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# Driftwood

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Wednesday,  
Dec. 1, 2021

62nd year  
Issue 48  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

**KICKING OFF THE HOLIDAY SEASON:** Selling crafts as part of the Salt Spring Island United Church's WinterFaire fundraiser on Saturday are, from left, Mary Miller, Lynn Bischoff, Ann Earl and Joni Devlin. The sale of all-things Christmas related was the first major holiday themed event of 2021 and the first in two years due the coronavirus pandemic sidelining public events last year. This weekend sees craft fairs at Beaver Point and Fulford halls, plus the Salt Spring Farm Stand Light Up & Tour, and a menorah lighting in Centennial Park today (Wednesday) at 4 p.m. See our What's On page for more details.

## MARINE INCIDENT

# Hovercraft strikes Ganges boat

No injuries reported but liveaboard couple nearly hit

BY EMELIE PEACOCK AND GAIL SJUBERG  
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Canadian Coast Guard is investigating how a hovercraft collided with a sailboat in Ganges Harbour last Monday night.

The hovercraft Siyay was tasked at 5:45 p.m. with transporting advanced life support paramedics to Ganges Harbour to pick up and transfer a patient from Lady Minto Hospital to Vancouver. The transfer was deemed a high priority one, the BC Emergency Health Services confirmed, yet an air ambulance could not be dispatched due to "weather trending downward and daylight failing."

The Coast Guard stated that as the Siyay entered the harbour at eight knots it made its way around the area where a number of sailboats normally anchor.

"Unfortunately one unlit sailboat was anchored outside of the common anchorage

area and was not picked up on the Siyay's radar," a statement from the Canadian Coast Guard reads.

The hovercraft captain performed an emergency maneuver to avoid hitting the vessel, yet the starboard side of the hovercraft hit the bowsprit of the sailboat.

No one was aboard the sailboat at the time of the collision, and no one on the hovercraft was hurt. The hovercraft's crew consists of a captain, first officer and five rescue divers, and ambulance personnel were also on board last Monday.

However, a man who lives in a nearby vessel told the Driftwood that the struck vessel did have a light on its bow and the hovercraft was travelling much faster than eight knots.

Son Mandolin said he and his girlfriend are still in shock after coming close to being struck by the hovercraft.

"They missed me and my girlfriend by about 10 feet," he said.

Mandolin said the hovercraft was caught in a web of nearby boats after "nailing" the sailboat.

"It was like bumper boats, to be honest."

Mandolin was interviewed by Coast Guard investigators last week and provided video footage to them.

After the collision, the crew transported the patient, who was stable, to hospital in Vancouver via the Coast Guard base in Richmond. While helicopters are used in cases of urgent medevac situations, BC Emergency Health Services stated that marine ambulances, hovercraft and land ambulance on ferries are other options.

The 28.5-metre-long, 12-metre-wide Siyay is one of four hovercraft the Coast Guard operates across Canada. Hovercraft crews respond to about 300 search and rescue calls per year.



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## Top 10 reasons to shop on Salt Spring this holiday season!

The Holiday Season has arrived and with it the tradition of shopping for gifts to give.

The media has been giving us tips about early shopping in the face of supply chain challenges and Black Friday Sales drove loads of people to shop this weekend. Living on a small island the temptation to buy off-island or online is strong. I get it. I have done it.

However, let's explore what intention we want to bring to our gifting. Aren't we giving gifts to show our care, love, and appreciation for someone? What if we extend that intention to also showing our love and care for our community and the planet by choosing to purchase as much as possible right here on our beautiful island home?

*The benefits of shopping local are plentiful!*

### 1. Convenience

Maybe not as convenient as buying from Amazon but convenient nonetheless and without the negative environmental impact. Plus, no ferry line-ups and no extra run to the recycling depot to drop off that mountain of cardboard from your online purchases!

### 2. It's better for our planet

By now most of us are aware that we are in a climate emergency. Shopping locally and more sustainably greatly reduces our carbon footprint, environmental impact, and supports our children's future.

### 3. You help support local businesses

Our community would not be the same without our local businesses. The pandemic has hit them hard, and many are struggling with the consequences. Buying from your local businesses, whether from a market stall, an actual shop, or an online shop, is a great way to support your neighbours both financially and figuratively by showing your love for what they do.

### 4. You invest in your community

Purchasing goods at your local shops creates a ripple effect that benefits the whole community. For every \$100 spent at a local business, \$63 is recirculated back into our community. How? Our local businesses provide jobs, support local events, sport teams and charities, and buy local services and products.

### 5. There are great deals to be found

Our local shops regularly offer promotions that entice shoppers to come into the shop - especially during the holidays. They try to be competitive with off-island shops - and remember the money and time you save from not travelling off Island!

### 6. You likely find quality products

Unlike larger chain stores, small businesses can't stock many products and are likely to focus on the quality of the things they sell rather than the quantity. These products might be slightly more expensive but are likely more special and long lasting.

### 7. Items and food are more likely to be sustainably sourced

If you want sustainable shopping choices, you live in a great place. Many of the Salt Spring Island shops pride themselves in sourcing food from local farmers and stock items that are sustainably sourced or made right here on the island or region.

### 8. There's more chance finding special, wonderful, and unique items

Our island is home to many creative folks who sell their unique creations at the market, fairs and the shops around town. Instead of buying mass-created, trending seasonal products, enjoy choosing gifts that are original and one of a kind.

### 9. You make more thoughtful purchases

It is easy to buy products on impulse if you are browsing an e-commerce or chain store. One of the many benefits of shopping local is that it makes you more conscious of your purchasing. It takes more thought to buy a gift in a small store that sells unique items than getting a gift from a major retailer. Additionally, you are less likely to end up buying things you never set out to purchase in the first place.

### 10. It's more fun, and connects you to your community

It is a social affair going shopping in your community. The likelihood of running into someone you know is high. During these dark winter months and ongoing Covid restrictions, getting a dose of social connection can be very uplifting. Though this might not be something everyone is seeking, it is comforting to see familiar faces in the stores, providing you with customer service you likely wouldn't find in a big box store.

I recognize that not everyone has the luxury to shop locally, and we are limited to what is available on the Island, but I encourage you to be mindful about your purchasing choices. This Holiday Season offers a great opportunity to transform our habits of consumption and support a sustainable economy and environment here on Salt Spring.

Choose to look for what's available to you right here in your community and be intentional about your giving by showing your love, care, and appreciation by shopping local this season.

*Inga Michaelsen is the Ganges Vibrancy Coordinator at the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce. To get in touch email [inga@saltspringchamber.com](mailto:inga@saltspringchamber.com) or call 250 537 4223.*



## FERRIES

# Community fed up with Quinitsa

## Two-ship plan wanted sooner on Route 6

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries has plans for the Vesuvius Bay to Crofton route that include replacing the Quinitsa and eventually bringing in a two-ferry system, yet the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce wants to see those changes come much sooner than planned.

With long line-ups and overloads affecting the 20-minute route from Vesuvius Bay to Crofton (Route 6) from the summer into the fall this year, the chamber is asking BC Ferries to take another look at their forecasting and to bring forward plans to put two Island Class ferries on the route. BC Ferries says a shuttle service on this route is being considered for the mid-2030s and in the short term, a larger boat to replace the Quinitsa next year.

In 2019 the 52-car capacity Howe Sound Queen was retired from the route and replaced with the 44-car capacity Quinitsa. BC Ferries' calculations at the time were that despite being a smaller boat, it would be more efficient to load, which would mean shorter turnaround times.

Yet the Quinitsa has been a source of complaints ever since it was put into service on the route. A ferry advisory committee (FAC) meeting in 2019 was dominated by complaints from residents about the smaller ferry and resulting line-ups in Vesuvius Bay.

"As a result, ferries agreed to put the 61-car capacity Bowen Queen on there in the summertime," said Harold Swierenga, longtime chair of Salt Spring Island's FAC.

Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce president Darryl Martin said his group, which represents around 200 member businesses, began discussing the route after issues didn't abate after the summer season ended.

