

inside:



8 SSNAP events culminate in awards gala



12 Chemotherapy successful for island youngster



10 Salt Spring connected to Netflix Maid series

Arts and Entertainment..... 8
 Classifieds 11
 Editorial 4
 Island Life 10
 Letters 5
 What's On 9

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

PUMPKIN PEOPLE ROCK: Halloween-themed pumpkin and cow characters made by Racheal Doucette, Todd Mitchell and their niece MacKenzie bring cheer during the week before Halloween at the top of Ganges Hill. The idea is inspired by the Pumpkin People Festival in Kentville, N.S.

ECONOMY

Labour shortage reality shared

Housing looms large as business owners brainstorm solutions

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Businesses are cross training, doling out perks and strategizing how to find and keep workers, as Salt Spring Island experiences a labour shortage compounded by a lack of housing.

In a virtual panel hosted by the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce on Oct. 21 as part of Small Business Week events, three business leaders from the island's grocery, artisanal food, restaurant and accommodation industries tackled what appears to be a growing labour shortage felt across industries. The panel heard about a range of approaches being taken by local businesses to find and keep workers, including cross training, automation, offering discounts and benefits, and even providing workforce housing.

Country Grocer is one of the island's largest employers with 160 employees. Senior manager Matteo Hermani said the company has taken the step of purchasing housing and renting units to

their employees at an affordable rate, charging around half of what the same kind of housing would currently go for on the market.

"It is a situation where we either make affordable housing available, or Salt Spring Island is going to basically not have any good, solid labour force," he said. "Because it's just not possible to make ends meet if you are making \$17 to \$20 an hour and then have to spend most of the money on rent."

Offering housing is not possible for all businesses, said Salt Spring Inn owner Jeremy Milson.

"In private businesses, there's so many considerations in even being able to offer a job. Profit margins are razor thin, and your competition will take advantage of making sure that they're in a favourable position," he said.

The very high cost of housing and the local regulatory regime "pretty well not [permitting] anything that might be considered auxiliary" combine to create a difficult situation, he added.

Having to house workers is inevitable, said Daniel Wood, and he understands why several island businesses are doing so.

"But it's something that I really wish didn't need to happen, not just because it's incredibly expensive and we can't really afford to do it," said Wood, who is general manager of Salt Spring Island Cheese. "But also, it creates this situation where people are both your employee and your tenant, and I just think it's not healthy, it's not ideal."

Several of the island's essential services are being affected by the housing shortage. Last week, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation announced it had created a portal where property owners can list their available housing for hospital staff to access. In an Oct. 21 update, the foundation stated housing shortages are "hampering the hospital's ability to both recruit new staff and also retain existing staff."

LABOUR continued on 2

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Several factors merge to shrink employee pool

LABOUR

continued from 1

Foundation executive director Roberta Martell said there are currently 31 positions to be filled at the hospital.

As Rainbow Road pool has opened up for drop-in swimming seven days a week after COVID-related closures, this facility is also short staffed, said Dan Ovington, manager of the Capital Regional District's Salt Spring parks and recreation department. Ovington hadn't anticipated shortages because the island offered life-guard training during the pandemic, yet a number of senior staff were recruited to other aquatic facilities in the region. Other vacant positions "support the administration, recreation program delivery and our major capital projects that are currently underway in our community parks and recreation properties," said Ovington.

The CRD and a range of other businesses, government and non-profit agencies are actively hiring, as indicated by 67 open positions on the online Salt Spring Exchange job board.

Panelists at Thursday's event were asked by chamber executive director Jesse Brown whether upping wages would make it

more feasible to live on the island.

Hermani acknowledged that in the business community in general, wage increases are seen as a "dirty word," yet there is evidence they do not negatively impact business. On Salt Spring, however, Hermani said wages would need to reach "quite exorbitant" rates to make a difference in the present housing market.

Wood added that even with wage increases, there is still a limited pool of people to hire. He painted a bleak possible future where more people are commuting to the island for work.

"We're becoming a bit of a Martha's Vineyard kind of situation where we're having to import people in to the island who can't actually afford to live here. And they're not really part of the community at all, if all they do is show up for work and then turn around and leave again," he said. "That's the other reality of this, which is we're going to lose the character of our island if we're not careful."

Milsom said he's been lucky to have many employees stay with the inn for several years. While they've experienced some challenges filling kitchen positions, Milsom said some employees have now been trained to work in positions across the restaurant and the inn. Managers have also upped

their hours to handle the shortage. And the inn recently decided to close all day on Wednesday and on Sunday evenings. Milsom said this is partly due to staff shortages and partly to allow their kitchen manager guaranteed time off.

Hermani said they have had to "really up their game" and are constantly hiring staff, which is the complete opposite of 10 and even five years ago when the grocer had to turn applicants away. They now offer what Hermani said is a "phenomenal" discount on food as well as benefits, travel bursaries, student bursaries and overtime pay.

Some island businesses have already implemented or are planning to implement automation as part of the solution. Milsom said the inn now has two cloud-based programs that have already reduced two to three hours of labour needed per day. Country Grocer will be forced to look at installing two to four self check-outs, Hermani said, yet the plan is to keep the same number of cashiers. For businesses like Salt Spring Island Cheese, automation isn't in the works, as part of the appeal of their products is that they look and are hand made.

Using volunteer labour was suggested by webinar attendee Rod Martens, whose Chorus Frog Farm has invited customers to help at



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Salt Spring Solutions' #Goodbye Salt Spring display in the window next to Salt Spring Coffee Cafe in Ganges, presenting stories of people impacted by the housing crisis, which has also contributed to the labour shortage.

the farm in exchange for farm stand credit. Customers like being a part of the farming process, Martens said, and it is "basically the definition of community-supported agriculture."

The pandemic has changed the labour needs of island businesses. In Milsom's restaurant, more staff are needed in order to check vaccine cards. At Country Grocer, a lot of overtime hours were accrued during the pandemic and more staff were also trained to be cashiers.

The business owners were generally in agreement that the

federal government's \$2,000-per-month Canada Emergency Response Benefit (CERB), which expired Oct. 23, gave people the chance and the time to consider their alternatives and what they want to do in life. Hermani said CERB funding reduced the workforce, yet not dramatically. Students leaving the store to attend educational institutions has impacted Country Grocer much more.

Wood agrees that the CERB may not have helped the labour shortage, yet said the housing shortage is a much bigger concern.

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

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 Beddis Water Service Committee 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



PHOTOS BY NANCY JOHNSON

BOATING HAZARDS: An unmoored sailboat bobs close to shore while an aluminum boat is crashed against some rocks in Fulford Harbour on Monday morning following high winds that blew Sunday evening through Monday afternoon in the Gulf Islands and on the south coast. The storm was forecasted to be potentially devastating, but while a number of power outages were reported, BC Hydro crews restored service locally within a few hours in most cases. BC Ferries cancelled Monday morning sailings between the Lower Mainland and Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands, and also suspended service between Vesuvius and Crofton between approximately 11 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. on Monday.

WATERWORKS

NSSWD water costs to rise

Trustees decide capital projects can't be put off any longer

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Following years of modest parcel tax and water toll increases, North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayers will pay nine per cent more in 2022 than last year and will likely see similar annual hikes for the next few years.

