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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TREASURES TO BE HAD: Books & Bling committee co-chair Mary Rose MacLachlan holds up her favourite donation to the Salt Spring Literacy fundraising sale so far during weekend collection and sorting of donations. The book and jewellery sale runs this Friday, Saturday and Sunday at the Farmers' Institute. Proof of double vaccination and masks are required for admission to the event.

ISLANDS TRUST

Policy statement grabs attention

Trust seeks contractor for public engagement while citizens groups get active about concerns

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust is looking for public input on a high-level policy document that will guide all of its work into the future, and is seeking a company to carry out engagement with people in the Trust Area.

The current Trust Policy Statement (TPS) has been in place for 25 years and "lacks any reference to Trust Council's current priorities of reconciliation, climate change and affordable housing," a Nov. 2 Islands Trust news release stated.

Islands Trust Council chair Peter Luckham said council decided to expand the engagement process after receiving "a great deal of feedback from the public" and now seeks a qualified company to conduct public engagement across the Islands Trust region.

The policy statement is the highest level policy document for the Islands Trust and guides the development of "local official community plans and land-use bylaws and inter-agency cooperation, advocacy, engagement, and Trust-wide strategic planning and programming," the Trust news release explained.

A draft TPS has already been made public and garnered opposition from some residents, who have organized as the Southern Gulf Islands Coalition.

Some community leaders have found various issues with the draft, including former Senator Pat Carney.

TRUST continued on 3

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Salt Spring Coffee Celebrates 25 Years of Making Sustainable Coffee

It was all the way back in 1996 that Salt Spring Coffee opened its first roastery café on McPhillips Avenue in Ganges. Now, 25 years later, the company is still going strong with a recently renovated café and a well-deserved reputation for brewing some of the finest coffee on the West Coast.

To celebrate its 25th anniversary and reinforce its commitment to sustainability, the company is launching a limited-edition collection of single-origin coffees grown using regenerative organic agricultural practices. Each coffee in the collection is made from the same beans, but processed differently allowing coffee drinkers to appreciate how each method changes the coffee's flavour.

"For our 25th anniversary, we wanted to create a collection that exemplifies Salt Spring Coffee's dedication to producing coffee of the highest quality and acting as a force for positive environmental change," says Mickey McLeod, Co-Founder and CEO of Salt Spring Coffee. "When we started out, we were one of the first to roast organic coffee in B.C. and, with this new collection, we are proud to champion regenerative organic coffee in the province."

Regenerative organic agriculture is a set of agricultural practices that allow for the cultivation of crops in a way that has minimal impact on the environment and even helps return it to a healthy state.

Over the years, Salt Spring Coffee has developed a track record of being a trailblazer in the industry. In addition to being

one of the first to roast organic coffee in B.C., it was also one of the first ten companies to be certified by Fair Trade Canada and the first in B.C. to become a certified B Corp.

July of last year saw the company reopen its newly renovated café in Ganges – allowing Salt Spring Island residents and visitors alike to enjoy the company's coffee as well as meals crafted with locally sourced ingredients from on-island producers like Harbour Farm Organics and Salt Spring Island Sprouts and Mushrooms. The interior walls of the café are also used as an exhibition space for local artists.

"Reopening a café in the middle of a pandemic was never going to be easy, but we are so grateful for the support and encouragement that we have received from the Salt Spring Island community," says McLeod. "We wanted to make this café a nexus for the local community, something that could support and showcase the amazing producers and artists that we have here on Salt Spring Island."

Visitors to the café will be able to purchase the three coffees in the 25th anniversary collection, which are made from the same beans, but processed using different methods (washed, natural and honey-processed).

Washed coffee removes all of the pulp from the bean before drying, allowing the true character of the regional terroir and growing conditions to shine through in the flavour. Natural coffee leaves the



PHOTO BY METTA MCNAIRN

Salt Spring Coffee co-founders Robbyn Scott (left) and Mickey McLeod (right) in their Ganges café and kitchen.

pulp intact allowing it to infuse the beans with intense fruit notes and give it a more dynamic character. Honey-processed coffee leaves only a thin layer of pulp on the bean, which eventually turns brown and sticky and provides sweet, fruity notes that are subtler than natural coffee.

"With this collection we wanted to show how changing the processing method can greatly affect the flavour of coffee made from the same beans," says Jessie Gullett,

Director of Coffee Quality & Production at Salt Spring Coffee. "It's not often that most consumers get a chance to taste and compare differently processed coffees side-by-side. This is an exciting opportunity for coffee drinkers to experiment and expand their palette."

In addition to being available for sale at Salt Spring Coffee's Ganges café, the 25th anniversary coffee collection can also be purchased online at saltspringcoffee.com.



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Flourishing with our communities from crop to cup for 25 years. Watch our anniversary video series and learn more at saltspringcoffee.com

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FOGGY MOUNTAIN PHOTOGRAPHY PHOTO

LIGHT: A 3,000-year-old ritual first celebrated by the Aztecs in Mexico, Dia de los Muertos came to Salt Spring on Nov. 2 in the form of an event at Bullock Lake Farm. Guests were invited to create an ofrenda, an altar (pictured), to remember loved ones who have passed and welcome their spirits to rejoin them for a brief time, explained Miranda Caterer and chef Deb Peña of Dos Amores Tortillería, who organized the event. The guests also shared oral histories and stories over dinner and around the fire. “[The evening] was so heartwarming, it was clear the community needed this kind of event,” said Molly Wilson of Bullock Lake Farm, who together with the Tortillería, community donations and volunteers made the event possible.

COMMUNITY SPACES

Future use of SIMS explored

Open house set for Dec. 3

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District’s (CRD) Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) has approved in principle the CRD initiating formal discussions with School District 64 (SD64) to enter into a five-year lease agreement to operate the Salt Spring Middle School (SIMS) building as a community centre beginning in July 2022.

If an operating agreement between the CRD and SD64 is reached, the new community centre will be available for not-for profit groups, recreation and public service providers to rent space based on PARC’s fees and charges guidelines to increase their capacity and better offer their programs and services in the community.

An open house will be held at SIMS on Friday, Dec. 3 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. for interested potential users to view the available space. A call for expressions of interest to request space will be made following the open house.

The CRD has an established service budget for operating recreation facilities and could requisition additional funding that would be required to keep rental costs for not-for-profit user groups low. CRD has facility booking software, online registration capabilities and staff trained in recreation programming, administration and maintenance of recreation facilities.

School District 64 trustees approved a partial closure of SIMS in September, with a full closure at the end of June 2022.

The decision to close SIMS was controversial when first proposed, and resulted in a different configuration of grades at island schools.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO
Salt Spring Island Middle School, which will be fully closed for school use by next summer. The school district and Capital Regional District have approved in principle a five-year lease agreement that would see the building used as a community centre under CRD administration.

Capital Regional District **CRD**

Notice of Employment Opportunity

Emergency Program Coordinators
Southern Gulf Islands and
Salt Spring Island




The CRD is searching for Emergency Program Coordinators in the Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island.

- One year contract opportunity
- Applicants must live in the Electoral Area
- This contract position is ideal for people who are seeking to apply their previous emergency management training and experience.

To view and apply for these exciting opportunities please go to www.crd.bc.ca/careers.

Trust aims for meaningful TPS public consultation

TRUST
continued from 1

A Saturna Island resident, Carney has questioned the population numbers cited in the document and said she found the language bureaucratic. John Money, a former Islands Trust trustee on Saturna, wrote in a letter to Premier John Horgan that he feels the draft policy statement, if adopted, would make community plans and locally elected representatives redundant.

Another group formed in opposition to the draft policy statement mailed or emailed out a flyer to Gulf Islands residents last week. Criticizing the new policy statement as “35 pages of ‘woo woo’ language and unrealistic aspirations” that open the door for the Islands Trust to advance agendas outside of their jurisdiction, the mail-out by the Concerned Island Residents Association (CIRA) called on residents to contact their local trustees and express their opinions to them.

CIRA criticized the “little to no” consultation of island residents in the drafting of the statement so far and said the policy statement’s focus on the environment was detrimental to people living on the islands. CIRA stated that the draft policy is essentially a tool to advance environmental protection based on climate change and Indigenous reconciliation, “important social matters which may or may not be appropriate for the Trust — except that they failed to ask you as a resi-

dent about your thoughts.”

CIRA also reiterated previous concerns about limiting the building of private docks to boat access only properties, which the draft policy statement notes is something Trust Council policy deems as a necessary restriction to protect coastal and marine waters.

The 26-member Trust Council was originally slated to do first reading on the draft document in June, a process which was deferred as criticism from islanders and people off-island flowed in.

Now, the Islands Trust is looking to “meaningfully inform and consult the public on the contents of the draft new policy statement,” as stated in a request for proposals (RFP) for a qualified company to carry out this work. The anticipated costs are between \$90,000 and \$100,000, with the task expected to be completed by April 29, 2022.

The Trust is also conducting “early and meaningful engagement with First Nations,” the Nov. 2 release read, with Indigenous peoples with connections to the islands invited to connect with the Trust via [reconciliation@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:islandstrust.bc.ca).

Submissions for the RFP for a company to conduct the public consultation work will be accepted until Nov. 12, with a contract to be awarded in late November.

For more information about the Islands Trust policy updating process, see the Islands 2050 section of the www.islandstrust.bc.ca website.