Everything on the island is affected by the ferry waits, Martin explained. If the truckers bringing goods to the island have a two-sailing wait at each end of the route, that equates to four hours of an eight-hour workday.

"That's half their day gone. So that means way higher costs and that will be passed on somehow; either the business or the consumers are going to have to pay the cost of that increased transportation," Martin said.

Workers commuting both ways, people going for medical appointments, major treatments or surgeries, family connections and sports teams going off-island to compete are also impacted by overloads, as is business travel of all kinds.

"It just isn't something that's tolerable for a very long period of time," said Martin.

Dayle Murray, manager of The Cottages on Salt Spring, told the Driftwood they recently lost a staff member who had been commuting from Chemainus.

"Having to wait one or two ferry waits on her commute caused her to look for employment elsewhere," he stated by email.

The chamber will be approaching BC Ferries, Martin said, asking for an interim solution between next year and 2025. The bigger ask is for the ferry corporation to put a two-ferry system onto the Vesuvius-Crofton route as soon as possible and preferably by 2025.

BC Ferries' executive director of public affairs Deborah Marshall confirmed that two Island Class ferries servicing this route is "one of the primary considerations for the mid 2030s."

The ferry corporation recently had six of these new ships built to the tune of \$50-million each. They are hybrid ferries, diesel and battery powered, able to carry 47 vehicles and 400 passengers and crew. Two are already in service on Northern Vancouver Island routes, and the other four will service routes between Gabriola Island and Nanaimo, as well as Quadra Island and Campbell River.

Putting these ferries on Route 6, where they would work in tandem and cross each other during busier times of the day, would also involve upgrading terminals on both sides to allow these ferries to charge. BC Ferries has written to the federal government to expedite setting up the power grid to be able to charge the ferry batteries overnight in their home port, Swierenga confirmed.

The assumption before the pandemic was to have the terminal overhauls happen somewhere close to 2028, Swierenga said. Background planning for the terminal work has been done by BC Ferries, yet COVID-19 and reduced ridership on ferries has BC Ferries "between a rock and a hard place," he said.

"Ferries took quite a financial beating during COVID and a lot of the capital plans for terminal development and so forth have basically been put on hold until they do a re-assessment of what they can afford to do and what's most needed in the short run," Swierenga said.

Upgrading the terminals would also be needed to address the line-ups that stretch into the two communities on both sides, he added.

Martin agreed: "It's not good for the community to have their



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

End of the line way down Vesuvius Bay Road by a sign denoting a possible two-sailing wait in Vesuvius on Tuesday, Nov. 23 at 2:45 p.m. for the 3 p.m. sailing to Crofton. Weekday overloads are common on the route, impacting commerce and people's personal lives.

road all covered with cars all the time."

While many capital projects were on hold during the pandemic, Marshall confirmed that investments in terminal structures at all of Salt Spring's three terminals are planned for the late 2020s.

### The Quinsam a solution, for now

Perhaps welcome news for some weary Route 6 travellers is that the Quinitsa will be retired from the route this spring and replaced by the 63-car Quinsam currently serving Gabriola to Nanaimo.

"With almost 50 per cent more capacity than the Quinitsa, we expect the overloads we see at peak times to be greatly reduced," Marshall stated. "With the introduction of a larger ship on the route, we are not planning to introduce two-ship service between Crofton and Vesuvius."

With a flat deck and no weight limitations, Swierenga said he is optimistic the Quinsam will be able to do the job for a few years. Yet watching traffic trends, he added, the route will likely face issues within the next five years.

Predicting travel trends used to be more straightforward, Swierenga explained, often with new boats with similar capacities replacing old ones. Yet factors including demographic shifts and the changing nature of work mean that it is increasingly difficult to come up with a "perfect model" of what traffic demands will be five years out. And with ferries built to last 50 years, the difficulty increases.

Martin said the chamber will also be asking BC Ferries to redo projections done in 2017 that justified bringing the Quinitsa onto Route 6. The document stated that traffic growth on the route would range from an average of 0.37 to 0.62 per cent annually over the next 15 years. This would mean, the document stated, that the Quinitsa would be able to carry traffic without a sailing wait 78 to 83 per cent of the time. The report also noted that an additional round trip per day would offset the lower daily capacity of the Quinitsa compared to the Howe Sound Queen it was replacing.

"Instead of one per cent growth, between 2019 and 2021 we had 19 per cent growth in ridership. So they basically made a decision to put on a smaller ferry based on a model that's just wrong," Martin said, referencing traffic data that showed huge growth from the July-September period in 2019 compared to July-September 2021. "So just a completely different world than the world they forecast."

Marshall referred to different numbers, using "automobile equivalents" (AEQs) to suggest Route 6 does not have a capacity problem. She said AEQs were almost the same in fiscal 2016 (from April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017) and fiscal 2020 (April 1, 2020 to March 31, 2021). However, the latter fiscal year was characterized by lower traffic due to pandemic travel restrictions.

"Based on the [traffic demand] models, BC Ferries was going to have a plan in 10 years to put on a two-ferry system," Martin said. "What we would like to see them do is to bring that plan forward. Rather than do it in a decade, do it as quick as possible, and I don't think it's possible to do right away because you have to buy the ferry, but I think it'd be reasonable to ask for 2025."

The chamber does not purport to be experts on how to run the ferry service, Martin said, as it is BC Ferries that has the expertise, capital and resources.

"So what we're saying is 'here's the problem, we know you can fix it, please fix it.'"

When asked to respond to the chamber's request to bring the island class ferries on sooner, Marshall said many island routes are facing pressure from population growth.

"We are working with the provincial government to identify areas where additional capacity may be required in advance of planned vessel replacements," she stated.

Gary Holman, Salt Spring's CRD director, is among those wanting to see the two-ship plan on Route 6 sooner.

"We need to be more effective as a community to lobby the government to accelerate that plan," he said.

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### EV Group Holiday Gathering

Salt Spring EV Owners are invited to the Transition Salt Spring - EV Group Holiday Gathering.

It will be held at the newly opened MATEADA COCKTAIL RESTAURANT in the Creek House Mall in Ganges on Wednesday, December 8th from 5pm - 8pm and will feature local entertainer Billie Woods with background music. The Mateada serves a terrific variety of very interesting drinks and munchies.

The event is open to electric vehicle owners and seriously interested folks. Provincial health mandates will be enforced. Showing your certificate is required.

There are so many EV topics in the news these days. Come and chat about them with your EV friends in a great atmosphere.



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### December 6th Memorial Ceremony

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Anne-Marie Lemay

Sonia Pelletier

Michèle Richard

Annie St-Arneault

Annie Turcotte

Barbara Klucznik-Widjiewicz





PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

**ON THE OPEN ROAD:** Fulford-Ganges Road is once again open to traffic after flooding Nov. 15 resulted in almost two weeks of closures as crews worked to repair the road in the Blackburn Lake area. While most of Fulford-Ganges has been repaired, a section between Kitchen and Dukes roads (seen in the photo) lacks pavement and drivers need to negotiate a few small potholes. Isabella Point Road was also officially opened to all traffic in the past week.

**FIRE DISTRICT**

# New faces at fire board

Rollie Cook assumes chairmanship

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD), the body which oversees the island's fire department, has a number of new faces on its board.

Rollie Cook became the fire board's new chair after Per Svendsen stepped down from the role at the district's annual general meeting held Nov. 22. Cook has been a trustee since 2017.

"[Svendsen] has done an admirable job stepping into the breach when things were not so smooth. I think Per deserves a great deal of respect and our thanks," Cook said,



ROLLIE COOK

upon taking on the role of chair.

Also stepping away from the board at the end of his term is Howard Holzapfel. Since June, Wynona Cook had filled a trustee seat that was due to expire this year.

The three vacant seats were filled by acclamation after a call for trustee nominations ended Oct. 22, with results announced on Monday night. Wynona Cook (no relation to Rollie Cook) returns to the board, together with new trustees Robert Oliver and Elizabeth Zook. All three are set to serve three-year terms.