Additional funds are needed to pay for a number of capital projects that have been put off while the NSSWD explored other ways to cover those costs, such as possibly becoming a Capital Regional District (CRD) entity or otherwise getting access to federal-provincial infrastructure grants.

"It's the capital costs that really drives this," said Calvin Coles of the Waterworth consulting company in explaining the increase at the Oct. 21 trustees meeting. "You have \$1.5 million in capital works planned for 2022."

Projects range from designing a new water treatment plant for Maxwell Lake, which Island Health has mandated must be built, to major work on Sunset Drive area infrastructure, purchase of two pick-up trucks and several other items.

"The longer we defer raising the rates, the more difficult it will be to keep them at a reasonable level in the future," states a staff report about financial options. "Should the district get other funding sources it can always lower the rates."

The last three years have seen four, two and zero per cent increases. The last significant hike was related to borrowing for the St. Mary Lake water treatment plant, which was approved by referendum in 2015.

For 95 per cent of NSSWD ratepayers, the additional parcel tax amount in 2022 will be between \$51 and \$75. Commercial properties will pay more.

Part of the nine per cent total is expected to come from water-use rates for higher-tier users. That move is meant to incentivize conservation from May to October, while also assumedly bringing in more revenue.

enue. No change will be made to rates in the first tier, which is 7,000 gallons of consumption per two-month billing cycle. For amounts above that level, rates will rise 15 per cent from May to October but only 10 per cent from November through April.

Just over 68 per cent of NSSWD customers do not use more than 7,000 gallons of water per cycle and so will not be impacted financially by the change.

Total NSSWD operating expenses for 2022 are anticipated to be \$2,950,218, and total capital expenses and long-term debt repayment costs are forecast to be \$1,981,797.

NSSWD financial officer Tammy Lannan noted that the nine per cent rate increase option will still not cover all 2022 costs, with some operations surplus and capital reserve funds being used.

NSSWD chair Michael McAllister observed that the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District, which is also an improvement district and thus not eligible for federal-provincial infrastructure grants due to provincial government policy, has also raised taxes by nine per cent for 2022.

"This is solely the responsibility of the province of B.C. for their benign neglect of improvement districts over the last 15 years," said McAllister.

"Nine per cent is a significant tax increase, but it is there largely because we have to plan for capital infrastructure improvements so the fire department can fight fires and so we can provide safe, potable water to our ratepayers."

Trustee Brian Pyper said he did not see the rate hikes as "a tax. This is the cost required to support this non-profit delivery of water that is already at great rates and we want to keep this as a great service. Let's hope for wonderful big grants in the future, but this is what it is going to take to do it."

"We can't dream right now," added McAllister. "We need to face reality."

Staff will draft the appropriate bylaws for consideration and adoption at a board meeting in November.

NSSWD parcel tax notices will go out in early February and will be due March 11, 2022. A monthly payment plan option is available.

COVID REPORT

The Gulf Islands have recorded their highest number of COVID-19 cases in a one-week period since the beginning of the pandemic.

From Oct. 10-16, 24 new cases of COVID-19 were confirmed by the BC Centre for Disease Control.

As well, Island Health extended the dates of an exposure notice at Fulford Elementary School to include Oct. 5, 12 and 13 from the originally posted Oct. 4, 6 and 7 dates.

While the new cases map does not separate Salt Spring from the other Gulf Islands, another set of data indicates that the other islands have had no COVID cases in recent weeks. However, that same source shows Salt Spring's daily average rate declining in the Oct. 14-20 period.

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

NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 9/19 - 9/25	Week of 9/26 - 10/02	Week of 10/03 - 10/09	Week of 10/10-10/16
Southern Gulf Islands	4	4	4	24
Saanich Peninsula	13	19	29	17
Greater Victoria	168	180	147	102
Langford to Port Renfrew	33	53	51	36
Duncan Area	66	56	56	75
Chemainus to Nanaimo	14	13	5	8
Total	298	325	292	262

VETERANS' LUNCHEON

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Veterans and an escort/guest only



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BOOKS & BLING

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SALE DATES: November 12-14

Friday-Saturday 10am-4pm; Sunday 10am-3pm
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OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Info vacuum

Parents of Gulf Islands school children are understandably concerned that information about COVID-19 cases in schools is not being shared in a timely manner.

With the only official communication channel being Island Health, and school administration only advised of possible exposure events but not authorized to inform school communities unless Island Health gives the green light to do so, families may feel their children are unnecessarily at risk of contracting the virus at school if they do not know it is there.

According to information shared at a public school board meeting, parents of children in close contact with a Fulford student were notified of a possible exposure, but the rest of the school community could only rely on rumour, an alternate B.C. school exposure website and then a listing on Island Health's school exposure website about a week later, to know a case had been confirmed at school. The first notice covered Oct. 4, 6 and 7, with Oct. 5, 12 and 13 dates added later, but how many cases

THE ISSUE:
 School COVID notifications

WE SAY:
 Investigating improvements worth doing

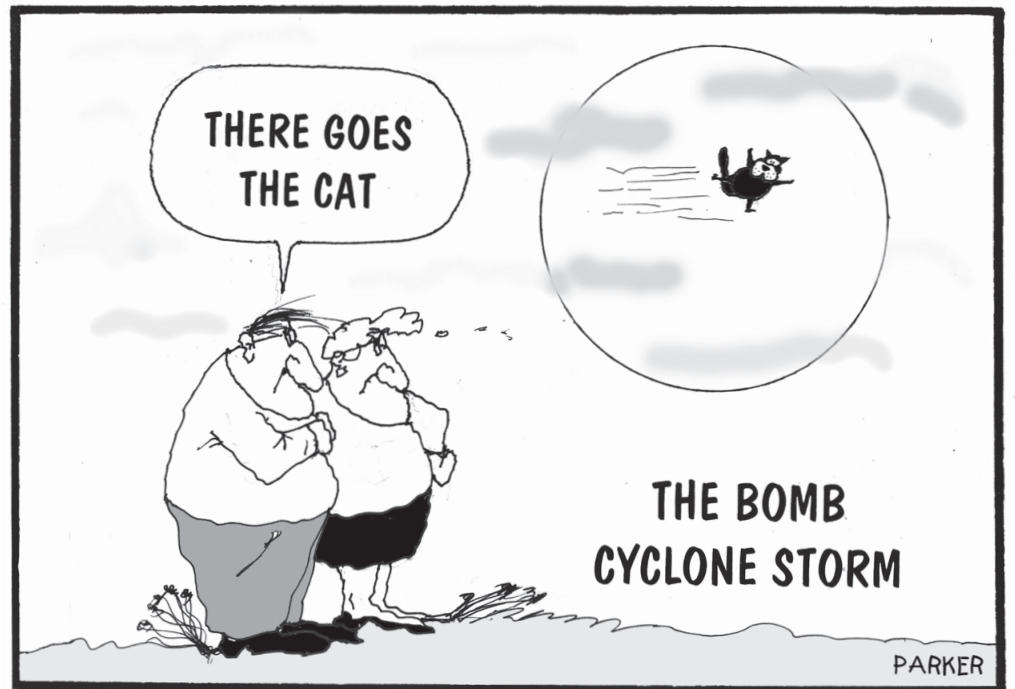
were involved is not publicly shared. BC Centre for Disease Control data does indicate that Salt Spring Island had 24 new COVID cases from Oct. 10-16. How many were among Fulford school children — and if earlier notification to parents would have made any difference — is not known.

