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Wednesday, Nov. 3, 2021

62nd year
Issue 44
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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

BRINKWORTHY GHOULS AND CRONES: A happy crowd of costumed Brinkworthy Estates residents greets trick or treaters on Brinkworthy Place on Halloween night. No fireworks or Spook House took place on Halloween this year, but trick or treating continued in the usual popular neighbourhoods. See more photos on page 8 and on our Facebook page.

FIRE

One person found dead at fire

Incident not deemed suspicious

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

One person has been found dead after Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue crews were called to a structure fire at a south-end cabin early Saturday morning.

The person, whose identity has not been released by authorities, was found inside a cabin after firefighters battled a fire at 671 Beaver Point Rd.

The BC Coroners Service is investigating the death and the cause of the fire also remains under investigation.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue received a call about a fire at 4:37 a.m., said Acting Fire Chief Jamie Holmes. Arriving at

the scene at 5:02 a.m., crews found a 400-square-foot cabin burning. The building collapsed as firefighters were setting up to apply water to it.

"With no driveway access to the cabin, crews had to access the building up a narrow trail," Holmes wrote in a news release.

Holmes said that by 5:08 a.m. the response team was applying water to the fire and by 5:15 a.m. had knocked down the visible flames and contained the fire to the building it started in.

"The fire was completely extinguished by [5:44], using 5,500 gallons of water through a tender shuttle," Holmes wrote. By 9:30 a.m., nearly five hours after the

initial call, firefighters cleared the scene.

Fourteen firefighters and five apparatus were involved in the incident.

Salt Spring RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook confirmed that four RCMP members and an RCMP fire investigator from Victoria attended the scene as well.

Seabrook said the investigation into the fatality is with the BC Coroners Service, and there is so far nothing to indicate that the fire or death had a suspicious cause.

The cause of the fire itself remains under investigation, Holmes confirmed.

"Our thoughts go out to the family and friends in this tragic situation," he added.



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Stage 1 Watering Restrictions:

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- Even/odd numbered addresses can sprinkle on even/odd dates between 7pm and 7am up to a maximum of 4 hours per day.
- New lawns can be sprinkled during the hours stated above for 4 hours per day.

MICRO OR DRIP IRRIGATION OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS

- Even/odd numbered addresses can water trees, shrubs, and gardens with micro or drip irrigation on even/odd dates before 10 am or after 5 pm up to a maximum of 6 hours per day.

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- Even/odd numbered addresses can hand water trees, shrubs, and gardens on even/odd dates anytime up to a maximum of 4 hours per day.

WASHING OF VEHICLES & BOATS

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

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

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TRANSPORTATION

Baker-Booth Canal path fixes explored

Funds available in capital plan

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Low and no-cost measures to enhance safety around the Booth Canal pathway completed earlier this year will be given priority in the Capital Regional District's 2022 capital plan, with more expensive solutions also included in the budget.

That was the outcome of an Oct. 25 discussion at the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission (SSITC) meeting regarding a pathway project that has garnered concern from some residents, mainly around driver sight lines at the Baker and Lower Ganges road intersection and cyclist safety. CRD electoral area director Gary Holman, who sits on the commission together with seven commissioners, said the Booth Canal pathway discussions, while "excruciating," have also been a lesson the commission can apply to future pathway projects.

The SSITC, which oversees pedestrian and cycling infrastructure as well as transit, is quite unique as many other communities do not have a similar entity, said Holman.

"It has seen miles of pathways being built in and around particularly Ganges. Overall it's been quite successful, but the Booth Canal project showed us that we can tighten up our due diligence and our process," he said.

"The commission, which includes me, weren't completely aware of some of the design elements for the pathway," Holman said, partially due to the tight deadline that went along with nearly half a million dollars in provincial grant funding for the pathway. "[Staff] had to get that work in, and so they kind of rushed the process. But I think myself and the commission also have to be more insistent that we see those designs before we proceed."

At the Oct. 25 SSITC meeting, the commission passed a motion to first explore low-cost and no-cost ways of enhancing safety around the Baker and Lower Ganges road intersection to address continued concerns from some residents and cyclists. This includes projects that have already been completed: a white stop line painted at the intersection to improve sightlines for drivers, signs on Lower Ganges warning of the Baker Road intersection, and shrubs and vegetation at the intersection being removed.

Other plans include possibly installing parabolic mirrors on the golf course side of the intersection, contacting the RCMP to help with speed enforcement along Lower Ganges and more signs warning walkers and cyclists of the intersection.

Some of these suggestions come from a group of Baker Road area residents, whose main concern was a retaining wall near the Saint Mark's cemetery, Holman said.

"This doesn't mean we won't redo the retaining wall . . . our motion said let's explore the low-cost alternatives first," he said.

Commissioners also instructed staff to come back and brief them before moving ahead with items related to the pathway in the CRD's capital plan.

Four such projects are included in the 2022 to 2026 capital plan.

One involves removing and possibly relocating the curbs, referred to in the staff report as concrete barriers, along Lower Ganges Road from Baker Road south, except for those that protect a fire hydrant. Paving may need to be done if the curbs are relocated, with \$10,000 budgeted for that work in the capital plan for 2022.

A second project involves relocating the curbs along Lower Ganges Road from the



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Baker Road and Lower Ganges Road intersection where sightlines have been flagged as inadequate to ensure safe turns from Baker Road.

Booth Canal Road intersection north towards Baker Road at a cost of \$50,000. The province's Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) has stated these curbs can only be relocated, not removed.

To deal with the retaining wall, staff would first do detailed engineering and design work to either demolish, replace or relocate the retaining wall and the pathway north of Baker Road. That work has a \$30,000 budget.

Following the completion of engineering and design work, the actual demolition, replacement or relocation of the pathway and retaining wall has \$99,000 budgeted for it in 2023. Some \$90,000 would come from a Community Works Fund (gas tax) grant, and \$9,000 from the CRD.

In sum, \$99,000 would be needed from the CRD's capital reserve fund for the planned projects, as well as a \$90,000 grant.

"In total, this is an additional \$189,000 spent on a pathway that currently meets all MOTI requirements and specifications," the staff report noted.

The designs were done by the Stantec engineering firm, passed by the CRD engineer and agreed to by MOTI.

"So our staff's view is to do further work on Booth Canal, after it's gone through several sets of engineers . . . it's not necessary. But nevertheless, there are concerns for both folks living on Baker Road and also cyclists with those curbs," Holman said. "[Staff] don't see the need, from a technical or safety perspective, but members of the community do and the commission wants to respond to that."

Also on Oct. 25, the commission passed their first tree removal guidelines, an action spurred by the pathway project. Some residents protested after two dozen or so trees designated as dangerous were removed during construction. Part of the new process involves including trees set to be removed on design documents, which would then be reviewed and approved by the commissions or committees before the trees are cut down.

It will be a busy year for Salt Spring's roads, Holman said, with MOTI committed to repaving Ganges hill up to the Cranberry Road junction in 2022. This will involve widening the shoulder lanes on both sides, with at least a 1.5-metre paved shoulder and another .5 metre of packed gravel. Ganges hill has been a priority for the commission for a number of years, Holman said.

An off-road path on Upper Ganges Road from Leisure Lane up to Merchant Mews, which is the next priority pathway after Booth Canal, is to be undertaken in 2022, Holman said. The capital plan also includes a \$60,000 grant to complete a Ganges village transportation plan, as part of broader Ganges village area planning work currently being undertaken by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

GOVERNANCE

CRD budget up 3.25 per cent

Middle school project has impact

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring property owners will pay an average of \$1,067.37 for Capital Regional District and hospital district services in 2022 if the CRD's preliminary budget plans hold up.

That amount is \$33.60 more than the previous year, or a 3.25 per cent increase. Figures are based on an average residential property assessment of \$741,764.

Proposed CRD spending for Salt Spring is actually up 4.63 per cent, but the Capital Regional Hospital District's requisition amount is dropping by 5.98 per cent, which reduces the overall requisition.

Increases have mainly come from Victoria-based legislative and general government services and local

parks and recreation functions. The PARC increase is primarily related to its decision to manage Salt Spring Island Middle School for community-based activities once it closes at the end of the 2022 school year and extra bylaw officer support in parks. A pool building and mechanical lifecycle report also needs to be funded in the coming year.

At the last Parks and Recreation Commission meeting where the preliminary budget was discussed, some commission members expressed concern that not enough funds were being put into reserves.

However, Salt Spring electoral area director Gary Holman cautioned against additional hikes to the PARC budget, especially as he thought further increases could result from changes at the regional level.

A final budget for 2022 will be passed by the CRD Board in March.

BUS SERVICE

Transit priorities outlined

Five-year plan for Salt Spring includes more buses to ferries and possible 'on demand' service option

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring transit users want local bus trips to be more frequent, responsive and connect to ferries better.

That's what BC Transit found when surveying transit users on the island as part of their Transit Future Service Plan. Presented to the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission on Oct. 25, the plan created by the transit authority every five years also includes local priorities for transit, such as increasing bus service to the island's ferry terminals and starting a service where rural transit users can request a pick-up.

Since it was started in 2008, the local transit system has grown in ridership. Between 2014-15 and 2019-20 that growth was 16 per cent, from 100,000 to 116,000 riders.

The transit system uses five vehicles on seven bus routes. Transit on the island is run through a cost-sharing model where costs are split between the provincial government and the Capital Regional District, explained senior transit planner work lead Levi Megenbir. The revenue earned, \$211,000 or 32.2 per cent of operating costs in 2019-20, goes back to the CRD to offset its costs.