They join existing trustees Rollie Cook, Andreas Gedeon, Mary Lynn Hetherington and John Wakefield.

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FIRE

# Couple displaced by Maliview Drive house fire

Impacts contained to unit where fire started

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) crews extinguished a fire in one unit of a fourplex on Maliview Drive on Thursday afternoon.

The department was dispatched to 257 Maliview Dr. at 11:57 a.m., and both Engine 1 and Tender 1 from the Ganges fire hall were on scene at 12:10 p.m.

"With efficient manpower on scene from a fast response, fire crews went offensive on the fire, sending an interior team inside the structure to extinguish the fire," states a news release from SSIFR. "Crews were able to knock down the fire and contain it to

the room and unit of origin and prevent any extension into the adjacent units."

Sixteen firefighters responded to the incident. Unit residents Derek and Skye Vroom are looking for a new home and a GoFundMe fundraiser has been set up so they can replace "everything that we had owned, minus the clothes we were wearing while we were out." Type in "Help Derek and Skye Rebuild their life" on the site to donate. The Red Cross has provided temporary hotel lodging.

Fortunately the couple's pet cat was saved. SSIFR said all other occupants were able to return to their homes after a check of each unit was completed. The fire department was on scene for just over two hours.

SSIFR said the cause of the fire remains under investigation but it appears to have been accidental.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue and BC Hydro personnel on scene of a Maliview Drive residential structure fire on Nov. 25.

PARKS & REC

# Rainbow rec site options explored

Three conceptual designs for 20-year master plan to be developed

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission gave some shape to the Rainbow Road site master plan with decisions made at its last public meeting.

Results of a fall public survey that attracted a high rate of interest with 664 complete and 300 incomplete responses were presented by parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington, who told commission members the plan now was to create three conceptual designs for further public and stakeholder response.

Survey respondents outlined new facilities they would like to see on the site, which ranged from a leisure pool to an ice arena to a playground and many more items.

Commission members talked about several possibilities and passed a motion at their Nov. 16 meeting that would see a leisure pool included in a revised master plan, but stressed that did not mean the commission necessarily supported that project.

"I am not advocating for this as something that needs to happen today," said commission member Brian Webster in making the motion.

But it was noted that developing a business case for a leisure/therapy pool as well as a fitness facility at the Rainbow Road site is included in PARC's 10-year Strategic Plan that was adopted in June of 2019.

Salt Spring's CRD director Gary Holman pointed out that PARC actually has \$8 million earmarked in its five-year capital plan for a pool expansion, but said, "I think there might be a more higher priority from the community than a leisure pool . . . But I don't oppose it part of being the capital plan or Brian's motion that it should be included in the plans for Rainbow Road."

Commission member Colin Walde put forth an argument to include a covered multi-sport court so that soccer players could practise during inclement weather.

Walde, a soccer coach, said between 300 and 350 youth soccer players need a covered place to practise during winter months when fields become unusable due to wet weather and with school gym space at a premium.

"We are lucky if we can get 45 minutes per team per week."

Sean Norgard, another commission member, asked if an ice rink would be incorporated in any site plan.

Webster shared that in-depth discussions about an arena had occurred when an earlier strategic plan was being developed.

"It was just not financially viable, so the strategic plan simply staked out that position that it

was not appropriate for Salt Spring Island," said Webster.

Commissioner John Gauld raised the possibility of the tennis and pickleball courts now at Portlock Park being relocated to Rainbow Road, which could free up space to add baseball fields to Portlock. The commission has not been able to secure land on Salt Spring for that purpose despite sincere efforts to do so for more than 10 years.

The Rainbow Road recreation site property is 3.16 hectares (7.82 acres) in size, with most of the area currently undeveloped.

Commissioners and staff also spent quite a bit of time at their Nov. 16 meeting discussing where a new parks and rec maintenance depot should be located. While maintenance department staff stated they preferred the current spot on a Kanaka Road lot owned by the CRD, the commission decided putting the facility on part of the connecting Rainbow Road property was more viable. One of a few reasons cited was that a rezoning from the Islands Trust would not be needed on the Rainbow site.

Holman said, "It seems selling Kanaka Road would make sense. It would give the commission some additional funds for its parkland acquisition fund."

A link to the full survey results is available in the online version of this story at gulfislandsdriftwood.com.



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# OPINION

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### EDITORIAL

## Stick to the topic

**S**ometimes the sense of déjà vu in discourse on Salt Spring Island can be overwhelming.

The latest subject to be seen again is the notion that the island does not need a new fire hall (especially since we have two others), or that only supposedly overpaid firefighters want one. Some people also suggest that because borrowing for a fire hall was rejected in 2013 and for a land purchase in 2008 that the question should not be asked again.

A Herold Engineering study done way back in 2005 found that the current Ganges fire hall did not meet seismic requirements for a post-disaster building, with a 2008 building survey confirming asbestos-containing materials and mould. While some remediation has since been done, deficiencies with both the site and the location are well documented. As well, the Capital Regional District's Emergency Operations Centre is not in a post-disaster building, and the need for both services to be in an earthquake-proof structure is obvious.

### THE ISSUE: New emergency building

### WE SAY: Firefighters salaries not relevant

that because firefighters have a good salary and benefits then they shouldn't also expect to have a proper place to work. Really?

The fact is that the vast majority of people could not perform the job or even the smallest part of it, and few of us know or understand the specifics of the duties and training required. Career firefighters do not actually sit around doing nothing until they are paged to extinguish an inferno. Resentment towards workers who make a better than average living in a sometimes dangerous occupation with more potential long-term health impacts should not play into the decision about a new emergency services building.

A new hall is essential and an affordable project should be the island's number-one infrastructure priority, and other less-urgent capital expenditures should be put on hold until it is complete.

COVID has heightened people's emotional responses to perceived threats, injustices and financial stress. At this time more than ever we need to find a better way to work through the practical problems facing our island. Stoking the flames of resentment about one issue hoping it will have a desired effect on another is not a sign of a healthy community. Let's resist the temptation to communicate our concerns that way.



## Estuary deemed critical

BY KATHLEEN MASER

Again atmospheric rivers are pelting down, awakening us to the fact that climate change is happening at a dizzying speed.

These are frightening times. Our island is struggling to absorb these unimaginable amounts of rain and the costs for road and bridge repairs will be staggering, while fertile soil is washing out into our bays.

Nature provides us with two stopgaps: intact forest ecosystems, which we all know work brilliantly, absorbing huge quantities of water, and estuaries, perhaps less well known.

Increasingly, scientists point to the importance of estuaries where wetland plants hold on to sediments by absorbing flood waters and runoff, acting as natural barriers between the land and ocean. They decrease erosion on shorelines by buffering the effects of storm surges and very high tides. Estuaries deliver even greater savings in preventing damaged infrastructure than they do to carbon sequestration, impressive enough as that is.

Furthermore, estuaries with their mix of fresh and salt water are a flourishing ecosystem with a great diversity of species. Salmon, shellfish and a myriad of

### VIEWPOINT

other animal life are dependent on the filtration ability and special features of estuaries. Scientists, like Risa Smith, of the Galiano Conservancy and currently the chair of the World Commission on Protected Areas Climate Change Specialist Group, are raising the alarm about the rapid rate and serious consequences of losing species and losing biodiversity.

**For once let's show respect for cultural and ecological values and be ahead of the game.**

With this concern and the predicted rise in sea levels, it is mystifying that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSILTC) refused to recognize the warnings of their own planning department and approved a variance for the siting of the Vortex project septic field. Allowing this development in the sensitive Fulford estu-

ary is nothing less than a violation of their mandate to preserve and protect the environment. Fortunately there is time for the LTC to act on its declaration of a climate emergency and not issue a development permit for the whole project, thus avoiding huge, costly problems.

This proposed project is an insult to the First Nations who made the estuary their home for millennia. The failure of the SSILTC to fully consult with them belies the Trust's new commitment to work more closely with First Nations.