Local parent concerns about notifications and related issues have resulted in a District Parent Advisory Council request for a meeting with the local medical health officer.

Island Health is in a tough spot, for sure, as it deals with the protection of individual privacy and its own staff constraints amid a potentially complicated process. It seems hard to imagine how the process could be changed to speed up notification, unless school administrators were authorized to send out a blanket notice whenever a case was confirmed at a school. But individual contact tracing is the method used in other exposure cases, and there are likely good reasons for not veering from that pattern.

If improvements can be made to the notification system, hopefully they will be implemented.

But if not, students, families and all community members can only keep doing their best by taking protective measures that will keep themselves and everyone around them as safe as possible.



Housing is a human right

BY ADAM OLSEN
 SAANICH NORTH & THE ISLANDS MLA

In the 2017 election, access to affordable housing was a ballot box question. Going back a decade, when I was a councillor in the District of Central Saanich, the Saanich Peninsula Chamber of Commerce was sounding the alarm bells that there was a lack of affordable workforce housing in our communities.

Since then, the housing market has become even less affordable, and the price of housing in our region is so inflated that home ownership is out of reach for many British Columbians.

In Question Period, I asked Hon. David Eby, the minister responsible for housing, if his government considers housing a human right? Yes, they do. It is on this foundational principle that the provincial government must construct their housing policy if we hope to see this crisis addressed.

The housing crisis is a global issue. While Vancouver has been singled out as one of the least affordable cities in the world, the cost of housing is causing chaos in communities everywhere.

We have often heard that a lack of supply is the main culprit. One of the programs currently administered by B.C. Housing is called the Housing Hub. The goal of the

VIEWPOINT

program is to invest billions of dollars of public money into building affordable rental housing and home ownership options for low to moderate-income British Columbians. Non-traditional partnerships are encouraged between non-profit, government and the private sector to combine land and expertise to build these new projects. This is a good program, if there are appropriate safeguards in place to ensure that our public investment is not further inflating an already out-of-control housing market.

For decades governments and politicians have left affordable housing to the private sector to build. That has been a total failure, leading to the chaos that millions of British Columbians are feeling personally and the chaos that is having devastating social consequences in our communities.

The next actions of governments are critical. That is why public investments in housing should be strictly in non-market solutions.

In my follow up to Minister Eby I asked about the safeguards that are in place to ensure the Housing Hub is not part of the problem. He

assured me that he is working both with a private firm and our auditor general to provide oversight of this program. The Housing Hub is just one move of many that we can expect from a government that considers housing as a human right.

I expect them to begin talking with British Columbians and local governments about zoning bylaws (specifically about the single-family zones and densification) and the vast array of other policy measures that progressive jurisdictions around the world are taking to address the housing crisis.

Solving the housing crisis in British Columbia is going to require the provincial government to be committed to bold changes in economic and social policy. As I have come to understand in my time as the MLA for Saanich North and the Islands, the Gulf Island communities face a series of issues that make the housing crisis unique and even more acute.

Addressing the housing crisis in British Columbia will be a challenge. I am encouraged hearing Minister Eby acknowledge housing is a human right, now the provincial government must move quickly to create progressive policy measures that reflect that.

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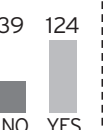
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Does Salt Spring's labour shortage impact you?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should schools be tasked with COVID-19 notifications?



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: }

“We can’t dream right now. We need to face reality.”

MICHAEL MCALLISTER, CHAIR, NSSWD

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What are your favourite Halloween treats?

BAMA HUGHES



“Is there one better than the other?”

GABRIEL BATTAGLIO



Kit Kat.

SOFIA (AND SONIA) LANGER



Kinder Chocolate.

SHORE WINSTOR



Sour Patch Kids.

ZOEY OLORIZ



Reese’s Pieces. I love peanut butter.

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

Futile to fight

I must agree with Julia Lucich, who is quoted in your “Fire property taxes up 9.1%” story in last week’s paper.

The lack of protest over this latest increase in budget is the sense of futility in having it curtailed. Within this article is more self congratulation by the fire board in its quick response to the Windsor and Mineral Springs fires. In all reports I have read I have never seen the time between the calls and when water or retardant was actually being applied on scene. Surely this is true definition of response time. With the budget going up so much the last few years, are we seeing marked improvement in the true response time and, if so, how much better than years gone by? If not, why are

we spending more money?

The article also notes that \$500,000 has been placed in a capital reserve fund for the new fire hall, which is going to referendum this spring. If memory serves, I think the island has rejected the idea of a new fire hall on more than one occasion, yet the trustees are back again with another referendum. Is this not more proof that it is futile to fight when no one is listening? It seems we have a capital reserve fund that could be used and would negate a need to up taxes this year.

For what it is worth, the trustees do not have my vote of confidence, especially at a time when municipal, provincial and federal governments are buried in debt.

HARRY KIRWIN,
SALT SPRING

Pathway bouquets

I was so pleased to read your editorial about pathways in the Oct. 6 Driftwood because I have been enjoying every footstep of those paths since they got started.

On my last two trips to Salt Spring, I walked from the bottom of Mobrae to Ganges using paths all the way. What a blessing, compared to my trips in former years when I felt blasted by the noise, dust and alarming proximity of all the traffic between Ganges and the north end of the island.

Sometimes when the walk seems a bit long, I take the pathways that join from Atkins, or I take the bus on my return trip from the village. In good

weather I do some exploring around the pathways that offer interesting hikes up and around the Ganges village area. On my recent trip to check out Salt Spring’s Fall Fair, I walked almost all the way from where I was staying and was so grateful for the new (to me) pathways down Atkins and up Rainbow Road.

When it comes to active transportation and helping us all (residents and visitors) to enjoy Salt Spring from a quieter point of view, Island Pathways and Partners Creating Pathways deserve every bouquet available for their careful and comprehensive planning, and for their outstanding “on the ground” work.

SUSAN YATES,
GABRIOLA ISLAND

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Throwing age out the window has never been so easy

There comes a time in the life of a man when he gets this sudden desire to trade in the family SUV for a sleek, brightly polished sports car. This happens about the same time as he starts to accessorize his usual outfit with leather driving gloves, a flat tweed racing cap and possibly a scarf.

He may decide to grow some facial hair and let his regular “doo” grow out over his ears. Alternately, if he had previously sported a beard or moustache, he may suddenly switch to the clean-shaven look.

In case you haven’t figured it out yet, the phenomenon he is experiencing here comes as a result of andropause, the male equivalent of menopause. Often referred to as “middle-age crisis,” this is the male’s futile last-ditch effort to grasp onto his youthful virility before inevitably slipping away into the fraternity of geezerhood where he is destined to dress in white loafers, a white vinyl belt and pull his pants up over his belly button.

