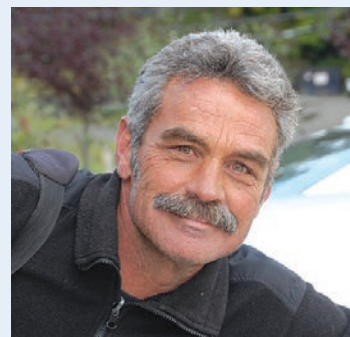
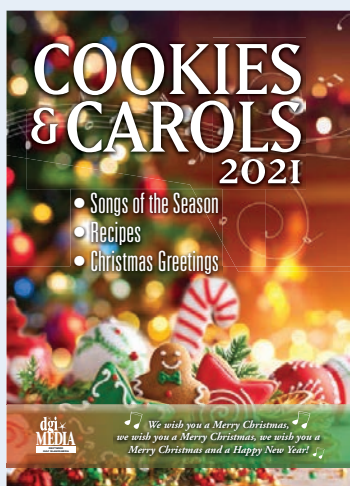


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Wednesday, Nov. 24, 2021

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NATURAL DISASTER

## Island flood recovery continues



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

An excavator works to shore up Fulford-Ganges Road near Blackburn Lake on Monday where the lake overflowed a week earlier, causing a road closure.

### Washed-out roads gradually re-opened

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After an atmospheric river drenched Salt Spring Island on Nov. 14 and 15, three of the island's roads are still being repaired and water advisories are still in place for some shoreline areas.

Crews are repairing road washouts and damage on several island roads and power lines, and while most roads have re-opened in some form, as of Monday afternoon Fulford-Ganges Road was still closed in the Blackburn Lake area. A boil water advisory for the Fulford Water Service Area has been lifted, yet warnings about going into the ocean around Gasoline Alley and Maliview Estates wastewater plant remain in place.

Three Salt Spring roads — Isabella Point, Fulford-Ganges and North End — were closed on Nov. 15 and for the rest of the week as flooding and washouts made the roads dangerous to traverse.

North End Road was closed for five days after a mudslide and washout occurred between Acheson Road and Fairview Drive. Footage showed mud and foliage strewn across the road and a median pushed out into the roadway. The road was cleared and re-opened Nov. 20.

Isabella Point Road was open to local traffic Nov. 20 after experiencing damage along sev-

eral sections, including washouts and flooding that left the road impassable in some sections. Construction crews were working on sections of the road with washouts and damage to the pavement Monday, while other washed-out sections were flagged using construction cones.

Area resident Jean Brouard said there were an estimated 100 families cut off from the rest of the island by the road closure. At its height on Nov. 15, Brouard said there was around 15 inches of water flowing over the road from Larlow Creek at the area locals refer to as "Stella's dip," "cougar dip" or simply "the dip." Brouard said he's been in the area for 25 years and hasn't seen anything like this before. The water had subsided to four to five inches Nov. 16, yet damage at the dip and further along Isabella Point resulted.

As of Monday, Fulford-Ganges Road remained closed in the area of Blackburn Lake as crews worked to shore up the road after Blackburn Lake flooded across the road. A section of Fulford-Ganges past Kitchen Road, about a car length, was blocked off on the southbound side due to a washout on the shoulder and beneath the pavement.

Acting fire chief Jamie Holmes urged people to obey the road closures and said it was "disheartening and disappointing" for firefighters to have to keep returning and putting road

barricades up after people moved them to get through.

The flooding caused storm and wastewater to flow into the ocean near the Maliview Estates Wastewater Treatment Plant's outfall pipe, on the northeast of the island. The same happened with partially treated wastewater from Ganges Wastewater Treatment Plant, which entered the stormwater system and discharged at the outlet of Ganges Creek. This prompted the Capital Regional District (CRD) to warn people not to go into the water nearby until tests could confirm that levels of enterococci, a bacteria found in fecal matter, is below the recreational limit.

Some residents along Morningside and Tahouney roads in Fulford were placed on a boil water advisory on Nov. 16 as a result of a "watermain break and system depressurization" caused by the rainfall. The advisory was lifted on Nov. 20.

Approximately 1,300 customers lost power last Monday, according to BC Hydro. Dave French became an impromptu first responder Nov. 15 as he very nearly missed a powerline snapping and coming down on Fulford-Ganges Road just before Jones Road.

"I slammed the brakes and came to a stop about 40 feet from the power line," he recalled.

FLOOD continued on 2

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## LOCAL NEWS

## MATTERS

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PHOTO COURTESY JEAN BROUARD

Road damage caused by heavy rains at the junction of Roland Road and Isabella Point Road at 3 p.m. on Nov. 15.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

North End Road is open to traffic Nov. 22 after a mudslide closed the road between Acheson Road and Fairview Drive for five days.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

Hydro crews repair a line on Stewart Road near Peter Arnell Park Nov. 22. Around 1,300 customers lost power last week after heavy rainfall events.



PHOTO COURTESY MILO STUART

An aerial photo of part of Fulford Harbour taken Nov. 15 illustrates the impacts of runoff into the ocean.

# Record rainfall causes havoc

### FLOOD

continued from 1

With cell service spotty on that stretch, it took some effort to get a good enough line to explain to a 9-1-1 dispatcher what had happened. French then proceeded to block traffic with his truck and began frantically waving vehicles away from the wire that was still live.

"It was sparking and shorting and it would light up on fire for a minute and then go back out with a large humming sound," he said, yet the rain kept the nearby brush from being ignited.

First responders arrived on scene around 15 minutes later,

and that was when French decided that he'd had enough of that workday.

"Live power lines shorting, throwing sparks in my general direction is enough to make anybody, especially me, go, 'You know what? I'm going to go home and curl up with the cats.'"

Crews were busy repairing power lines along Stewart Road Monday, yet power was fully restored across the island according to BC Hydro's outage map.

Heavy rainfall and winds caused ferry delays and cancelled sailings on Nov. 15. And an extensive washout and closure of the Malahat (Highway 1) caused traffic chaos on Vancouver Island, with travellers using Salt Spring ferries as a detour.

Osman Phillips has been measuring rainfall at his Cedar Lane property for the past four years. Between 8 a.m. on Saturday, Nov. 13 and 8 a.m. on Tuesday, Nov. 16, he measured almost 150 mm (5.9 inches) of rain; with 38 mm (1.5 ins), 102 mm (4.02 ins) and 9.39 mm (.37 ins) falling in the three consecutive 24-hour periods.

"That's just unheard of," said Phillips.

On the mainland, severe flooding closed Vancouver off from the rest of the country by road for a time. Extensive flooding in the Fraser Valley combined with washouts and landslides on highways leading into the interior left many people stranded for most of last week.

Partially as a result, a provincial government order is in place restricting purchases from the general public to 30 litres per pump visit to ensure there is

enough gas for essential services.

Salt Spring experienced long line-ups at its two gas stations, despite assurances posted online from Mid Island Co-op manager Joel Shaver that the fuel supply was not in jeopardy.

**"I slammed the brakes  
and came to a stop  
about 40 feet from the  
power line."**

DAVE FRENCH  
*Salt Spring resident*

Grocery store shoppers were also asked to not hoard goods, with purchase limits placed on some items.

On Monday the CRD announced that residents of Salt Spring as well as other Southern Gulf Islands directly affected by flooding may be eligible for a Disaster Financial Assistance grant, to help "replace or restore uninsurable essential items and property that have been destroyed or damaged." Applications need to be in to the B.C. government by Feb. 12, 2022.

The Salt Spring Island Emergency Program was active during the rainfall events, passing up-to-date information through neighbourhood PODS. To find out who their neighbourhood POD contact is, people can private message the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program on Facebook or email [ssidepc1@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ssidepc1@crd.bc.ca) with their street address.

## BOOKS & BLING

We're so grateful to our amazing volunteers, our staff, and everyone who donated books, jewelry, and attended our annual sale.

Thank you for your patience in following our safety plan.

Thanks, also, to our generous sponsors and donors!

**We met our fundraising goal because of all of you!**

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PHOTO COURTESY SSI FIRE RESCUE

A 500-square-foot cabin at 300 West Eagle Drive smoulders on Saturday. Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue responded to a residential structure fire call at 3:32 p.m. to find the cabin fully engulfed in flames. According to a SSIFR press release, fire crews had some challenges because of the large amount of belongings on the property and inside the structure. Thirteen SSIFR members and seven apparatus were on scene to extinguish the fire over a five-hour period. Ten thousand gallons of water were used. No one was injured as a result of the incident. The cause of the fire is under investigation but believed to be accidental, says SSIFR.