For once let's show respect for cultural and ecological values and be ahead of the game. Unwittingly and unwisely we have abused nature, but the Fulford estuary could once again be a thriving, productive natural ecosystem. It's time to rip up the concrete on the Vortex property, rewild the land, put the road on a trestle and allow the area to regain its rightful role, working with and for us and all the species that rely on it.

*The above piece was written on behalf of the Salt Spring Naturalists group.*

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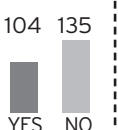
#### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Should BC Ferries do more to address Route 6 congestion?**

Yes  No

#### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Are you struggling more financially this year than in 2020?**



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: }

**“It’s not good for the community to have their road all covered with cars all the time.”**

SS CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PRESIDENT DARRYL MARTIN

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *What can we do to make the world a safer place for women and girls?*

**AYAH SOLIMAN**



Men need resources that are easily available to them, and for the government to fund these resources for males so they can get help with working through their trauma and aggression.

**ERIC ELLIS**



Always remember the basic message of all religions: treat others as you would like others to treat you.

**LYZ SNIDAL**



Raise your boys and girls to be loving, caring and respectful.

**PHILIP NELSON**



I think there are resources and solutions available, but in the end, it is up to the individual to take responsibility.

**SUE MARTIN**



I think we need more education for men and women on how to communicate effectively and on how to deal with frustration and stress.

## 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](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

### Turf field needed

As a parent, educator and person who believes in supporting healthy, active communities, I am astounded that our school board voted against the creation of a multi-sport turf field on school district property last year. As this rainy season descends upon us, I am especially reminded of this shortsightedness.

On top of all the other field challenges (drought, flooding), Salt Spring United youth soccer teams won't be able to use the school gyms for indoor practices due to COVID cleaning protocols. During the dark winter days, our school fields and gyms are closed. Our children deserve better than this.

As we navigate through another year of the pandemic, our children desperately need more healthy opportunities to engage with each other socially and physically, face to face. With the construction of a turf field, our school and community sports teams can train year

round, in all weather conditions. Instead of closing gyms, fields and voting no, let's open doors for our island youth and revisit the application of a turf field on Salt Spring.

**SARAH KERRIGAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Inexcusable

I appreciated the excellent "Groups seek motel for housing" article in the Nov. 17 Driftwood.

I feel that the displacement of the residents from the Seabreeze Inne is completely opposite to the goal of community wellness. I cannot believe that the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, with funds from people who have lived here and have left bequests, would do such a thing to people. The vision of Community Services to work with the Seabreeze motel to house some of my favourite people on Salt Spring Island has been a good news story every day.

The fact that people can find

work and hold jobs when they have housing is no surprise. It is very difficult to hold down a job if you are homeless and after a while people lose their identity to homelessness. It is very, very difficult to live without heat or running water and to not have any secure place to sleep at night. Homelessness is a huge barrier to finding work. It is proof of the power of housing to change lives that people can find work when they are housed.

I am very impressed with Community Services for helping this good housing situation to happen. Now we see that it is pulled away and people are facing moving with no certain housing to move into. That the uncertainty is going on over the Christmas period and is being forced on them by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation is inexcusable.

If it would be so easy for those who currently reside at the Seabreeze to find other housing, then it should be even easier for those employed as health-care workers who may come to work here to find

housing. However, it is not easy for anyone to find housing.

Please do not pit this one cause against the other. Please return to the possibility of Community Services buying the Seabreeze motel. Please do not create homelessness.

**JENNY MCCLEAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### More study

I believe that consideration of the development permit for the Vortex proposal at the head of Fulford Harbour must be deferred until a comprehensive hydrologic and biological assessment has been completed by professional experts.

For the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee to proceed without such assessment, in contradiction of their own professional staff recommendations, would be a denial of their responsibilities as trustees under the Islands Trust Act.

**HUGH GREENWOOD,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE OPINION** continued on 8

## No call for retired journalists when heroics required

"Music hath charms to soothe the savage breast."

It's probably Shakespeare, who had a hand in most of the more memorable English bon mots, except, most notably, "I've been triple vaccinated" and "Your pizza's here."

(Actually, "Music hath blah blah" was William Congreve, another long-dead scribbler, but it doesn't make it any less relevant.) My savage breast was in sore need of soothing at a Bach on the Rock gig last month when I had arrived feeling very, very cross.

Firstly, it had been raining hard and since it was 6:30 in the evening, it was also dark. Wet and dark are not the best friends of an almost elderly gentleman behind the wheel of a car, but especially on Salt Spring where the streetlamp has still to be discovered, lines in the road are for losers and you can't see the potholes until your spine and suspension have disintegrated.

So by the time the fiddlers' elbows were poised, and the choristers had slipped off their masks and coughed in anticipation of their opening salvo, I was ready for some serious soothing.

Then the electricity went out. Fulford Hall was plunged into near darkness save only for a few emergency lights and the organizers wanted to know if there was an electrician in the house. There was. There was also a Valdy in the house, who stepped out of the audience and into the gloaming to lift our spirits with a rollicking sea shanty.

Nobody likes a good rollick more than me so it was all rather jolly in the beginning, until it dawned on me that no one has ever asked if there was a retired journalist in the house. Doctors are always getting the call. My brother, a psychologist and not even a proper doctor, once leapt into action when a refuse collector collapsed in the street. He and his wife, a former nurse, possibly saved



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER THING

the man's life while I hovered on the edge, as useful as a chocolate wok.

In the end it was the heroes of BC Hydro who saved the night and brought the lights back to Fulford, but it was too late for me and I'd slumped to minor self-loathing. What use was I, I asked myself as the fiddlers fiddled, the fluters tooted and the lady sopranos hit the high notes. Where was my handiness in the great scheme of things? When did the cry ever go out of "Is there anyone in the building with a reasonable vocabulary and 80 words a minute shorthand?"

I should have loved to have leapt to my feet from the audience brandishing a screwdriver, rubber-soled shoes and a length of cable ready to set things right and restore the light, but it's not the first time I've been found wanting in those rare moments of emergency, beyond my brother's puffed-up Angel of Mercy incident which I suspect he made look more dramatic simply to demean me. I'm not sure it's even ethical to administer the Kiss of Life through a smug, supercilious smirk.

A few days after the Fulford incident, quite close to my home, I discovered a van that had come off the road at an especially tight corner and was nose-down in a rain-filled ditch. This was my chance, and I'd poised Mrs. Mc to take pictures of my heroics for the paper. Except that the ditch was filled with water and I had no intention of

getting my feet wet, catching a cold, and quite likely dying. Heroics are all very well, but I hadn't had my flu shot yet.

And while I dithered a police officer arrived, screeched to a halt, leapt from his car into the ditch, water and all, and was able to ascertain that I hadn't left anyone to die because I hadn't wanted to get my shoes wet. I had, however, dialled 911 for the first time in my life, which must count as at least a little bit heroic, mustn't it? Although by the time I'd given the operator my details – name, address, age, waist measurement, reason for living, etc. — the policeman was already fully engaged and everything was apparently 10-10. The van, incidentally, was empty so my conscience is clear.

Of course, there are plenty of journalists who regularly put their lives on the line for the greater good, and I've always admired them, signed their expenses without a quibble and made sure their bylines weren't misspelled.

For some, like the indomitable Lyse Doucet, a war's not a war unless she's given it her imprimatur and turned out on the front line in a tin helmet and clutching one of those big furry microphones.

I've even done my own stints in Belfast and West Africa, but worried more about breakfast than bullets, although in Belfast I was obliged to wear a bullet-proof vest under my jacket and looked more like the Hunchback of the Antrim Road than Grub Street's finest. And in The Gambia my most dangerous moment came when a little guy threatened me with a toothbrush unless I gave him money to polish my open-toed sandals. Discretion always being the better part of valour (Shakespeare this time) I gave him five bucks to clear off, which, as it turned out, was four dollars more than he would have charged to bootblack my toes.

[paulmcelroy@shaw.ca](mailto:paulmcelroy@shaw.ca)



# Gay man compares two forms of discrimination

BY DANIEL LÉONARD

In this difficult journey of finding personal identity and living by one's beliefs — and heart — I have been challenged.