There are, however, a class of pharmaceutical supplements that are designed to squeeze a few more flexes out of the diminishing male body. They promise to inject a charge of machismo into the flagging male self-image while giving his manhood a necessary narcissistic makeover.

Falling under the umbrella of testosterone boosters, these supplements virtually guarantee that if any beach bully will be kicking sand in the face of a 99-pound weakling, you will be the one doing the kicking. They will infuse your aura with a “don’t go messin’ with this here dude” attitude.

Although there are dozens of brands of these supplements on the market, just the names of a handful will give you an idea of where the sales pitch is aimed. Viril-X, Extenze, Steel Libido, 100% Male, Ageless Male, Force Factor, Prime Male Testosterone Booster, and Ultra Men’s Hard Max show that these supplement suppliers are not afraid to deal a boost below the belt.

Let’s take Ageless Male for example. As advertised in television commercials, as well as radio, magazine and internet ad spots, this product hooks the unsuspecting target male with the image of an attrac-



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

tive, muscular, bare-chested man (with just the slightest amount of greying temples), paddling his kayak through some churning rapids. The accompanying text or voiceover challenges the prospective buyer to “be the man you want to be.” One look in the full-length mirror will show you just how far you have to go to reach that goal. And a pill sounds so much easier than real exercise.

So how much does it cost to slow down or even reverse the aging process? Prices vary, but at \$50 a pop for a bottle of 60 tabs of Ageless Male (or just under \$400 for 12 bottles), you should be able to send yourself back to the Jurassic Age for the same amount you pay for your annual gym membership.

The manufacturer claims that Ageless Male has proven to increase arousal and physical energy as well as support testosterone levels. Considering that the only support you’ve been receiving lately has been from the support hose or your compression stockings, how can you lose by investing your nest egg in Ageless Male?

You might wonder what exactly goes into a tab of Ageless Male. Apparently it is made up of all “natural ingredients,” which include Testofen, a patented form of fenugreek extract that enters the bloodstream and binds with a special protein in your blood. Wait a minute. Isn’t fenugreek that seed you used to soak so it would make sprouts that you could add to your salad along with alfalfa and mung bean sprouts? Had you only known about its sexual enhancement qualities, you would have skipped the alfalfa and mung beans altogether!

Anyway, continuing on with the chemi-

cal process, the Testofen frees up the idle testosterone attached to these special proteins, which then increases the total testosterone levels in the body. After all, who wants a bunch of idle testosterone hanging out doing nothing when there’s a job to get done?

Another natural ingredient found in some of these testosterone boosters is stinging nettle. That’s right, the same greens that taste like spinach if steamed and make your mouth feel like the inside of a wasp nest if eaten raw, release testosterone into your blood by suppressing the sex hormone-binding globulin which would normally catch the good stuff and render it useless. More testosterone equals more virility!

Ageless Male claims to be the #1 best-selling brand of testosterone booster with over five million bottles sold worldwide. The manufacturers boast that, for the last 10 years, their team of experts have been “redefining how men age.” Just one click of the “Add to Cart” button on your computer and you are assured of fast, discreet shipping to your place of residence. One has to wonder, however, why it is necessary for the shipping to be discreet. Does the bottle of testosterone booster, or 12 if you’re buying in volume, come wrapped in plain, brown paper so nobody but you and the good folks at Ageless Male know that your new, virile look is receiving a helping hand by way of the wonders of modern chemistry? After all, that sports car in your driveway is a dead giveaway.

Nobody asked me, but I suppose there can’t be any harm if someone wants to try to slow the aging process by chowing down a handful of booster supplements. For me, however, my middle age crisis came and went what seems like eons ago. I never did get that shiny, sleek sports car; I simply replaced one rusty, old Toyota pickup with another rusty, old Toyota pickup.

And especially since I’m well past the age of the group of men that Ageless Male is targeting, I don’t think I’ll be punching the “Add to Cart” button any time soon. No, if you want to know where I am, you can find me foraging out in the fenugreek and nettle fields.

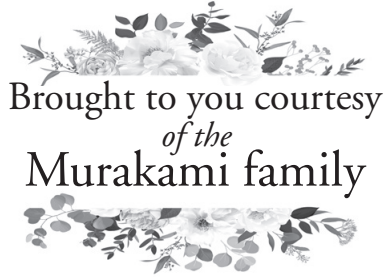
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MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Caring and support for school appreciated

Business closures due to the pandemic have been hard on all of us, Salt Spring Centre of Yoga included. The daily exercise of hanging on, moving forward and cultivating resilience continues every day.

So it has been a delight for us to have the Centre School begin again. The sound of kids running and playing, their bright jackets enhancing the flowers in the garden, and with outdoor classes being the norm now, we get to enjoy seeing and hearing them more often. We celebrate their garden program and first prize win at the Salt Spring Fall Fair this year. Congratulations!

The yoga centre takes care of the school building and it needed painting badly. The cost of paint was out of reach. Then arrived our super hero, painter Bob. He shared the story of the school and some great photos with a request for help with Cloverdale Paints in Duncan. They loved what they saw and wanted to help us. Paint was donated for the walls, trim, decks, railings and doors — such a huge gift. Bob headed up the team of volunteers and the school looks amazing.

For over four decades, the Salt Spring Centre School has been learning and playing in and around the meadows, forests, ponds and creeks here. With these natural outdoor spaces, students are able to get outside, explore, engage



PHOTO COURTESY SS CENTRE OF YOGA

Painting crew outside Salt Spring Centre School.

and incorporate ecological principles into their daily learning, which is a real bonus for outdoor education during the pandemic.

We wanted the outside of the school to also feel uplifting and cared for when they arrived this new school year. During these times, outreach, caring and support touch us even more deeply. People helping each other where they can, getting through this together. Resilience and support! Thank you to all!

ANURADHA HANNAH,
FOR THE SALT SPRING CENTRE OF YOGA

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Island in peril must say no to Vortex project

BY DAVID J. RAPPORT AND
BRYNNA KAGAWA-VESENTIN

Salt Spring Island is on the brink of becoming ecologically dysfunctional and, as a consequence, incapable of sustaining our community.

This is the sobering conclusion of a forthcoming comprehensive assessment of the island's ecological health. Initiated over a decade ago, with initial support from the Islands Trust, the CRD and the community, the report has special relevance to development proposals now on the table, such as the Vortex project in Fulford Harbour.

While the report inevitably relies on available data that are at best spotty and incomplete, the big picture that emerges is clear and inescapable: the health of our terrestrial, freshwater and marine ecosystems is in steady decline.

This should come as no surprise to those of us who have glanced at our harbours clogged with thick algal mats in the summer, seen the persisting shellfish harvesting closure notices, heeded the water use restriction orders and boil water advisories, resorted to bottled drinking water, refrained from swimming in our lakes owing to toxic algal blooms, wrestled with the increasing presence of Scotch broom and other invasive species, and bemoaned the ongoing loss of our beloved coastal Douglas-fir and cedar forests.

While it may be tempting to chalk up these afflictions on the natural environ-

ment to the cost of "progress," we might instead pause and ask ourselves: what kind of "progress" is it that propels us to undercut the very life systems that sustain us and that make this place so very special to begin with? We stubbornly seek to "fix" our environmental woes (a difficult task with no guaranteed success) rather than acknowledge that what we need to do is to change our own behaviours, which continue to add more stress to an already highly stressed environment.