BC Transit surveyed 295 people who identified connections to ferries as a top priority, especially on routes 2 (Fulford Harbour), 3 (Vesuvius) and 4 (Long Harbour), which are the system's three busiest routes. People were also interested in on-demand service, meaning buses that arrive when requested via phone, internet or a mobile app, as well as flexible buses that go off route to pick up or drop off closer to a user's home or destination. Predictably,



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Salt Spring Transit bus at Central en route to Vesuvius Bay.

people also wanted to see more frequent transit service, as well as runs that start earlier and continue later in the day.

BC Transit outlined a number of priority areas for the next five years, with the CRD and the province needing to approve their share of funding for each of them.

Priorities approved by the CRD to go ahead in 2022, Megenbir confirmed, include discontinuing Route 6 (Salt Spring Connector) and reallocating the resources to more trips on Routes 3 and 5 (Fernwood), as well as adding trips on Route 4 to meet the later Long Harbour ferries. Now the province needs to approve its share of the funding for those plans, Megenbir said, which should be decided in February 2022.

BC Transit will approach the CRD again in the spring or summer of 2022 to see what the appetite is for supporting other priorities it identified for Salt Spring's bus network over the next five years. Those include a bus every 60 minutes on Route 2 during weekday peak times, as well as making the current seasonal Route 9 (Ruckle Park) a year-round service. Route 9 was the only route to see the number of riders go up during the COVID-19 pandemic, where the transit system as a whole saw a 65 per cent ridership nosedive, though numbers have gradually gone up again.

Another priority is to make Route 1 (Ganges) flexible, meaning people could request a bus

to pick them up or drop them off outside the standard bus route within town. BC Transit needs to analyze this option further, the plan stated, to see when flexible routing could run. Another part of this priority is introducing "rural trip windows," an on-demand service where people could request a pick up or drop off at places off of the bus route including North End Road, Sunset Drive, Southey Point and Isabella Point.

The plan also outlined infrastructure priorities, including adding two bays to the Ganges exchange and improving key bus stops across the island. BC Transit also wants to see an operations and maintenance facility constructed to house the island's buses and house electric charging infrastructure for longer-term plans to electrify the bus fleet. Getting transit infrastructure plans to go ahead can be a complex task as it involves multiple partners, including the CRD, BC Ferries, the school district, the province and even federal government funding, Megenbir said.

Sixty-six per cent or the majority of transit users on Salt Spring ride for leisure, the plan stated, with ridership increasing in the summer and especially on weekends. Forty-four per cent of those surveyed said they use transit to get to work.

The CRD's transportation commission will meet next on Nov. 29 at the Salt Spring Public Library meeting room.

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

NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 9/26 - 10/02	Week of 10/03 - 10/09	Week of 10/10 - 10/16	Week of 10/17 - 10/23
Southern Gulf Islands	4	4	24	4
Saanich Peninsula	19	29	17	18
Greater Victoria	180	147	102	94
Langford to Port Renfrew	53	51	36	23
Duncan Area	56	56	75	43
Chemainus to Nanaimo	13	5	8	15
Total	325	292	262	197

BOOKS & BLING

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COMMUNITY SERVICES

South-end daycare closes due to lack of staff

Tree Frog Daycare a long-running island service

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Tree Frog Daycare is the latest entity to be affected by Salt Spring Island's labour shortage, announcing it will be closing its doors indefinitely due to an inability to hire qualified staff.

The board of the Fulford Harbour Child Care Society (FHCCS) stated last Monday that it is "with great sadness"

they announce the closure of the daycare indefinitely after Nov. 30. Tree Frog is one of a range of businesses and organizations affected by a combined labour and housing shortage, which has led to reduced hours, more overtime for existing workers and even some businesses closing up shop on the island.

While its licence can accommodate 20 children, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and staffing issues the daycare has been serving only four children under the age of two and a half and eight children between two and a half to five years of age.

In addition to the families of daycare children, the waitlist for limited infant and toddler spaces usually numbers 20 or more.

"Parents are looking for alternative care, including moving to private in-home care, trading care amongst themselves, and some are looking at quitting their jobs or reducing their work hours," stated FHCCS chairperson Danielle Taylor via email.

The daycare offers subsidies for families who are eligible, she added, so finding equally affordable alternatives may not be possible for everyone.

"There are inadequate words to express our unhappiness at having to make this announcement, but the reality of the combined staffing and housing crisis on our island is one we are all familiar with," said an Oct. 25 statement from the board.

As a licensed daycare, Tree Frog is required to have a certain number of early childhood educators (ECEs) on staff. To run an infant and toddler room for children under two and a half, staff with additional infant/toddler certification are needed.

"There are increased positions available for ECEs and on Salt Spring we are drawing from a relatively small pool of certified individuals," Taylor wrote. The option of recruiting people from off-island is "very difficult if not impossible," she added, due to the present housing situation.

The staffing issues Tree Frog is facing are not unique, Taylor stated, as other child care facilities on Salt Spring, Vancouver Island and across the province are facing the same difficulties.

While the closure is imminent, Taylor stated that the daycare remains "hopeful and committed" to searching for staff and doing all they can to re-open. Anyone in the community with leads on qualified staff are being asked to connect with them at treefrogdaycare@shaw.ca.

"If we could hire sufficient staff we could be up and running again as soon as our licensing was reactivated, which we trust would happen quickly," Taylor said.

Since the announcement of the daycare's closure, they have been overwhelmed by love and support from the community.

"It has made a heartbreaking time for us a bit more manageable," she said.

The board thanked the families, staff and community for their support over the nearly 28 years the daycare has been open.

"It has been our very great honour to provide care and education for the youngest members of our community and their families during this time," the board stated.

Capital Regional District



Notice of Assent Voting Opportunity

Pender Islands Health Care Centre Referendum

Qualified Resident Electors and Non-Resident Property Electors within North and South Pender Islands in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area of the Capital Regional District, will be asked to vote on the following question on **Saturday, November 20, 2021**:

"Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopting Bylaw No. 4441, "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021", authorizing the CRD to establish a service to contribute to the costs incurred by the Pender Islands Health Care Society in operating the Pender Islands Health Care Centre and to raise a maximum annual requisition up to the greater of TWO HUNDRED and THIRTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$235,000) or \$0.1803 per ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000) of taxable land and improvements for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the service. YES or NO"

Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4441

The intent of Bylaw No. 4441, the "Pender Islands Health Care Centre Contribution Service Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2021", is to establish a new service to contribute to the costs incurred by the Pender Islands Health Care Society in operating the Pender Island Health Care Centre. The bylaw permits the CRD to raise a maximum annual requisition for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the service to the greater of two hundred and thirty-five thousand dollars (\$235,000) or \$0.1803 per one thousand dollars (\$1,000) of taxable land and improvements in the service area. It is estimated that the participants will pay an additional \$93.00 per average household on an annual basis if the bylaw is approved.

Please note that this synopsis of Bylaw No. 4441 is not intended to be or understood as an interpretation of the bylaw. A copy of the complete bylaw and this notice may be viewed from October 21, 2021 to November 19, 2021, Monday to Friday (excluding statutory holidays), from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm, at CRD Headquarters, 625 Fisgard Street, 1st Floor Foyer, Victoria, BC. The bylaw and other information may also be viewed on the website: www.crd.bc.ca/penderhealth-vote.

Voting Opportunities

Advance Voting: 8 am to 8 pm, Wednesday, November 17, 2021

General Voting Day: 8 am to 8 pm, Saturday, November 20, 2021

Location: Pender Islands School, 5714 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC

Mail Ballot Voting is available to qualified Resident Electors and Non-Resident Property Electors. To register to vote by mail, eligible electors must submit a completed mail ballot application form no later than **4:30 pm on November 19, 2021**. Application forms are available at www.crd.bc.ca/penderhealth-vote. Completed application forms may be submitted via email, mail, or in person at: Capital Regional District, c/o Legislative Services, 5th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1R7; Tel: 250.360.3642; Email: legserv@crd.bc.ca

If you are not on the Provincial Resident Elector List or the CRD Non-Resident Property List of Electors, you may register at the time of filling in your ballot. If you wish to confirm that your name is on the List of Electors, please call 250.360.3642.

After receiving a mail ballot application, the CRD will send out the applicable mail ballot package commencing on or about October 29, 2021. To be counted for the assent voting, your mail ballot must be received by the Chief Election Officer no later than 4:30 pm on Friday, November 19, 2021 at the CRD address listed above. It is the obligation of the person applying to vote by mail ballot to ensure that the mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer within this time limit.

Elector Qualifications

Resident Elector - You are entitled to vote as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on general voting day, are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months and within the boundaries of North and South Pender Islands for the past 30 days. If registering on voting day, you must provide **two documents** proving identity and residency (one must have a signature). Please note the CRD is using the Provincial Voters List for Resident Electors.

Non-Resident Property Elector - If you are 18 years or older on general voting day, are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months, have owned and held registered title to property within the boundaries of North and South Pender Islands for the past 30 days, and do not qualify as a Resident Elector, you may vote as a Non-Resident Property Elector provided that you:

- have registered on or before September 15, 2021, or
- register at the time of voting. The following information is required at the time of registration:
 - a recent title search, state of title certificate, or property tax notice, showing the names of **all** of the registered owners,
 - two documents** proving identity and residency (one must have a signature), and
 - in the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners, designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property. A copy of the consent form is available at:

www.crd.bc.ca/penderhealth-vote

For more information, contact the Capital Regional District at 250.360.3624 or Toll Free 1.800.663.4425 local 3624, or by email at legserv@crd.bc.ca.