**FIRE DISTRICT**

# Jamie Holmes named new chief

Long-serving firefighter promoted

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue has a new fire chief.

The board of fire trustees announced on Monday that Jamie Holmes, acting fire chief since November 2020, will officially be taking over the role from former fire chief Arjuna George.

Holmes has been with Salt Spring's fire department for 25 years, joining the department in 1996 as a paid-on-call volunteer firefighter. He became a career firefighter in 2002 and deputy chief in April 2021. Fire board chair Per Svendsen noted Holmes' 15 years as a training officer as well as the "decades of labour experience and negotiation skills" he brings to the role.



PHOTO COURTESY SSI FIRE RESCUE

Salt Spring Fire Chief Jamie Holmes.

Chief Holmes set a benchmark that members be trained to the NFPA 1001 standard, which ensures we have a highly trained professional membership here on

Salt Spring, and provides members with an internationally recognized accreditation," Svendsen stated, adding that Holmes has also received the British Columbia Training Officer Association Meritorious Service Medal for his service.

"The future of emergency services on Salt Spring Island is in excellent hands."

As Holmes' appointment was confirmed, George reflected on hanging up his helmet and officially retiring from the fire service after 24 years and being on leave since July of 2020. In a post on Facebook, George called his time with the department an "amazing journey and an incredible chapter in my life."

"This has been a hard decision to make as firefighting has been my life, but I am now excited to transition to new opportunities and continue to serve," he stated.

**VILLAGE PLANNING**

# Ganges future envisioned

Public participation invited

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust is asking Salt Spring Islanders how they want to see Ganges Village evolve into the future and they are planning several events to hear the voices of islanders of all walks of life.

The local trust committee, working with engagement planning consultancy Ahne Studio, is looking for feedback from residents, businesses and First Nations that will inform a plan for the future of the village. Topics they are looking for feedback on include "land use and development, transportation, housing, arts and culture, economic sustainability, climate resiliency, infrastructure and protection of aquifers and biodiversity."

People are invited to share their thoughts in an online survey which can also be completed on paper by picking up a copy at the Island Trust's 500 Lower Ganges Rd. office. As well, people can take part in a walking tour on Saturday, Dec. 4, where they will get to survey the village and have their views noted down by staff. To register, head to <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/ganges-village-area-plan/>.

The main event is a drop-in community ideas fair on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 1 to 6 p.m. at the library, with activities "ranging from interactive mapping to design activities, to big ideas, brainstorming, children's activities," said Jennifer Fix, founder of Ahne Studios.

There are also plans to visit elementary and secondary schools to get students' input as well as some pop-up engagement sessions in places where people conduct their daily lives, such as the library, laundromat and seniors living. The aim is to cast the net wide, Fix said, and to hear voices who are normally under-

represented in these kinds of processes, such as youth.

In addition, virtual workshops are planned with community organizations involved in housing, economic development and other topics.

Trustee Laura Patrick urged staff and others involved to be clear in separating this consultation process from anything else going on at the local government level, like the draft Trust policy statement.

"It's a visioning exercise in your community and quite honestly this is very, very, very exciting," said Salt Spring Local Trust Committee chair Peter Luckham. "Certainly there are other things on the political landscape. And the challenge will be to maintain that vision and the joy of the village in the future, and keep that focus. And whatever happens politically will be something else. But we're wanting to do some visioning here."

Due to the complex nature of such a plan and its potential impacts on land-use planning, a task force made up of 10 community members has been meeting since April to help guide the process.

The LTC is also doing engagement with First Nations who have treaty and territorial interests in the village area.

What will eventually emerge from the public process is a plan to guide the future development of the village, to ensure that change taking place supports the goals of the community. Playing a large part will be the local government's already stated commitment to climate change adaptation and mitigation, and reconciliation with First Nations, including preserving First Nations heritage. A final report is planned to go to trustees in the fall of 2023, after which a public hearing will be held.

## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

**NOV/DEC 2021** PST (UTC-8h)  
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
<b>24</b>	0105	0.6	2.0	<b>28</b>	0416	1.4	4.6
	1002	3.5	11.5		1219	3.4	11.2
WE				SU	1936	1.9	6.2
				DI	2355	2.2	7.2
<b>25</b>	0145	0.7	2.3	<b>29</b>	0520	1.6	5.2
	1040	3.5	11.5		1246	3.4	11.2
TH				MO	1953	1.6	5.2
				LU			
<b>26</b>	0229	0.9	3.0	<b>30</b>	0151	2.4	7.9
	1117	3.4	11.2		0625	1.9	6.2
FR				TU	1309	3.4	11.2
				MA	2018	1.2	3.9
<b>27</b>	0319	1.1	3.6	<b>1</b>	0317	2.7	8.9
	1150	3.4	11.2		0727	2.2	7.2
SA	1941	2.2	7.2	WE	1331	3.4	11.2
SA	2110	2.2	7.2	ME	2048	0.7	2.3

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# OPINION

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

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



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### EDITORIAL

# Everyday gifts

**S**alt Spring's not-for-profit groups are among those struggling through the pandemic.

Revenue streams trickled as fundraisers or regular events were cancelled, and businesses that were themselves facing a drop in revenue could not step in to compensate.

One long-running project administered by volunteers through Community Services that faces a particular challenge this year is the Santa's Workshop program. It sees toys and gifts distributed to children whose families would otherwise have difficulty providing gifts. Our story on page 12 contains more information about that situation.

The last Tuesday of November is dubbed GivingTuesday, a global day of "generosity and unity" that promotes charitable giving in all of its forms. It was founded in 2012 globally and established the next year in Canada.

### THE ISSUE: Charitable giving

**WE SAY:** GivingTuesday an ideal time to donate

"GivingTuesday now has active movements in 75 countries, collaborating year-round to inspire generosity around the world, with a common mission to build a world where generosity is part of everyday life," the givingtuesday.ca website states.

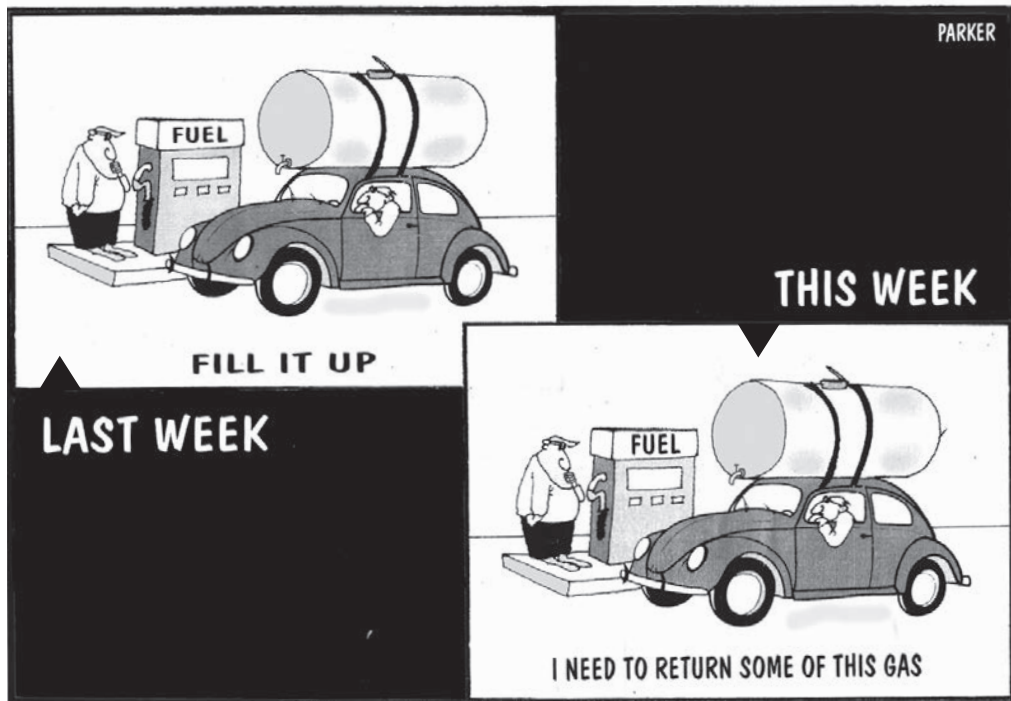
Living as we do in a privileged part of the world, charitable giving should be celebrated for the powerful cause it can be.

For people wanting some direction about local organizations to donate to, a search for Salt Spring on the CanadaHelps.org site lists dozens of local charities with links to their websites and instant donating options. Gift cards can even be purchased with recipients able to choose their favourite charity.