When I first realized that I was different, I became self-loathing and questioned if it was even true. Was I really that way? What will others think of me once they find out? I felt ashamed and thought, "Well, I am just going to hide who I am for now."

Then I heard people talk about me, my reckless "lifestyle" and how they thought I was a scourge and that society needed to purge people like me. I

## INDEPTH

developed this internal self-hatred and shame and experienced a lot of self-doubt. Yet, the more I connected with the desires of my body, as I listened to it and to my heart, the more I felt like I was living in alignment with my own beliefs, my own heart, and my own freedom, my own right to be who I am. I felt alignment.

But the assaults on my person and my "lifestyle" became relentless — in the media I was made to be "the bad person," the

one that is causing others great grief, the one who is responsible, and that I am trying to "convert" people to my lifestyle and point of view by using false information. The more it went on, the more anxious I became and the more shameful I felt. But I resolved that I would rather live ostracized by society, judged, and sometimes rejected, than to live a life lying to myself or going against the integrity of my own personal choice. I resolved that if others would not support my "choice" or even engage in discussion about it, then I would have to live without their company — out of self-preservation.

I was told by people that I could not enter their home because they did not feel safe around me or having me around their children or relatives. I realized that I needed to seek support from others who were like me, who felt something different, who saw a different perspective, people who respected my opinion, who did not make me feel bad, who did not rescind their invitations once they found out who I was or my own beliefs about body sovereignty.

And oh yes, how I overcompensated for who I am. Doing all the extra bits, trying to really follow the rules perfectly, trying to be so much better than others in other areas of my life so that people would see that I am just like everyone else.

However, as time went on, people became set in their ways and I was told that because of who I am, no provision would be made to accommodate me in society and in our culture. Now that I am OUT, I am no longer allowed to participate in social events, to go out with my friends to have dinner, to travel on a plane to see my parents. I was told I cannot travel to other areas of my country because of who I am and my "choice." The more I delve into my identity and my sense of what is right for me, the more I realized how discriminatory society is, that all the work that has been done has not been enough and that, even now, my rights can be taken away just like that — and no efforts made to accommodate me and the majority turns a blind eye. And I am made to feel that what I know is a place and a perspective that is not acceptable, it is dangerous and we have to obliterate it. I am made to feel that there is only one way to be and that is to be

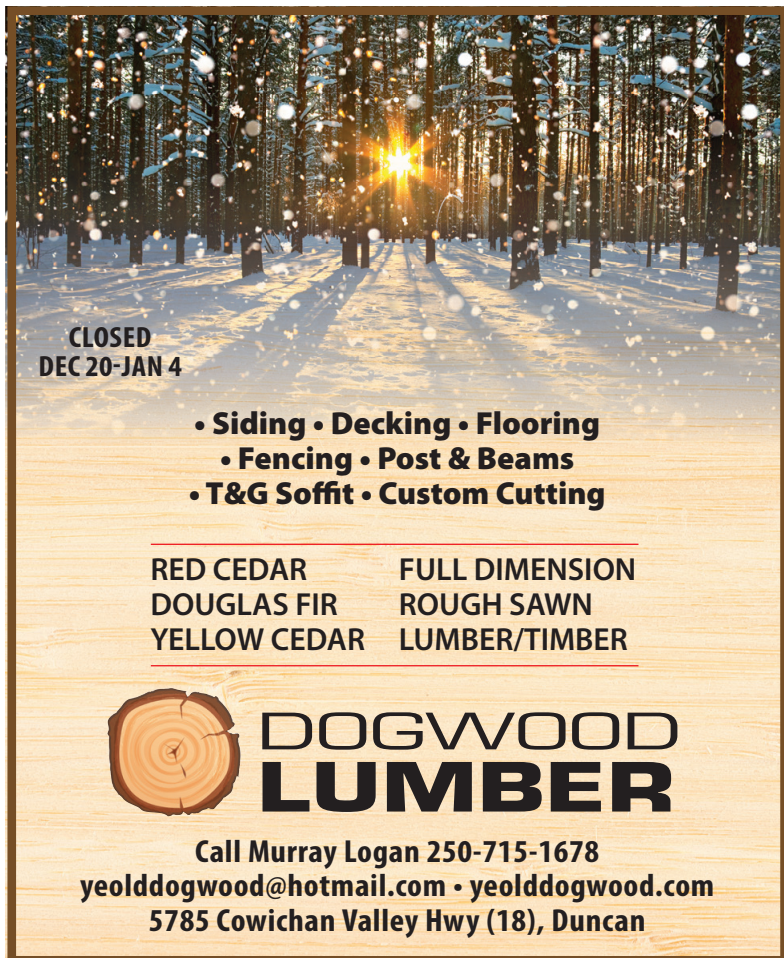
with the majority.

I am learning that democracy is not real but simply a concept that, when people are afraid, they will manipulate and even sometimes lie to have their opinion imposed on my "lifestyle." I therefore decided that out of self-preservation, to maintain my own sense of self, good mental health, self-esteem and self respect, I will no longer socialize or be around militant vaccinated people. They are not welcome in my house (and I will not go to theirs), and I hope that they don't feel too "rejected" for it or even ostracized but, for me, they have now become toxic to be around and they are causing harm to my deep belief in the sovereignty over my body. Division. Here it is.

I hope you are not offended — but being a minority is difficult because no one seems to understand or is willing to consider my "choice" and validate me and tell me, "You are great just as you are. Let's see how we can make this work."

Maybe, in your own life, you have had a sense of what that is like? What society do we have if we coerce people into having medical procedures they do not want? Coerced by the loss of a job, funding, the inability to find an apartment, the inability to travel within one's own country, to enjoy life by seeing friends at a restaurant. These are all our rights and society should provide alternatives for the minorities who make a different choice to the rest. Otherwise, we are continuing the perpetration of prejudice and the removal of human rights to choose. What kind of society do you want to live in?

*The writer is a Salt Spring Island resident.*



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International Day of  
**PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES**

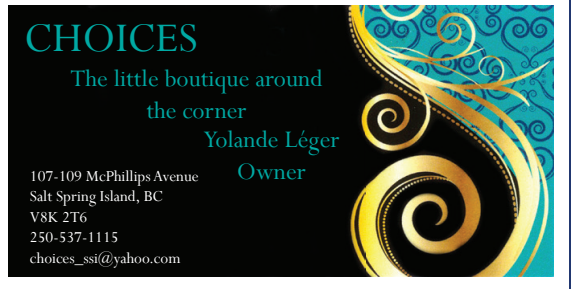
DECEMBER  
**3**

**Shining light on invisible disabilities**

Every year on December 3, governments, UN agencies, civil society organizations, research institutions and advocacy groups worldwide come together to celebrate International Day of Persons with Disabilities via forums, public discussions and awareness campaigns. The mission is to mobilize support for the full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in their local communities and promote a better understanding of debilitating conditions, including those that aren't apparent at first glance.

### Choices clothing store is not just a women's clothing store it is also a day programme for individuals with developmentally disabilities.

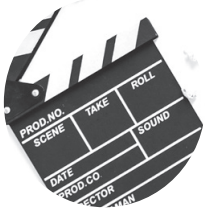
Saltspring Island has been a welcoming community for people with developmental disabilities but there are still challenges that they face. Some of the participants rely on wheelchairs or walkers. Sidewalks end in places where it requires them to be on the road or the sidewalk is angled downwards, not level. Ramps at corners are not always safe or in good condition. Stores with two floors or more are inaccessible beyond the main floor. Some stores still have steps into them, which presents difficulties. Although most people are accepting there are those who still use words like "retard" or "retarded". Some people react in a negative manner to those who don't have verbal skills and use gesticulations and sounds to communicate, staring at them like they are less than. These folks are just like every other human. They want to be accepted as members of the community with abilities, interests, and emotions like all of us.