If our island is to remain a sustainable and desirable place to live, as well as an attractive place for visitors to come to, we need to pay far closer attention to the health of our ecosystems and become much more aware of the kinds of activities that have been responsible for its deterioration over recent decades. Above all, if we are to avoid catastrophic damage, we can no longer afford to accommodate development proposals that pose credible threats to the natural environment.

The much-discussed Vortex project is a case in point. Many community members have loudly decried this proposal, which threatens the health of the Fulford Creek estuary and of Fulford Harbour as a whole. These threats were well articulated by Islands Trust staff, the Trust's freshwater management expert and community leaders. Yet, in this instance our trustees appear to have abdicated their responsibilities for the

INDEPTH

Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate, ignoring advice based on sound science, and seem eager to fall into step with the developer.

In our view, giving the Vortex proposal the green light would be unconscionable, given the likely risk to the health of a major island ecosystem. It would put trustees in potential conflict with existing environment regulations and would represent a blatant dereliction of their mandate and duty.

Many community members have loudly decried this proposal, which threatens the health of the Fulford Creek estuary and of Fulford Harbour as a whole.

When an island is already in failing health, overwhelmed by human pressures on its fragile and vulnerable ecosystems, it would be foolhardy to accede to additional development projects that would almost certainly add to our grief.

A healthy community first and fore-

most requires healthy ecosystems if it is to survive and thrive. This is far from the situation that prevails today. With degenerating aquatic ecosystems, depleted forests, losses in critical ecological habitat, imbalances in nature that open the door wide to invasive species, shortages in local sources of potable water and more, Salt Spring Island is endangered not only as a place to live but also as a "destination."

If we care about our future on the island and recognize that the health of our community depends on maintaining healthy ecosystems, we need to turn the corner on approving ill-conceived development proposals that paper over their ecological consequences and on ignoring the precautionary principle (which can be summed up as: "When in doubt, cut it out").

If we wish to avert major damage to our premier harbor and to the island as a whole, we must say no to the proposed Vortex project.

David J. Rapport co-authored the first State of the Environment Report for Canada.

Brynna Kagawa-Visentin recently graduated in Environmental Practice from Royal Roads University with the Governor General's Silver Medal, among other honours.

Capital Regional District

CRD

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

CRD

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



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SSNAP

Art and activism celebrated at SSNAP

Vancouver resident Kriss Munsya wins Joan McConnell Award; several other artists earn prizes

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Art's power to make a difference in the world was the message of the 2021-22 Salt Spring National Art Prize closing gala, where an exciting and diverse group of artists from across Canada came away with the top prizes Saturday night.

Kriss Munsya, a Belgian Congolese-born artist currently living in Vancouver, walked away with the grand prize for his allegorical photo composition on racism and black male identity called Dream Tonite. Highway Reflection, The Eraser. Munsya was in attendance at the awards gala and appeared to be a little in shock as he took the stage to accept the prize. He confided that he is new to the art world and doesn't really know how it works, and that he had actually lost friends by using his art to address racism.

However, he asserted art's powerful abilities. "Being someone that's been discriminated against and making art about it makes me kind of an activist, but something people maybe don't get is . . . being an activist might mean buying art or producing art or making art possible, or organizing an exhibition. So we can all be activists," Munsya said in his acceptance speech.

Artist Klehwetua Rodney Sayers from Ahswinnis (Port Alberni) had a similar message. His sculptural marriage of Indigenous cultural traditions and hot rod culture (#40 Hot Rod Pink) was juror David Diviney's award choice.

"Thank you to all the artists . . . who participated. It's very important that we participate in this endeavour," Sayers said. "I think the arts are incredibly important, especially in these times."

Also on the jurors' awards list were Virginia Morgan of Hazelton, B.C., elected by Judy Andersen for her carving Raven Steals the Sun; Jacqueline Huskisson of Calgary, who earned Ydesa Hendeles' pick for her multimedia drawing Shock; and Sherry Park, who won over Michelle Jacques with Lunch, an evocative painting of her aging parents.

Connie Kuhns earned the Salt Spring Artist Award for her photo Canadian Farmhouse 1.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
At top: SSNAP winner Kriss Munsya, with his photographic composition called Dream Tonite. Highway Reflection, The Eraser.
At left: Susan Benson and Peter McFarlane, two of three People's Choice Award winners from the Parallel Art Show of SSNAP submissions made by Gulf Islands artists. Benson also earned an honourable mention Jurors' Choice Award.

Although Kuhns was the sole islander to be accepted as a SSNAP finalist this time, she told the audience, "I'm a product of this community, and so thank you very much. I take nothing for granted."

SSNAP Society chair Janet Halliwell welcomed people from across the nation who were joining the closing gala at Mahon Hall either in person or by livestream — the first time this was done in the four biennial SSNAP exhibitions held so far. SSNAP People's Choice Awards voting was also opened up to a national audience, who could vote online.

"Since it was created in 2015, SSNAP has grown in its engagement of artists, its engagement of the local community. It's grown particularly in its reach across Canada," Halliwell said, adding the companion Parallel Art Show has seen Gulf Islands artists expand their reach as well. "In these shows we see artists looking at the world, looking at their place in the world, looking at their relationships; often reflecting on the pandemic and often on issues of reconciliation. And these are not simply exhibitions to be viewed passively. We are determined to engage all our visitors in thinking about art, in discussing art."

This year's show marked the first time that juror's awards were given to the

Parallel Art Show (PAS) artists, along with people's choice awards. The Matt Steffich Jurors' Choice Award went to Liljana Mead Martin for her remarkable sculpture The Listener, with honourable mentions awarded to Anna Gustafson and Susan Benson. Benson also received the top People's Choice Award at the PAS show for her moving installation The Meaning of Symbols, The Meaning of Memories.

Benson said she appreciated being recognized as an older artist. She additionally announced her intention to support younger women in the arts, putting her prize money toward a fund she is establishing so women can access art supplies.

PAS viewers additionally selected work by Garry Kaye and Peter McFarlane as their second and third top choices.

While the SSNAP exhibition is now closed on Salt Spring, people can view all the winning artworks again. In early 2022, they will be exhibited first by the Victoria Arts Council and then at the Pendulum Gallery in Vancouver.

All the SSNAP and PAS artworks and the full list of winners, including the SSNAP People's Choice and Youth Choice awards, can be viewed online at www.saltspringartprize.ca.

Bach on the Rock
Chamber Orchestra and Choir
Artistic Director
Marco Vitale
L'église et le théâtre
Sacred and secular music of 17th and 18th century France

de Lalande, Charpentier, Corrette, Lully and Marais

vaccination certificates & masks required

Saturday November 6, 2021
7:00 pm, Fulford Hall

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bachontherock.com

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CONCERT PREVIEW

French baroque music shines in BOTR concert



PHOTO BY KERRY GRAHAM

Some Bach on the Rock Chamber Orchestra and Choir members are seen rehearsing for their Nov. 6 concert titled 'L'église et le théâtre,' featuring music by French composers of the 17th and 18th century, led by artistic director Marco Vitale, who is at the keyboard.