Or if making a specific choice is too daunting, umbrella groups like the Salt Spring Island Foundation (SSIF) or the 100+ Women Who Care and 100 Men Who Care groups can make it easier to support island charities.

Strong support for the SSIF during the first months of the coronavirus pandemic saw the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund created and more than \$250,000 donated to the cause. As a result, a number of groups and vulnerable segments of the population were able to be helped when they needed it most.

In the past year on Salt Spring the divide between people who have the means to give and those who do not has never been clearer. The island's many charities will make good use of all financial donations and welcome more volunteers, and our community will be a better one because of those freely given gifts.



# Seabreeze case explained

BY ROBERTA MARTELL

This is a difficult letter to write, so please try to hear what I'm trying to say.

As we are all well aware, housing on Salt Spring is a multi-cause mess: Our failed national housing policy has allowed nests to be commodified into nest-eggs, prioritizing profits over people. Our unique local governance structure is nearly impossible to navigate, turning aside many well-intentioned community members trying to build affordable housing. Our water moratorium not only chokes new builds but has also led to the gentrification of marginal properties that have water. And sky-high demand has driven house prices off the charts, leaving many unable to buy.

To offset daunting mortgage payments, many have taken their secondary or basement suites off the traditional rental market, opting for more lucrative nightly vacation rentals. As a result, the bulk of de-facto workforce accommodation on Salt Spring has been displaced by over 500 nightly vacation rentals. People previously inhabiting those suites have been bumped to more and more marginal housing. Many workers have moved away, shuttering businesses, and many who have stayed are resorting to creative vagabonding and boondocking: in forests and tents, vans and boats, mouldy trailers and leaky RVs.

### VIEWPOINT

In the midst of all this, as executive director of the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, I suggested we put in an offer to purchase the Seabreeze Inne. Here's why: I believe that some housing is better than no housing. The shelter was only ever a temporary arrangement agreed to by the Seabreeze owner. He gave Salt Spring Island Community Services the first right to buy the property to keep the shelter open, but SSICS was unable to secure sufficient partnerships or funding to buy it. BC Housing has been clear that they will not purchase the Seabreeze, choosing instead to develop purpose-built supportive housing on Drake Road. This sealed the shelter's fate and the result became a scramble for BC Housing and Community Services to rehouse the people currently sheltering in the Seabreeze.

We stepped in with an offer only AFTER the Community Services offer fell through. Rumours that the groups are in competition are false. We were cheering for Community Services to buy this property. But once that deal fell through, our option was to let it sell to a tourist operator or try to save it to create rental housing.

We are working with BC Housing, Community Services, elected officials, local agencies and housing advocates to help address the need to transition their clients to appropriate housing. We have extended our potential possession date in order to have more time to help find solutions. To this end, Kisea Peterson and I agreed to a housing committee meeting on Dec. 3 where all relevant groups will convene.

We believe the Seabreeze's highest and best use is not as a motel but as a multi-unit community housing asset. While the potential of 14-16 new residential rental units feels like a drop in the bucket, they are essential to helping fill the hospital's 31 staff vacancies. Lady Minto is open 24/7 to serve us all when we need them. Let's be here for them when they need us.

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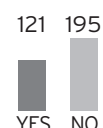
### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you struggling more financially this year than in 2020?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the SSILTC's housing direction?



Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://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: }

**“Live power lines shorting, throwing sparks in my general direction is enough to make anybody go . . . ‘I’m going to go home and curl up with the cats.’”**

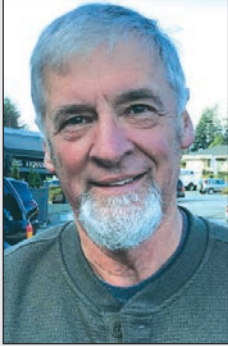
DAVE FRENCH, SALT SPRING RESIDENT, ON NOVEMBER STORM

## SALT SPRING SAYS

### WE ASKED:

*How did the rainstorm and flooding affect you?*

#### JOHN GULAYETS



“We had 11 inches of rain up at Channel Ridge. Our driveway and front yard flooded, that is very unusual.”

#### JAMIE SHAW



Our goat barn flooded. The goats were fine, but it took five hours to push the water out with a broom.

#### KERRY WIGGINS



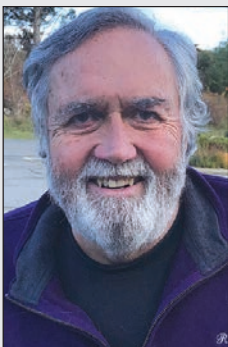
We had a road closure at North End Road, but we like the scenic Walker’s Hook route.

#### PAULINE SPENCER



Not really. I live a quiet life at Brinkworthy and I am not on the road much.

#### RICHARD SWANN



I noticed the higher water level at St. Mary Lake, but otherwise it was a non-event for me.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Fire hall is essential

As the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District prepares for a 2022 referendum on a new public safety building, Darlene Steele foments resentment in her Nov. 10 opinion piece.

“Who wants a new fire hall — only those overpaid firefighters,” she says. Ms. Steele, a vocal advocate for costly swimming and leisure pools, helped defeat the last referendum with this divisive strategy. Meanwhile, construction costs escalate.

The new public safety building will be smaller than previously proposed, but will still include the CRD Emergency Program and Emergency Operations Centre. For the first time, CRD will be a financial partner, reducing tax impacts by sharing space and costs, as well as providing federal gas tax fund-

ing. Much of the fire district tax increases Ms. Steele decries have been allocated to capital reserves to reduce the referendum ask. Ongoing transfers to reserves can be re-allocated to cover annual borrowing costs, again reducing incremental tax impacts. The land for the new facility has already been donated.

Firefighters, career and paid-on-call, are our most important first responders. Extreme weather events, like our 2018 windstorm, recent flooding and drought-related fire risk, will only increase in severity and frequency.

Our first responders and our community need a post-disaster facility that meets modern safety and regulatory standards. The fire district will soon be presenting the proposed design and cost of this facility to the public. Please consider this essential infrastructure investment in the

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](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

context of these unprecedented, increasingly risky times, not by the politics of resentment.

**GARY HOLMAN,**  
SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR

### Rethink it

Last week’s deluge certainly demonstrated how vulnerable many parts of the island are to extreme weather events. Fulford Harbour turned brown as torrents of muddy water gushed in from all sides.

While Fulford Creek and Soule Creek did not overflow, sections of the proposed Vortex development site were positively soupy. One can only imagine how additional factors, such as tidal surges, rising sea levels and strong winds will impact the site, especially during a perfect storm. Nature is full of surprises.

And who knows what is going on under the ground! William

Shulba, the Trust’s senior freshwater specialist, has called for hydrology and biology studies because “the soils are at low elevation with risk of sea level rise and elevated water table.”

Trustees dismissed the recommendations and concerns of their own staff when they approved the septic variance two years ago.

Are trustees now having sober second thoughts? We’ll find out at the next local Trust committee meeting on Dec. 14. I encourage all who are concerned about the impacts of the proposed destination resort to write to trustees ([ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)) before the Nov. 30 correspondence deadline and ask them not to issue the development permit.

**J. HIGHSTED,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 7

## Diving deep into MV Zim Kingston container ship spill

Have you heard that they’ve put a new big box store at Cape Scott on the northern tip of Vancouver Island? Well, I have to admit I’m not 100 per cent accurate on this information and you could accuse me of somewhat exaggerating the truth. However, if you are looking for refrigerators, toys, or chunks of Styrofoam, you might find what you need strewn along the rocky shoreline of Scott Channel.

What I’m alluding to here are the five cargo containers that fell off the MV Zim Kingston and managed to float 400 kilometres north until they broke open against the rocks before they had a chance to drift out into Queen Charlotte Sound.

If that wasn’t a bad enough disaster, those five containers were the lucky ones; at least they had the chance to experience some of the spectacularly scenic views along the coastline. The other 104 containers that fell off the cargo ship managed to sink right down to Davy Jones’ locker at the bottom of the sea.

Nobody is quite sure how it happened. The vessel had over 2,000 containers aboard and was on its way from South Korea to Vancouver. It encountered heavy seas just west of the Strait of Juan de Fuca off Cape Flattery and that’s when the containers decided to jump ship. The ship was given permission to anchor at Constance Bank, 7.5 kilometres south of Victoria, but the bad luck continued. Two of the containers still on board caught fire and although most of the crew had to abandon ship, the captain and four of his officers remained on board and spent the next week fighting back the blaze that was spewing toxic smoke into the atmosphere.

If you want to put a positive spin on the incident, you could say that the fire was eventually extinguished and almost 1,900 containers made it to port (although many of them were damaged). That’s a pretty good percentage, don’t you think?

