public are encouraged to attend.

FUNDRAISER

Books & Bling sale returns with new format

Donations accepted from Nov. 4 to 9; sale on Nov. 12-14

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People who missed Salt Spring Literacy's traditional book and jewellery sale fundraiser will be happy to hear that it is returning this year to its mid-November slot.

Rebranded as the Books & Bling sale, it runs at the Farmers' Institute from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Friday-Saturday, Nov. 12-13 and from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sunday, Nov. 14.

While jewellery donations have been able to continue during the pandemic period, collecting of books for the sale has not. That means donated books (and jewellery) will be accepted right at the Farmers' Institute from Thursday, Nov. 4 to Tuesday, Nov. 9, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. each day.

"Because of the uncertainty surrounding the pandemic, and our need to keep volunteers safe, we had to switch from our usual practice of holding drop-off events and sorting books during the six months before the sale," explained Books & Bling committee co-chair Deb McGovern.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

A few of the books already collected for the 2021 Books & Bling sale.

She notes that similar events in some other communities only take donations in the days preceding the sale, and Salt Spring Literacy is confident that islanders will adapt to the change and that the hall will

as usual be filled with great quality books.

McGovern asks people to remember that donated books must be in good condition, and that a number of things are not accepted. Those include magazines, textbooks, encyclopedias and dictionaries, out-of-date reference books of any kind, and books that are moldy, torn or otherwise in poor shape.

For the jewellery side of Books & Bling, the amount and quality of pieces for sale is bigger and better than ever.

"Salt Spring Literacy is grateful to the community for donating over a thousand pieces of silver, designer,

heirloom and costume jewellery, all of which will be affordably priced," said Bling committee co-chair Pat Campbell. "This year, we will also showcase a dazzling collection of brand new jewellery, thanks to a generous donation from Moriah Boone, the former owner of Frankly Scarlet."

Patrons must provide proof of vaccination and masks must be worn in the hall.

Volunteers are still needed for both set-up and sale days. Send an email to bbsl@saltspringliteracy.org for information and to sign up. Volunteers must be double vaccinated.

DON'T LOOK ANY FURTHER!



Here are...

Your Local Business Specialists!

Residential & Commercial Glass

Shoreline Glass

Julian Cronin
250-537-7858
juliancronin@icloud.com



Vince Smythe
RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

SMYTHE ROOFING

Ph: 250-213-6316
Fax: 778-746-7310
info@smytheroofing.com

"Quality Workmanship - Reliable Service"



Serving the Island since 1975

101-2700 Beverly St. Duncan, 250-746-4851
www.unitedfloors.ca
ucduncan@shaw.ca

Open Mon-Fri 8:30 to 5, Sat. 9-3

- Area rugs
- Laminate
- Hardwood
- Vinyl
- Luxury vinyl plank
- Carpet
- Ceramic
- Vinyl decking
- Window coverings

GET YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR **FALL & WINTER DRIVING**

Items geared toward winterizing:
Tire chains • Batteries • Antifreeze • Wipers • Headlight upgrades
Battery Chargers • Led Lights • And more...

Bumper to Bumper® Saltspring
CANADA'S PARTS PEOPLE
106 JACKSON AVENUE 250-537-5507

Dan Hardy Denturist



Salt Spring office located at the Gulf Clinic
241 Lower Ganges Rd.

- New Dentures
- Reline & Repairs
- Home & Care Facility Visits

For appointments call 1-250-710-1884



Dave Phillips

"We don't stand behind our work, we stand behind a tree!"

OFFICE: 250-537-2618 • CELL: 250-537-7481



Dragonfly Art Supplies

102 Fulford-Ganges Road
250 537 1151
10am-5pm Monday to Saturday
dragonflyartsupplies.com

Your "clear" choice for glass.