Bach on the Rock ready for Nov. 6 evening

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Bach on the Rock (BOTR) Chamber Orchestra and Choir has a treat for its audience next weekend after not performing in concert for almost two years.

On Saturday, Nov. 6, the group will present an evening of sacred and secular music of 17th and 18th-century

France titled "L'église et le théâtre" at Fulford Hall. Music begins at 7 p.m. Patrons must provide proof of double vaccination and wear masks.

"The idea was born while I was still living in Europe," explained Marco Vitale, who is the artistic director for the concert on a guest basis.

Vitale is an early music specialist, harpsichordist, organist, fortepiano player and conductor who has recently moved to Victoria.

Vitale said work by French composers seemed to be a repertoire gap for

BOTR that he wanted to fill.

"The music is so beautiful and so close to the human heart. It will be very great to do it here."

Interestingly, he said, the border between music composed for the church and the theatre in France is not as strict as one would imagine.

One of the program works is Marc-Antoine Charpentier's Messe de Minuit (Midnight Mass), which is based on old French Christmas carols still heard today. Variations written by Richard de Lalande and Michel Corrette will also be played.

"The French carol tradition is very strong," said Vitale. "As strong as it is for England."

The second part of the program will feature music from the French theatre. In addition to works by Jean-Baptiste Lully, the group will perform selections from the opera Alcione by Marin Maris.

Based on the myth of Alcione and Ceyx, the work contains well-known dances that were made famous by Jordi Savall and his Le Concert des Nations, of which Vitale is a member.

"It's for sure the first time it will be performed in B.C.," he said of the Maris opera pieces.

Vitale said he fell in love with B.C. after participating in a Denman Island baroque workshop and festival in 2017. Coincidentally, he acquired the position of music director at St. Barnabas church in Victoria just as BOTR was searching

for a new director to replace Michael Jarvis, who died suddenly in December of 2020. The plan is for each concert this season to have a different director, with Vitale being the first.

Tickets for the Nov. 6 concert are available at Mondo Trading Company or online at bachontherock.com.

Fans of the annual Sing-along Messiah will be glad to hear that the tradition will return with an afternoon concert on Sunday, Nov. 28 at Fulford Hall, directed by Don Conley. Details and tickets are also available from the group's website.

expert ADVICE

Real Estate



JAN MACPHERSON

IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?

Often sellers will say to me "I want to wait till my spring garden blooms". Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year.

By listing now, your residence will:

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market - price-point wise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May...your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

I sell many homes in February and March that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to more supply, hence competition, or better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

This old adage is really true for real estate:

"Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!"

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

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what's on this week



Wed. Oct. 27 ACTIVITIES

Author Reading: Bill Stenson. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Forests, Water, Fire. Panel discussion about how to beat the heat and steward our own backyards. 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. Register at tinyurl.com/ForestsWaterFire

Thurs. Oct. 28 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Wagon Wheel Housing Society AGM. Annual general meeting at 151 Lawnhill Drive. 3 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 29 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ange Hehr. Live at Moby's Pub. 8 to 11 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 30 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Skaryoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw at 5 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Movie Matinee. Family-friendly movies at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 1 p.m. Register at the library.

Sun. Oct. 31 ACTIVITIES

Halloween Grotto. From 5 to 7 p.m., kids can collect their goodie bags from the crones, ghosts and goblins at Brinkworthy Place at 135 Brinkworthy Rd.

Mon. Nov. 1 ACTIVITIES

Fernwood & Highland Water Service Commission AGM.

Annual general meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Maliview Sewer Local Service Commission AGM.

Annual general meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Tues. Nov. 2 ACTIVITIES

Fulford Water Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting at Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Wed. Nov. 3 ACTIVITIES

DAISSI Pride Event - An Evening of Poetry, Candlelight and Wine! A cozy, romantic and inspirational evening of poetry, poetry read by you (or others), poetry which is meaningful to you, poetry which has inspired you. LGBTQ2SIA+ and allies welcome. ArtSpring. 7 to 9 p.m. RSVP through the www.prideallyear.ca.

VIA ZOOM

Burn it Smart Workshop. Learn about wood heat from the comfort of your home. 7 to 9 p.m. Pre-register at <https://tinyurl.com/BurnSmart>.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

Shang-Chi and the Legend of the Ten Rings runs from Friday, Oct. 29 to Tues., Nov. 2 at 7 p.m. nightly plus a 3 p.m. matinee. See www.thefritz.ca for more info. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements, and limited seating, in place.

EXHIBITIONS

• The Art Jam group shows new work in the Salt Spring Public Library program room through October.

EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Gallery presents A Gathering of Trees, work by gallery members and invited guests, until Nov. 10.
- The Salt Spring Textile Group presents One the Edge - A Planet in Crisis in the library program room through the month of November.
- Kelly Kiss presents an exhibit of mixed-media and oil paintings called Bloom Into Life at Dragonfly Art Supplies through October.
- The Photosynthesis group holds its 2021 show virtually at www.photosyn.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

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

Poetry Open Mic
With guest poet **Christine Smart**
Thurs., Nov. 4 at 7 p.m. via Zoom
Email: programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.

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FILM ARTS

GISS alumna one of Maid's production personnel

Netflix series filmed partly on Salt Spring

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Clea Mihalik has worked as a second assistant director on the film sets of Godzilla, Deadpool and The Art of Racing in the Rain, but the highlight of her career so far is her contribution to the Netflix series Maid.

The series was partly filmed on Salt Spring Island, the island where Mihalik grew up.

Maid is an American drama series inspired by Stephanie Land's memoir Maid: Hard Work, Low Pay, and a Mother's Will to Survive. In the first episode, Alex has just left her emotionally abusive boyfriend with their daughter Maddy and takes the ferry to clean houses on "Fisher Island" in Washington State. People who've already watched the show probably recognized the Quinitsa ferry and the Fulford ferry terminal.



PHOTOS COURTESY CLEA MIHALIK

From left, Clea Mihalik and filming of a scene from the Netflix series Maid on the Quinitsa ferry last October.

When Mihalik was hired as a second assistant director for Maid, she didn't know she was going to film on the island where she spent her childhood.

"When I heard that we would be filming on a ferry, I had a hunch that it would be Port Angeles, and I was absolutely delighted when I heard that we were going to film in Fulford," Mihalik said.

One day last October, Netflix

rented the entire ferry to shoot different scenes on the Quinitsa, and the ferry terminals in Swartz Bay and Fulford.

"It was a huge operation," Mihalik continued. "BC Ferries was very accommodating and let us take over most of the terminal. We started the day at 6:30 in the morning, and shot the scenes in Swartz Bay first before we were all loaded onto the ferry. When we arrived on Salt

Spring I told the crew that I was going off quickly to say hi to my parents who were waiting for me in Fulford. They still live in the home that I grew up in on Roland Road, and the house ended up being featured prominently in Episode 8."

Mihalik graduated from Gulf Islands Secondary School in 2010.

"I had done small video projects in middle and high school and took courses at the Gulf Islands

Film & Television School on Galiano Island," she said. "After I graduated I went to Capilano University School of Motion Picture Arts and got my first job as a production assistant in 2012. In my early childhood, I was convinced I wanted to be an actress. Now a big part of my job is taking care of actors. It is like being a mom. I tell them what to do, make sure they bring everything they need and that they don't miss appointments."