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Zoe Hall
Rhian Hardy
Katherine Byers
Janice Parker
Raymond Wylie
Michael Mullen
Joni Van Ommen
Radha Fournier</p> | <p>10 YEARS cont
Larry McInerney
Brad Bunyan
Brenda Lepine
Lynn Thorwaldson
Chelsa England
Clare Nuyens
Mark Kilner
Peter Legun
Yarrow Sheehan
Lina Trudeau</p> <p>15 YEARS
Janice Shields
Paul Johnson
Vincent McGrath
David Curran
Jessica Reveley
Tom Langdon
Andrew McNish
Virginia Grimmer</p> | <p>20 YEARS
John Finer
Lyll Ruehlen
Paulette Zacharias
Patricia Faurot
Mylene
Dammel-Sherrin
Boe Beardsmore
Tiffany Wightman
Christianne Wiigs
Carol Arnold
Ian Mitchell
Stefan Fedorowich
De Gagne</p> <p>25 YEARS
Susan Garside
Marie Mullen
John Pringle</p> <p>30 YEARS
Olive Mann
Maggie Allison</p> |
|--|---|--|



CRD SERVICES

Commission envisions keeping waste on island

Liquid waste commission gives update at AGM

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After soil and water testing shows no obvious contamination from a formerly active lagoon, more work can be done to look at alternatives to trucking Salt Spring's sewage and septage off island.

Mary Richardson, chair of the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission, gave the update during the commission's annual general meeting Friday. Currently all septage (the waste from a septic system) and sewage (the waste pumped from a sewer line into a public sewer system) is trucked off of the island, but the Capital Regional District (CRD) intends to look at how else to handle the approximately

6,000 cubic metres that is trucked away annually.

Around a year and a half ago, the commission was informed that nothing could be done at the septage and sewage facility near Burgoyne Bay until an environment ministry file on the site's lagoons was closed. Staff have now reviewed historical data and done new soil and water testing, which confirmed there is no obvious contamination present, Richardson

told those attending the meeting.

"It looked all clear from their perspective," she said.

The CRD will now contact the ministry to see what else is needed to close the file.

In her report, Richardson said she is also excited about pursuing an options study for how to manage septage and sewage on the island rather than shipping it off. Two main focuses of the study are financial and environmental.

"I feel the cost of \$600,000 a year to drive mostly water off-island is a lot and hopefully we can come up with a . . . lower cost method of dealing with it here on island," she said.

"Then environmentally, I think the idea of all that trucking is just incredible — the gas used and the emissions — so if we could come up with a more environmentally friendly way to deal with it and keep it all here and de-water at least here that would be terrific."

Finding qualified experts that know possible solutions for the island's size and goals will be really important to the study, Richardson said.

One challenge that might arise, said Salt Spring electoral area director Gary Holman, is the restriction in place to apply biosolids to land within the CRD. The CRD board prohibited this due to health and safety concerns, he said. While he wasn't director at the time when the decision was made, Holman referenced concerns around persistent contamination in the liquid waste, including things like heavy metals and pharmaceuticals.

Dried residuals are, however, being applied to parts of the regional district's Hartland Road landfill on a temporary basis, Holman explained. These are biosolids which the CRD has future plans to dry and ship to cement kilns on the mainland, where they will be burned instead of coal. "The CRD has cracked the door slightly, but only to be applied within the engineered landfill," Holman said.

Due to this restriction, a short-term solution that's most feasible would be to de-water the septage and sewage in order to ship less water off-island Holman said. Yet the options study will also go ahead he added.

Salt Spring has had the ability to treat and dispose of its septage and sewage and did so until the components of the system reached the end of their life cycle. The CRD's annual report to the commission stated that there are plans to review the replacement of this function and options would then be considered by the commission. If there aren't sufficient funds in the CRDs capital reserve to undertake construction, "then public consultation and a referendum would be undertaken."

For 2020, the plan stated, the facility was operating solely as a liquid waste transfer station. The waste was then hauled to Langford where it was treated. The combined sewage and septage volume was 14 per cent higher than the previous year, the report stated. Manager for Saanich Peninsula and Gulf Island Operations Dan Robson said the CRD isn't monitoring the reason behind the increase, however, home sales, people working from home during COVID-19 or other occurrences could be factors.

The cost of the island's sewage system in 2020 was \$911,036, which was offset by revenues from government transfers and tipping fees. Net revenue for 2020 was \$48,802, \$26,070 of which was transferred to the capital reserve fund and \$13,391 to an operating reserve fund. The remaining \$9,341 was allocated to last year's deficit.

For 2021 the CRD estimates costs will be \$1,058,748, and has made a budget request of \$991,525 for 2022.

Commissioner Rob Pingle confirmed he won't be able to continue in his role once it expires on Dec. 31. Two applicants have put their names forward and by the end of this week a new commissioner will be confirmed.

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



PHOTOS COURTESY ROB LOWRIE

BAG BIDDING: Rob Lowrie shows some of the 21 beautiful grocery bags made from fabric purchased at the Salt Spring Rotary Club's successful Fabric Frenzy sale held on the Oct. 22-24 weekend. People can bid on the bags now on display at Country Grocer through Nov. 15, with proceeds going to local youth mental health programs, as did money raised at Fabric Frenzy.

GOVERNANCE

Trust red tape cut by province

Legislative amendments to speed up process

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local Trust committees on all Trust Area islands will soon be able to choose how they would like to communicate with the public about local development, as the province brings in legislative changes to make the development approval process quicker and easier.

The changes to the Islands Trust Act, as well as other acts governing local governments in B.C., were passed by the legislature on Nov. 3 but may not be in effect until the new year, said Islands Trust director of local planning services David Marlor. The changes clarify public hearing requirements and let local governments advertise rezoning applications in new ways.

The first, and probably most important change for the Islands Trust specifically is the addition of First Nations into Section 3 of the Islands Trust Act, which lays out the Trust's preserve and protect mandate, said Marlor.

"It fails to mention First Nations and that, we thought, was a big oversight," Marlor said. While the wording change doesn't change how the Islands Trust does business, including existing consultation processes, it "highlights that our move to reconciliation with First Nations is now enshrined in the act."

The second big change to the legislation deals with how municipalities issue public notices about the formal development process. The new legislation expands where notices can be published, which could mean putting the notice online or in newspapers that don't publish weekly, Marlor said.

This change was requested by communities across B.C. through the Union of BC Municipalities, an organization that brings together local governments in the province to work on policies, priorities and advocate to other levels of government.

"So this is the province listening to the local governments and hearing the current way we do public hearings is . . . outdated," said Marlor.

There is also new wording around public hearings. The new legislation states "a local government is not required to hold a public hearing on a proposed zoning bylaw if (a) an official community plan is in effect for the area that is the subject of the zoning bylaw, and (b) the bylaw is consistent with the official community plan."

While the provincial government announcement has stated the changes will "remove the default requirement for local governments to hold public hearings for zoning bylaw amendments that are

consistent with the official community plan," Marlor explained that this change is just a rewording to make more obvious what was already available to local governments under current legislation.

Under the current wording of the Local Government Act "a local government may waive the holding of a public hearing on a proposed zoning bylaw if (a) an official community plan is in effect for the area that is subject to the zoning bylaw, and (b) the bylaw is consistent with the official community plan." Local governments, including local Trust committees, do sometimes waive public hearings for an uncontroversial application. But they always have to give public notice of the rezoning, and specifics around what need to be included in the notice are in the legislative amendments. People can still give feedback, Marlor said, including connecting with trustees and attending and speaking at public meetings.

"[The Trust object] fails to mention First Nations and that, we thought, was a big oversight."

DAVID MARLOR
Director of local planning services,
Islands Trust

Concerned about what this change and others would do, a group called the Concerned Island Residents Association (CIRA), which was formed in June, is asking the B.C. government to hold off on passing the amendments until locals have had a chance to hear from elected representatives. One of the main concerns expressed by spokesperson Bill Tieleman was the change in wording regarding public hearings.

When asked for details of CIRA membership, Tieleman said, "There are a number of individuals and businesses on the Gulf Islands involved."

Another Islands Trust Act change expands Trust Council's ability to support and give financial assistance to others who work on understanding, public awareness, preservation and protection of the "unique amenities and environment" of the area.

In the act as previously written, support could only be given to groups or people who worked on history and heritage awareness as well as conserving heritage property.

This change has been criticized by CIRA. "Islands residents are already facing substantial tax increases to pay for ever-expanding Islands Trust expenditures – what controls will there be on even more free spending by staff and Trust representatives?" Tieleman stated.

Marlor said the change is a positive one, meant to allow Trust Council to give grants in aid to local museums, conservancies and other groups that may be working to raise awareness around, for example, a geological formation, an endangered species or a significant tree. With a lot of new people moving to the island during the pandemic, projects like these could expand knowledge for people coming from cities who may not know what the islands are about, said Marlor.

"The money's already there and council already has a policy on how they would distribute that," Marlor added.

Other parts of the legislative amendment are meant to make the development process more efficient. These include the ability for staff to issue development permits, instead of local Trust committee approval being required.

These specific changes, which will need several steps in order to become law in B.C., stemmed from the provincial government's Development Approvals Process Review. The aim of the amendments is to make what can be a complex process quicker and easier for local governments, as well as removing barriers for the creation of affordable housing.

"[The BC Non-profit Housing Association] encourages all municipalities to use their new delegation powers and to consider seriously whether public hearings are necessary for affordable housing projects that are consistent with community plans," CEO Jill Atkey said of the changes, adding they could save up to one year in the development process.

The challenge facing the Gulf Islands, Marlor said, is the friction between the desire to maintain the islands in a natural state and the desire of people to move and build here on islands with a finite land base and resources such as water.

While official community plans allow for increasing density for affordable housing, Marlor said, the issue is restrictive zoning in place and "it's probably for good reasons that it's restrictive. It goes back to that whole mandate to preserve and protect."