- Auto Glass • Residential & Commercial
- Aluminum Fabrication • Custom Skylights
- Mirrors & Shower Doors
- Custom Sunrooms • Free Estimates



TROY KAYE

Kapa Kai Glass 250-653-4148

The numbers don't lie
It pays big dividends to have a reliable accountant

SERVICES OFFERED INCLUDE:

- Tax preparation (personal, corporate, estate)
- Tax planning
- Auditing not-for-profits charities/stratas/corporations
- Consulting for buying/selling/starting a business



MLW
MCLEAN, LIZOTTE, WHEADON AND COMPANY
Chartered Professional Accountants

340 Lower Ganges Road
250-537-9742



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

SALT SPRING INN 250-537-9339

NEW HOURS!

Cozy Indoor or Patio Dining & Take-Out Too!

Sun Brunch only 9am-2 pm. (Sun afternoon & evening closed).
Mon, Tues, Thur & Fri 11am-8pm, Sat 9am-8pm/closed Wed.

FINE ART

SSNAP gala invites viewing by national audience

Oct. 23 event livestreamed

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The 2021-22 Salt Spring National Art Prize exhibition month is already drawing to a close, but the most exciting event for many is still to come with the awards gala taking place at

Mahon Hall this Saturday evening, Oct. 23.

As with the opening reception, things will be a little different than the usual SSNAP gala under COVID rules. Tickets to the awards ceremony are limited to 90 people and will be mainly taken up by participating artists, officials and sponsors. However, organizers are also working to bring the event to a wider audience than ever before. Livestreaming of the award announcements between 7 and 8 p.m. will allow people across the country to tune in, giving this SSNAP the most national reach yet.

"We're hoping that will help with the fact we can't let so many people in," said SSNAP founding director Ron Crawford. "And it feels like we're bringing Salt Spring to the rest of Canada, which I love."

SSNAP has partnered with Robert Reinhardt and Snow Dowd of local company VideoRx

to broadcast the proceedings on YouTube.

The gala evening will run from 6 to 10 p.m. and the event organizers are excited to be expecting at least 22 of the 52 SSNAP finalists in attendance. The artists will be waiting to hear how some \$41,000 in prize money is divided up.

In addition to the SSNAP grand prize worth \$20,000, there are four jurors' choice awards for the show, the Salt Spring Artist Award and three People's Choice awards. Members of the public are reminded they can submit their People's Choice pick in person or online up to 5 p.m. on Friday, Oct. 22. Since the online vote is open across Canada for the first time, these results will also be truly national in scope.

The awards gala evening will additionally include six award announcements for the Parallel Art Show, a juried show of artists from Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands.

Crawford said Saturday's event will most likely thin out after the awards ceremony finishes, so he's encouraging people who were not able to get advance tickets to come down for the second half of the night and see if they can get a ticket at the door.

"I hope people will come by after 8, or watch the livestream and participate that way," Crawford said.

People will still have the chance to see the show at Mahon Hall and contemplate the winning pieces for two full days after the gala event. The exhibition closes at 5 p.m. on Monday, Oct. 25. The winners will also be posted to the SSNAP website at www.saltspringartprize.ca.

Masks and proof of COVID vaccination are required to attend all SSNAP events and the exhibition.

Saturday's livestream link can be found at www.saltspringartprize.ca/live.

Some 2,600 artworks were submitted for the fourth biennial SSNAP event.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Part of the seven-sculpture piece called Release by Connie Morey of the Victoria area, one of 52 SSNAP exhibit pieces. It is made from reclaimed wood, repurposed wool blankets and components of surplus WWII gas masks. The exhibit can be seen daily until Oct. 25. The awards gala is on Saturday, Oct. 23.

THIS IS YOUR ARTSPRING

ARTSPRING

Annual Appeal 2021

The arts galvanize communities, bring joy amidst darkness, and showcase the power of human connection.

Thank you for your generous support.