Dated this 22nd day of October, 2021

Kristen Morley
Chief Election Officer

FERRIES

Skeena Queen off for maintenance

Passengers adapt to Cumberland

The Queen of Cumberland is replacing the Skeena Queen for the next six weeks while the usual Fulford-Swartz Bay route vessel undergoes required maintenance.

No schedule changes will result, except that on Wednesday evenings the 9 p.m. departure from Swartz Bay will be delayed until approximately 9:30 p.m. due to the Cumberland's fuelling needs.

On its first day on the route, BC Ferries reported the vessel was off schedule by 80 minutes as of 1:20 p.m. "due to ongoing operational delays associated with a recent vessel swap."

Travellers should know that some customers may be loaded onto the upper level vehicle ramp and must leave their vehicle when the ramp is in motion.

Thru-fare tickets are available for purchase in the ship's cafeteria. There is also an elevator on the vessel.

The Skeena Queen is scheduled to return on Dec. 16.

EDUCATION

Fulford joins out-of-school care program pilot

Twelve spaces available for early primary-years children

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fulford Elementary School has been approved to provide out-of-school care for children in early primary grades as part of a province-wide pilot program.

The school is one of 21 receiving the required licence and funding as announced by the Ministry of Education last week.

"Children will be able to take advantage of quality learning experiences both indoors and outdoors in the rich natural environment that surrounds the school, under the care and supervision of experienced and qualified early childhood educators," explained School District 64's early learning coordinator Janet Hoag.

Called the Seamless Day Kindergarten project, service is delivered in a licensed kindergarten classroom by a team that consists of a kindergarten teacher and two early childhood educators (ECEs). Hoag said one ECE works alongside the teacher in the classroom during the school day and the second provides high-quality after-school care within the same kindergarten classroom setting. Twelve spaces are available in the after-school part of the program.

Children must be registered at Fulford Elementary for their families to be eligible to participate and priority goes to children in kindergarten and Grade 1.

"This is so exciting and such good news for children and families and a move that has been a long time coming," said Hoag. "We know from neuroscience that early experiences form the foundation for success not only in school but in life. Children and families deserve quality, affordable early learning and care."



PHOTO COURTESY SD64

From left, early learning program coordinator Janet Hoag, kindergarten teacher Ara Van Riel, ECE Janice Shields, district superintendent Scott Benwell, ECE Laurel MacRae, director of instruction D'Arcy Deacon and Fulford principal Marie Mullen at Fulford Elementary School.

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OPINION

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 Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

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



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EDITORIAL

Learning curve

Most public projects on Salt Spring attract some kind of negative attention.

But reaction against the new pathway constructed by the Capital Regional District next to Lower Ganges Road just north of Baker Road and south to Booth Canal Road earlier this year was vehement.

During construction the removal of numerous trees was criticized, and adjacent property owners said they had not been contacted about trees being taken down. That's never a good way to start a project.

But it was when the area around Baker Road was finished, with large concrete blocks used in the process, that the loudest opposition was raised. Visibility for people trying to get onto Lower Ganges Road from Baker Road was definitely impeded by the blocks.

THE ISSUE: CRD pathway project

WE SAY: Better process needed

Some cyclists, too, have complained about the cement curbs placed in the area closer to Booth Canal Road on Lower Ganges Road. Without a proper bike lane on the road, cyclists fear being slammed into the curbs if vehicles come too close in that curvy area.

A project that should have been all good news from day one, especially

due to receipt of a \$490,000 provincial government grant to offset costs, quickly turned sour. While some actions have been taken or will be taken to hopefully make the area safer, the ones with the most impact will cost big bucks to effect. A CRD staff report states that \$189,000 will be needed to make all of the changes requested.

CRD electoral area director Gary Holman has been fielding the heat about the pathway and the problems it has caused, and admits that the process could have been handled better. The Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission, through which the project funds flow, has also criticized a process that saw them largely left out of the project details.

General criticism about the Baker to Booth design and how it came to be is certainly warranted, although a significant community amenity was created in the process. The ruckus also resulted in a Salt Spring Island Tree Removal Guideline being created for CRD-owned paths and parkland, something that was long overdue.

But once again this situation shows that local people are needed on the ground when spending public money to ensure that projects meet not only big-city engineering standards but islanders' safety and environmental standards too.



Consider island geology

BY HUGH GREENWOOD

Dear SSI Local Trust Committee members:

You appear to have placed insufficient weight on the advice of your staff and freshwater advisor, and have missed some important relevant data in regards to the Vortex application.

The initial advice in the first staff report of Dec. 17, 2019 recommends rejecting the application, citing numerous official community plan incompatibilities and problems with siting the project in a near-shore position with a water table susceptible to tidal influence and inadequate characterization and plans for the septic system. I believe their advice was excellent, well-researched and should have been followed.

Another staff report recommends proceeding, with conditions. The geotechnical reports by Ryzuk and associates are thorough and focus mainly on the structural problems associated with building on a base subject to possible liquefaction, but suggest engineering remedies that would make it structurally acceptable. Hydrologic problems are not directly addressed.

Other available data that deserve consideration are the report by LaRocque, Allen and Kirste, the Geohydrology of Salt Spring Island, which is recorded in Trust files, and the geologic map by Greenwood and Mihaly-nuk (2009). The geohydrology study contains detailed analysis of how the groundwater table fluctuates under the influence of the tides, especially in near-shore environments with low topographic relief. The water table is shallow and vulnerable, even with normal tidal ranges and may adversely affect the proposed septic sewage field.

VIEWPOINT

The geologic map is illustrated in the application, but an important feature is not addressed. One of the largest faults on Salt Spring runs along the northeast side of the Fulford valley directly beneath the bed of Fulford Creek. Such faults are known to have springs and are likely to provide major conduits for groundwater and may have a large influence on the groundwater in this area of low relief, high tides and a proposed septic system with planned direct discharge to the intertidal zone in Fulford Harbour.

I urge you to reconsider your approval of this project and to follow the advice of the first staff report, which

recommends rejection. At the very least, there should be no approval without having a full professional report on the hydrology. This report should give specific attention to the possible hydrologic effects of a major fault underlying the site and the influence of the tides on the groundwater and on the proposed septic field. The hydrology study will likely require monitoring of a well over a range of tides to assess the dynamics of the tidal effect and responses to precipitation. There also should be a thorough professional report by a biologist to determine the effects of this project on the biology and ecology of the area, with special attention to the possible effect of the septic effluent on the intertidal zone that will receive the effluent. Until those reports are in hand there should be no further consideration of the project.

An alternative might be to insist on the original OCP setbacks and installation of a full tertiary sewage treatment plant with off-site removal of all effluent.

A better alternative would be direct rejection of the application.

The writer is a retired engineer living on Salt Spring.

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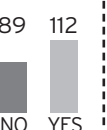
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you glad to see Pacific Standard Time return?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does Salt Spring's labour shortage impact you?



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’re looking to produce ecological citizens who are educated and also able to engage with critical issues of the epoch and our generation.”

MARTIN ANEVICH, SATURNA SCHOOL

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What did you do with the last few sunny days we will have for awhile?*

CONNIE HOLMES



Went for a walk with friends along the water in Fernwood or Burgoyne Bay.

GARETT MACDONELL



Doing some yard clean-up and taking my dog up Mount Maxwell.

DEBORAH OSBORNE



I went to Price Beach with my dog Tara.

STEVE SIGURGEIRSON



Helped my neighbours feed and water their sheep.

MELANIE PLATZ



I dug up dahlia tubers to store for the winter and planted the last of my garlic.

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

Abomination

So, David Fullbrook, the man behind the Vortex application, believes those who have expressed opposition to his project “don’t have all the information required to make an informed opinion” (Oct. 13 Driftwood). This is the type of generalized put-down politicians and developers use when they want to spin a story.

I recently sent six very specific questions regarding the proposed Vortex development to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Those questions, which covered everything from the flooding hazard, to a potentially tidal-dominated groundwater table, the quality of the effluent that will be flowing into Soule Creek and the harbour, violations of our OCP, the failure to require hydrology and biology studies as recommended by the Trust’s senior freshwater specialist, and a lack of meaningful consultation with First Nations, were published in the Driftwood

on Sept. 22. I have yet to receive a response to any of them.

If Mr. Fullbrook wished to enlighten an uninformed public about his plans for “a unique visitor experience,” he could have addressed some or all of those points in detail. He did not. Instead, he chose the dismissive approach.

Godspeed to the Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society and to West Coast Environmental Law. May the lawyers involved cut through the political spin, expose the flawed process and denounce this project for what it is: a commercial abomination that will forever blight Fulford Harbour and possibly destroy one of the most beautiful and fragile ecosystems in the Gulf Islands.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

Confusing

As a relatively recent immigrant to Salt Spring I would be the first to admit that my grasp

of the multitude of issues here is limited, partly because the sheer number of issues is somewhat overwhelming. I also cannot claim to be particularly enlightened in the area of environmental concerns.

Regardless, every time I drive to or from Fulford and I pass the proposed site for the Vortex development it is glaringly obvious that the proposed site is completely inappropriate with its proximity to the harbour and almost sea level altitude.

What I find confusing is that if an environmental moron like myself can see that the location of this development makes no sense, how is it possible that the people with supposed environmental expertise and knowledge of the island could consider letting it go ahead?