Consulting the public and the 36 First Nations with overlapping interests on the islands also takes time: anywhere from a minimum of six months for non-controversial rezonings consistent with the community plan to an average of a year for most. Some processes stretch on for a few years, which is pretty consistent for most local governments, said Marlor.

Waiting for applicant reports such as transportation ministry access, dealing with the Agricultural Land Reserve, or groundwater approvals can also take a long time.

As well, "whether or not there's a desire in the political realm to make a decision that might not be 100 per cent popular" is also a factor, Marlor said.



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TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

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When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	
10	0222	0.4	1.3	14	0112	2.3	7.5	
	1104	3.6	11.8		0635	1.6	5.2	
	WE				SU	1347	3.3	10.8
11	0320	0.7	2.3	15	0245	2.5	8.2	
	1155	3.5	11.5		0735	1.9	6.2	
	TH	1903	2.4		7.9	MO	1411	3.2
12	JE	2029	2.5	8.2	LU	2108	1.3	4.3
	0423	1.0	3.3	16	0355	2.7	8.9	
	1239	3.5	11.5		0829	2.1	6.9	
FR	1940	2.1	6.9		TU	1431	3.2	10.5
13	VE	2303	2.3	7.5	MA	2134	1.0	3.3
	0530	1.3	4.3	17	0453	2.9	9.5	
	1316	3.4	11.2		0921	2.4	7.9	
SA	2012	1.8	5.9		WE	1449	3.1	10.2
				ME	2159	0.9	3.0	

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OPINION

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

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



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

For all veterans

They served alongside each other like brothers and sisters. Yet once the Indigenous peoples who enlisted to fight in the world wars returned, they once again became second class citizens.

Denied the right to vote until 1960, many were also stripped of their Indian status and often denied benefits.

An estimated 12,000 Indigenous peoples volunteered in the two world wars and the Korean war, of those 500 losing their lives on foreign battlefields. Their stories of sacrifice and bravery are now being recognized, including at the annual Nov. 8 National Aboriginal Veterans Day.

THE ISSUE: Remembrance Day

WE SAY: Remember Indigenous veterans too

Stories abound of Indigenous peoples who travelled long distances to enlist, people such as Eddie Powder, who walked 1,400 kilometres from Fort Chipewyan near Wood Buffalo National Park all the way to Calgary to enlist near the end of World War II.

Indigenous women served in the military's auxiliary units, doing first aid, clerical work and mechanical roles.

And at least 14 nations, speakers of Cree, Ojibway, Navajo and Choctaw, became "code talkers" in both world wars. Through the use of their mother tongues which were largely shunned at home and deliberately banned in residential schools, they were able to send secret messages to other code talkers without being understood by enemy soldiers.

There is also the story of Thomas George Prince, who brought his tracking and hunting skills learned on the land onto the battlefield, gaining 11 medals in the Second World War and Korean War combined. Prince's legendary courage, yet also the experience he had upon his return to Canada where he was homeless at the time of his passing, are worth thinking about this Remembrance Day.

It's been a long fight for Indigenous veterans, one which continues to this day.

As Canadians across the country gather to hear the stories of bravery and sacrifice of those who served their country and endured unimaginable challenges, they can also take a moment to remember the stories of Canada's Indigenous veterans.



Co-ops offer housing hope

BY M. CARMICHAEL

Lack of affordable housing and all the dilemmas that it creates in a resort town is a common problem everywhere. I'm a long-time resident of Banff, Alberta and this was a huge issue there as well.

It is fixable and here's how some of the businesses in Banff did it, or at least vastly improved the situation.

In the late 1990s the housing problem there became untenable much like it is here now. A group of 14 business owners formed the Rocky Mountain Housing Co-operative (RMHC). The plan was to build a 63-unit apartment complex made up of a mix of studio, one-bedroom and two-bedroom units. The initial investment, in 1998 dollars, was \$10,000 for the studio, \$14,000 for the one-bedroom and \$20,000 for then two-bedroom units.

At the time, the land that was available was in the current Banff townsite but held by Parks Canada. Arrangements were made and with their support it was made available to the RMHC on a long-term/perpetual lease.

VIEWPOINT

The business owners, now shareholders in the co-op, began placing staff in the building as soon as it was completed. The rent was and is fixed and favourable to market rates. There is a small office at the front entrance which is staffed in the evenings providing security and there is a manager living on-site. There is no partying, no guests allowed after 11 pm and strictly no overnight guests unless approved by the owners of the unit.

Tenancy in the co-op is based on employment so as soon as a worker leaves his or her position or is dismissed they must vacate the building. It works very well.

We have had two units in the past and it was always good to know that our staff, usually younger folks, were in a safe, clean environment.

After 20 years the initial investment was returned to the business owners and they remain as shareholders. If a business has no use for a unit it is returned to the co-op and made available to

other businesses to rent and become shareholders as well.

This was so successful that a few years ago phase two was completed with another 60 units that are now fully occupied.

I don't think that looking to the government for a solution is worthwhile. This needs to be done by the people who have the most to gain and the wherewithal to do it. Of course having said that the government needs to be brought on board and every possibility for cooperation must be realized, whether it's funding, grants, tax breaks and incentives and even acquiring land, but then it's up to the stakeholders to do the job.

It took a lot of work and commitment in Banff and just like everywhere there were the nimbys and the nay-sayers, but it just needed to be done and, in the end, it worked.

If anyone is interested in speaking with one of the founding members of the RMHC and learning more about it please contact me through Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

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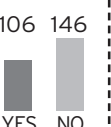
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is community use of the middle school a good idea?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you glad to see Pacific Standard Time return?



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: }

“What controls will there be on even more free spending by staff and Trust representatives?”

BILL TIELEMAN, CONCERNED ISLAND RESIDENTS ASSOCIATION

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *Do you think Remembrance Day is still important?*

JACKY SMITH



I do. It is a show of respect to our veterans.

JAMES ELLIOT



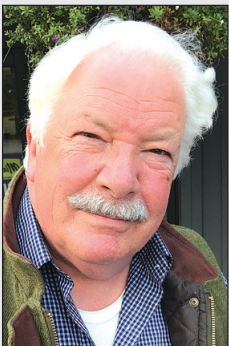
Now more than ever. I am a veteran myself who served in Afghanistan. I fought for freedom for other people, and now I am treated as a second-class citizen as I can't have a vaccine because of my faith.

MARSHA BOWER



Very important. My grandfather and father were both veterans. Remembrance Day is a day we let veterans know we support them.

ROY MARLATT



It is. It is important to remember important things that happened in the past, and this day is a recognition of what people have done for our country.

ZOE SIKORA



For sure! It is important to remember those who gave their lives.

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

Let's get it right

The following letter regarding the Vortex development permit application was sent to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

Last month's extreme high tides combined with "storm bomb" winds left the Fulford estuary and foreshore further eroded. The little bridge over the river was barely a metre above the incoming sea. The hydro pole in the intertidal zone (yes!) was up to a metre in seawater. Pools of seawater filled the roads with bits of driftwood. Soil compacted between the armouring rocks is now gone, leaving huge holes as the water shot high in the air after each wave.

I drove along Dallas Road in Victoria last week and saw the ravages after the storm: the thousands of barges of gravel dumped and millions of dollars spent over years armouring the shore along the low dip by the Ross Bay cemetery has "failed." There is now one-lane traffic and a cracking road. Soon, graves will be washing into the ocean, which happened decades ago before the current attempt at armouring! The only way to keep infrastructure functional is to work WITH natural forces and adapt. Boundary Bay on

the Lower Mainland, as an example, is already proactively restoring the natural foreshore to protect White Rock from eroding under enormous rising sea level due to a long, gradual slope seabed.

Where have all the salmon gone? What about the herring that used to spawn in the harbour? What happened to the various forage fish that are the foundation of the food web and need a healthy shoreline to spawn? Doesn't protection under the rights of nature mean now is the time for responsible restoration?

Islands Trust has declared a climate emergency and states on the website "Islands Trust is here to work with you to ensure the preservation and protection of shorelines." Around the south coast dozens of estuaries have protected management plans in place. The year 2021 is the first year of the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainable Development. Approving a building permit for Lot 2661 will only pass the problem to future councils to shake their collective heads, as they struggle to restore a healthy harbour and provide citizens with basic services such as a road, a bridge and electricity.

Why wait until there is a judicial review of Fulford Harbour estuary to restore marine life . . . or until forced by new provincial/federal laws — or — the ultimate judge . . . rising

sea level? Let's get it right now so our grandchildren can stand on a strong bridge and marvel at the salmon run!

ANNE PARKINSON,
SALT SPRING

Time changes

A couple of years ago, the B.C. legislature voted permission to put the province on permanent daylight saving time.

The government also ran a survey. A majority of polled citizens chose permanent daylight saving time, rather than alternation between standard time and daylight saving. However, the survey was biased because it did not offer an option of permanent standard time.

Recently the government said the change would be made to harmonize with the western U.S. states if they made such a change. I would think it preferable to harmonize with our fellow-Canadians. A difference in time zone with Washington state would not be a great problem — Saskatchewan never adopted daylight saving time and there has been no great difficulty with adjacent provinces.

The really serious problem is that the proposed change goes the wrong way. It should specify permanent standard time instead of permanent daylight saving time. The rea-

son is that daylight saving time is associated with increased health problems.

This was documented by scientific studies in the U.S.A. of people living on two sides of the line dividing time zones. Dawn would be seen more or less simultaneously by the two groups. However, those to the west of the line would have clocks showing one hour earlier. In other words they would be living in the equivalent of daylight saving time.