I guess it’s not really a laughing matter. As recently as 2016, approximately 130 million shipping containers with an estimated value of \$4 trillion were shipped around the world. The World Shipping Council esti-



**Shilo Zylbergold**  
**NOBODY ASKED ME BUT**

mates that almost 1,600 containers are lost at sea each year. Although many of these incidents are a result of catastrophic events such as hurricanes and shipwrecks, there are more than a few cases that are attributable to neglect and incompetence. For instance, in 2018, one of the containers that fell off the Maersk Shanghai cargo ship carried three tons of sulphuric acid. When the metal of the container corrodes, as it inevitably will, it’s guaranteed that some creature down there is going to have a really bad acid trip.

Getting back to the recent spill by the MV Zim Kingston, two of the missing containers carried hazardous materials used in the mining industry. The chemicals, potassium amyl xanthate and thiourea dioxide, according to the Coast Guard, “are not bioaccumulating agents, meaning that if there was human contact, the chemicals do not accumulate in the body faster than they are excreted and there is a very low risk of poisoning or toxicity.” Whew. I feel a lot better.

Perhaps it’s possible to turn these marine mishaps to our advantage. Imagine an entire tourist industry based on the discovery of these huge containers lining the seabed. Instead of deep sea divers from far off regions of the world paying big bucks to explore rusting shipwrecks, they could be playing a big stakes scavenger game hunt for missing (or strategically placed) containers filled with fabulous booty.

Who couldn’t use a giant steel container chock full of Christmas decorations? Reports from the shipping agent list containers filled with treasures including sofas, poker tables, yoga mats and stand-up paddle boards.

Imagine prying open one of these big boys and finding it packed to the brim with aquariums or bottled water.

What about turning these lost-at-sea containers into a spectator sport? Just dump them all in one spot and let the wind and currents have their way with them. Have gamblers bet on which one will drift the farthest. It could be a deep sea version of the zucchini races at the Salt Spring Fall Fair.

Wait. There’s more. I’m on a roll now. Why not lay them out in a grid pattern much like the aisles at Costco or Walmart? But instead of aisles and lanes, you organize the containers geographically. You can find car parts in Hecate Strait, or mattresses in Desolation Sound. There’s a great deal on air conditioners at the north end of Jervis Inlet. Just back up the old barge and start winching. It gives a whole new meaning to a “truckload” sale.

We wouldn’t be the first ones to try to twist these lost containers at sea into positive events. In 2014, the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute reported that “the physical presence of the container provided a surface that immobile animals, such as barnacles, could latch on to and an elevated place from which predators could hunt.” Consequently, these containers could possibly contribute a reef-like structure for such diverse organisms as tubeworms, snails, sea squirts and scallops.

How illuminating! Not only are these container spills not actually harming the environment but their presence on the ocean floor is actually a helpful stepping stone for the underwater ecosystem. Way to go, MV Zim Kingston! Maybe this is how the lost continent of Atlantis got started.

Nobody asked me, but it looks like we’re in for a whole mess of stormy weather ahead. What with atmospheric rivers, heat domes and cyclone bombs looming above us, there’s bound to be a huge stretch of rough water that we will have to navigate through. As for me, I’ll be bottom-feeding, along with the tubeworms and sea squirts, on the Mr. Brief sunken container reef in Trincomali Channel.

# Fire department critic's piece lacks credibility

BY RONALD LINDSTROM

The Nov. 10 opinion piece by Darlene Steele ("Fire board does end run with budget explanation") starts with some good observations regarding the board and the 2022 budget, but quickly loses credibility on a number of ensuing topics.

First, that career firefighters on Salt Spring are unionized is not an anomaly in communities, thus wages and benefits are commensurate. In our case, the remuneration and staffing levels for union members are dictated by the terms of the recent arbitration award. Unionized career firefighters' salaries and benefits are not out of line. For comparison, have a look at remuneration above \$75,000 per annum for unionized and other employees in the public sector which is easily and publicly accessible information.

Second, Darlene includes phones and cars as career firefighter perks. To the contrary, phones are selec-

tively issued for work-related communications. Any vehicles are for work-related purposes. These are essential, not perks.

She asks: "What have I missed?" She has completely missed the point. Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue service is appropriately staffed to keep our community safe, for which we should all be thankful. The 24/7 staffing model substantially reduces the "out the door time" of the truck and apparatus and allows these responders quicker access to the scene for sizing up, initiating the incident action plan, applying water as necessary, and assisting in any rescue efforts while awaiting the paid-on-call crew. Also, the career firefighters perform vehicle, apparatus and equipment maintenance for call and after-call readiness. These functions support and are critical to making the blended career and paid-on-call model work here on Salt Spring. Remember, we live on an

## INRESPONSE

island, which is rural in the daytime and remote in the nighttime, and don't have the luxury of quick mutual aid from adjacent communities in an emergency.

Third, she observes a 2022 tax increase of 9.1 per cent. Let's be clear that this is on the fire improvement district component. Based on a 2021 average Salt Spring residential property value, the monetary increase is equivalent to about two cups of coffee per month at a cafe. Where does public safety rank in the overall hierarchy of our community needs and services? How do we as a community best support those we depend on and entrust with our and our loved ones' lives?

Fourth, she states that the recently implemented 24/7 staffing model "implies a faster and

more effective response time." It not only implies, it delivers. What she fails to mention with respect to the fire at Windsor Plywood is that the outbuildings and lumber were saved. And, at the Mineral Springs Resort fire, other buildings and adjacent forestation were saved (and this was during the heat dome). The firefighters deserve kudos, not criticism!

It is also important to remember that we have a fire and rescue service. Approximately 40 per cent of the calls are medical/first responder calls. Our firefighters also conduct community fire education and preventative services.

Finally there is her question around "who so desperately wants this fire hall?" This is not a matter of want; rather, it's a matter of urgent need for community and firefighter/staff safety. These needs are well documented and have been shared with our community. The main fire hall

was built in 1960 and now suffers from the following: leaky roof, termites, mold, asbestos, interior spaces that do not meet current building and WorkSafe codes, undersized apparatus bays for modern vehicles, condemned hose tower, electrical hazards, seismically unsound, and an undersized lot that can't accommodate trucks and equipment. How would you like to go to work under these deplorable conditions? There is an urgent need for a new fire hall which, in fact, is now critical since the two failed referenda.

Yes, "stop, look and listen," as Darlene writes, but I would respectfully add . . . for the evidence and facts, not unwarranted and inaccurate opinions!

*The writer is a former Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board chair, a health systems consultant and adjunct professor at both UBC and Royal Roads University.*

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PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

**SIRENS AND ALL:** Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue vehicles are among those from the island's first-response organizations giving a drive-by salute at Lady Minto Hospital last Tuesday to show support to health-care workers on the front line of the pandemic.

## MORE LETTERS continued from 5

### Control costs

Great article by Darlene Steele in the Nov. 10 Driftwood. Most of us who are paying attention agree that there's too much of a "free-wheeling" attitude with public money by the fire department, the Capital Regional District and the Islands Trust.

Without public consultation, the fire department unionized years ago, giving them a pay scale that is way out of line for a community this size. Now they are saying "we want a new fire hall, we don't want to fix the old one."

Then there's the CRD with a referendum for a four-year, one-time tax for pathways that we gave them in 2014 and it's been on our taxes every year ever since. And they want more.

And the Islands Trust. When decisions get tough to make and they're backed into a corner they hire expensive off-island consulting firms on our tab. The general attitude seems to be "if we want something, we just go ahead and stick the taxpayer with the bills."

I want to tell all you guys that times are rough for lots of the common people. Families are struggling and tightening their belts because of rising food costs, gas, accommodation. Accommodation is almost impossible for some. Winter is here and the COVID thing is hanging over us every day.

We are fortunate here to have many of volunteer groups that do lots to keep this island as good as it is.

Why don't the fire department, the CRD and the Islands Trust knuckle down and do their part in it all by finding ways to get more efficient with money and get taxes under control and down, not up.

**JIM MCCLEAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Housing solutions

There is no question that housing is needed for hospital staff and for Community Services clients. There is also a need for worker housing. The Seabreeze Inne should not be the only location to house the homeless and hospital staff. Our community should and must be stronger and more adaptive than that.

While I have not had personal involvement, I can sit here and see possible solutions.

1. The Seabreeze Inne has worked as a location for Community Services clients. I would hope that Community Services with the province would agree to maintain the Seabreeze Inne for those who have been homeless. At least until there is a local resolution.

2. Might a local referendum be considered such as Pender Island did to financially support its community health centre? This could provide permanent funding for homeless housing.

3. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) might investigate with Island Health building housing on the grounds of Lady

Minto. Maybe the lower parking lot could have parking below and housing above.

4. Regarding Drake Road, the CRD and LMHF could build a joint project there. It may be time for the waterworks to make an exception and allow a water hook-up.

5. LMHF might work with Dragonfly Commons and make that development into housing for hospital staff.

6. The CRD could shift gears and develop the middle school with LMHF funding into health staff housing instead of a community centre.

The LMHF and the Salt Spring Community Health Society know housing is one of the social determinants of health. Now more than ever, it is time for all Salt Spring agencies and societies to work together. We can and must fund and build additional housing without creating displacement of people who already have housing.

**CURT FIRESTONE,**  
SALT SPRING

### We must change

I am puzzled by people's enduring need to blame climate change on the so-called greedy "Big Oil" executives, investors and employees.

Do we not live on islands, thus requiring everything we consume to be delivered to us on fossil-fuel-burning ferries? Do we not line up at the local gas stations from morning to night to pump gasoline and diesel into our fossil-fuel-consuming vehicles? Do we not fly to any destination on the planet that attracts us just because we can? Do our islands not promote a tourism industry that is almost entirely fossil-fuel driven? Do we not continue to consume products that are shipped to us from every corner of the planet by fossil-fuel-consuming trucks, trains, planes and ships?

A few years ago the Salt Spring Forum hosted Kent Rathwell, who is credited with electrifying the Trans Canada highway, thus making it possible to drive an electric vehicle across the entire length of this country. He was asked several times what we, as citizens, can do to motivate our leaders of industry and government to take action against fossil-fuel production. His answer, repeatedly, was to look in the mirror and ask what can WE do to reduce OUR demand for fossil fuels, because without that demand there is no need for supply and "Big Oil" will rapidly shrink and eventually disappear.

So will we insist on fewer ferry sailings (and fewer ferry terminals in Salt Spring's case)? Are we willing to stop flying in airplanes and sailing on cruise ships in order to save the planet for our children, grandchildren and their children? Will we insist on an end to tourism on the Gulf Islands? Will we stop buying anything that has to be shipped to us from far away places like Asia or Europe or South America?

In other words, is OUR community going to take the radical leadership steps necessary to respond to this climate emergency, or will we continue to take the easy way out by blaming those who supply our demand for fossil fuels?

**FRANZ SCHERUBL,**  
SALT SPRING

## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST



### ROOM RENTAL OPPORTUNITY: Salt Spring Island Middle School 122 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, BC

The Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) is seeking community groups, local non-profit and recreation service providers to utilize available indoor space at the Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS).

- The SIMS facility located at 122 Rainbow Road is accessible from Park Drive as well as two service roads over SD64 property and includes 14 classrooms, storage rooms, a gym, a library, offices, lunch room, teaching kitchen and a large atrium in the middle of the building. With the school district planning to exit the premises in June 2022, there is an opportunity for the CRD to assume responsibility of the building.
- SUBMISSION REQUIREMENTS**  
Submit one (1) pdf document, including:
  - Community group or service provider description
  - Rental space requested
  - Proposed dates/times
  - Brief description of any improvements to accommodate your group
- In the event that multiple groups submit an expression of interest for the same rental space, the CRD may require additional details to support the sustainability of your organization. Further the Decision Making Framework approved in the 2019 Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan may be used by the CRD and PARC as a guide to evaluate any proposals.

**AN OPEN HOUSE WILL BE HELD ON:  
Friday December 3, 2021  
from 10am-1pm.**

To schedule a guided tour during the open house please contact  
**Dan Ovington,**  
Manager of Parks and Recreation  
Salt Spring Island, [dovington@crd.bc.ca](mailto:dovington@crd.bc.ca)

Please contact Dan Ovington,  
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**Islands Arts Centre Society  
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
ARTSPRING (virtual) AGM  
Monday, December 6, 2021 at 4:15 p.m.**

For the receipt of Annual Reports, Financial Statements, and the Election of Directors. All are welcome. All who have been members for 30 days as of December 6, 2021, are eligible to vote. (2020-2021 members are at liberty to renew right up to the date of the AGM in order to vote).

Please email [board@artspring.ca](mailto:board@artspring.ca) to register and receive a Zoom link for the AGM. At the same time, members may request a copy of the AGM report.



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

**SHOW TIME:** Above, a viewer enjoys the Salt Spring Island Painters' Guild Summer Show in November event, which opened at ArtSpring on Saturday and continues through Nov. 28. Among the full gallery of paintings is, from left is Dulcy Wilson's Water Protector, and Dare To Be by Bernadette Mertens-McAllister.

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### CONCERT PREVIEW

## Celtic music set to excite this weekend

Concert and workshop presented by new folk club

The Trincomali Folk Club (TFC) is excited to present Celtic WinterFest with a concert at Beaver Point Hall this Saturday night and a retreat for musicians and non-musicians at a private residence on Sunday.

Performing in concert will be Pierre Schryer, Michaela Cunningham and Andy Hillhouse.

According to press material from the local club, Schryer is one of Canada's leading traditional fiddlers. He's a North Amer-

ican Irish Fiddle Champion, a Juno and Canadian Folk Music Award nominee, and a celebrated performer and producer.

"A recipient of numerous international titles and awards, [Schryer] truly captivates an audience with his energy and genuine warmth," states the TFC.

Schryer has shared the stage with such luminaries as Natalie MacMaster, the Barra MacNeils, Ashley MacIsaac, Liz Carroll, La Bottine Souriante, Altan, Old Blind Dogs, Chieftains. He has performed with numerous symphony orchestras across Canada with his acclaimed Symphony Pops show.

Cunningham is considered one of the most exciting exponents of traditional Irish music in North America.

"Her virtuoso concertina playing is recognized internationally. She lights up any stage with her dynamic musicianship and warm personality," states the TFC.

Hillhouse has had a long career that has seen him tour as a band leader in the Anglo-Celtic music world, be a choral director, music and culture scholar, and most recently be the artistic and executive director of the Harrison Festival of the Arts.

Saturday night's concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

The Sunday retreat is at a Lawnhill Drive residence from 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Tickets are available online at the [trincomalifolk.com](http://trincomalifolk.com) website.

### LIVE THEATRE

## Jeffrey Renn's Service saga continues

Part 2 of At Your Service play runs at ArtSpring

#### SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

The first part of Jeffrey Renn's one-man play At Your Service gathered many fans over its two-year journey at ArtSpring. Performed several times — initially as a rough cut at the end of a creative residency — the play saw additions and fine-tuning each time. (Its fourth run in October included a full 15 minutes of new material). Ardent fans attended each production knowing that they'd find something new, and word-of-mouth recommendations for this sparkling show were exciting to hear.

If you're anything like the team at ArtSpring you'll be eagerly looking forward to the next instalment, here for three nights starting Nov. 30. Renn

picks up the story of Robert Service's youth in the countryside of Scotland, and the early influences that ignited his passion for language and adventure.

Jeffrey Renn was set on the path of adapting Service's autobiography, Ploughman of the Moon, by actor and mentor Douglas Campbell, with whom he worked over 20 years ago. Handing poetry-loving Renn a copy and uttering, "I think there's something in here for you," Campbell provided the initial spark which led to the play's creation. While studying for his masters in directing at UVic, Renn wrote the first half hour, and was again encouraged to keep going by his professor. And the final push came from Cicela Månsson here at ArtSpring, who supported the play's development with creative residencies and programming in our ArtSpring Presents seasons. Renn is particularly interested

in the grand adventure of Service's life, a life that at times seems too good to be true. The man who left office work in Scotland to be a cowboy in the Yukon, who was in turn a spy, an actor alongside Marlene Dietrich, and who lived out his life on the French Riviera, makes for an alluring character to chronicle. Luckily for us Renn sees this fantastic life as a seven-play span — and we can't wait to see how it unfolds.

ArtSpring Presents At Your Service – The Life & Yarns of Robert Service Part 2 runs Tuesday, Nov. 30 to Thursday, Dec. 2, 7:30 p.m.

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

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## HEALTH CARE

# Stamina not Stigma series launches online

Most vulnerable members connect

BY ROBERT BIRCH

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS AIDS SOCIETY

Viruses break down systems. Pandemics herald periods of profound global change. Early warning signals have blown on the winds for decades. Indigenous elders and leaders, artists, ecologists, biologists, historians, social scientists and progressive economists however, have mostly failed to shift the religiosity of politics benefitting the pyramidically privileged, those who benefit from damaging natural processes of a healthier evolution.