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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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**FILM**

## Mini film festival at Fulford

Award-winning filmmakers participate in Dec. 10-12 event

BY STEVE MARTINDALE  
 SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

Three of Canada's most successful documentary filmmakers will present their latest films at Fulford Hall from Dec. 10 to 12 in the first event organized by the Salt Spring Film Festival since the pandemic began.

Jennifer Abbott, Joel Bakan and Nettie Wild present their most recent films, all of which have been collecting prizes at festivals around the world.

Abbott and Bakan take the stage at 7 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10 to present *The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel*, their follow-up to the global phenomenon *The Corporation*, still the top-grossing Canadian documentary since its 2003 release.

UBC law professor Bakan's best-selling books have been the basis for both films. Revealing how the corporate takeover of society is being justified by the sly rebranding of corporations as socially conscious entities, this much-anticipated sequel was named Best Canadian Documentary by the Vancouver Film Critics Circle.

The following afternoon at 4 p.m., Nettie Wild presents *First We Eat*, Suzanne Crocker's chronicle of the challenging year her Yukon family spent eating only food they either grew themselves, harvested or hunted. Wild previously collaborated as story editor on Crocker's debut documentary *All the Time in the World*, which was the Most Popular Film at the 2015 Salt Spring Film Festival. Celebrating the ingenuity and resourcefulness of Northern Canadians, this entertaining experiment in food security has won multiple audience awards and was named Best Canadian Documentary at Toronto's Hot Docs.

Former Gulf Islands resident Jennifer Abbott again takes the stage to present *The Magnitude of All Things* at 7 p.m. on Saturday, Dec. 11.

When Abbott lost her sister to cancer, her sorrow opened her up to the profound gravity of the climate crisis. Drawing parallels between the experiences of grief — both personal and planetary — this cinematic exploration of the emotional and psychological dimensions of climate change won four Leo Awards and the Audience Choice Award at DocLands.

The weekend kicks off at 4 p.m. on Friday, Dec. 10, with *Beans*, the coming-of-age story of a young Mohawk girl during the 1990 Oka Crisis. The only drama in the series, *Beans* was named Best Canadian Film at the Vancouver International Film Festival.

A smash hit *Down Under, Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra*, profiles a



PHOTO COURTESY SSIFF

A screen shot of ballerinas at a defaced monument in Minneapolis, from *The New Corporation: The Unfortunately Necessary Sequel*.



PHOTO COURTESY SSIFF

Scene from *Firestarter: The Story of Bangarra*, winner of best documentary in Australia's Oscars.

spectacular Aboriginal dance company. Winner of the Australian Oscar for Best Documentary, *Firestarter* screens at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Capping off the weekend's program is the rollicking rockumentary *Jimmy Carter: Rock & Roll President*, the forgotten story of how the former president forged a surprising bond with anti-establishment musicians. Named Best of Fest at the Los Angeles Film Awards, this crowd-pleaser screens at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 12.

Advance tickets are available via the film festival society's website: [www.saltspringfilmfestival.com](http://www.saltspringfilmfestival.com).

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Islands Arts Centre Society  
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**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.



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**Obituaries**

**CLIFFORD BARRY JONES**

1940 - 1921

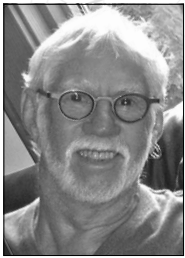
Clifford (or Cliff as he was ubiquitously called) was born in Vancouver on May 6, 1940 and passed surrounded by loved ones on November 23, 2021.

Cliff led an immense life that was always large, loud, and full of passion – a life that cannot be reduced to words. Fast cars, nautical adventures (and disasters), good food, fine wines, and music. Cliff was always on the move and never stopped working, even to his last days. Among his varied career, he drove taxi, ran a jazz club, was a carpenter, a teacher, he sold wine, was a PR director at the Vancouver Art Institute, and left a lasting legacy in the Canadian music industry. Throughout his life and careers, Cliff met countless people, and his family and friends were his deepest joy. Each person that grew to know Cliff felt his love and loyalty and will carry a unique (and likely crazy) story of the man they loved.

Cliff was predeceased by his mother: Thelma Rose Phillips, his father Wilburn Charles (Casey) Jones, and younger brother Phillip Doran Jones. He is survived by his brother Phillip's son David Nicholson-Jones (wife Annie and daughter Beatrix), his brother Roy Jones, Roy's wife Lynda and their children Shivonne Miller (husband Andy and children Emily, Grace, and Ben) and Kevin Jones (wife Michelle and son Oliver), as well as by his wife of 14 years, Shelley Nitikman and her children Lewis (children Justin and Eliana), Joel (wife Liny Chan and son Ari), Sara (son Aiden), and Noah (partner Elaine). He is also survived by a very long list of friends who cared deeply for him.

A Celebration of Life will be held in the near future on Salt Spring Island, and a second in his long-time home of Vancouver.

Cliff's family would like to thank his friends Robert and Darleen for their invaluable assistance taking care of Cliff immediately after his accident, the staff at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring and at Vancouver General Hospital for their care of Cliff.



Clifford Barry Jones

**Obituaries**

*Ilse Leader*

1926 - 2021



A person can hardly expect to, in a few words, do justice to sum up the life of a truly amazing woman: mother, wife, grandmother, fashion designer, photographer, artist and wonderful friend. How do you, in a paragraph, describe a woman who grew up in Germany, much of it during the war, who became a young sensation in the fashion industry there, who then left it all to follow love to Canada.

A woman who, when tragedy struck and she was widowed with a young daughter, stayed in this country and successfully ran, for 25 years, her husband's photographic business, pioneering the way for women in that field.

A woman who found love again, marrying a wheat farmer and raising two sons in the parklands of Alberta, who fifteen years later packed everything up and moved the family to a small island on the west coast, bringing her flair for design and colour to the local arts community while finding joy and beauty in the everyday. A spirit who lived every day of her 95 years with a sense of wonder only to bid it farewell with class; out like a shooting star. She joins her husband(s), son, friends, relatives and a multitude of St. Bernards who passed on before her and leaves behind a son and daughter, grandson and many dear friends and relatives who wish her only the very best on her new journey; viel gluck Ilse! We will miss you but you will be in our hearts always!

In lieu of flowers, please consider supporting the Salt Spring Gallery of Fine Art through donations and/or purchases of local artwork.

Ilse's final art show and celebration of life is scheduled for the Spring of 2022.

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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!

**dgIMEDIA** Tel: 250-537-9933 Fax: 250-537-2613  
 241 Fulford-Ganges Road  
 email: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

**THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE**

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer  
 www.sunstarastronomy.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastronomy@gmail.com  
 READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**  
 The Sagittarius eclipse will activate your higher mind. A visionary fervour linked to truth and justice will be amplified in your heart and mind. Of course, these principles are interpretative at a personal, subjective level. An overall passionate, zealous and ambition-driven orientation will likely lead you into new territory.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**  
 This powerful eclipse occurs in your solar Scorpio sector suggestive of deep changes. These changes will likely include financial realities linked to insurance, inheritances and investments in general. Letting go of things once valued may not be easy but doing so could liberate you to pursue new dreams and ambitions.

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**  
 Some major changes on relationship fronts are destined to occur due to the Solar Eclipse. These may also take place in other areas of your life depending on your actual birth chart. These will have the effect of stirring you to assume or even assert a philosophical attitude. When it comes to destiny, often the best response is faithful acceptance.

**Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)**  
 Health interests and perhaps concerns will be activated by this eclipse. These are extensions, expressions or consequences of your lifestyle. It may be a matter of the quality of these or lack thereof or it may simply point to a theme of destiny, the time of which has arrived. Either way, the time has come to make new choices.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)**  
 Since this is a fire element eclipse it stands to manifest positively for you or at least as some measure of inspiration. There are always other factors to consider and it could just as easily manifest as putting a fire under you to get you going beyond excuses. These are likely to support your creative prowess.

**Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)**  
 Likely shifts and changes triggered by this eclipse will centre on your home, daily rhythm and relationships. Positively, it will have an energizing effect. You may be dealing with uncertainties these days regarding the future. Given the global crisis, this is practically a given. Financial realities are featured yet require new knowledge or approaches.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**  
 Many new thoughts, perceptions and interpretations will be ignited by this eclipse. Some of these could have a rattling effect close to home. On the most basic level a deep clean of your home may occur, a veritable purge akin to spring cleaning. Yet, this could extend into renovations or even the need or desire to bust a move altogether.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**  
 Securing your foundation going forward is a central theme now. This includes a process of aligning with your strengths and confidences, on one hand, and acknowledging and facing your fears to lay claim to hidden gifts, talents and/or reserves, on the other. Somehow the overcoming part requires you to pay the entrance fee.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
 The Solar Eclipse in your sign is destined to activate new modes of expression. These can be as subtle as a shift of attitude and approach or an entirely fresh start altogether. Themes of commitment are featured. The challenge is to overcome a lack of clear focus and getting lost in tangents. Be open to the possibilities and then set your sights.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
 Balancing inner retreat with powerful outer expression continues. The eclipse stands to have a powerful awakening impact on you. As though you have been in the dark somehow and all the lights in the house were turned on at once. Positively, this will inspire new strategies. Either way, you need to clearly determine your direction.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)**  
 A philosophical mood backed by heightened interests in themes of truth, justice and democracy will be activated by the eclipse. It may simply take you to the next level of existing realizations. Dealing with an urge to expand yet a simultaneous sense of delay and/or restriction is in the plot. Exercise patience and find reasons to be optimistic.

**Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)**  
 Your career and public life will receive a boost from this eclipse. Various changes are also likely which could manifest as a noticeable change of attitude, approach and status. Digging deeper to draw upon reserves of faith will be activated yet must contend with sobering realities as well. Follow through and completion will fare better than new projects or ventures.

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**VIOLENCE PREVENTION**

## Silverman reflects on Dec. 6 impact and violence

Online event Monday

**SUBMITTED BY THE CIRCLE**

Every year, Islanders Working Against Violence and The Circle Salt Spring Education Society hold a vigil on Dec. 6, the National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.

This day is to remember the 14 young women who were killed during the Polytechnique Montreal massacre on Dec. 6, 1989, and all the other women who have experienced gender-based violence and those we have lost to it.

Ely Silverman, a Salt Spring resi-

dent for more than 20 years, knows exactly where she was on Dec. 6, 1989. As the director of research for the Canadian Advisory Council on the Status of Women, who advised the federal government and informed and educated the public about women's issues, she was in her office in Ottawa on the day of the massacre.

"I'd just got in when I got the news of the horrible shooting and the many deaths," she said.

Silverman was the head of Women's Studies at the University of Calgary, the program she started in 1974, but had traded Calgary for

two years in Ottawa at that time. She was in the heart of the feminist movement.

Long before the act of violent misogyny in Montreal that shook up our country, Silverman and researchers in Calgary and Ottawa were already aware of the large scale of violence against women.

"We were utterly shocked by what happened in Montreal, but we were not entirely surprised. At the time, people thought, and maybe still do, that it was the act of a crazy person. He was crazy, but it was very much a terrible overt expression of what we'd already known to be true

over and over again; that women in our society are mistrusted, maligned, and even despised."

How is it possible that all those years later, violence against women on a large scale — every six days a woman in Canada is killed by her intimate partner (Statistics Canada 2019), still persists?

Silverman: "We can now fill libraries full of research on violence against women and there are endless numbers of potential solutions that are never enforced. We know it is happening, but not enough people care to actually do something about it. That's why it is important

to commemorate and continue to raise awareness on days like Dec. 6."

The massacre, now more than 30 years ago, weighed heavily on Silverman.

"It added another level of rage. Anger that I could express as anger instead of remaining always so polite as I am. Women's issues are everything to me, even now when I am retired. I have never, and never will, let go of my need to be involved."

The Dec. 6 memorial hosted by IWAV and The Circle is live-streamed on Facebook @islandersworking-againstviolence at 5 p.m.

# what's on this week



Wed. Dec. 1	Thurs. Dec. 2	Fri. Dec. 3	Sat. Dec. 4	Sun. Dec. 5	Mon. Dec. 6	Tues. Dec. 7	Wed. Dec. 8
<p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>At Your Service – The Life and Yarns of Robert Service, Part 2.</b> Written and performed by Jeffrey Renn. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Menorah Lighting.</b> Chabad of Vancouver Island event. Join in the official lighting ceremony and enjoy sufganiyot (jelly donuts), dreidels and music. Centennial Park. 4 p.m.</p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting.</b> Event taking place in Victoria will be livestreamed via islandstrust.bc.ca. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with delegations at 1 p.m. and town hall at approximately 2 p.m.</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. 6 to 7 p.m. Contact atrepanier@saltspringlibrary.com for the Zoom link.</p> <p><b>Stamina Not Stigma Series.</b> 2 events: Women's Resilience: The Power of Peers. 12 noon. Sex in a Pandemic 2.0: Calling Gay, Bi, Queer and Trans Men Back Into Community. 7 p.m. See staminanotstigma.org/events for the links.</p>	<p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>At Your Service – The Life and Yarns of Robert Service, Part 2.</b> See Wednesday listing.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Winter Wander.</b> Late-night shopping in Ganges village. 4 to 8 p.m.</p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting.</b> Final session will be livestreamed via islandstrust.bc.ca. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.</p> <p><b>Amphibians of Coastal BC.</b> Natural history and conservation stories with Barb Beasley. 7 p.m. via Zoom. Preregister by emailing debra@saltspringconservancy.ca before noon on Dec. 1.</p> <p><b>Islands Trust Policy and Purpose Discussion.</b> Working group webinar on tree protection. 7 to 9 p.m. Zoom link: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86075061861</p> <p><b>Poetry Open Mic.</b> With featured poet Kevin Spent. 7 p.m. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.</p>	<p><b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b></p> <p><b>Sue Decker Band.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.</p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> MLA Adam Olsen is this week's guest. SS Library Program Room. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.</p> <p><b>Sat. Dec. 4</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair.</b> 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vaccination cards and masks required.</p> <p><b>Fulford Artisan Christmas Fair.</b> At Fulford Hall. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vaccination cards and masks required.</p> <p><b>Salt Spring Farm Stand Light Up &amp; Tour.</b> Second annual self-guided farm stand shopping event. See Farm Stands, Farmers and Foodies of Salt Spring Island on Facebook for a printable map.</p> <p><b>Ganges Gathers Walking Tours.</b> Register at islandstrust.bc.ca/ganges-village-area-plan/ for a walk around Ganges and give your ideas to the Islands Trust's Ganges village planning exercise. 10 a.m. or 12 noon.</p>	<p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Introduction to Winter Birds Part 2 – Waterbirds and Shorebirds.</b> A Salt Spring Naturalists and Salt Spring Island Conservancy presentation. 3 p.m. Register before noon on Dec. 3 by emailing daviddennings@gmail.com.</p> <p><b>Sun. Dec. 5</b></p> <p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Ganges Gathers Community Ideas Fair.</b> Drop by the library to share your input in fun and creative ways. 1 to 6 p.m.</p> <p><b>Salt Spring Farm Stand Light Up &amp; Tour.</b> See Saturday listing.</p> <p><b>Fulford Artisan Christmas Fair.</b> At Fulford Hall. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Vaccination cards and masks required.</p> <p><b>Beaver Point Hall Christmas Craft Fair.</b> 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Vaccination cards and masks required.</p> <p><b>VIA ZOOM</b></p> <p><b>Introduction to Winter Birds Part 2 - Birds of Forests, Meadows and Back Yards.</b> See Saturday listing (but note it's a different topic).</p>	<p><b>ONLINE</b></p> <p><b>National Day of Remembrance and Action on Violence Against Women.</b> Local event livestreamed via Facebook @islandersworkingagainstviolence at 5 p.m.</p> <p><b>Island Arts Centre Society AGM.</b> Annual general meeting via Zoom. 4:15 p.m. Email board@artspring.ca to register/get the link.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>Blue Christmas Service.</b> For a time of quiet and reflection. SS United Church. 7 p.m.</p> <p><b>Art Talk With Avril Kirby.</b> Photographer Avril Kirby talks about her exhibit called Conversations With Thomas in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 2 p.m.</p>	<p><b>ACTIVITIES</b></p> <p><b>EV Group Holiday Gathering.</b> For EV owners and seriously interested folks. Mateada Cocktail Restaurant in Creek House. 5 to 8 p.m.</p>	

**THE FRITZ CINEMA**

Spencer shows Friday, Dec. 3 to Tuesday, Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. nightly, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca) for more movie info. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements, and limited seating, in place.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Gallery 8 presents its annual Christmas Show of Small Works upstairs in the gallery in Grace Point Square through Dec. 31.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Artcraft Winter, a showcase of work by more than 100 Gulf Islands artists, runs at Mahon Hall until Dec. 22, plus artwork by Artists From the Fringe and a youth arts group in the annex room.
- Ceramic artist Denys James holds an open studio on Saturdays, Dec. 4, 11 and 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. 182 Welbury Drive. Phone 250-538-7001 to arrange a visit on other days and times.