Those people on the west showed increased levels of a number of ailments: for example, increased obesity; 19 per cent increase in heart attacks; increased diabetes; five per cent higher breast cancer rates; and other problems. Anyone interested could find a detailed original research publication by googling the names of the authors: Giuntella and Mazzonna.

Canadian health experts have recognized the health effects. Two of them published an article in the Globe and Mail two years ago, pointing out that B.C. was going the wrong way on a time change.

I wrote to the Premier and Minister of Health two years ago, pointing out these health problems with daylight saving, but did not receive an acknowledgement.

JOHN SPRAGUE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

Fire board does end run with budget explanation

BY DARLENE STEELE

For those not into sports, an "end run" occurs when the ball carrier surprises, weaves, ducks and makes an outside run to avoid his opponent and get to the goal.

I believe our fire board is doing an end run on the Salt Spring Island taxpayers.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District finance committee chair Rollie Cook and his board members think they are "in the clear" and have pulled off a massive budget increase for 2022.

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

I say, "Wrong assumption, Mr. Cook!"

Two previous Driftwood contributors, Julia Lucich and Harry Kirwin, have a much better read on the public's level of despair and frustration regarding the decisions made by the fire board.

The sense of frustration arises from the public saying we were not asked before our fire department was unionized many years ago. That was rammed down our throats, ultimately raising our cost of wages and benefits to skyrocket out of all proportion, compared to the size of our community and number of taxpayers. Our firefighters are now some of the highest-paid workers in our community and the taxpayer has no recourse.

INDEPTH

The lowliest of low probationary career firefighters are paid \$70,592 per annum, but after six months that rises to \$75,635, and each year after that a further raise, culminating at \$109,922. But if you are a lieutenant it starts at \$119,452, or a captain it starts at \$129,839, or an assistant chief it's \$140,226. That's the cash, now the perks: health care, on-call rates, paid holidays, sick days, uniforms, sometimes equipment such as phones and cars, continuing education, pension plans, and what have I missed? We have 10 paid career firefighters, so that adds up to big bucks.

Let's look at the 2022 budget, which will raise our taxes by 9.1 per cent; this being the budget that the fire board assumes we have accepted. What will we get for that increase and do we want what's on offer? We get a 24/7 staffing model which implies a faster and more effective response time, does it not? Apparently not; in spite of this new model the main building of Windsor Plywood was destroyed by fire, as was a unit at Mineral Springs Resort this summer.

But really, thinking about it; when did our fire department last "save" a house or business on fire? My understanding is the odds are severely against them ever saving your

house should it be ablaze.

So what else do we get for the 9.1 per cent tax hike? We get more money stashed into a capital building fund: \$500,000 this time. This is to build a new fire hall. The same fire hall or a version thereof that the taxpayers voted down on two previous referendums.

So who so desperately wants this fire hall? Not the community, not the people paying for it, just the firefighters!

Let's put this budget request in the current economic times. Capital Regional District also wants more money, their tax grab will increase by 3.2 per cent. Canada's cost of living is on the increase: food costs are up by 2.7 per cent in the last 12 months, gas is up by 10 cents per litre, electricity costs up, rent up, basically everything we use and consume is becoming more costly. At the same time businesses on the island are closing and those that remain open are having a hard time finding workers. Times are hard for many people.

Now is not the time for expansion but rather for consolidation. It is time to be frugal, to support your neighbours, to give our community time to heal from this health crisis and get our business economy up and running again. Take some strain off members of the community by keeping all public spending at last year's level.

Stop, look and listen.

There's no more 'us and them' when it comes to our forests

Sustainable forestry part of a new way forward

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN
TRANSITION SALT SPRING

A German ex-regal turning a vast swath of Salt Spring's forests over to developers. A woodland that's been logged for 50 years, still standing tall. A nude Lady Godiva riding horseback through downtown Vancouver. These are some of the colourful chapters in the history of forestry — and forest protection — on Salt Spring Island.

With world leaders pledging to end deforestation by 2030 at the UN climate summit this week, it's clear that a new era of cooperation is upon us.

What if, apart from the deeply divisive "war in the woods," we charted a course that saw forestry and forest conservation, not as mutually exclusive interests but as part of a web of life that could sustain livelihoods, ecosystems, AND a stable climate for future generations?

Sustainable forestry is part of that new way forward. A blend between craft, culture, and science, the approach envisions forests being allowed to reach their full potential — not only in terms of timber to harvest but in terms of ecological and social values.

Such "close-to-nature forestry" practices place the emphasis on the management of a whole and healthy natural ecosystem, with timber production carried out in a way that's compatible with natural regeneration and many other cultural, environmental and recreational values in each part of the forest. Generally, this means no clear-cutting; instead, sustainable natural forest regeneration becomes the guiding principle, with less reliance on replanting and more on thinning trees. This form of forestry also encourages healthy trees by cultivating a mix of forest species to nourish a vibrant understory and fungi-rich soils.

It is being used in communities in B.C. to establish community forests that are grounded in community involvement, and with special emphasis placed on First Nations governance. It's an approach that recognizes that botanical uses of mushrooms and medicinal plant gathering can flourish alongside walking trails, conservation areas and — yes — sustainable timber harvesting.

The current debate about the Islands Trust bringing in new bylaws to address unregulated logging is being painted, on the one side, as an attempt to trample the rights of property owners, and on the other, as a necessary strengthening of the Trust's ability to fulfil its mandate.

While Salt Springers have mobilized — through protest, land acquisition and parkland creation — to protect forests, one only needs to look to Denman Island, where despite having passed a suite of bylaws, the Islands Trust was ultimately powerless after the B.C. Supreme Court allowed clearcutting of 10 per cent of the island in 1999. Galiano, meanwhile, was able to enshrine the protection of Coastal Douglas-fir forests into law through the creation of a development permit area focusing on ecosystem protection over halting forestry operations. That distinction may be key in showing a way forward for Salt Spring, precisely because while Denman's approach was seen as an attempt to stop clearcutting, Galiano's approach



emphasized the importance of careful forest management.

What does sustainable forestry look like in real life? One long-standing local example is Seven Ravens Eco-Forest, located at the crest of Lee's Hill. Eco-forester Michael Nickels has been logging his 38.5-acre farm for 30 years; there is now more forest cover on the property than there was when it was acquired.

"For every tree cut at Seven Ravens, on average 25 vibrant mixed-species trees get planted for future generations," says Nickels.

With an organic tree nursery and eco-forestry operation, the farm turns a profit through sales of milled wood for timber framing, flooring, furniture and fine finishing.

"People need to see that there is a lot of money to be made not just in timber but in the maintenance of healthy productive forests."

RUTH WALDICK
Transition Salt Spring

Says Nickels, "Initially I spent hundreds of hours pruning trees in the forest to lift the lower branches to five metres. This in turn would add huge value to the trees and the health of the forest for years to come. The forest, fields and any unused land were thickly planted with a multitude of different species of trees which are now bearing fruits, seeds for sale and valuable furniture-grade wood."

B.C.'s vast forests are significant carbon-storing ecosystems. Cut those trees, and they emit all the CO₂ they've been storing. The loss of this canopy increases drought, evaporation and allows heat to accumulate — it was far cooler in a forest than out in the open when the heat dome sat over Salt Spring Island this summer. It's a horrific feedback loop that we can avoid by retaining forests and taking a balanced approach to forestry that avoids the extremes of clear-cutting on the one hand and outright logging bans on the other.

Salt Spring's forests are our greatest natural asset for climate change mitigation and adaptation; in addition to acting as sponges to soak up water, our Douglas-fir forests store 5.6 million tonnes of carbon. Our native plants and trees are also fire resistant. The imperative to protect these forests has never been more urgent. Developing an ecosystem-based approach can sustain the values and benefits of forested ecosystems. A strategic mix of protected areas, sustainable forest management areas, zoning for small milling operations and the legal frameworks necessary to pre-

vent clear-cutting offers opportunity beyond the "log it or love it" polarities.

Recently, Bill Henderson, who anchored a well-attended webinar on Oct. 27 co-produced by Transition Salt Spring and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, walked the land of an island logger with two of Transition's directors. Ruth Waldick, a biologist by training, was astounded by the diversity of life on the forest floor, the sponginess of the soils and the diverse forest canopy, all achieved using selective techniques on this land for many many years.

"This looks better than many of the conservation areas on Salt Spring," Waldick enthused. And while the owner of these lands is proud of what he does and may not call what he does "eco-forestry," the hallmarks of exemplary forestry management are all there — a prioritization on selective harvesting, and the strategic placement of branches from sawn timber directly on the forest floor to promote rapid decomposition.

Compare that with clear-cuts and slash piles which are the leading cause of forest fires in B.C., and the differences are clear: healthier trees of mixed ages that are more fire resilient in mixed forest stands create resilience in times of drought, and support resilient livelihoods.

"People need to see that there is a lot of money to be made not just in timber but in the maintenance of healthy productive forests," says Waldick. "On Salt Spring, there are a lot of jobs we need to create in order to help our forests survive the hotter, drier times that are already baked into climate projections for this region."

Salt Springers have some stark choices ahead. Do nothing and watch our forests become drier and more unstable while we continue to bleed jobs and working families, or give forests some protections that ensure they continue to provide medicines, support biodiversity and the wood resources we all rely on. Working together, we can help ensure that "sustainable forestry" becomes a key part of Trust policy and sustains and creates new forms of forestry jobs while helping our forests and watersheds survive the hot times ahead.

We can no longer afford the politics of division at this critical tipping point for humanity. We're all in this canoe together. For the rough waters ahead, the only way through is to overcome superficial differences and join forces based on our common love for, and dependence upon, our forests.