Mihalik worked for seven months on the Maid set, which was mainly filmed in Victoria, and premiered earlier this month.

"I am very proud that the show is doing so well. It is a very serious and very real story. You definitely feel the weight of the topic. It is sometimes hard to watch, but it ends with hope."

Because of its domestic violence theme, the production crew donated wardrobe and set decorations to organizations that help women escaping abusive situations.

Capital Regional District

CRD

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

CRD

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.

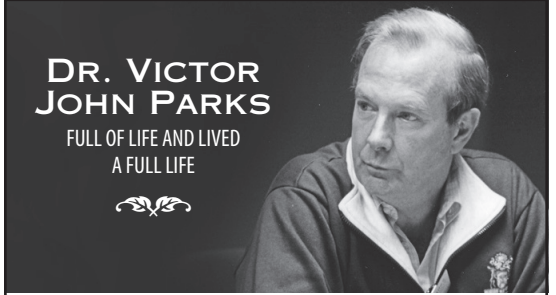
Bylaw No. 3505 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

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Obituaries **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Obituaries** **Coming Events**



DR. VICTOR JOHN PARKS
FULL OF LIFE AND LIVED A FULL LIFE

Dr. Victor John Parks, 79, of Elora, Ontario, passed away on August 23, 2021 at home, surrounded by his family.

Vic was born to parents Norman and Marjorie Parks on October 12, 1941 in Surrey, England. Vic is survived by his wife Uta his daughters Dr. Deanie Parks-Clements (Greg), Dr. Victoria O'Leary and his son Jason Parks (Lisa); grandchildren Murray and Lisa Clements, Thompson and Scarlett Parks and Craig Bishop; sister Barbara Zaccai (Ouzi); and nieces Shelly Zaccai (Darryl), Gail Zaccai Esh (Matt), and Jennifer Douglas (Jason).

Vic's family immigrated to Canada in 1958, making Etobicoke home. Vic married his love Uta in 1963 before graduating from the Ontario Veterinary College with a doctor of Veterinary Medicine degree in 1964. He began his veterinary career in Seaforth and later in Streetsville.

He was passionate about animal health and he soon left private practice to become one of the first industrial veterinarians in Canada. He felt he could contribute more to animal health through industry. He went on to complete his MBA at McMaster University. Vic held managerial positions at companies including Canada Packers, MTC Pharmaceuticals, and Ciba Geigy, with his career culminating in 1997 after joining Novartis Animal Health Canada. In 1998, Vic became President of Novartis Animal Health Canada. In 2004, he took his expertise to the US becoming the Head of Human Resources, Novartis Animal Health in Greensboro, North Carolina.

His passion about animal health and wellness and his belief in giving back to the veterinary profession, led him to spearhead donations to OVC from the animal health industry and the Parks family. In 2006, Vic retired from Novartis and he and Uta moved to their beloved mountainside property on Salt Spring Island, BC.

He loved agriculture and volunteered at 4H Calf Club and Pony Club events, as well as sitting on local fair boards. Vic had always been involved with horses - training steeplechase horses, raising foals, and encouraging his daughters with their riding. His interest in cattle genetics led to Tara registered Limousin cattle, a breeding operation at Tara Hall Farm. His love of cattle (and of course beef steaks - a good prime rib never went astray) led him to become president of the Ontario Limousin Association. Much to his chagrin, each monthly meeting started with a KFC feast and he had to learn to eat with his fingers (where's the beef?) He enjoyed gardening, especially growing vegetables and fruit. Unfortunately, for Uta (the canning and freezing department) he was much too successful!


Vic was famous for his humorous "one liners" and loved a good party. He took top honors in the Limbo, taunting partygoers and family alike with "how low can you go". He loved singing Harry Belafonte like the "Banana Boat Song" to his children and Johnny Cash "I Walk the Line" to his wife. He loved his family deeply. He was involved in their hobbies and activities including numerous horse and cattle shows, dance recitals, band concerts, soccer games, and skiing. He was always available to help or to counsel his children and grandchildren.

His love of chess, bridge and all things financial kept him vibrant throughout his years. There wasn't a problem he could not solve. He never took NO for an answer. His determination drove him to give his best at everything. If it made sense to Vic, he would wholeheartedly embrace it with courage, intelligence and passion.

The family gratefully thanks Dr. Brault, Dr. Gower, and the kind and caring staff at Mapleton unit, Riverside Glen in Guelph.

Vic lived a full life and is deeply missed. In his memory he would like donations to be made to the Dr. Victor Parks Memorial Fund, Groves Memorial Community Hospital (gmch.ca) in Fergus, Ontario.

CARA JOY HUGHES



Cara Joy Hughes died 20th October 2021, the way she had lived, independent and clear-eyed to the last, at home with her beloved dog Pedro, and with friends at her side. We will miss her, for we cherished her as a wonderful friend and neighbour. Over the last thirty years, in the course of determined daily walks with one of a succession of equally determined dogs, she always took time to exchange a few words with us. Had we only known more about her life and achievements, what conversations we might have had!

Cara Joy was born in Toronto in 1932. Her parents, Gordon R. and Eva C. Hughes, soon moved the family which included two older brothers Gordon and Bill to Winnipeg. Cara Joy's intelligence and unremitting curiosity about the world launched her studies, first at the University of Manitoba, where she received a B.Sc. (Hons) in 1954, and then at Harvard for a M.Sc in 1956 and a Ph.D. in 1968. This, in the then-prevailing "men's world" of mathematics and physics, was no minor achievement. Interspersed between graduate degrees was pioneering work in radio astronomy and computer programming. Settling briefly to teach computer science at the University of West Indies, she then took a position in the same field at the University of British Columbia. Always open to new pursuits, Cara Joy subsequently began law studies, and was called to the bar as a barrister and solicitor in 1981. She practiced mostly in family law.


Cara Joy retired to Salt Spring Island in 1991, but remained as active, resourceful, and indefatigable as ever, helping to deflect a developer from building an airfield in the Fulford Valley, supporting anti-logging camps and blockades at Burgoyne Bay, organizing a Shakespeare reading group for an offshoot of the University Women's Club, driving for seniors, and gaining a name for herself as the 'Scrabble lady' for Greenwood's. Her energy and drive, her kindness, acute perception and humour have delighted a wide network of friends for many years.

A Celebration of Life will be held and details will be announced later. In lieu of flowers, please donate to Eco Justice, David Suzuki foundation, Nature Trust, or the British Columbia World Wildlife Fund. The funeral home is www.dignitymemorial.com/funeral-homes/victoria-bc/first-memorial-funeral-services/3811 and the cremation will be private.