JIM SEXTON,
SALT SPRING

Gratitude

The recent closure of another local entity (Tree Frog Daycare)

seems to have been the last straw for this perpetual member of team sideline.

It’s hard not to slip into the depressiveness of it all, because if this last year and a half has shown us anything, it’s that we are nothing without community. And so, at the risk of being seen as too “heart-led,” I would like to express my gratitude to the people who fight for our collective future. Those who educate our children, those who wrestle with affordable housing, those who believe everyone has a right to good food, those who take on overdevelopment and those who are having to navigate the logistical nightmare of an ongoing pandemic.

Thank you for putting yourselves out there. In the words of an outdated fictional Dreamworks character, “I has hope.”

MARCIE LARSON-FOSSON,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Advice to Islands Trust critics: keep it simple!

Talk about argumentative, I’ve got cats who are less peevish. There’s nothing Salt Spring likes more than a good moan and invariably the brunt of that relentless petulance is the poor old Islands Trust.

I’ve never had much time for politicians per se, all poseur and puffery if you ask me, but here on Salt Spring we’re blessed with the incomparable and blessed Elizabeth May, who is far too nice to involve herself in any skullduggery, and the Islands Trust, which is about as Machiavellian as a seniors’ knitting circle. Oh yes, and the CRD, which has its finger in more pies than Simple Simon.

I was recently sitting in the Country Grocer parking lot, minding my own business, and drawing up my shopping list du jour when someone slapped what I can only describe as an ugly yellow missive on my windshield. If I’d been a younger, more spritely man I would have leapt from the car and confronted the slapper, but since I’m neither I gave her a withering look to let her know that my windscreen was NOT the proper place for her junk mail, but it was obviously not withering enough, and she’d moved on to litter the other cars in the car park.

I still have the missive or whatever you’d choose to call it. Pamphlet, leaflet, an impenetrable harangue that would have been better penned in a large red crayon. I brought it home with me because I figured that anything with that many words crammed onto four sheets of A4 was at least worth a closer look, especially since it was titled Southern Gulf Island Resident & Business Coalition (SGIRBC, which doesn’t exactly trip off the tongue). They’re going to have to work on their initialism. IGRIFE, maybe? Island Gulf Residents In Perpetual Enragement? Neither does it give any indication of exactly how many Southern Gulf Island Residents and Businesses their coalition has so far coalesced. I’m still waiting for my invite although I think I’m about to blow it.

The thing about these angry fliers is that



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

they are invariably unequivocal, no ifs, buts or maybes, just a hairy-chested rant because their side of the argument is the only side they are interested in.

For anyone who doesn’t live here in Never Ever Land, the Islands Trust is a body so constitutionally toothless it’s like being governed by your granny. I don’t know exactly what it’s done this time to merit this latest bucket of slops, but to judge from the flyer it has apparently uncovered some jackboots among the autumn rutabaga and its elected members have “unilaterally given themselves new powers.” Eat your heart out, Vladimir Putin.

Worse still, with these new powers the Islands Trust (“preserve and protect”) is going to impose some restrictions, enact some small authority over the fistful of agrarian anarchists who, if I could get any sense from their impenetrable pamphlet, don’t want anyone telling them what to do, thank you very much.

The Trust, it says, plans to restrict your ability to farm (boo!), dictate the size of your house (boo!), require permission to cut down a tree on your own land (boo!), and eliminate future dock spaces, which must be particularly onerous because it was underlined, and I can see their point. It should be everyone’s right to build an ugly, obstructive jetty across crown land and public beaches from your monster home because, god-damn it, you own a boat and a very large house. (Double boo!).

Now correct me if I’m wrong, but isn’t it the function of government, however

weighed down by insipidity, to set a few limits, even on this largely ungovernable and virtually ungoverned island, so that a motley bunch of unelected grouches like these pamphleteers don’t get to run things the way they want them run?

What’s striking about this document is that its main beef seems to be that the Trust paid more attention to something called the Rainforest Conservation Foundation when coming up with a blueprint for the island’s future than it did to the busybodies behind the pamphlet. The RCF, it says, dictated to the Trust and the Trust in turn rolled over and did what it was told. Instead of rolling over and doing what IGRIFE told it.

I skipped the centre pages of the pamphlet because they seemed to comprise a rambling, largely incoherent tirade about something or other which had been cut and pasted from something else because it coalesced with the pamphleteer’s grouse. And to ensure that it was entirely unreadable it was riddled throughout with six-line field codes (<https://webfiles/%gobledegook%20%moregobledegook/etc/etc>) that would take half a lifetime to type in by hand even if the reader had retained enough brain cells to want to follow the links.

As someone who has spent five decades inflicting information on the reluctant, let me offer IGRIFE’s propaganda tsar a few words of advice. Keep It Simple! Everyone recognizes E=mc2 without have the faintest idea what or why or even so what, but they know it’s consequential. Same with your own important ideas: the more minutiae, the more you’ll baffle your potential adherent. For all I know you may have had some perfectly ripping notions in the tedious screed you slapped on my car screen, although I seriously doubt it because it has been my long experience that if a document looks like an unapproachable rant, it invariably is.

Paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

Lest We Forget

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be closed on **Thursday, Nov. 11 Remembrance Day** and will re-open **9am - 4pm on Friday, Nov. 12.**

Driftwood

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HALLOWEEN HAPPENINGS: From left is a decorated yard on Maliview Drive, where hundreds of children go trick or treating, and three-year-old Lyric McLeod-Strong the bumblebee and her sister Ava, 4, get set to trick-or-treat on Wildwood Crescent on Sunday.

PHOTO AT LEFT BY JEN MACLELLAN; PHOTO AT RIGHT BY BROOKE MCLEOD

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Just transition needed

I keep hearing "Big Oil" executives and their friends in Ottawa talk about a transition away from fossil fuels taking decades and decades.

Sure, it's true we're not going to shut off the oil taps tomorrow, but this kind of delayed transition is dangerous. In fact, you could call it a new form of climate denial.

When Big Oil first learned about climate change, they invented climate denial to try to slow down political action. Now that climate change is widely accepted, they're arguing that we need a slow transition for the same reason, to protect their profits.

Big Oil executives aren't interested in protecting workers and communities, they're interested in protecting their pocketbooks. That's why we need big, bold and just transition policies that listen to climate science, guarantee good union jobs and put people first.

This fall, Justin Trudeau has a chance to do just that, but to do it right, he needs to tune out the self-interested fossil fuel executives and lobbyists and lis-

ten to the people instead. We need a just transition that works for everyone, not one that helps wealthy fossil fuel executives get even richer.

JEAN GELWICKS,
SALT SPRING

Vaccine divide circle set

Quite likely everyone reading this has had or heard of at least one uncomfortable interaction regarding the use of COVID vaccines and the B.C. government's mandated passport for people to access certain venues.

I'm convinced that often, when people are able to listen respectfully, even to perspectives they can't agree with, space for shifting understandings and positions is created. So I was glad that a highly engaged member of the community suggested to Salt Spring's restorative justice (RJ) group that we organize a circle for anyone in our community who'd like to build respectful connection across the "vaccination divide."

We now have a date for the circle: Sunday, Nov. 21 at 2 p.m. via Zoom. If you have questions, please contact coordinator Darlene Gage (rjustice@ssics.ca) or call me at 250-537-5251.

JAN SLAKOV,
RJ VOLUNTEER

From the Government's Election Platform:

Canada Is Set to Become a Global Leader in Levelling the Playing Field for Local News

In a democracy, nothing is more vital than a healthy, vibrant local news media. But the threats from Big Tech are increasing every day.

The government's 100-day plan will place Canada in the front ranks of global leadership standing up for local news. The commitment is clear. All parties in Parliament support decisive action. Now is the time to act and pass legislation by early 2022.

News Media Canada, representing hundreds of trusted titles in our print and digital media industry, and our news publishing partners across Canada and around the world, call on Canadian parliamentarians to work together to level the digital playing field between local news and Big Tech.

Levelling the Playing Field with Digital Giants

In 2021, most Canadians get their news from digital platforms which drives key advertising revenues away from Canadian news organizations and towards platforms owned by social media companies and digital giants.

A re-elected Liberal Government will:

- Introduce legislation, within 100 days, that would require digital platforms that generate revenues from the publication of news content to share a portion of their revenues with Canadian news outlets. This legislation would be based on the Australian model and level the playing field between global platforms and Canadian news outlets. The bill will also allow news publishers to work together to prepare for collective negotiation.

Rants + ROSES

Roses

Thank you to the lovely person who removed the bright red graffiti from Island Pathway's newly installed historical interpretive panel at Portlock Park. Thanks for having our back. And thank you to all the users of pathways who help keep them clean, clear of debris, and cut back. *Island Pathways*

A heartfelt grocery bunch of roses to whoever turned in my partners iPhone to the lost and found at Thrifty's. We both really appreciate your act of kindness.

A very special thank you from the Women's Institute of Salt Spring Island ("The Pie Ladies") for everyone who bought pies and contributed to the fall fair sale. Thank you to Country Grocer for the whipped cream, John Wiebe for the wagon for transport, to Brody Paine and the Harvest Kitchen and Café for sourcing supplies and the use of the Fulford Hall kitchen. Thank you for fruit: Mike and Flora Bovis, Dianne Clement, Marguerite Lee and Zelly Taylor.