To view or download publicly available forest stewardship resources go to transitionsaltspring.com.

Register now for Transition Salt Spring's upcoming One Cool Island Climate Action Coach webinar called \$ave Big with Home Energy Assessments, Insulation and Draft Sealing on Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. Register at <https://bit.ly/3bP9KZb>. The \$10 cost directly supports the development of programming just like this.

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

Cookies and Carols

Featuring cookie recipes and your favourite carols.
Publishing November 24.

Email your recipes to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOVEMBER 17, 2021

We'd love to print your favourite Christmas cookie recipe!

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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.

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Matched donation offer aids cat welfare society

BY JENNIFER MCMILLAN

In our first six months of operations, Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society has worked very hard to make a difference in the lives of cats on Salt Spring Island.

We truly hit the road running and our achievements during these first six months have been nothing short of extraordinary. We are a team of unpaid volunteers who, partnering with community members and businesses, have worked tirelessly to improve the management of cat colonies and the lives of homeless cats here on Salt Spring.

Here is a summary of the accomplishments during our first six months:

Total cats and kittens helped was 49, with specific outcomes for those cats:

- 11 adult cats were trapped, spayed / neutered, vaccinated,

ear-tipped and returned to responsibly managed colony situations

- One adult cat was trapped, spayed, vaccinated, successfully socialized and adopted to a loving home

- 23 kittens were either born in care or trapped, spayed/neutered, vaccinated, successfully socialized and adopted to loving homes

- Two adult cats currently in our care were trapped, spayed/neutered, vaccinated and are currently being socialized in foster homes

- 12 kittens currently in our care who were trapped, spayed/neutered, vaccinated and are currently being socialized in foster homes and/or available for adoption

As we approach winter, our focus will shift to engaging in active trap neuter and return (TNR) of adult cats here.

Did you know that just one unspayed female and her mate producing two litters per year, each with an average survival rate of 2.8 kittens per litter, will create a colony of 12 cats after one year, 376 cats after three years, and an unbelievable 11,801 cats after just five years? We have had many calls from community members requesting help with "community cats" (cats who are both unowned and live outdoors), and we are currently working through our list. Engaging in colony management is critical here on Salt Spring Island.

Recently we received an amazing call from an island resident who has been following our work over the past months. This individual made an extremely generous offer: they will match donations received as part of this

campaign up to \$2,500. That means that if other individuals donate \$2,500, we will reach our goal of raising \$5,000 in support of our TNR activities.

We need your support! Please know that we do not receive funding from any organization or government. We rely solely on donations and monies that we fundraise (e.g. through our bottle drives) to support our community TNR program. We are a volunteer-run, foster-based organization, relying solely on donations from the public and fundraising events to sustain our programs and operations. All funds received go directly toward covering the costs associated with assisting cats in our care.

The writer is a cofounder of the Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society.



PHOTO COURTESY SS CAT WELFARE SOCIETY

Pumpkin, a feral cat, and two of her four kittens who were captured, given foster care and veterinary treatment and spayed/neutered through Salt Spring Cat Welfare Society volunteer efforts. The kittens will be adopted out and Pumpkin returned to her colony caretaker.

Trust: Don't get sucked into the Vortex

BY GARY AND SHARON BYWATER

The following letter was sent to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

We are writing in hopes that you will reconsider the approval of a septic setback variance for this large tourist accommodation with restaurant, retail and related facilities. Why would you go against the recommendations of your own senior freshwater specialist who supplied you with fact-based reasons why you should not move forward? What about the suggested hydrology investigation and biologist report to give an informed picture of potential impacts on the marine environment? Considering the ecosystem involved this should be a given. It is good to see septic system setbacks have

changed for homeowners yet a development that is endangering a unique ecosystem is given a green light.

Having lived on the island for over 27 years, we have seen the impacts of bad planning, lack of respect for environment, disrespect of First Nations sites and the effects of climate change. As conservationists we are avid birders and my personal bird notes reflect the decline of waterbirds in our area, like the coastal great blue heron, which can be seen feeding in that very estuary, it holds more value than any development.

We remember when the tourist season lasted the summer, and now it is a solid five months, seven if you include the shoulder season. Personally we feel like we have ample tourists. It is time to consider how to find balance between

quality of life for local residents and the tourism industry. We have watched the island economy become more dependant on tourism despite its volatility. The fluctuating U.S dollar, recessions and now the pandemic: isn't it clear that we should be looking for ways to diversify our economy from catering to the residents. Tourism will always be a part of our economy but it should not be the driver.

Water supply is a serious concern, as most local residents have to count every drop they use, while tourists do not.

Regardless of how you choose to interpret the preserve and protect mandate, Mother Earth is making it abundantly clear that we must put environment first in every decision we make. All else comes after.

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Columnist gets a boo

Boo to Paul McElroy!

In his Nov. 3 column he questions the authority of grannies, an attack on age and the feminine gender. He goes on to suggest that grannies lack teeth as well.

I'm here to tell you, Paul, that some of us still have our own teeth and those that don't are usually well supplied by their dentists. Shame on you!

AUDREY WILD,
SALT SPRING

Use every tool

Our MLA Adam Olsen wrote an article headlined "Housing is a Human Right" (Oct. 27 Driftwood Viewpoint).

In the last government, the Green caucus asked that the Gulf Islands be exempt from the speculation tax. In Metro Vancouver, this tax is credited with opening up almost 11,000 units of accommodation as of 2019. Even a small fraction of that would be a benefit for the Salt Spring housing situation.

We should be using every tool available to open up more housing on Salt Spring.

Adam Olsen should revisit his previous demand that there be no speculation tax on Salt Spring. Actions speak louder than words.

FRANCES HAVELAAR,
SALT SPRING

expert ADVICE

CALL 250-537-9933

TO BE A PART OF THIS POPULAR FEATURE!

Real Estate

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

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

By listing now, your residence will:

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

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

This old adage is really true for real estate:

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

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

STRATEGIC MARKETING SPECIALIST

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LIVE MUSIC

Before Night Falls event at Legion

Bruce Cobanli presents show

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders are invited to take in an exciting night of original music at the Legion this Friday, Nov. 12.

Bruce Cobanli is a visual artist and a singer-songwriter who has written songs for decades. The recently retired art, music and French Immersion teacher, who grew up on Salt Spring Island, is looking forward to devoting more time to his musical pursuits.

Before Night Falls: A Musical Journey with Bruce Cobanli, starts at 7:30 p.m.

Cobanli describes the evening as “a series of short stories, prose portraits and lyric life studies in song, laid down in bold strokes from a palette of country, folk, jazz, rhythm ‘n’ blues and soul music.”

Backing him for the evening are Wayne Marston, Bill Steiner and Kerry Westfield from The Regulars on Gretsch electric, Fender bass and drum kit, respectively.

Cobanli is also excited to be joined by

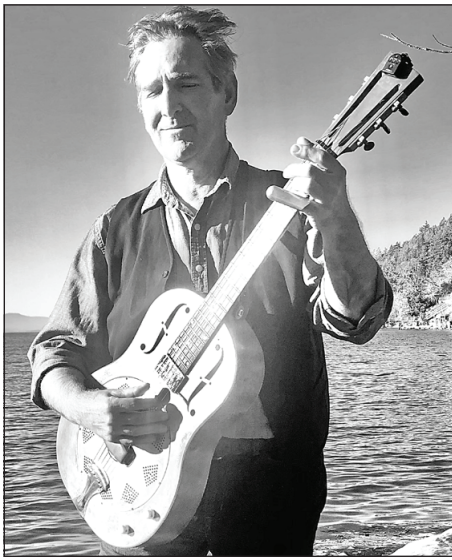


PHOTO COURTESY BRUCE COBANLI

Bruce Cobanli with his National steel guitar.

Michelle Footz (trumpet), Jim Raddysch (trombone) and sax player Jerry Fitzpatrick

(saxophone) as the Horns of Hope, “taking the songs into a higher level of new sonic territory.”

After discovering the arranging talents of Justin Kelley, part of the Fawkes & Hound duo with Phœnix Lazare, Cobanli commissioned Kelley to write horn parts for three of his songs.

“The results are awesome and swing triumphantly,” said Cobanli.

The combo is also lucky to have “the tuneful, torch-singing” Simone Dubois, and Jordan King with additional percussion, hand drums and kit.

Cobanli also promises “a smoking guitar shootout will combust when guest Mark Laberge plugs in his Les Paul and duels with Wayne’s vintage Gretsch.”

The song called Before Night Falls will frame the evening’s music as the opener, and later, as a reprise conclude the journey.

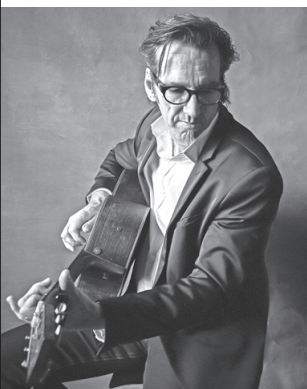
“It explores the global rise of loneliness and our collective need for connections, the Covid and climate crises, and fears for our future in an era of doubt and uncertainty.”



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

READING IN STYLE: Bill Turner reads a poem at last Wednesday’s well-attended evening of poetry, candlelight and wine organized by Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island held at ArtSpring.

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LITERARY EVENTS

Library hosts three author book launches

In-person evenings in November

The next three Wednesday evenings see book launch events at the Salt Spring Public Library, beginning with Robert Hilles tonight (Nov. 10).

Beginning at 7 p.m., Hilles will read from his third novel, called Don’t Hang Your Soul on That, as well as his latest poetry book, From God’s Angle.