250.537.2125 | artspring.ca/donate



The Salt Spring National Art Prize Finalist Exhibition 2021/2022

Final Six Days - Open until Monday, October 25

Open Daily 10am to 5pm at historic Mahon Hall
Award winners announced Saturday, October 23 at the SSNAP Gala Awards Night

52 Artists juried from across Canada • Noon Hour Artist Talks

Online and in-person voting for the People's Choice Awards open until Friday, October 22, 5pm

www.saltspringartprize.ca for event details

Covid Protocols respected



LITERARY EVENTS

Award winner Stenson visits island

Reading at the library next Wednesday

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Mother Tongue Publishing is set to host its first live event in two years with a launch of Bill Stenson's new book called Half Brothers and Other Stories.

Stenson, who lives in the Cowichan Valley, will read at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room on Wednesday, Oct. 27 at 7 p.m.

Stenson won Mother Tongue's 2018 version of the Great BC Novel contest with his compelling novel called Ordinary Strangers. His books of fiction include Translating Women, Svo-

boda and Hanne and Her Brother (This-tledown). He was also a finalist for the Prism International Fiction Contest and the Prairie Fire Short Fiction Contest.

"These Cowichan Valley stories from Bill Stenson share a timeless quality, and a classic feel," said award-winning fiction writer Bill Gaston about Half Brothers and Other Stories "They tease with sly humour and, like all great stories, never fail to surprise. When they sometimes widen in bleakness, it's only to make room for their main strength, an abundance of heart."

For next Wednesday's event, Peter Haase, author of Liverpool Lad, also published by Salt Spring-based Mother Tongue, will give a warm-up reading.

Vaccine cards and masks are mandatory for event attendees.

ISLAND HEALTH & WELLNESS

Outstanding local runner gets better with age

Eric Ellis the fastest runner in age group at B.C. championships

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Salt Spring's Eric Ellis was the fastest runner in his 75 to 80-year age group in the Royal Victoria Half Marathon on Sunday, Oct. 10, smashing his competition by more than 30 minutes.

It was for the first time in more than one and a half years that the retired child psychologist toed a start line again.

"It was wonderful to be able to race again," said Ellis shortly after he finished in 1:48:52. "It was nice to run with other people, meeting up with friends. I really like the social aspect of it."

Due to the ongoing pandemic, the organization of the Royal Victoria Half Marathon opted for an out and back course on Dallas Road this year.

"It felt really hard today," Ellis said. "The new course was more hilly and seemed harder to me than the old one. I didn't run a best time as I hoped for. Since I started running competitively again eight years ago, I've been constantly improving. I'm not sure

if the conditions — there was a lot of wind today — or the course made it harder. Or that at age 75 there's come a time that I am not improving anymore."

Ellis wasn't always a fast runner. He started running in high school, was part of the track and field team, but never won a prize.

"I just love running and the feeling of what it does with my body and mental health."

ERIC ELLIS
Competitive road runner

"I had a brain disease when I was five years old, and the doctors didn't think I was going to make it. I was a small, weak and uncoordinated child and stopped running after high school. In my late 30s, I picked up running again, and I ran a few marathons. My best time at that distance is three hours and six minutes. I probably could have gone faster if I had been more serious about it, but I was busy with my career as a professor at a medical school."

He gave up marathon running in his 40s but always kept running to stay fit. Then he retired and moved from Winnipeg to Salt Spring Island.

"I met someone from the Salt Spring Sneakers and rediscovered competitive running. The group participated in the Vancouver Island Running Series in the winter and I decided to join," said Ellis, who enjoyed winter running in B.C., without layers and layers of clothing like he was used to in Manitoba.

As Ellis ages, his performance gets better. In 2019 he was the fastest runner in the 70 to 75 age group in the provincial championships in the half marathon in Victoria. Later that year he won his age group in the Manitoba half marathon, which was also recognized as the national championships, making him the fastest runner in the country.

During the pandemic, when all the races were cancelled, Ellis kept training.

"I missed the competition, and it is nice to have a goal to work towards, but luckily I don't need races to stay motivated. I just love running and the feeling of what it does with my body and mental health. The races are just the icing on the cake."