Thank you to our honorary "Pie Ladies" for helping make and/or sell pies: Judith Barnett and Lily, Pat Campbell, Kim Carlson, Lynn Clark, Jill Collingwood, Mary Lou Cuddy, Lisa Dahling, Audrey Denton and Lynn, Claire Gien, Pat Hannah, Linda Hawke, Kelly Loch, Sam McCall, Lisa Miki, Milly Sinclair, Sheila Sinnott and Rosemary Trump.

We baked fewer pies this year because we were unsure how many people would be attending the fair. Apologies to the many people who went without pie. We will make more next year.

Buckets of chocolate roses to the brothers who came to my aid on Stewart Road when I had a flat tire. They called BCAA and one stayed with me until Blaine from BCAA changed my tire. Chivalry is not dead. *Donna Dobson*

A wheelbarrow full of chocolate roses to all the students, past, present and future, who come to school from the boats in any weather. Congratulations on your fortitude. You are tomorrow's leaders. Well done. *Donna Dobson*



Check out **what's new** in **education** for **Gulf Islands learners**

Focus on Education

EDUCATION PRACTICE

Nature's the classroom and teacher in SD64

Outdoor learning meets student needs

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ringed by intertidal zones and dotted with forests and lakes teeming with plant and animal life, it's perhaps no surprise that the Gulf Islands education system is integrating the outdoors into a lot of the learning children and youth are doing in schools.

School District 64 made headlines last May as it became the first district in B.C. to have a garden at every school. And just this past Thursday, Salt Spring Elementary celebrated the bounty of their school garden in a harvest lunch and Halloween dance party. The celebration happened mostly outdoors, with eager students, teachers and families preparing hearty pumpkin soup and pressing apple cider. The school garden, supported by the community through grants, volunteer sup-

port and parent garden champion Robin Jenkinson, is one of the many ways students at the school are learning outside.

Outdoor education started at least 10 years ago, said principal Shelly Johnson, when students working with the Salt Spring Conservancy got involved in studying the nearby heronry. Seven years ago a nature-based class was introduced, taught by Gail Bryn-Jones at the Grade 3-4 level, and a grant to build an outdoor classroom was acquired. The school has since installed a dome for a classroom on its grounds.

"All these things encourage learning outside, which has proven to be especially useful right now with COVID. I mean, who knew?" Johnson said.

Where the school is situated really helps, said Johnson, as Salt Spring Elementary students can easily get to Mouat Park, which they do on a weekly basis, or do beach programming at Churchill Beach without having to deal with busing or field trip preparation.

Looking ahead, Johnson said the school has plans to further

"naturize" the playground by adding a bike trail around the field. As well, the elementary school will soon have a mural featuring local flora and fauna gracing one of its outdoor walls.

Some of what the research says about outdoor learning might be intuitive, such as the benefits of Vitamin D on the mind or the anecdotal changes Johnson sees with students being more "peaceful, regulated, happier."

Research is finding the benefits of outdoor education are especially strong for students with special needs, such as those with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) or if they are on the autism spectrum. Those students find being outside more calming and regulating. Young children in particular need more kinesthetic learning, Johnson said, and things like walking on uneven ground can help with muscles and balance and being outside can even improve one's eyesight.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION continued on 11



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“When we first came to the Brentwood campus for a tour, that was the day the decision was made. Jacob looked at us and said, “I want to go here.” He was just shining. Jacob needs a broad horizon. His interests are big. The amount of responsibility and accountability that has been asked of him at Brentwood, from that first year in Grade 9 to his leadership role today in Grade 12, has really driven him to be his best self. It’s inspired him to reach way beyond what he would normally have done at this age.”

*Haidee Hart, Salt Spring Island
Mother of Jacob Hart, Brentwood Head Prefect (Privett '22)*

Focus on **EDUCATION**

Real world science part of ecological education



PHOTO COURTESY MARTIN ANEVICH

Grade 10 and 11 students do fieldwork as part of their experiential year of ecological learning at the Saturna Ecological Education Centre.

OUTDOOR EDUCATION

continued from 9

The growth that happens in the outdoor classroom, research finds, involves the development of “a sense of self, independence, confidence, creativity, decision-making and problem-solving skills, empathy towards others, motor skills, self-discipline and initiative.”

More and more research is also pointing to students doing better in school when they are given the opportunity to learn outdoors. Part of this is the “fun” factor, where increased enjoyment leads to increased achievement in school.

The research also shows that the outdoor classroom is a “natural entry point” for families and the wider community to connect to the school and through those relationships have greater involvement in and support for the school.

It takes a community to make the outdoor programming at Salt Spring Elementary work, with funding from the school district, grants and generous local businesses, as well as keen teachers taking on the nature-based classes and parent champions such as Jenkinson.

Another program born out of a community’s resolve to keep something dear to them from disappearing is the Saturna Ecological Education Centre (SEEC). What started as a quest to keep their elementary school many years ago has transformed into an entire high school curriculum conducted in the outdoors.

Bunking in their “high-tech, off-grid facility,” the 11 students currently doing a whole high school year from Saturna spend a majority of their day outside. A typical day could start with an orientation circle discussing the goals for the day and stretching, said vice principal and teacher Martin Anevich, followed by a hike along a national park trail. Arriving at a beach involves orienteering or using compasses and maps to determine the best spots for learning.

“Then we got down to a really neat spot on a beach where we could actually see some folds in the cliff, some synclines and anticlines, just with the plate tectonics effects,” Anevich said.

A story about the impact of earthquakes on the Pacific Northwest followed, in preparation for the Great BC ShakeOut on Oct. 21. The same afternoon involved taking a drone out and demonstrating its features for filming.

But the students, who are either in Grade 10 or 11 and come from across B.C. as well as the Gulf Islands, are not only outdoors for the sake of being outdoors, Anevich stressed. SEEC lessons are focused on how interacting with the outdoors “[enhances] the opportunity to learn and [deepens] our learning,” he said.

While reduced anxiety and developing maturity are obvious benefits of the program for students, said principal Adrian Pendergast, the focus is on doing intentional learning outside.

“We’re going out with a study and with an intent,” he said.

And the students are doing real world science, including setting up and monitoring data from remote cameras set up in a conservation zone for multiple rockfish species. The data from the students is being shared with the Galiano Conservancy, the University of Victoria and the Saturna Island Marine Research and Education Society.

The rockfish project is an example of SEEC’s focus as present, to build partnerships with scientific and academic institutions, including recent partnerships with Parks Canada and the Hakai Institute.

The program is designed to have students immerse themselves, literally, in the natural world in order to “feel, understand and act for protecting the environment.” The action piece can look a number of different ways, anything from connecting with local government to get an invasive species poll up and running, speaking with former federal Green Party leader and local MP Elizabeth May on a visit to the island, or writing to climate activist leader Greta Thunberg during her visit to Vancouver and getting a reply back.

“We’re looking to produce ecological citizens who are educated and also able to engage with critical issues of the epoch and our generation,” he added.

“That local piece where you’re able to talk to the mayor, where you’re able to gain access to the parks and rec committee who’s just meeting outside of the general store and you’re able to drop by and put a grant in for an invasive species poll. In a bigger place you wouldn’t necessarily have that access.”

HIGH SCHOOL OPTIONS

Jump start offered for early learning and care courses

Dual credit pathways for high school students

BY MAGGIE ALLISON

MANAGER OF CAREER DEVELOPMENT AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES FOR SD64

Students in the Gulf Islands will have two opportunities to begin post-secondary training in Early Learning and Care (ELC) while still in high school commencing in February 2022.

This first-ever dual credit offering is a pilot funded through the Ministry of Education. Dual credit means that students receive both high school and college credit for courses completed. And it is tuition free.

The first option, in partnership with Camosun College, will allow students to enrol in a cluster of courses, earning them 15 college credits and 20 high school credits towards graduation. This cohort will include Tuesday evening classes at the Interurban Campus of Camosun, monthly weekend classes and a one-week campus intensive. This pathway would allow students to get a jump start on their diploma, completing in the spring of 2023. The entire diploma is a two-year, four-semester program totalling 66 credits of study and over 400 hours of applied practice in a practicum setting with children and families.

For a Grade 12 student with a light second semester, this could yield a huge bonus, simply by foregoing a part-time job for one semester.

As a recognized program in B.C., the

Camosun ELC Diploma graduate is eligible to apply for both a certificate to practice in B.C. as well as a special educator — based on their final practicum choice — as either an “inclusive care educator” (special needs) or as an infant/toddler educator to work with very young children from birth to age three.

Graduates are prepared to provide leadership and advocacy within the community and have many opportunities for employment in a variety of settings including Early Years Childhood Programs, Outdoor/Nature-based/Forest Preschool and Kindergarten programs, First Nations Head Start programs and school district Strong Start programs as well as working in school district K-2 classes.

These ELC diploma graduates can also receive credits to ladder into select degree programs throughout B.C.: University of Victoria, Vancouver Island University, University of the Fraser Valley, Douglas College and Capilano University.

The second option is to enrol in single courses offered by Vancouver Island University, starting in February. Classes will be a combination of face-to-face and online offerings held Wednesday afternoons at the Cowichan campus of VIU. Sign up to take the one course that allows you to work as a paid ECE assistant in a daycare setting.

If working with children and training as an educator is part of your future, the time to act is now. Spots are limited and early applications are recommended.

For more information, email me at malison@sd64.org.



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RESEARCH

Arts' economic impact measured

Study finds Salt Spring part of arts 'super region'

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first-ever arts impact study for Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands has found that the sector brings in nearly \$1 billion each year and has five times more artists than previously thought in the region.