His novel is set in Thailand and combines a spiritual journey with a murder mystery and offers many insights into life in Thailand.

From God’s Angle is about the aftermath of the Chernobyl nuclear accident. It explores the various long-term impacts of the Chernobyl nuclear accident including stories about those who have continued to live in the area for the past 35 years despite the radiation.

Hilles now divides his time between Nanaimo and Khon Kaen, Thailand but lived on Salt Spring Island for 17 years. He won the Governor General’s Award for Poetry for Cantos from A Small Room and has published 24 books, including 18 books of poetry.



His novel called Raising of Voices won the George Bugnet Award while his poetry book, Wrapped Within Again, won the Stephan Stephansson Award.

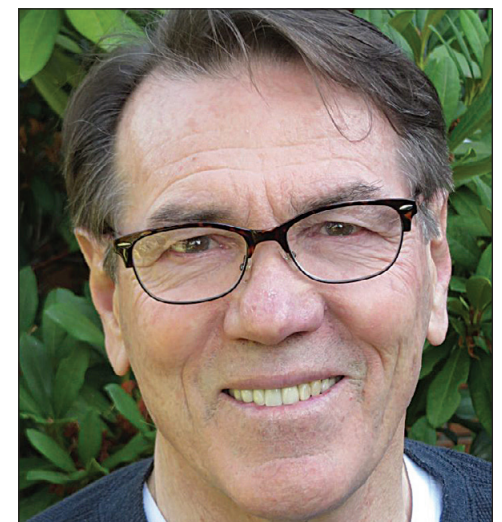
Brett Josef Grubisic is a long-time English department lecturer at UBC who now resides full time on Salt Spring. My Two-Faced Luck is Grubisic’s fifth novel.

Loosely based on a luxury liner murder off the coast of Victoria in 1985, My Two-Faced Luck takes the form of a memoir, compiled from cassette tapes left to a former infirmary nurse by a deceased inmate. An account of queer life in the U.S.A. from the Depression to the Reagan years, the man’s recollections create a startling portrait of the small possibilities granted to a sexual minority by intolerant society.

He will read from his new novel on Wednesday, Nov. 17 beginning at 7 p.m.

Then on Wednesday, Nov. 24, also at 7 p.m., Peter Freeman will read from his just-released Elements: Twelve Stories, which is a collection of stories in groups of three aligned with the four classic elements. Although the subject matter varies, there is a theme of caring and resolution that permeates each story.

Freeman is a Salt Spring resident who writes nonfiction and fiction novels, screen and stage plays, short stories, magazine articles, and poetry. He is the winner of The



Reading at the library this month are, clockwise from top left, Robert Hilles (Nov. 10), Brett Josef Grubisic (Nov. 17) and Peter Freeman (Nov. 24).

Fieldstone Review’s 2019 literary prize and a finalist for both the Best of 2020 Adelaide Literary Award and the Best of 2018 Adelaide Literary Award.

Wearing of masks and presentation of a vaccine card are mandatory for all events.



We wish to acknowledge over 130 volunteers for their part in making the Salt Spring National Art Prize and the Parallel Art Show such a resounding success.

Thank you for your willingness to support the visual arts in Canada. Your volunteer efforts bring meaning, connection, and vibrancy to our community. Your time is greatly appreciated, respected and inspiring, helping us to shine on a national stage.

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WE REMEMBER THEM



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Photos contributed by Patrick Lee, Ken Mugridge, Nancy Johnson and John Webb.

1. Ship's skiffle group from Ken Mugridge's compulsory two years spent in the Royal Navy as a telegraphist. 2. Passing out parade prior to joining the HMS Apollo minelayer, which had transported President Eisenhower and General Montgomery to France on D-Day plus one. 3. Slow bicycle race held in Italy by

Canadian contingent on Dominion Day, 1941. 4. Group of nurses stationed in Italy in World War II. 5. Edward Lee of Fulford, left, with compatriot in Germany in 1917. 6. S.J. Webb, bottom right in photo, who enlisted in England with the Cadets in 1941, with the RAF in 1943, becoming a flight sergeant and engaging

in combat at the age 19. The Webb family emigrated to Canada in 1956 and S.J. and Joyce Webb retired to Salt Spring in the early 1980s. 7. Services clothing coupon issued to Rita Fulton in World War II. 8. Ronald Lee of Fulford among group training at Camp Borden, Ont. Before shipping out to England in 1941.

Driftwood

A SPECIAL COMMEMORATIVE REMEMBRANCE DAY EDITION

WE REMEMBER THEM

MILITARY SERVICE

Former CAF reservist reflects on 'veteranship'

Salt Spring resident grows into defined role – slowly

BY KEN JACKSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

I completed three years of service as a member of the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) Reserves, specifically as a private in the 72nd Regiment, the Seaforth Highlanders of Canada. Veterans Affairs, I am told, says that I am a veteran. The Legion's membership criterion also considers me to be a veteran. So why in my 64th year am I still unsure?

It's a simple question with not so simple answers. I have technically been a veteran since 1977. Yet it's only in the past few years that I've begun to feel comfortable enough allowing myself to be recognized as one. I think some of the answer is associated with how I've performed when dealing with dangerous work-related challenges I've faced, often in a leadership role with responsibility for others.

Serving in the Reserves meant part-time service with some real military training. Being an infantry regiment, we trained as combat sol-

diers, including receiving weapons training where I lost some of my hearing. I enlisted at 17 or maybe 18 years, not old enough to vote or drink but I was old enough to die for my country, as the corporals in my life reminded me. Without an active duty role or assignments for peacekeeping duty, as some of my unit eventually were, I did not consider myself a veteran after my honourable discharge.

There were many in my family, the generations before mine, which had active service during the Second World War. The greatest family sacrifice we had was the passing of my father's father, a volunteer with the Winnipeg Grenadiers. He died in the hospital at home after WWII ended, having spent much of the war in a POW camp in Hong Kong after being shot in combat. My father was four years old when he last saw him. Though he's long passed, he was a veteran.

Five of my uncles, brothers of my mother, also served in the CAF during that war, though none were seriously injured. Being quite a bit younger, I never heard much about their service, apart from seeing some of the black and white photos of them in uniform at Grandma's house. It's hard to imagine how



PHOTO COURTESY KEN JACKSON

The writer's uncle, Sebastian Schuck, is seen at right in this photo taken on the HMCS Orkney River-class escort ship circa 1944.

she felt with so many of her sons in active duty, all volunteers. My uncle Sebastian and I had the most conversations about his service in the navy, doing convoy escort duty for Atlantic crossings from Halifax to Europe, his ship protecting the convoy against submarine attacks. They all served in active duty, some in combat, others trained for it but had not yet been called up.

Uncle Seb's stories were more about the daily hardships of wartime service where, at any moment, the entire crew had to snap to action launching depth charges and hedgehog projectiles against

an unseen enemy in horrid Atlantic Ocean weather. Imagine spending two years service at sea and never having enough seniority to shift from sleeping in a hanging hammock bed to a coveted 14-inch wide table bench that the lucky ones with seniority got to sleep on. I think of Uncle Seb and all my uncles as veterans.

From my youngest memories of Remembrance Day services, I remember seeing the aging faces, medals on chests, stories told in interviews that brought them to tears. There was no doubt in my mind they were veterans. That

imagery certainly influenced the inaccurate view of myself and many Canadians that to be a veteran one must have seen combat in one of the world wars or the Korean conflict, not just served in the CAF.

That misconception has dogged me since my service. The notion that in my early 20s, my Reserves role completed, that I'd be fittingly standing beside those honoured individuals as a veteran was simply not conceivable. I admitted serving, but always very modestly, in part because I openly considered myself to be a less than stellar example of a private. I was not particularly fit, so the physical demands of some of our tougher infantry training in harsh conditions had me labelled as an underperformer. I was not picked on but nor did I earn much respect for my efforts.

Reflecting back to then, I was not as proud of how I had performed as I was for having volunteered to serve, making the notion of claiming a veteran status as preposterous. Forty years on, I don't feel any different about that time when I was still in my teens but I feel much different about myself and how I've lived my life since.

VETERAN continued on 15

Thank you.

On November 11th, remember to honour our veterans who have served and continue serving our great nation.

Lest we forget.



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PRIVATE JESSE BOND
February 1916, age 21

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Your sacrifice ensured our life of freedom.
Our heartfelt thank you, to all of our Veterans.”

SALT SPRING INN

WE REMEMBER THEM

Life experiences help make role a comfortable one

VETERAN

continued from 14

My career in the oil and gas industry began not long after my Reserves service was completed. I plunged into the middle of a boom cycle in the late '70s that I was unfamiliar with and largely unprepared for, lucky to survive my first year working in operations outside of Fort McMurray. Over the 30-plus years that followed, I had operational and managerial positions around Canada and the globe: front-line operations in locations like China, Egypt, Russia and Iraq, onshore and offshore.

I was directly involved in a number of operational mishaps, some as an emergency responder, where I learned to draw upon leadership skills that I never knew I possessed. The kind where I had direct responsibility for not only my own life but also those who worked for or with me. As an example, I led a firefighting team via helicopter to a large offshore oil and gas facility that was on fire in the Gulf of Suez. My assignment — for which I had no formal training — was to respond to the fire, secure the platform and evacuate the personnel on board. Every life on board that helicopter was my personal responsibility, a mistake potentially costing one of our lives and destroying a family.