Grassroots initiatives rarely get acknowledged. Despite the inevitable devastation of top down systems,

the elite deny but depend on the under-supported and under-represented to sacrifice and adapt, to flail and fail until new ways to make the world are found. Despite the stigma and related violence enacted on the most vulnerable, this cohort-intelligence and efforts of earlier adapters, theoretically known as Positive Deviants, often influences and benefits the health, wealth and well-being of the dominating class (i.e. the social welfare of the overrepresented).

During the current pandemic, Canada's smallest peer-run AIDS service organization suggests that once again, grassroots community peer-support models can provide needed role-relief to our over-burdened rural health care systems. Rather than see society's

most vulnerable as victims, as we encourage broader communities to also self-organize around health needs, we ask people to re-consider the hardest-won methods of those who consistently, out of necessity, co-discover inherent capacities for collective change. As long-term survivors of a continuing pandemic where 680,000 died of HIV-related illnesses worldwide in 2020 (mostly from African countries where life saving medication from the resource extracting West are still denied), we know focusing on stamina is an imperative mutual survival strategy.

Stamina not Stigma is a series of free online events hosted by the Southern Gulf Islands AIDS Society. Rural communities, and in particular some of our most vulnerable

members, struggle for healthcare support. Stamina not Stigma aims to join with rural-living Indigenous, Black and People of Colour (BIPOC), women living with chronic illness, GBQT men, youth leaders and those living with episodic illnesses like HIV, to come together to learn more about existing gaps, needs and resources, as well as healthcare peer navigation models. While all are welcome, each event will feature the voices of community members. For attendees striving to be more effective allies, we ask that we witness, listen and learn.

The series launch, Healing Inner Voices, is a beautifully crafted ceremonial Indigenous short documentary from Vancouver Island filmmaker Martin Morberg

(Drawingwisdom.ca). In honour of World AIDS Day, from now to Dec. 7, please go online to learn from Indigenous women and men, queer and gender fluid folk, about how it is possible to transform multiple experiences of stigma, including living with HIV, into an expanded cultural awareness of the spiritual and creative dimensions of health. In the spirit of reconciliation, all viewers are asked to participate in actions of accountability.

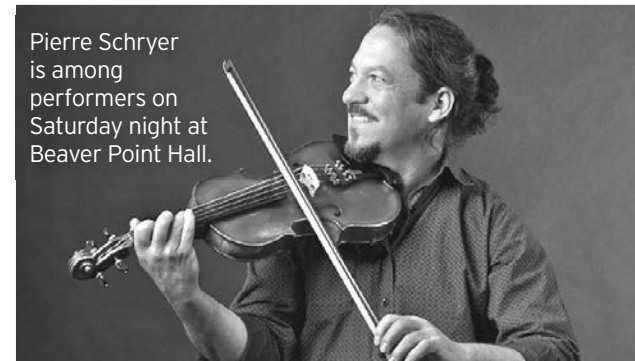
For project details, including opportunities for BIPOC; GBQTrans men; youth and women with chronic health conditions to help one another other organize, please visit: <https://staminanotstigma.org>.

The next online event is on Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m.

# what's on this week



Wed. Nov. 24	Fri. Nov. 26	Sat. Nov. 27	Sun. Nov. 28	Mon. Nov. 29	Wed. Dec. 1
<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Songwriting Workshop With Stephen Fearing.</b> ArtSpring event from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Register through ArtSpring.</p> <p><b>Book Launch: Peter Freeman.</b> Salt Spring author reads from elements: Twelve Stories. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 7 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> Andrew Gaetz, manager of local roads maintenance contractor Emcon, is this week's guest. SS Library Program Room. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Friday Movie Matinee.</b> Family friendly movie at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 1 p.m. Register at the library.</p>	<p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>Celtic Winterfest.</b> Trincomali Folk Club concert with performers Pierre Schryer, Michaela Cunningham and Andy Hillhouse. Beaver Point Hall. 7:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Celtic Winterfest Workshop.</b> Workshop for musicians and those who love Celtic music at a private residence. 10:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. See <a href="http://trincomalifolk.com">trincomalifolk.com</a> for info/registration.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society AGM.</b> Annual general meeting at Lions Hall. 1:30 p.m.</p>	<p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Check Mates Teen Chess Club.</b> A Salt Spring Public Library event via Zoom where ages 12-18 play world-class chess instructors. Contact <a href="mailto:atrepanier@saltspringlibrary.com">atrepanier@saltspringlibrary.com</a> for the Zoom link.</p>
<p><b>Thur. Nov. 25</b></p> <p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>Open Mic and Jam.</b> At the Legion. 7 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw at 5 p.m.)</p>	<p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Evening of Poetry Inspired by Phyllis Webb.</b> Fred Wah, Stephen Collis, Isabella Wang and Diana Hayes read poetry inspired by their relationships with acclaimed poet and Salt Spring resident Phyllis Webb, who died on Nov. 11. 7 p.m. via Zoom. Email Diana Hayes at <a href="mailto:dehayes@islandnet.com">dehayes@islandnet.com</a> for the link.</p>	<p><b>Sun. Nov. 28</b></p> <p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>Handel's Messiah Sing-along.</b> Bach on the Rock Chamber Orchestra and Choir present portions of Handel's Messiah and invite the audience to sing along to the choruses if they wish. Scores available to borrow, or bring your own. Fulford Hall. 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Island Pathways AGM.</b> Annual general meeting at 2 p.m. The link is <a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82552279346">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82552279346</a> (or see the <a href="http://islandpathways.ca">islandpathways.ca</a> website).</p>	<p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Stamina Not Stigma: Untold Stories – It's Time to Address Gaps in Rural BIPOC Community Healthcare.</b> Second in a series of events presented by the Southern Gulf Islands AIDS Society. 7 p.m. Get the link at <a href="https://staminanotstigma.org/untold-stories/">https://staminanotstigma.org/untold-stories/</a></p>	<p><b>Mon. Nov. 29</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission.</b> Regular monthly meeting in the library program room. 9 a.m.</p>



Pierre Schryer is among performers on Saturday night at Beaver Point Hall.

**THE FRITZ CINEMA**

**The French Dispatch** runs Friday, Nov. 26 to Tuesday, Nov. 30 at 7 p.m. nightly plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements. More info: [thefritz.ca](http://thefritz.ca)

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Gallery 8 and Coast Gallery present their annual **Christmas Show of Small Works** from Friday, Nov. 26 through Dec. 31.
- **Artcraft Winter**, a presentation of **Salt Spring Arts**, opens at **Mahon Hall** on Friday, Nov. 26 and continues daily through Dec. 22 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Island Painters' Guild** holds their "summer show" at **ArtSpring** through Sunday, Nov. 28, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

**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.
- **Stefanie Denz** presents an exhibit of mixed-media works at **Dragonfly Art Supplies** through November.
- **Judy McPhee** has photos in the **Country Grocer** cafe.

**Poetry Open Mic**  
With Featured Poet **Kevin Spent**  
Thursday, Dec. 2 at 7 p.m. via Zoom  
Email [programs@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:programs@saltspringlibrary.com) for the link

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**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

**Obituaries**

*Louise Jocelyn Harkema*



It is with a heavy heart that I announce the passing of my mother Louise. She left her 64 years on this earth November 10th 2021, after a difficult battle with cancer. Louise was born October 19th, 1957 in Port Alberni, British Columbia to Jan and Louise Harkema. She is survived by her children Elisha (Jordan) and Jocelyn; her granddaughter Piper; and her siblings Derek, Mary, Andrea, Ellen, and Harold. She was predeceased by her parents and brother Jan Mark Harkema.

Louise was an autonomous and ever-evolving person that marched to her own beat. She made many strong connections mentally and spiritually as a mother, a sister, an auntie, a friend, and a therapist and a teacher. In these connections her loving memory lives on.

Though she spent many years building her successful business as a Massage Therapist/ Svroopra Yoga teacher and raising her two children in Calgary, Alberta, Louise often said her heart called her home to the ocean.

From an early age, living on Salt Spring Island, Louise was a tenacious beach comber, avid swimmer, a nature lover, and an adventure at heart. That adventurous spirit took her traveling around the world many times throughout her life. Louise preferred experiences over possessions and had a great sense of 'Harkema' humor.

She loved live music - blues, rock, jazz, folk; she was the first to kick off her shoes and get up to dance and the last to leave. She always sung the loudest despite lyric and key, yet with such beautiful conviction that it never mattered.