Through interviews, surveys and focus groups, the Digital Innovation Group study deemed the area an "arts super region" with 35,000 full-time and casual creatives as well as 25 arts councils active. The study found \$910 million in direct economic output flowed from the arts in 2019, contributing \$676 million in GDP and supporting 21,920 full-time jobs.

Executive director of Salt Spring Arts Yael Wand said the report helps quantify the impact of the arts on the local economy as well as cultural, social and health impacts.

"Nobody in the arts likes to talk about economic impact, because nobody in the arts is doing it for money," she said. "We all know it, intrinsically, but attaching economics to arts is almost an antithesis to the point of why people are in the arts."

Yet knowing these numbers is important, Wand said, and they show that the arts sector is larger than previously thought and also larger than other industries, such as the Victoria cruise ship economy. The study also noted the arts supports 35 per cent more jobs than the region's forestry sector.

The arts are also a significant draw for tourists, and the 1.2 million "cultural tourists" who came to the region in 2019 tended to spend more and stay longer than other types of visitors.

Ninety-five per cent of businesses who contributed to the study said the local arts sector makes the community a better place to conduct business. An estimated \$400 million was spent at local businesses either before or after cultural events in the region in 2019.

Owing to the pandemic, 2020 and 2021 saw most events halted or moved online. The study found that businesses suffered as a result, with 42 per cent reporting a loss of at least 50 per cent of their revenue in 2020 compared to the previous year.

Yet even being an economic boon to Salt Spring, "the truth is that our community relies on that reputation but it doesn't invest back in that reputation," Wand said. She pointed to how artists are relied upon heavily in tourism marketing and often perform or showcase their work without being paid for their time.

Zoning issues can also hamper the arts sector, Wand said, referencing Dragonfly Art Supplies' 2019 plans to house affordable artist studios in their Rainbow Road facility through a property rezoning.

"For many reasons and also their own decisions, they had to close that down. A lot of it was having to struggle with zoning issues," she said.

Another example Wand cited were plans to find a home for the PitchFork Social music series at Bullock Lake, stymied by neighbourhood opposition, land use regulations, a drawn-out application pro-



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Wares for sale at the Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild sale held Oct. 22 to 24 in the ArtSpring gallery. A Digital Innovation Group study found the Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands region created \$910 million in direct economic output from the arts in 2019.

cess and ultimately the developer deciding to withdraw their application.

"When people come up with new creative ways to support business and culture, unfortunately our island isn't always friendly to those new ideas and new ways, and isn't always flexible enough to see the value and to make sure those things can thrive," she said.

Salt Spring's ongoing housing crisis was not missed, as the study cited the need to create affordable housing and workspaces for artists. The study noted community arts spaces are also needed, including multi-use spaces that can also be tourism destinations.

"As our established arts and culture creators are aging out and retiring, who is coming in to replace them to maintain that cultural identity of the island . . . and where's the spaces they can work?" Wand asked, noting that planning for housing and facilities is critical to support a new generation of artists and creatives on Salt Spring.

"Arts should be at the table when we're doing community planning . . ."

Yael Wand
Executive director, Salt Spring Arts

Other "opportunity areas" as the report labels them, include breaking down silos between artistic disciplines and better melding the arts into the fabric of the community.

These silos can be seen on Salt Spring in the form of groups being territorial about their projects or not connecting with other groups.

"We're definitely seeing change in that realm," Wand observed. "People are collaborating more and we're certainly trying to do that through the arts council."

Opportunity exists, she added, to connect the arts to businesses and to organizations working on sustainability or equity and diversity.

The report also calls for addressing the sector's "overreliance on volunteers." Cul-

tural organizations usually employ an average of two full-time staff and over 40 volunteers, whose volunteer time is valued at \$115 million per year.

Wand said Salt Spring's legacy of volunteerism is incredible and will continue to be key in the arts, yet "in order to have sustainable facilities and organizations, we have to make sure that we've got a healthy balance between volunteerism and professional staff."

The study found that overwhelmingly, the arts and culture sector is an important force for social connection and well being, and also for attracting people to live in a community. With arts councils involved in downtown renewal and community art projects, 94 per cent of those surveyed agreed that the sector helps to create a distinct local identity.

Using international findings to quantify the social impact of the arts, the study wrote that the arts have a return on investment of 5 to 1. This means that if \$100 is invested into the arts it is possible to see a return of \$500 of social impact through, for example, improvements in mental health.

The study also highlighted the role artists play as thought leaders, with the ability to portray emerging issues and "[challenge] others to reflect and act upon collective problems in unique ways."

"It's way more than hanging a painting on a wall. There's a lot more we need to be doing," Wand said, noting that the study will be used to strategically plan, to advocate in the community and with funders to help build the sector locally.

"Arts should be at the table when we're doing community planning, it should be at the table when we're talking about mental health or education. Arts is kind of a key pillar in our community identity, so let's make sure arts and artists are at the table," Wand said.

The study, funded by the Canada Council for the Arts, was carried out by the consulting group Nordicity and coordinated by the Digital Innovation Group, which brings together island arts councils. Findings were presented at the Oct. 27-28 Vancouver Island Economic Alliance Summit.

DANCE

Indigenous dance show at ArtSpring

Red Sky Performance on stage Nov. 12

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

The four dance shows that are part of the ArtSpring Presents season this year make up one of the strongest dance series we've ever had, each thrilling in its own way, and offering a diverse perspective.

But one of the loudest squeals of delight from the team here came when Toronto-based Red Sky Performance was confirmed.

Their Nov. 12 visit to ArtSpring is part of their current tour of the award-winning Trace, a highly kinetic contemporary work inspired by Anishinaabe sky and star stories. Trace is about our ancestral origins that stretch across the Milky Way, from the stars to the atoms burning brightly inside of us here on Earth. It offers both a glimpse into our origin as well as our future evolution.

The piece was conceived and directed by Sandra Laronde, the Red Sky Performance executive and artistic director. Founded in 2000, 'Red Sky' are the first two words of Laronde's spirit name, Misko Kizhigoo Migizii Kwe, which means 'Red Sky Eagle Woman' in the Anishinaabemowin (Ojibway) language from the Teme-Augama Anishinaabe (People of the Deep Water). Laronde's mission was to create inspiring experiences of contemporary Indigenous arts and culture that can transform society. More than Dance, We are a Movement — the title of a recent film celebrating the company's 20th anniversary — is apt. Red Sky Performance draws on many disciplines, all with a strong Indigenous aesthetic, commissioning original music and digital animation, using projected images, video, lighting, make-up, costume, set design, sculpture, athletics and storytelling.

It's this multidisciplinary approach that makes Red Sky the leading company of contemporary Indigenous performance across Canada and worldwide. Touring since 2003, the company has presented close to 2,800



PHOTO BY ROB DEVITO

Scene from Red Sky Performance production.

performances in Canada, and has performed in 17 countries on four continents, including the Cultural Olympiads of Beijing and Vancouver.

The company is here for one night only. Come and be transfixed by this explosive performance. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.

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

POETRY

Smart reads at open mic

Thursday night event

Award-winning Salt Spring Island poet Christine Smart is the guest poet for the next Poetry Open Mic evening.

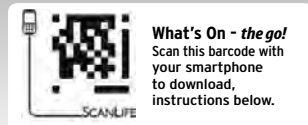
The Salt Spring library-sponsored event starts at 7 p.m. on Thursday, Nov. 4 via Zoom.

Smart's poem titled Hummingbird won the 2020 FBCV Literary Writes contest. Her Decked and Dancing book of poetry won the Acorn-Plantos Award in 2007. The White Crow is her other book of poetry, published by Hedgerow Press.

Smart has worked as a nurse and a writer while living on Salt Spring Island since 1989.

For information about the open mic portion of the night, and to register for the event, people should send an email to programs@saltspringlibrary.com.

what's on this week



Wed. Nov. 3	Thurs. Nov. 4	Thurs. Nov. 4	Sat. Nov. 6	Mon. Nov. 8	Tues. Nov. 9
<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>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.</p> <p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Burn it Smart Workshop. Learn all about wood heat, including how to prevent chimney fires and other fire-safety tips, from the comfort of your home. A Salt Spring Fire Rescue event, with guest speakers. 7 to 9 p.m. Pre-register at https://tinyurl.com/BurnSmart.</p> <p>Checkmates: SSIPL Teen Chess Club. New club led by local chess instructor for ages 12-18 runs Wednesdays through Dec. 15 from 5 to 6 p.m. Email atrepanier@saltspringlibrary.com to register.</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Open Mic & Jam. At the Legion. 7 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw beginning at 5 p.m.)</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library meeting room. 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Books & Bling Drop-off Day. Bring good-quality book and jewellery donations to the Farmers' Institute for this year's book and jewellery sale fundraiser for Salt Spring Literacy. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.</p> <p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Poetry Open Mic. With featured poet Christine Smart. 7 p.m. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.</p>	<p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Hooooooo's That? Owls of our Region. Webinar with Ann Nightingale presented by the Salt Spring Conservancy. 7p.m. Preregister by emailing debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.</p> <p>Fri. Nov. 5</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library meeting room. 10 a.m.</p> <p>Books & Bling Drop-off Day. See Thursday listing.</p> <p>Friday Movie Matinee. Family friendly movies at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 1 p.m. Register at the library. (Note the change from the previous Saturday date.)</p> <p>SSI Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library meeting room. 12:30 p.m.</p>	<p>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</p> <p>Bach on the Rock Concert. Salt Spring's chamber choir and orchestra present 'L'eglise et le theatre,' music for stage and churches by 17th and 18th-century French composers, directed by Marco Vitale. Fulford Hall. 7 p.m. Proof of double vaccination and masks required.</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Books & Bling Drop-off Day. See Thursday listing.</p> <p>Sun. Nov. 7</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Books & Bling Drop-off Day. See Thursday listing.</p> <p>Mon. Nov. 8</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Books & Bling Drop-off Day. See Thursday listing.</p> <p>BOOKS & BLING</p>	<p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Beddis Water Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library meeting room. 10 a.m.</p> <p>Cedar Lane Water Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting at the Salt Spring Public Library meeting room. 12:30 p.m.</p> <p>Tues. Nov. 9</p> <p>ACTIVITIES</p> <p>Books & Bling Drop-off Day. See Thursday listing.</p> <p>Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Regular monthly business meeting at Lions Hall. 9:30 a.m.</p>	<p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>The Poetry of War and of Peace — facilitated by poet Brian Day. Join us to hear poems of war and poems of peace, poems about human violence and the hope for its cessation. Bring a poem of war or a poem of peace, or just come to listen and respond to poems brought by others. 7 to 8:30 p.m. via Zoom. More info and register at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.</p> <p>Wed. Nov. 10</p> <p>VIA ZOOM</p> <p>Checkmates: SSIPL Teen Chess Club. See last Wednesday's listing.</p>