Wagon Wheel Housing Society AGM

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Scorpio time begins on October 23 under the waning yet still bright Moon. Ever a mysterious time, at least here in the middle reaches of the Northern Hemisphere, this 1-month cycle coincides with very noticeable shorter days of sunlight, pinchy-cold weather often accompanied by dense overcast skies and rain bordering on sleet, as leaves fall from trees with accelerating magnitude. So, yes, the season matches the themes associated with the sign which include death and decay, yet ever also with the promise of rebirth, once the transformation and regeneration process is complete. This year, Mars and Mercury will accompany the Sun, adding to the potency on October 30 and November 5 respectively. As destiny has it, the Sun will form an exact hard square to Saturn coinciding with Halloween adding weight and intrigue. Fortunately, Venus in Sagittarius will help uplift the overall energy pattern but due to its correspondence with Jupiter and Saturn in Aquarius, it will coincide with the drum beats of revolution.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)
The Sun in Scorpio cycle is meant to have a regenerative effect on you. Whether it does or does not depends on your awareness and/or at least your instinctive inclination to align and engage. Mercury and Mars currently in Libra are activating your determination to engage in dialogue and debate regarding what is right and wrong.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)
The Sun in Scorpio cycle will activate themes of activity and change in your relationship life. These can extend to your social status and career as well as family and friends. You should be ready for complexities which will deepen progressively over the coming weeks. Determined to push through opposition, you will seek allies for support.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)
Health considerations and concerns will become more evident starting this week. It could be as basic as a change of diet or an urge to purge and cleanse your organs with herbs. Seeing through and beyond popular notions of what is good for you is featured. Natural remedies and approaches will hold extra appeal.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)
Scorpio time tends to be a creative cycle for you. This will likely prove especially true this year. Your desires and ambitions will be ignited as well and will be guided by a rebellious and/or inventive lead. Getting organized and creating a new sense of order close to home is featured. Circumstances may, however, require more than you desire to do.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)
Matters are shaking close to home. This will become increasingly evident over the coming weeks. Many thoughts are running through your mind as you look to the future. You want to expand your outreach and are committed to doing so, yet you are wise to get organized and focus to learn the technical knowledge required.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)
You may notice whether by choice made or by circumstances that your energy levels are rising. This will support you to further your ambitions and get the work done that you know you need to do. Balancing material with spiritual aspirations is featured. By now, you have learned that people you once thought you could rely upon have left the stage.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)
Building upon and perhaps changing or renovating existing foundations feels important now. Your ambitions will rise steadily over the coming days and weeks. This will lead you to deepen your research. Entertaining a variety of cultural and/or philosophical angles also plays a prominent role. Balancing creative zeal with patience is important.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)
The Sun in your sign signifies a pioneering cycle. This will prove especially strong when Mars also enters Scorpio next week. Getting clear in your focus, however, may prove a bit more challenging. It may take a couple of weeks for the fog to clear. Using this energy to engage your confidence and courage to claim talents ready to be claimed will bring success.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)
The revolution is on and you are a revolutionary. Which side of the battle you are on is another matter. The most important thing is that you are true. Yet, are your convictions as sound as you believe? Are you guided by survival instincts or by intuitions; they certainly are not the same thing, as some assume. Rumble on....

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)
Getting seen and heard may not be as easy as you thought. Yet, you are prepared to push a little harder now and in a patiently persistent way. This includes getting the attention of key players in positions of power. A mix of returns on investment, desire for expansion and restriction and delay must be managed.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)
Seeing the bigger, deeper picture continues. Yet, the time has come to refine your perspectives. Aspirations to get to the core and essence will guide your focus in the coming weeks. There is no absolute or final word or perspective. Yet, you can see more clearly, more subtly and more truly. Wherever you arrive, the reward is your own. Do not compare.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)
The next major phase of purification begins this week. Up to now, the main emphasis has been on your body and lifestyle to achieve a new balance. Now the focus turns to your mind. A meditative focus will likely yield the best results. The purging and rebalancing implied could prove genuinely enlightening. At least breaking free of negative habits will prove liberating.


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COMMUNITY

Island boy in remission after cancer treatment

Family grateful for community support and BC Children's Hospital experience

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After seven months spent undergoing cancer treatment, two-year-old Kailash Pilheden is set to return home to Salt Spring.

When reached at the BC Children's Hospital on Friday, mom Vidya Fisher said Kailash is in remission and doing great. They are waiting for his white blood cells to reach a certain count and then they'll be on their way home. When he was diagnosed with acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) at the age of one, the community rallied, raising nearly \$39,000 to support the family's material needs as Kailash underwent treatment off-island.

"We had such an incredible outpouring of support from the community when we began this whole thing seven months ago," Fisher said. "So I just wanted to send out a picture of him doing so well and let everybody know that we're done, he's finished and it worked."

It's been an almost unimaginable few years for the young family of four, who also saw their daughter Priya airlifted to Vancouver with severe injuries after she was hit by a tree during a windstorm in October 2020. Kailash, who was born

with Down's syndrome, also experienced a range of health challenges as a newborn and was diagnosed with a rare form of epilepsy called West syndrome, according to a GoFundMe page started by family friend Robyn Oakes.

"This has been a crazy couple of years for our family . . . looking at it, it's hard to believe but we have two healthy children and they're both just doing so well," Fisher said.

Going through cancer treatment during a pandemic resulted in the family having to spend most of their time apart. Vidya and Kailash would be in Vancouver for a month at a time, with a week on Salt Spring in between hospital stays. Meanwhile, owing to pandemic restrictions that prevented siblings from staying in hospital, Priya and dad Jona remained on the island.

"Our family has been apart for half a year," Fisher said. "It just kind of took us all by surprise and it completely changed our lives for awhile here."

Restrictions lifted just in time to celebrate Kailash' second birthday on Sept. 28.

"It was a really great birthday present that Priya got to come in here and we got to all celebrate together in the playroom," Fisher said.

Young Kailash has been changing and developing as he undergoes treatment. When he came into the hospital he had no teeth, and now he has 10, Fisher reported, and he is starting to stand up and show interest in trying to walk. A lot of time was spent wandering the halls of the hospital

with his mom, and Kailash always has big smiles for those he meets.

"He's just an incredibly social and happy little guy. He's won the hearts of all the nurses here. They're all saying how much they're going to miss him," Fisher said.

Just over a year after the accident where then six-year-old Priya suffered a broken leg, a fractured skull and a brain injury, Fisher said her daughter is very physically strong and busy running and playing — just being her kid self.

"It's just such a miracle," Fisher said.

Fisher said she can't wait to get home and be together as a family.

"Basically we all just want to curl up in one big snuggle puddle. Just be together," she said.

One thing Fisher learned from her time at BC Children's is the immense impact that blood donors have for children undergoing cancer treatment. Kailash received many transfusions of red blood cells and platelets and "it's an incredible thing that people can give and be able to support all these kids as they're going through some big life issues here," she said.

"I've talked to so many families here who are waiting for a match with bone marrow. It just makes me think I can't wait to go and offer that."

Information about where to donate blood, with centres in Duncan and Sidney listed, can be found at www.blood.ca/en.

For more on B.C.'s bone marrow transplant program, visit www.leukemiabmt-program.org/.



VIDYA FISHER PHOTO

Kailash Pilheden celebrates his second birthday at the BC Children's Hospital, where he has spent seven months undergoing cancer treatment. The young Salt Spring Island boy is now in remission and set to return home with his mom Vidya Fisher.

Capital Regional District



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 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. 3055 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

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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 Fulford 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 Fulford 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 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. 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