**EXHIBITIONS**

- Avril Kirby shows photographic works from her Conversations With Thomas series in the library program room through December.
- Salt Spring Painters' Guild member Marian Hargrove exhibits watercolour works in the Country Grocer cafe through December.
- Salt Spring Island Printmakers present Foot Stomping Prints in the ArtSpring lobby until Dec. 16.

**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

**THRIFTY FOODS**

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**Help create innovative forest jobs to support workers and families** – we'll work with forest companies to make better use of BC logs, in areas like mass timber for greener building construction and converting wood waste to a cleaner biofuel.

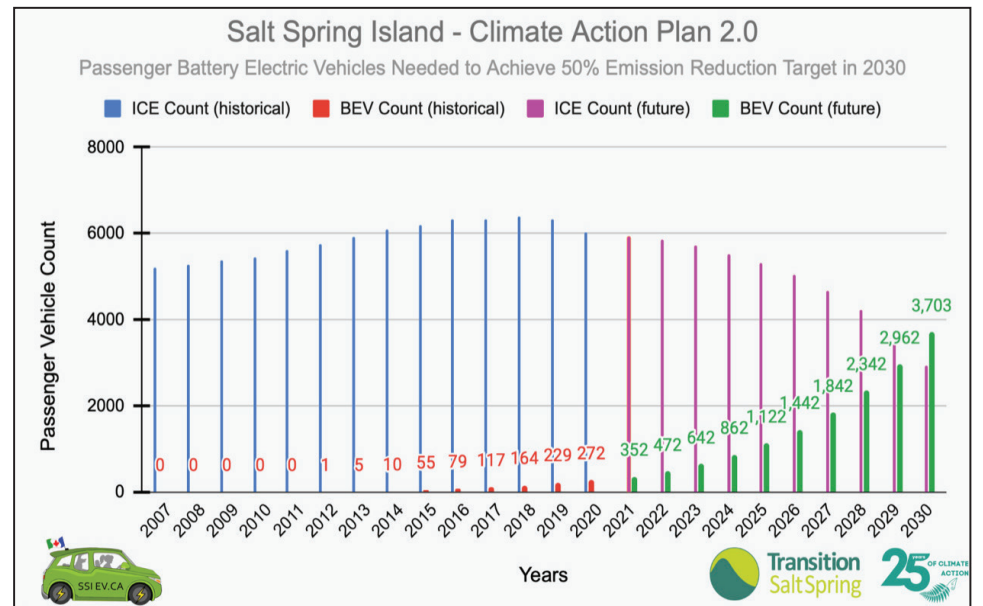
It's time for a vision for BC forests that looks up and looks ahead.

Learn more at [gov.bc.ca/ForestFuture](https://www.gov.bc.ca/ForestFuture)



## CLIMATE ACTION

# Study details EV targets



EV Group chart shows change in number of internal combustion engine and battery electric vehicles required to meet the island's climate action plan emission reduction goals.

## Electric vehicle growth plan

BY JIM STANDEN  
TRANSITION SALT SPRING

The role of the Transition Salt Spring - EV Group is to encourage vehicle owners to join the growing trend of driving electric vehicles rather than gasoline or diesel-fuelled vehicles. We know that over 300 owners have already done so.

The timing and reasons for shifting could not be better. Have you checked the current price of gasoline and servicing costs? Electricity is much cheaper and the absence of oil changes, engine tune-ups and less servicing is nice too. And of course, every EV is a tiny soldier helping the challenge of reducing emissions

that have contributed to a changing climate that is yielding heat domes, higher-intensity wind storms, wildfires and biblical scale flooding.

The EV Group is now analyzing the role of passenger vehicles in making the transition to a lower carbon future. Currently, passenger vehicles account for about 72 per cent of all vehicles on Salt Spring.

To achieve a 50 per cent reduction of passenger vehicle emissions by 2030 over those in 2007 (meeting the goal documented in the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan 2.0) will require about 3,400 more battery electric vehicles on Salt Spring. That is the challenge islanders face.

How did we determine this? The EV Group statis-

tics team accessed the Natural Resources Canada database for fuel economy and GHG emissions for gasoline/diesel vehicles each year and the ICBC vehicle registration statistics. We were fortunate to have the results of a survey the EV Group conducted in 2017, which concluded the average EV driver on Salt Spring annually travels an average 10,000 km. Then we projected the impact of future growth of EVs.

EV Group members believe it is paramount that we track the island's progress towards emission reduction goals at regular intervals to assess if we are on track, behind or, hopefully, ahead. During 2021, we calculate that at least 80 more Salt Spring residents need to switch to electric vehicles.

We have chosen annual reporting to align with available data sources and will be able to monitor our progress toward the emission target each year.

Our full report is at: <https://www.ssiev.ca/ghg-fleet-calculation>.

Want more information? [www.ssiev.ca](https://www.ssiev.ca) or email me at [jstanden@ucalgary.ca](mailto:jstanden@ucalgary.ca).

### TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

DECEMBER 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
1	0317	2.7	8.9	5	0711	3.6	11.8
	0727	2.2	7.2		1128	3.1	10.2
	WE 1331	3.4	11.2		SU 1533	3.5	11.5
ME 2048	0.7	2.3	DI 2330	-0.2	-0.7		
2	0425	3.0	9.8	6	0802	3.7	12.1
	0825	2.5	8.2		1242	3.1	10.2
	TH 1355	3.4	11.2		MO 1616	3.3	10.8
JE 2123	0.4	1.3	LU				
3	0524	3.3	10.8	7	0017	-0.1	-0.3
	0923	2.8	9.2		0852	3.7	12.1
	FR 1423	3.5	11.5		TU 1408	3.0	9.8
VE 2202	0.0	0.0	MA 1702	3.2	10.5		
4	0618	3.5	11.5	8	0107	0.2	0.7
	1022	3.0	9.8		0938	3.7	12.1
	SA 1455	3.5	11.5		WE 1540	2.8	9.2
SA 2244	-0.1	-0.3	ME 1754	2.9	9.5		

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## NATURE Bird sessions fly online

Last December, the Salt Spring Naturalists offered online webinars providing an introduction to winter birding on Salt Spring Island.

More than 200 people of all ages enjoyed virtual classes featuring beautiful photographs by local photographers Farley Cannon, Peter McAllister and David Denning, and commentary by local seasoned birders.

These birding webinars are back by popular demand. About 100 species of winter birds will be covered in two sessions: one on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 3 to 4 p.m. (Waterbirds and Shorebirds) and a second one-hour session on Sunday, Dec. 5 from 3 to 4 p.m. (Birds of Forests, Meadows and Backyards).

Webinars are sponsored by the Salt Spring Naturalists and Salt Spring Island Conservancy and are free and open to anyone interested in nature, birds and fun activities outside in nature. People should register by emailing [daviddenningssi@gmail.com](mailto:daviddenningssi@gmail.com).