THE FRITZ CINEMA
Dune shows this week from Friday, Nov. 5 through Tuesday, Nov. 9 at 7 p.m. plus a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. See www.thefritz.ca for more info.

EXHIBITIONS
• Salt Spring Island Printmakers present **Foot Stomping Prints** - a show & sale of new original works in the ArtSpring lobby through November.

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.

EXHIBITIONS
• The Calligraphy Group on Salt Spring exhibits poems, quotations, etc. at **Country Grocer's Café** area on the subject of food during October.
• The Photosynthesis group holds its 2021 show virtually at www.photosyn.ca.

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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REMEMBRANCE

Poignant First Poppy event held



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 president Tom Woods takes a poppy from past president Bill McKenzie at the First Poppy ceremony at the cenotaph last week. Receiving poppies as representatives of businesses that support Remembrance Day poppy sales are, from left, Maeghan Bettger from BMO, Tami Benoit Moulton of Country Grocer, Dan Adair from Island Savings and Gary Utter from Ganges Pharmsave, as well as Salt Spring's alternate CRD director Mary Richardson.

Remembrance Day activities heat up

BY KEN JACKSON

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Last Wednesday the cenotaph at Centennial Park was the backdrop of a small gathering of local government and business leaders attending the island's "First Poppy" ceremony to launch this year's Legion Poppy Campaign.

It was a spectacular autumn weather day, creating a feeling that this reflective experience was a truly Canadian moment.

This year is the 100-year anniversary of when Canada adopted the poppy, in 1921, as our symbol of remembrance and honour for sacrifices made. Last week, Canada's new Governor General — Mary May Simon — received her first official First Poppy from the Legion, which is now being repeated in Legion branches across the country. It had been more than 15 years since a

First Poppy ceremony was held on Salt Spring Island. Being the 100th anniversary made it all the more appropriate to put together a program here.

Local Legion branch president Tom Woods began the program by reading a statement of territorial recognition. This was followed by playing a recording of our anthem Oh Canada, drawing out the voices of the small gathering out of respect for the moment.

The 100th-year poppy's origins lead back to France where the poppy symbol was defined. It was inspired by Lt. Col. John McCrea's In Flanders' Fields poem written during the First World War in 1915. A Canadian army field surgeon, McCrea had an especially traumatic post-battle experience and had also just lost a good friend when he wrote those 13 lines that many of us have heard over the years.

In fitting tribute to McCrae and those he honoured, the gathering listened to a haunting recording of In Flanders' Fields, read by Canada's Poet Laureate Leonard Cohen. It seemed if ever

one individual's voice could bring to life the emotion behind the written works of another, this was it. Everyone shared the full gravity of John McCrea's grieving.

Following in the spirit of local remembrance and childhood memories, Salt Spring's alternate Capital Regional District director Mary Richardson read a poem she had written for this year's poppy season, entitled Poppies. It was a perfectly suited addition to the day.

The official distribution of the First Poppy was done with Tom Woods and Legion branch past president Bill McKenzie, certainly creating a poppy memory in its own right for many years to come. The sheer gravitas of the moment, as everyone pinned on his or her poppy, perhaps the most special poppy we'd ever wear, was profound.

Poppy sales and Remembrance Day 2021

Funds gathered through poppy box donations or Country Grocer's check-out or the Legion's wreath sales is distributed and invested locally.

Over the past three years alone that amount has exceeded \$20,000 for projects such as the purchase of a recumbent cross trainer for Lady Minto Hospital's physio department; the repairing of the gazebo outside of the hospital's extended care unit; and the construction of a sunroom for residents of the Greenwoods Elder-care facility. These projects help benefit veterans and their spouses as well as the community as a whole — all made possible by your donations and wearing your poppy.

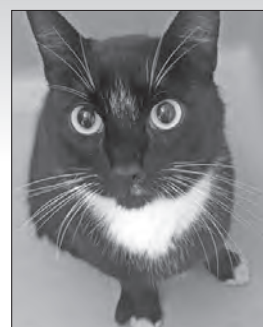
The onset of Covid-related problems has meant a lot of changes to how the poppy campaign and Remembrance Day are conducted. In 2021, similar to last year's event, there will be no parade nor an open house at the Legion on Nov. 11, but a modest Remembrance Day service will be held at Centennial Park near the cenotaph.

As well, a limited attendance veterans lunch will be hosted by the Legion on Nov. 8, open with pre-registration by Nov. 2 to all of Salt Spring's veterans, not just those who are Legion members. Covid protection protocols are in place.



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3	0355	2.8	9.2	7	0804	3.5	11.5
	0859	1.9	6.2		1231	2.9	9.5
	WE 1507	3.3	10.8		SU 1650	3.3	10.8
ME 2150	0.9	3.0	DI				
4	0458	3.0	9.8	8	0036	0.1	0.3
	0946	2.2	7.2		0906	3.5	11.5
	TH 1528	3.3	10.8		MO 1353	3.0	9.8
JE 2226	0.5	1.6	LU 1724	3.2	10.5		
5	0559	3.2	10.5	9	0127	0.2	0.7
	1034	2.5	8.2		1007	3.6	11.8
	FR 1552	3.4	11.2		TU 1546	2.9	9.5
VE 2306	0.3	1.0	MA 1801	3.0	9.8		
6	0701	3.4	11.2	10	0222	0.4	1.3
	1127	2.7	8.9		1104	3.6	11.8
	SA 1619	3.4	11.2		WE		
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LADY MINTO HOSPITAL

Phantom Ball donation deadline nears

Fundraiser supports hospital needs

Supporters of the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation have less than two weeks to enter the 25th anniversary Phantom Ball contest.

This year's prize is a Salt Spring Island staycation package that includes two electric bikes, an insulated picnic backpack, locally produced goodies and locally redeemable gift certificates. The draw date is Nov. 15.

"The community has been generous in supporting the foundation's

capital campaign to fund the building of the new emergency department," states information from the foundation. "However, there is still an ongoing need for the foundation to help fund the regular needs of the hospital.

"The Phantom Ball Campaign is your opportunity to help support the pur-

chase of necessary equipment, to help support the continuing medical education of the staff at the hospital, and to help support the health-related programs at the hospital."

People can enter online at www.ladymintofoundation.com or complete donation forms sent out in the mail earlier this year.

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Coming Events

Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
The Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society
will take place on
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2. Maintain all Legion policies and regulations required by Legion command.
3. Maintain all licenses and insurances and assure compliance with BC Gaming rules and regulations.
4. Responsible for ordering and delivery of supplies to maintain inventories.
5. Manage bookings for Meaden Hall.
6. Manage Legion social media marketing etc. including website, Facebook, and posters for special events.
7. Liase as required with branch executive.