She reminded us often to be engaged and embraced life's little moments. Moments like a beautiful sun rise at Fernwood dock or watching a colorful bird at breakfast over the strongest cup of morning coffee. Her strength and spontaneous nature will be remembered fondly by those who knew her. In the summers she would spend hours at the beach to find the perfect moon snail shell; but was also the one who would drive the fasted down 'big dip' hill screaming "hold on to your butts". Louise lived life to the fullest and always with love.

Family was always one of the most important things for Louise. She often remarked that her granddaughter Piper was her "pride and joy".

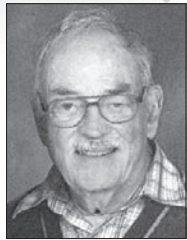
She will be deeply missed by all.

To honour her wishes, Louise's ashes will be spread in the Triconmali Channel, west of Salt Spring Island, during her celebration of life this coming spring (2022), exact date to be determined.

A second small memorial will be held in Calgary, exact date TBD.

**BRIAN TREVOR RADFORD**

May 22, 1932 - November 16, 2021



Brian is survived by Marjorie, his wife of 65 years, sons Michael & Brock, daughters Karen Boden & Joanne (Jack) Stolz, grandchildren, Alana (Madison), Kelsey (Zachary), Kayne, James, Ivan, Mikaela & Erica & sister Sheila. He is predeceased by grandson Gordon, sister Moira, sister-in-law Colleen and brother-in-law Frank.

Brian was born in Toronto and moved to North Vancouver when he was 2.

He received his Bachelor of Science in Agriculture degree at UBC and worked for The Range Management Branch of the BC Forest Service in Kamloops and Prince George. On retirement in 1987 he and Marjorie moved to Salt Spring.

His second love after his family was his BMW motorcycle on which he and Marjorie rode to Newfoundland, Mexico, Alaska and many points in between for over 800,000 km.

He was a member of the Salt Spring Trail & Nature club and spent many hours hiking with the club, clearing, building and marking trails especially on Mt. Maxwell. (Brian trail #11)

He was a member of the Anglican Church and served on various committees over the years.

He was an avid reader and was devastated when the stroke he suffered 3 years ago caused him to be blind and ultimately unable to walk.

Many thanks to Dr. Gummeson for his kindness and caring.

Brian came to reside at Greenwoods Eldercare, even though it broke our hearts to be unable to look after his needs at home, Greenwoods became a part of our family, the management, care aids, nurses, and fellow residents made what could have been a very miserable proposition, instead something quite rich, and meaningful for all of us. They took us in to their fold from the very start, and they stayed at our sides, right up until the final moment. Too much to list in regards to the beautiful people who played a part during this final chapter.

Memorial service will be held at All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church Saturday, November 27 at 2:30 PM for double vaccinated people with masks.

In lieu of flowers donations can be made to Greenwood's Eldercare Society, Lady Minto Hospital or MS Society of BC.

**Coming Events**

**Painters GUILD**  
**ART SHOW AND SALE**  
ArtSpring, 100 Jackson Ave.  
November 20 - 28, 2021  
November 20: 12 noon - 4pm, with artists in attendance  
November 21 to 28: 11am to 3pm  
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**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)**

Sagittarius time will stir and shake any part of you not yet awake. This impulse will be amplified with the coming Solar Eclipse. You will be on a march for truth and rights and freedoms. Yet, how your attitude and approach might influence your practical affairs will play a counter-balancing role and could lead to new strategies.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)**

The transformational process that started with Scorpio time will continue through to Winter Solstice for you. This prolonged process is woven into the very fabric of your sign due to its order in the Zodiac. Positively, it supports you to be more thorough and this year the emphasis is directed to your social status and professional life.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)**

Your relationship life is destined to undergo some changes already underway and which will continue through December. These are meant to have an expansive effect on your overall world view. However, the expansion may first require a contraction, such as deepening your studies to consider perspectives and interpretations previously unknown to you.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)**

The general focus for you in Sagittarius time is towards health and quality of lifestyle. What is the quality of your diet? Do you exercise? How about your mental and emotional health? These are all worthwhile questions. It is your right or opportunity not to choose to care to adjust and adapt to the inevitable changes, yet wisdom asks you to.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)**

Sagittarius time can prove extra exciting, creative and playful for you. With Jupiter in Aquarius, increase in your social outreach will become even more apparent. Last week's eclipse activated a new stimulus in your public and/or professional life so that is a part of the plot as well and will continue, especially in terms of your feelings and attitude.

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)**

Changes on the home front are likely now and over the coming months with the Sun in Sagittarius. This theme will be amplified with the coming Solar Eclipse on Dec 3-4. In some respects these changes could produce some stress, as is true of change in life, generally. However, there is a real silver lining shining through so trust the process.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)**

Sagittarius time will synchronize with events, flows and circumstances that will manifest as stimulation and changes of your perceptions and interpretations. Some of these may occur as seeds that take time to grow, but if you keep a journal, you will discover in time that they germinated at this time. These may include money themes.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)**

Speaking of money, Sagittarius time marks a cycle when your focus upon it becomes more emphasized. This year the emphasis includes striking the balance between acknowledging, confronting and overcoming hidden fears, on one hand. On the other hand, feeling confident requires more action and less endless analysis.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)**

Taking new leads, strides and initiatives is important and likely now. A learning curve is implied and includes an invitation to reach out to teachers, mentors and guides. Among the bigger challenges is scattering your focus and therefore feeling overwhelmed. So make efforts to prioritize and aim for quality over quantity.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)**

You might feel the need to take some time out for a while or at least to focus more of your time and energy on activities and affairs behind the scenes. With less outer or social activity, you can attend to practical matters. The currently strong Aquarian influence, meanwhile, is an invitation to plan for the future and to invest.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)**

Philosophy, principles, ethics, rights, freedoms and political themes and matters all tend to be important to you. Any or all of these are receiving activations by the Sun in Sagittarius. As is true for everyone, this will become amplified measurably by the coming Solar Eclipse. So, get ready and include spiritual work to maintain a healthy balance.

**Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)**

Shifts, changes, activations and stimulation in your public and career life are destined to occur during Sagittarius time this year. With Jupiter and Saturn in your solar 12th House, the House of Pisces, these will take on added gravity and greater importance. Tending to unfinished projects is your best bet over new endeavours.

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MEMORIAL

# Derrick Lundy leaves lasting legacy



## RETROSPECTIVE 20 YEARS OF DERRICK LUNDY PHOTOS



Just three of the photos in the Derrick Lundy retrospective (image above) published by the Driftwood in 2009 and available to view at gulfislandsdriftwood.com. Clockwise from left, Vladi Wienkandel with a sunflower; firefighter Brian Hartley at the Salt Spring Island Village Resort fire; musician Annie Palovcik at the Vesuvius Inn. The former Driftwood photographer died from cancer.



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### Collection of photographer's work viewable online

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A man who was the public face of the Driftwood newspaper for more than 20 years died a day shy of his 65th birthday last week.

Derrick Lundy's death on Nov. 13, only a month after being diagnosed with multiple organ cancer, has saddened so many in the community, including numerous past and present Driftwood employees who were privileged to work with him at some point between 1989 and 2011.

As former Driftwood publisher Peter McCully commented online last week, it was always a treat to see what images Derrick would bring to us each week. For practically all of my tenure with Derrick at the Driftwood, the first person to see his photos and choose which ones would be printed was his wife (and later ex-wife but always good friend) Susan Lundy. Even after I became the editor, Susan continued to do the paper's layout for a number of years. She and Derrick were a brilliant team, and did some of the Driftwood's best work in the glory years of print.

One of the first photos Susan would have seen one week in 2004 featured longtime islander Rita Dods clearly giv-

ing "the finger" to the photographer. Our beloved Rita had organized a special dinner for several couples who had been married for many decades. They had gathered at the Catholic Church hall, and Rita had arranged for Derrick to come and take a photo at dinner time. At about 8 o'clock that night, my phone rang at home and it was Rita wondering where the hell Derrick was. It turned out he had fallen asleep on the couch, so he quickly beetled over to the hall. After absorbing Rita's wrath he of course got the photo for that week's issue.

I was reminded of that story after his littlest brother Amos Lundy mentioned Derrick's unique "sense of time" at the candlelight memorial for Derrick in Rotary Park last Wednesday evening.

"There was Salt Spring Time and then there was Derrick Time," he said, among other expressions of endearment.

It's true that Derrick could be easily sidetracked by anything that might arise, like helping friends or strangers at a moment's notice, while on his way to take a photo or return to the Driftwood office. But if something went amiss he would always overcompensate with the next assignment or in some other way.

As our highly recognized and approachable "man on the street" Derrick was also often the first to hear about potential stories.