I cannot equate that situation to the images I have of an infantry combat team flying by helicopter into a battle scene, but I know enough to understand that the importance of leadership and all the responsibilities that go with it are largely the same. Realizing



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Writer and 2021 Poppy Campaign chairman Ken Jackson reads at the First Poppy ceremony on Oct. 27.

that has made me more comfortable over the years with the idea of representing my behaviours in life to a panel of the corporals and sergeants of my early life: How I've carried myself and accepted my responsibility for others, often at greater risk to myself. I think I could now look them in the eye and know that they were proud their butt kicking and lack of coddling had made a lasting and favourable impression on my life after my service.

I've also experienced anecdotal events that helped me feel more comfortable being labelled as a veteran. Internationally, working in high-security locations such as Kurdistan in Iraq, where our security team of ex-special forces soldiers from various

nations respected both my work performance and the fact I'd served my country (their words) as the reason I was welcome to dine at their table. Or when Legion past president Bill McKenzie, a top-ranked non-commissioned officer of the sort who used to loath my kind of under-performance as a private, openly invited me to march with the veterans in the Remembrance Day parade. It was one of the proudest moments of my life.

So now, in a few days before this writing is printed, I am scheduled to attend my first ever Legion-sponsored veterans lunch, where only veterans and escorts are invited. I am certain to feel nervous and unsure in that esteemed company, perhaps relaxing after fulfilling my initiation responsibility of buying "first shout" libations to all in attendance. Perhaps the first time I'll truly feel I've earned the honour of being called a veteran.

“Please join the Hedgers on this day of remembrance of those who offered their services and lives for the preservation of freedom for Canada and countries of distant lands. The positive act of honouring these individuals surely is in living, defending and promoting the freedoms of our land, speech, religion and travel.

Freedom is a right, not a privilege.”

Seen left to right are Lawrence McFadden, Antony Hedger, Millard Cantrill & William McFadden. Laurie Hedger (baby!), Agnes Hedger and Alan Hedger.

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WE REMEMBER THEM

Memory Remains ~ BY CHRIS SISSON

The dead would not
want us to gloat.
The machine gun's note.
The long drawn-out whine of a shell.
The returned, but forgotten
Unscathed, but destroyed
Begotten, but mutilated
Remember the white chalky hands
Reaching out of the mud.

The iron, the grave yard of armies
Missing presumed dead.
Wave after wave melt in the smoke.
Long lines of steel helmets marching
into dust.
Years pass, memory remains
To give your life for a cause.
It was the 11th hour of the 11th day
of the 11th month.

The writer is a Salt Spring Island resident.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salt Spring's alternate CRD director Mary Richardson, right, reads a poem she wrote called Poppies, inspired by her invitation to the First Poppy ceremony held at the cenotaph in Centennial Park on Oct. 27. Listening, from left, are Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 past president Bill McKenzie, Maeghan Bettger from BMO Ganges, Tami Benoit Moulton from Country Grocer, Dan Adair from Island Savings and Gary Utter from Pharmasave, representing major community supporters of the annual Poppy Campaign.



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Poppies ~ BY MARY RICHARDSON

When I see people wearing poppies,
I remember the poem In Flanders Fields.
"In Flanders Fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row."
I remember my mother's stories about her father and
brother coming home from the World Wars.
I remember touching my uncle's bullet wound in his shoulder.
I remember stories about the horror and the heartache.
I remember stories about the camaraderie, the compassion
and the great courage.
I remember soldiers and civilians sacrificing for the greater good.
I remember.



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on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month.

"Lest we forget".



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WE REMEMBER THEM



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK
 Veteran Keith Lavender, front, attends the Nov. 8 Veterans' Luncheon at the Legion. Also attending and in the background are former military nurses Vee Innes and Margaret Monro.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK
 Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 president Tom Woods, left, gets some help with his tie from poppy committee chairman Ken Jackson before festivities commence at the annual Veterans' Luncheon.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK
 It's action time at the Meaden Hall kitchen as president of the Ladies Auxiliary Lynne Terry, left, kitchen manager Dayva Caldwell and Carolinne Whearatt prepare buns and roast meat at the luncheon.

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On November 11, the people of our country who served in wars past will be remembered for their valour.

We thank the men and women who serve our country and make our dreams possible.

Li Read

Our deepest thanks to our veterans. Let us not take for granted the things that most deserve our gratitude.

Elizabeth M.P.

May

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Legion REMEMBRANCE DAY

Thursday, November 11th 2021

Salt Spring Island joins Canadian communities worldwide to pay homage to those who have served, to observe a moment of silence, to mark the sacrifice of so many who gave their tomorrows for our todays, to reflect and remember ...

Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Centennial Park.
 Conducted by Royal Canadian Legion Branch #92 starting at 10:40 am. All participants should be in place by 10:30am.

Dedicated seating for veterans, elderly, and disabled people with access at entrance to Harbour Authority office's parking lot. (Please bring proof of Covid vaccination).

Free shuttle bus from the Legion starting at 10:00am.

Ceremony will be streamed live on the Legion Facebook page.

Health authority and Legion protocols preclude community breakfast, parade, and open house at the Legion after the ceremony.

Wreaths available at the Legion until noon on 10 November or by calling 250 221-1780. They will be placed on the Cenotaph by the Legion ahead of the ceremony, with donors being formally acknowledged during the ceremony.

Please wear a mask and keep social distancing.

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LIBRARY

Avid readers make island book club challenge

Interlibrary loan service appreciated

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When starting up a book club Salt Spring Islander Joan Dickenson said you need a group of avid readers, people who can handle opinions different than their own and some spirited discussion, a nice warm beverage and “many, many goodies.”

Oh, and you also need books. In the case of the book club Dickenson has been part of for 15 years, they need up to eight of the same book and they need them all at the same time, in time for the club to start that month’s reading. Now, Dickenson and her fellow book club members are committing to donating the cost of a book, \$25, every year and challenging other book clubbers to do the same to help the library that ensures their clubs get the books they need.

On an island like Salt Spring, get-

ting a book club read into the hands of members isn’t always as easy as 1,2,3. Salt Spring Island Public Library chief librarian Karen Hudson estimates there are over 50 book clubs active here. And the interlibrary loan program, entirely managed by six volunteers, takes care of any book requests that come in.

The program operates on a unique model, Hudson explained, with provincial funding received based on how many books a library loans out to other libraries in the province. The cost of administering the program is \$1.45 per book for postage, as well as paying for lost books and administration, Hudson confirmed. The library gets an annual \$4,039 grant to run the interlibrary loan program, which covers the shipping. Hudson added that the library welcomes donations for other costs, which include “labels, computer, printers, network, staff support” and more.

The library loans out around 1,800 books each year, yet the demand for books to be sent to

the island is much higher. In 2019 there were 2,530 interlibrary loan requests put in by Salt Spring library patrons, with many of these being book club sets. That equals more than one book per hour the library was open that year, a total of 2,065 hours, Hudson stated.

In the case of the book club Dickenson is a founder and member of, these can include books that are upwards of 30 years old or not necessarily bestsellers that take some effort to track down. Some favourites from the early years of their book club include *Paris 1919* by Margaret MacMillan, *Alphabet* by Kathy Page and *My Name Is Red* by Orhan Pamuk.

“Actually it’s quite a bit of fun. You look at the book and say ‘Oh, it’s from Quesnel.’ I love it,” she laughed.

Most books travel far, except for usually one copy found at the local library.

“It costs a lot to go and buy the book if it’s popular [and] you might not even find it. So we really apprec-



PHOTO COURTESY JOAN DICKENSON

Book club members issuing a challenge to fellow clubs include, from left, Barb Birtwhistle, Anne Marshall, Sabine Sweirenga, Rosalind Hope, Joan Dickenson, Linda Sangster and Melynda Okulitch. The photo was taken when the group was on one of their retreats, where they choose the books they will read for the next year.

ciate the library for that . . . It’s a wonderful service,” Dickenson said.

As they save a substantial amount of money by using the interlibrary loan program, club member and volunteer interlibrary loan coordinator for the past 10 years Melynda Okulitch floated the idea of donat-

ing the cost of a book — around \$25 — to the library’s annual appeal. The club members agreed, and are also challenging Salt Spring’s other book clubs to do the same.

“In a way it was just saying thank you to the library,” Dickenson said.

what's on this week



Wed. Nov. 10

ACTIVITIES

Book Launch: Robert Hilles. Award-winning author presents a new novel — *Don’t Hang Your Soul on That* — and a new book of poetry called *From God’s Angle*. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Gulf Islands Board of Education Meeting. Public trustees meeting at 1 p.m. Human resources committee meeting at 11:30 a.m.

Thur. Nov. 11

ACTIVITIES

Remembrance Day Ceremony. Service at the cenotaph in Centennial Park begins at 10:40 a.m. Participants should be in place by 10:30 a.m. Event will be livestreamed on the Legion’s Facebook page. Note there is no parade, open house at the Legion or breakfast events this year.

Fri. Nov. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Red Sky Performance. Indigenous dance group presents *Trace*, inspired by Anishinaabe sky and star stories. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Before Night Falls: A Musical Journey with Bruce Cobanli. Evening of multi-genre music of songs by Bruce Cobanli with full band and special musical guests. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Books & Bling. Salt Spring Literacy’s fundraising book and jewellery sale returns after a one-year hiatus. Salt Spring Farmers’ Institute. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Proof of double vaccination and masks required.

ASK Salt Spring. CRD director Gary Holman is this week’s guest. SS Library Program Room. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 12

ACTIVITIES

Friday Movie Matinee. *Ready Player One* is today’s family friendly movies at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 1 p.m. Register at the library. (Note that family friendly movies have moved from Saturdays to Fridays.)

Sat. Nov. 13

ACTIVITIES

Books & Bling Sale. See Friday listing.