Please submit resume with relevant qualifications to:
Electronic: legionbr92@shaw.ca
Print: Hand deliver to Legion bar or mail to Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92, 120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2P7

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TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Scorpio season slips into the second period. Mars now in Scorpio as of October 30 is quite in sync with the fact that November is a Universal 16/7 month. This is a karmic number. It can be interpreted to be a renovation project, of sorts. Yet, it also aligns with the Eastern spiritual concept of self-transcendence. More commonly, it can manifest as the toppling of old institutions or the decline of or fall from fame for some. In the most positive sense, it can result in some form of initiation to a higher level, yet involving an arduous process. Venus enters Capricorn on November 5th and will synchronize with yet another revolutionary push linked to the economy. The push towards a digital economy and the steady encroachment of cryptocurrency is the most obvious expression. It appears that this process must come by virtue of the existing system crashing. Of course, it is likely that deeply invested and high levels of economic power are pushing for this.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Scorpio time coincides with a transformational cycle for you. Sometimes it is subtle, while at others it is very noticeable. Mars also in Scorpio will make it more evident. It could manifest as deepening your ambitions, desires and resolve. The tentacles will extend to affect your public and professional life and your friend network as well.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

A complex time on relationship fronts continues. This will have a direct influence on your career. Philosophical and ethical considerations regarding what is true and right are featured themes. As eager as you are to break free, contending with the desires, interpretations and attitudes of others may well prove challenging.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Health concerns and considerations are on your mind. These may be your own but also that of significant others. Venus in Capricorn indicates that this will not be an easy cycle. You will be pushed to see a bigger picture. Yet, you may have to contend with cognitive dissonance. Knowing what it means will help you to see things more clearly.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

An ardent push to decipher your next best series of moves will be evident now. You have arrived at a culmination point in a much deeper and prolonged process of change and transformation that began in 2020. You may want the support of others and any tools, methods and techniques available to increase your power.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Measurable shifts and changes close to home continue to unfold. These are causing you to expand your scope and to be more committed to the future. Changes on public and professional fronts are part of the plot. Your willingness to give more than you would usually is extra important at this time. Focus on breaking through ruts.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

New knowledge and information are contributing to helping you see things more clearly and to deepen your understanding. These will likely include an energizing and mobilizing effect. Changes in your lifestyle are featured yet you may be contending with feeling restricted, a theme that has likely been quite evident all year.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Digging deep to access whatever resources, reserves and assets available to you is emphasized now. You will push assertively and yet you will have to do so patiently to prevail. Contending with financial uncertainties is featured. This is not a new theme but it has entered a new chapter and things are getting real.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Sun and Mars in your sign signify a pioneering push. You will be challenged to adapt as you find yourself entering unfamiliar territory, whether literally, intellectually or psychologically, or all of the above. The desire for new information will become increasingly evident. Muster all your confidence, faith and courage to confront fears of the unknown.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

A time of retreat continues. Given the drama unfolding on the world scene, it may be described as escapes or a sense of hiding. However, there are indications that you will feel mobilized to dig deep to get to the bottom of things. You want answers beyond any limiting beliefs, ideals, or desire to see things as you would like.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

A revolutionary push to lay claim to the full measure of your power should be evident by now. Your sights are set on the future and your resolve is both deep and wide. Creating the changes you want will require the full expression of your personal power. Change is inevitable at this time and it is likely noticeable already.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Scorpio time points the spotlight on your career and sense of social responsibility. It also tends to synchronize with getting attention for earned rewards. Promotions are possible during this time. Yet, as expansive as you may feel these days, Saturn in your sign is also an indication of restriction. Success now depends on how clear you are about what you want.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Broadening your knowledge and understanding of things is a central theme now. Circumstances are both pushing and providing opportunity to connect the dots at a whole new level. Working the angles on friendship fronts includes stimulating and powerful exchanges. As much as you have faith that things will work out, you are also contending with heavy realities.

Cookies and Carols

Featuring cookie recipes and your favourite carols. Publishing November 24.
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Sneakers appreciate return to in-person runs

Melanie van Soeren on top

BY SUSAN GORDON
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It seems like forever since we were told “two weeks to flatten the curve” and everyone scrambled to adjust their lives around the ensuing pandemic.

While in-person races were cancelled immediately, and group workouts halted, almost every running enthusiast continued to run, whether close to home, solo or eventually within their “bubble.”

Earlier this year, as race directors became ever more flexible and creative, some Sneakers decided to enter “virtual” races, which are done on one’s own time, uploading data from personal GPS devices to the event’s website.

The Vancouver Island Race Series held its entire season in this manner. Finishing at the

top of the women’s heap over the 8-K race series was Melanie van Soeren. Others competing for prizes in the series were Eric Ellis, Julie van Soeren and Conrad Nickels.

This summer saw club members Marion Young and Khai Foo put their ongoing endurance training protocols to the test with extreme events that were not for the faint-of-heart! Marion Young took on the difficult Dodge City X Off-Road Triathlon in Cumberland on Sept. 18. This event is said to be “Canada’s toughest off-road (cross) triathlon.” It includes a 1.5-km open water swim, a 23-km mountain bike course around some of Vancouver Island’s “gnarliest singletrack,” and a steep 9.5-km trail climb for roughly 1,000 metres of total elevation gain.

Young, who was unsurprisingly the only woman in the 60-64 age group, fought her way around the slippery, often treacherous course for a 4:49:02 finish.

Pushing the limits of endurance, Khai Foo finished the Finlayson Arm 100-K ultra in 19:48:18, first in his division. That’s more than 19 hours of running and hiking — including steep inclines and declines — in Goldstream Provincial Park near Victoria.

The cap on this season is the return of the Royal Victoria Marathon, a victory unto itself, as the organizers had to quickly adjust to changing protocols around provincial health orders. On Oct. 10, Salt Spring Sneakers turned out in force, racing to some notable podium finishes. The 8-K race started at 7:30 a.m., with the half-marathon event beginning at 9:30 a.m. The varied starts allowed the out-and-back race course, much of which was along Dallas Road, to be clear of 8-K participants when the longer race began.

Notable podium finishes among Salt Spring Sneakers included Eric Ellis, winning his M75-79 age group in the half marathon in 1:48:52,

and Emerson Hayden with a super-fast 32:58 in the 8K, for second in the M13-15 age group. Emerson’s sister, India Hayden, was third in the F16-19 category with a time of 38:09 in the 8K. Soon-to-be Sneaker Sophia Byron ran her first race, winning her F01-19 age group in a spectacular time of 1:36:39 in the half marathon. A special “high five” to Judith Beaglehole, a longtime supporter of Salt Spring runners, who finished the half-marathon distance in a time of 2:33:50 for second place in the F80-84 category.

Additional 8-K finishers: Reneé Hayden, Pasley Hayden, Janine Fernandes-Hayden. Crossing the mat in the half marathon: Melanie van Soeren (1:28:03, a personal best), Conrad Nickels, Julie van Soeren, Eric van Soeren, Marcia Jansen, Stephanie Rose, Anna Ford and Wayne North. Congratulations to all!

All results: racedaytiming.ca/results.html

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IOM SAILING

Club hosts championship sailing event

Islander Martin Herbert places second

SUBMITTED BY SSI SAILING CLUB

Gale warnings, rain and mayhem predicted for the Oct. 23-24 weekend did not deter the intrepid International One Metre (IOM) sailors from venturing forth to battle.

The Pacific Regional Championship was vigorously supported by the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club, which has a long history of hosting regattas for this class.

Race officer Tony Meek got off 23 races for the 18-boat fleet over the two days, doing an excellent job in trying conditions. He was ably supported by club members Heather Sloat, Nicholas Sladen-Dew, April Faget and Rhys Parry.

Parry, who was the club’s junior sailing instructor this year, was in charge of the mark-setting boat, was also called on to do several boat rescues during the event. His boat-handling skills were evident and drew much praise from the sailors. Also drawing much praise were the lunches provided each day by Rosemary Harbrecht. The sailing club can be proud of this team.

Day one started with ideal racing conditions. It has been a long time since many of us have raced in a big fleet, so nerves were on high alert. The race officer had set a long start line so the fleet got off without incident. Right off the bat three boats stated their intent by winning races, Peter Grimm in race one, Royce Reid the second and Murray Cummings the third. Top Salt Spring sailor at this point was Paul Faget with scores of 7, 3 and 6.

As the day progressed the wind lightened and the fleet settled into close racing. Local sailor and shipwright Mark Wallace came on strong scoring a 2, 3, 4 and 2 in the last four races of the day. By the time 13 races had been completed, the wind had become very light and fickle, but one last race was started. On the third



PHOTO COURTESY SSI SAILING CLUB

Several radio-controlled model boats race in Pacific Regional Championship of the Canadian Radio Yachting Association series held at the Salt Spring Sailing Club.

leg of the course, when most of the boats had stopped and some were going backwards, the race officer abandoned the race, which was the perfect call.

The fleet retired to the club house, tired but pretty happy. Reid, our visiting New Zealander, held a commanding lead, while second to seventh spots were separated by only five points. Apart from being a perfect gentleman and a good sailor, Reid was also good at sharing his knowledge, showing his rig and explaining how he set up his tuning. We pretty much nominated him as an honorary Salt Springer at this point.

This was our first time sailing so late in the year and we were finding floating maple leaves a navigational hazard. Everybody got one at some point but our top-ranked Canadian, Peter Grimm, seemed to have special powers of attracting them, sometimes in clumps.

Day two brought more wind from a difficult direction, making it hard to find a good leg directly into the wind. Our race officer, in consultation with the local sailors, devised a course that would serve. One-metre boats have three different sail rigs, A, B and C, that get progressively smaller as the wind gets up, so part of the tactics of racing is to choose the sail rig that is best suited to the conditions.

In gusty conditions it is a hard call and it sometimes happens that half the fleet is in the large rig hoping for less wind while the other half are with smaller sails hoping for big gusts of wind. That was the case on Sunday, which led to some exciting and comical moments.

On one run to the leeward mark, three boats in B rigs were hunted down by three boats in A rig, then a big gust whipped through and the bows of the A-rig boats went under water, pressed by too much sail, until their rudders departed the water and they spun up into the wind out of control. The B-rig boats blasted back into the lead.

Our four-strong Salt Spring fleet suffered attrition to the wind and the rain with Gyle Keating having broken rigs early on and Wallace and Faget having electrical problems that forced them to miss races. Local sailor Martin Herbert put together a string of good races to sneak unnoticed through the boats, battling for second place to reach the podium.

A very popular winner, Reid took the regatta with 49 points. Herbert was second with 75 points. Third was Murray Cummings, a New Zealander living in Calgary, with 83 points. And Vancouver’s Grimm took home fourth place with 84 points.

Remembrance Day Feature

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

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