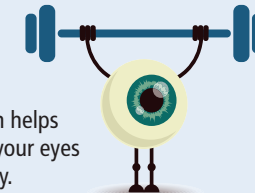


Eric Ellis with Lilly sporting Eric's championship ribbon. PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

5 foods that are good for your eyes

As you get older, you become more likely to develop certain age-related eye conditions. However, eating a nutrient-rich diet can prevent or mitigate changes to your vision. These foods are believed to be good for your eyes.

- 1. NUTS & SEEDS-** Chia seeds and walnuts contain omega-3 fatty acids and vitamin E, which help protect your eyes from inflammation and reduce the risk of glaucoma.
- 2. CITRUS FRUITS-** Grapefruits, oranges and lemons are high in vitamin C, which helps strengthen the blood vessels in your eyes and reduces your risk of developing cataracts.
- 3. FISH-** Salmon, mackerel and sea bass contain DHA and EPA, two fatty acids that help keep the retina healthy.
- 4. LEAFY GREENS-** Lettuce, spinach and kale are high in lutein and zeaxanthin, two antioxidants that can help protect against age-related macular degeneration and cataracts.
- 5. ORANGE VEGETABLES-** Sweet potatoes and carrots are rich in beta carotene, which helps keep the surface of your eyes hydrated and healthy.



Dan Hardy DENTURIST

Dan Hardy Denturist

Salt Spring office located at Gulf Clinic
241 Lower Ganges Road

- New Dentures • Reline & Repairs
- Home & Care Facility Visits

For appointments call
1-250-710-1884



DIAMOND OPTICAL ♦ EYECARE

6 unique locations to serve you. Optometric services are available through Purely Optometry at our Duncan and Oak Bay locations.

Locally owned for over 28 years



Many Designer Frames to choose from, come have a look.

Finishing Lab on site at most locations.

Covid 19 Protocols and procedures in place, masks required. Arrange for your EYE EXAM today.

- | | |
|--|--|
| Victoria, 634 Johnson St.
250-380-6919 | Oak Bay, 105-1964 Fort St.
250-590-2932 |
| Nanaimo, #504 - 530 Fifth St. University Village
250-585-2041 | Qualicum Beach NOW OPEN #4-172 2nd Ave. West 250-594-3937 |
| Langford, 104-755 Goldstream Ave.
(250) 590-2683 | Duncan, 159 Trunk Rd.
250-597-1011
Purely Optometry (Eye Exams):
250-597-1910 |

SALT SPRING SENIORS CENTRE

379 Lower Ganges Road



- Find new friends, share ideas, talk, laugh and stretch your skills.
- Covid 19 protocols in place - Kitchen is closed.

- The office is open Monday to Friday 10am - 12:30pm
- Limited driving services available. Call 250-537-4465. Monday - Thursday 10am - 12pm
- Caregivers Group, Wednesday from 11am - 12pm

saltspring seniorscentre.ca
250-537-4604

HEAR YOUR FAMILY THIS FESTIVE SEASON

Schedule your FREE Hearing Test



Selene Finlayson RHIP
Registered Hearing Instrument Practitioner/Owner

Terena LeCorre RAUD
Registered Audiologist

SALT SPRING 778.353.3012

Grace Point Square, 1108-115 Fulford-Ganges Road

NEXGEN HEARING

nexgenhearing.com

WorkSafeBC and other Provincial WCB Networks, VAC, BCEA and NIHB accepted. Registered under the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC. For your safety, COVID-19 protocols are in place in our clinics.



Salt Spring's new home for integrative health located in the heart of Ganges at 1-105 Rainbow Rd.

We are a collaborative, multi-disciplinary team dedicated to offering holistic health care to both our community and our visitors.

Our Offerings Include:

Naturopathic and Chiropractic Medicine, Acupuncture and Traditional Chinese Medicine. Registered Clinical Counselling, Registered Massage Therapy, and Midwifery

To learn more visit
www.madronaintegrativehealth.ca

Call (250) 931-1334 Email info@madronahealth.ca