VIA ZOOM

SoulCollage® — Winter Dreams: Celebrate & Welcome the Seasonal Shift. Workshop facilitated by Rev. Gyllian Davies — online on Zoom, 1 to 4 p.m. More info and register at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.

Sun. Nov. 14

ACTIVITIES

Books & Bling Drop-off Day. See Thursday listing, except the time is from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Mon. Nov. 15

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Trustees meeting at the Ganges Fire Hall. 6:30 p.m.



Tues. Nov. 16

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Salt Spring Public Library. 2:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Public Library

Wed. Nov. 17

ACTIVITIES

Book Launch: Brett Josef Grubisic. Salt Spring author and UBC English department lecturer reads from his just-released fifth novel, *My Two-Faced Luck*. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

See www.thefritz.ca for this week’s movie. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements, and limited seating, in place.



EXHIBITIONS

- Salt Spring Island Printmakers present **Foot Stomping Prints** - a show & sale of new original works in the ArtSpring lobby through November.
- The Salt Spring Textile Group presents **On the Edge – A Planet in Crisis** in the library program room through the month of November.

EXHIBITIONS

- Stefanie Denz is the artist of the month at Dragonfly Art Supplies.
- The Photosynthesis group holds its 2021 show virtually at www.photosyn.ca.

Books & Bling

SS Literacy fundraiser at the Farmers’ Institute

Friday and Saturday, Nov. 12-13 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.;
Sunday, Nov. 14 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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



MICHAEL WENDELL STACEY
February 4, 1928- October 19, 2021

Dad grew up in Vancouver, B.C. The family moved to North Vancouver when he was a teenager, but he also spent a lot of time on the family farm in Aldergrove, B.C. Always keenly interested in machinery, Dad worked for Finning and then Pacific Tractor as a young man. He met and married Sheila Irwin in 1950 and they moved to the Aldergrove farm to raise beef cattle.

Dad brought the family to Salt Spring Island in 1965, to run Rainbow Beach Resort on Booth Bay. He started the Stacey Charter Service watertaxi business soon afterward, which exists today as Gulf Islands Water Taxi. He also played a big role in moving the old St. George's Church in Ganges, and expanding it into All Saints by the Sea.

Dad was a sociable guy. He was also a terrific storyteller and never ran out of stories, many truly hair-raising. He will live on in our memories as a good-hearted, loyal, loving, hard-working and amazingly talented man who could truly turn his hand to anything, and who had a terrific repertoire of jokes which have been passed along to his children and grandchildren.

Dad is predeceased by his brother David Stacey, his sister Elizabeth Brightwell, and his grandson Rob Stacey. Fondly remembering Dad are wife Sheila, kids Dave Stacey (Sandy), Mike Stacey (Lesley) and Jill Bartle (Dave), his brothers Robert Stacey, Tony Stacey and Neil Stacey, and an ever-expanding gaggle of grandchildren and great grandchildren. We are profoundly grateful that Dad was able to live out his entire life in his own home with his beloved wife, our mum Sheila.

Our heartfelt thanks go to Dad's absolute gem of a G.P., Dr. Mohamud Ibrahim. Words can't express what your compassionate care of our Dad has meant to us. Thanks also to the staff of Cowichan District Hospital, and Dr. Michael Jansz, who provided such thoughtful care.

We are thankful for the loving care and support of our parents from the Parishes of St. Peter's Anglican Church Quamichan, and St. John the Baptist Anglican Church in Duncan and the Ven. Brian Evans through these past years, and which continues to come our way through this difficult time.

*Jennifer Anderson Benitz,
Gita Govinda-Dragonfly-Jenny Bear*
SEPT 13, 1958 - OCT 24, 2021

Gita left her body peacefully in her sleep and was found with a smile on her face. Another colourful Salt Spring Character has crossed the Rainbow Bridge into the Beyond. Anyone who knew Gita knows that she was never late so even though all of us here on earth will greatly miss her, we also know she must have been right on time. Gita was known for her love of all things spiritual, to help see through the veil of the Great Mystery by singing, dancing, playing and praying. She spent her life in service to her most beloved teacher Srila Jayatirthapada. Gita was a true seeker of the Treasure Chest Within.

One of her favourite pastimes was to bring groups of people together and she organized many gatherings including the Spirit of Peace/Celebration of Life Gatherings on Salt Spring Island from 1986-1996. Here is where many leaders in several traditions would gather to pray and celebrate Divine Consciousness. From Hindu, Native American, Sufi, Ancient Goddess Worship, Celtic Shamanism, Christ Consciousness, all were welcome and encouraged see how there are many paths that lead to the One.

Some other highlights of her life were attending four Native American Sundance ceremonies, encountering a wild bear in Minnesota National Forest, going to 4 Rainbow gatherings, doing-Vrindavan parikrama four times, shaving her head four times, and embracing Zikr practice in Sufi tradition

She was also a lover of art and live music. She sought out acoustic singer/songwriters of transformational spiritual songs and created situations around her to encourage this. One of her many names was Dragonfly. Dragonflies can move in 6 directions and can change course quickly. They go through a total transformation in their lifetime. Not only did she, but she gave ample opportunity to many to do the same.

An avid nature lover especially of big trees. Cedar was one of her faves and she found much peace living amongst them.

Gita was quick witted and loved a good laugh and playing tricks on people. She had a wonderful childlike quality that stayed with her, her entire life. She loved games, and was always up for a game of scrabble, (impossible to beat her!) and the Christmas present game. While others would carry make-up and cell phones in their purse, hers was never without a sudoku book.

After her 60th birthday here on Salt Spring, she began to wind down the business of her life and eventually returned again to the UK to live a more inward life.

She was dearly loved by so many and will be greatly missed by her family in the UK as well as her Global Community. Gita was one of a kind. We are lucky to have had her in our lives as wayshower and activator and loving friend. She is not really gone just leading the way as usual.

A celebration of her life will take place Friday, November 13th at the Lions Hall (103 Bonnett Ave), Salt Spring Island 1pm-4pm. As per her request please wear bright colours and no suits or ties! Masks required. Bring potluck snack foods.

**Lady Minto Hospital
AUXILIARY
Society**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
of
**The Lady Minto Hospital
Auxiliary Society**
will take place on
Monday, November 29th
at 1:30pm
at the Lions Hall

Career Opportunities

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Career Opportunities

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR
Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island

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Coming Events

NOVEMBER BOOK LAUNCHES AT THE LIBRARY

Robert Hilles
Wednesday, November 10th, 7PM, Library Program Room

Brett Josef Grubisic
Wednesday, November 17th, 7PM, Library Program Room

Peter Freeman
Wednesday, November 24th, 7PM, Library Program Room

Vaccine card and mask are mandatory for all events.

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE-RESCUE

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will be held on **22 November 2021** at the Training Room Ganges Fire Hall No.1 105 Lower Ganges Road Commencing at 6:30pm

The election results will be announced, as well, the District Auditor's Report, Fire Chief's Report & Trustee's Annual Report.

A motion to set Trustees' remuneration will be called for.

A meeting of the SSIFPD's Board of Trustees will commence following the AGM.

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

Fire District ratepayers and the general public are encouraged to attend.

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Legion

Salt Spring Legion is looking to hire a Branch Manager, a part time position reporting directly to the president.

Duties will include, but not be limited to:

1. Organize and supervise staff ensuring compliance with all Health & Safety regulations.
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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INTEGRITY

Integrity means doing the right thing at all times, no matter what. Integrity is a foundation which sees you through the ebbs and flows of success. It's what Western Medical is built on.



ACCOUNTABILITY

The value of accountability is the willingness to take responsibility for our actions. We do what we say and say what we do. It's just that simple.



DILIGENCE

When we are diligent, we pay careful attention to detail and are dedicated to achieving quality results. Diligence does not rely on talent, but rather employs commitment and perseverance to change vision into reality.



COMMITMENT

Commitment is the attitude we embody. It's our commitment to ourselves, to our customers, and to the end result of our delivered project. Commitment and dedication can be found at every level of our company.

// MAKING A DIFFERENCE

Reducing our Carbon Footprint

As we have all become increasingly aware over the past couple of years, global warming is a risk to us all. Considering the potential problems that unchecked global warming can cause, at Western Medical we believe that no matter what the size of your business, you can make a difference by reducing your carbon footprint and therefore help in the fight against global warming.

We applaud our clients' efforts to reduce their carbon footprint. It is a joy to work with clients that share our vision, goals, and values for now and the future. And we believe that our shared concern to reduce our carbon footprints will make it easier for us to work together.

Western Medical has registered with the LiveSmart BC: Small Business Program. With the help of the program, Western Medical has drawn up a simple plan and implemented small changes to help reduce our carbon footprint.



WE ARE A LOCAL (COWICHAN VALLEY) CONSTRUCTION MANAGER looking to engage with Salt Spring sub-trades in the completion of this high profile project.

- ✓ **WE ARE VESTED IN SPENDING THE MONEY LOCALLY** and look forward to working with the island trades from start to finish.
- ✓ **WE INTEND TO BREAK GROUND JANUARY 4TH.** Project duration is approximately 15 months.
- ✓ **ADDITIONALLY WE WILL BE ACCEPTING RESUMES FOR** carpenters and skilled labourers attn: **JOHN VASSALLO** john@westmed.ca
- ✓ **WE WOULD ASK TRADES TO KEEP AN EYE ON BID CENTRAL** for the first Tender package which includes Civil works posted Nov. 12th 2021 followed by a Jan. 6th 2nd tender for remaining trades.

// WHAT SETS US APART

It's the way we deliver

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