Derrick had a magical ability to bring out the best in the people he photo-

graphed; to put people at ease and win over even the most reluctant or uncomfortable subject. As both a photographer and a person, he made everyone he interacted with feel seen, heard and valued. It is such a rare rare gift.

In 2009, as Derrick approached the 20-year anniversary of taking photos for the Driftwood, Susan suggested we do a retrospective of his work. The result was a 28-page compilation of some of his best photos, including the many provincial and national award winners. A few of his photos are on this page, but we have also created a digital version of the publication for people to enjoy: to either be reminded of Derrick's legacy as a photographer and chronicler of our island during those years, or to see it for the first time if you are a newer island resident. You can view it on our gulfislandsdriftwood.com website as a link to this story or under our Publications tab.

Derrick's multi-branched family has understandably received so much love and support from the community during his brief illness and then death. We too send our condolences to everyone in Derrick's family, from his long-time partner Sandra Smith, ex-wife Susan Lundy and all of the collective children, stepchildren, grandchildren and a great grandchild, his mother Lynn Lundy, surviving brothers, extended family and many people whose lives he touched in his and Sandra's second home of Sayulita, Mexico, and around the world.

## expert ADVICE

### 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!"**



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## Holiday Story Writing Contest

Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to the Holiday season.

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Friday, December 10th. Win a Salt Spring Books gift certificate for a story of up to 500 words about the Holiday Season.

- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.

- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Send entries to the Driftwood, 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com.
- For more information, 250-537-9933.

**Teachers:** Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!



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## COMMUNITY BUILDING

# Foundation announces grant projects

Sixteen groups receive funding

## SUBMITTED BY SSI FOUNDATION

The Salt Spring Island Foundation is pleased to announce \$80,729 in fall grants to 16 local charities. Funding in this cycle includes \$14,491 from the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund for projects that meet eligibility requirements for pandemic recovery elements.

- **Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust Society, Composter Power Supply** — \$7,000: To provide the intermittent power required to operate the long-awaited community composting facility at the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm, where an in-vessel composter unit has been installed and associated works are under way.

- **Institute for Sustainability Education and Action, Climate Action Festival** — \$6,000: Held in partnership with Transition Salt Spring Society, the Climate Action Festival will include a series of creative and artistic activities bringing islanders and visitors together to deepen awareness, learning and connection to the realities of climate change and to build community resilience through arts engagement.

- **Salt Spring Island Conservancy, Technology Upgrade** — \$5,800: To help replace the conservancy's extensive public database and hard-data storage technology.

- **Islanders Working Against Violence, Croftonbrook Solar Project** — \$5,000: Funded in part by the Jacqueline Booth Memorial Fund for the Environment. For the addition of solar photovoltaic technology to the affordable rental housing at Croftonbrook.

- **Indigenous Reconciliation; Stqeeye' Learning Society, Youth on the Land** — \$7,500: Supported in part by the Devon James Bolton

Mental Health Fund held at the Salt Spring Island Foundation. A collaboration of Stqeeye' Learning Society and School District 64 (SD64) to provide culturally rooted, land-based education for Indigenous middle and high school students. This project builds on the first year of this program by including more students and inviting family members of Indigenous participants to join in the learning.

- **Salt Spring Arts Council, Indigenous Art Showcase** — \$5,000: Indigenous artist and curator Rose Spahan (Tsartlip First Nation) will be invited to curate a special showcase featuring four artists from the Elliot family.

- **Salt Spring Island Public Library, Indigenous Mural Interpretive Signage** — \$2,800: Quw'utsun artist Charlene Johnny mentored 10 young Indigenous artists to create the mural on the outside of the library building in August 2021.

- **Salt Spring Historical Society, Indigenous Art Licensing** — \$2,250: The licensing funding for Indigenous artwork will be used on six interpretive panel highlighting the culture, history and continuing presence of Coast Salish nations whose unceded traditional territory includes areas on what is commonly known as Salt Spring Island.

- **Seniors and Adults with Disabilities - Salt Spring Island Community Services, Accessible Van** — \$5,000: In partial support of a new wheelchair van for the transportation of multiple people with mobility challenges involved in residential and day programming with Salt Spring Island Community Services, Disabilities Services.

- **Youth and Children, SD64, Fernwood Elementary School, A Sense of Belonging** — \$7,500: This program will build a sense of belonging for the students and staff in the school by strengthening relation-



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING PUBLIC LIBRARY

ships with the students and community of Penelakut Elementary School.

Quw'utsun artist Charlene Johnny works on the Indigenous mural at the Salt Spring Public Library this past summer. One of the Salt Spring Island Foundation's 16 fall grants has been awarded to the library to create and place an interpretive panel for the mural project.

- **SD64, Phoenix Elementary School, Breakfast Program** — \$7,500: Funded by the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund. The Phoenix Elementary Breakfast Program will continue to provide a nutritious breakfast for 40 school-aged children through a partnership between the school, Public Health, the Salt Spring Island Foundation and community partners.

- **The Circle Salt Spring Education Society, Parent Companion Course** — \$7,000: Funded in part by the COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund. For the development of an online parent course aimed at providing families with methods and tools to grow deeper connections with their children.

- **SD64, Tsunami Circus Safety Upgrade** — \$4,179: Grant funds will contribute to a larger budget for the significant replacement of

aging safety equipment and the purchase of more props to ensure COVID safety for users.

- **SD64, Salt Spring Elementary School, Farm-to-School Program** — \$4,000: Local farmer mentors will work with 200 students in 10 classes at Salt Spring Elementary in a learning exchange about practical agricultural skills and local ecology at the school garden and on farm-based field trips.

- **Capital Regional District Parks and Recreation Commission, Childcare Facility Equipment** — \$3,000: In support of dramatic play equipment for the newly constructed infant and toddler daycare at the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre site.

- **SD64, Gulf Islands Secondary School, Self-Defence Classes** — \$1,200: For the first time in a Salt Spring secondary school, certified instructors will offer self-defence classes for grades 8 and 9 to teach conflict management and respectful relationship skills, as well as the skills and confidence to escape violent situations.

## CHARITY

## Santa's Workshop needs support

Application deadline for families is Dec. 5

Santa's Elves are gearing up to provide some of Salt Spring Island's children with some toys, art supplies, books and gifts of special interest this Christmas.

This year gift distribution will take place at Central Hall from Tuesday, Dec. 14 to Saturday, Dec. 18, with families receiving an individualized appointment time to choose gifts.

Applications are done online, with a deadline of Sunday, Dec. 5. The link is <https://form.jotform.com/203176153034042>, but head elf Wendy Eggertson is also available to help people with the online application. For further questions about the program, donations or applications, phone Eggertson at 250-537-2658 or email [weggertson@shaw.ca](mailto:weggertson@shaw.ca).

Eggertson said this year's project is especially underfunded because the groups who can normally fundraise throughout the year have been unable to do so during the COVID pandemic.

"They are digging deep into their own pockets and generously providing what they can," she said.

Historically, various Salt Spring merchants have been able to contribute, but this year may be especially difficult due to their limited business interactions during the last year and a half, so she asks any individuals, groups, charities or businesses to contact her if they can contribute to the workshop project.


"Santa's Workshop volunteers have been coming together for over 30 years the month before Christmas to make this happen," said Eggertson. "It is further supported with gracious donations from our community. This includes funding from the Toy Run group, Lions Club, Country Grocer and other merchants and various individuals who come forward every year to help us out."

More details about how the gift pick-up will unfold at Central Hall will be available from the workshop program.

# We Rise Again

ArtSpring  
Saturday Dec 11th 7:30 PM  
Sunday Dec 12th 2:00 PM 2021

Director Don Conley  
Accompanist James Yi



**SALT SPRING SINGERS**  
Adults \$20 Youth \$5

Tickets must be ordered in advance through ArtSpring and can be picked up at showtime.  
Vaccination Certificates & Masks Required



**A heartfelt THANK YOU to all of the Salt Spring community supporting activities celebrating the 100th anniversary year of the Poppy.**  
*We are especially grateful to:*

- Our tremendously energetic band of selfless volunteers.
- Our community partners hosting poppy boxes.
- Our Veterans and family who attended this year's Veteran's lunch.
- Our generous island residents for their donations and wreath purchases.
- Our Canadian Armed Forces representatives who joined us.

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And,  
to all those that joined in our Remembrance Day ceremony, in person and online, making it a proud demonstration of our commitment that "We will remember them".

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Your poppy donation proceeds are all used in support of activities and projects that benefit our Veterans, their Spouses and the greater Salt Spring Island community.

**LEST WE FORGET**