

inside:

Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

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Driving under the influence
YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO LOSE

page 8



12 Library's teen volunteers bring their A game



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

CELEBRATING 101 YEARS: Members of the Salt Spring Island Women's Institute (SSIWI) gather in the OAP rooms of Fulford Hall on Sunday for a luncheon to honour founding members, old and new members, and to celebrate Christmas. The island group's plan to celebrate its 100th anniversary last year was derailed by the pandemic, but they made up for it with a Harvest Kitchen Cafe-catered luncheon, entertainment and socializing in the beautifully decorated space. The SSIWI supports many local organizations with funds raised through the sale of pie at community events like the fall fair, earning them the title of "Pie Ladies." This year the SSIWI sold its 10,000th pie, with proceeds from 2005 to 2021 topping \$105,000.

HOUSING CRISIS

CRD takes on housing challenge

Staff to investigate temporary housing for Seabreeze tenants on Drake Road

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The topic of temporary housing for Seabreeze Inne residents who will be displaced by the motel's impending purchase made its way to the Capital Region Housing Corporation Board last week.

Salt Spring's Capital Regional District director Gary Holman told an ASK Salt Spring session on Friday that he brought a motion to that board on Dec. 8 for temporary housing to be installed on CRD-owned property on Drake Road, although the details are not for public consumption yet.

"The motion for staff to do the due diligence and make the arrangements for temporary housing was made public — it will be in the minutes — but the discussion of that was in camera," he said.

Holman said what will happen to some 18 individuals living at the inne has been "top of mind" in the community since the

Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) agreement to purchase the property for renovation into hospital staff apartments was made public. Even though the foundation has moved an original "eviction date" of Dec. 31 to Feb. 15, the pressure is still on to find alternate accommodation.

A number of people were housed at the motel during the pandemic period with financial assistance from BC Housing and facilitated by Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS), which has housing as part of its mandate. SSICS had hoped to buy the property through a generous donor or have BC Housing acquire it, said Holman. He said LMHF stepped up with an offer only after it was known that the SSICS/BC Housing proposal was dead.

On the positive side, he said, Fields department store management has offered use of some cottages it had barged to the island several months ago. But finding a suitable

piece of land where the cottages can be placed is the challenge, which is why Drake Road is being eyed.

ASK Salt Spring attendee Ron Cooke suggested a property owned by the Parks and Recreation Commission via the CRD, such as lands on Kanaka Drive near the high school and Rainbow Road pool, might be an appropriate spot.

"The fact those properties are owned by Salt Spring people and we have a crisis and they are there, it seems like a bit of a no-brainer to me that there's an answer to a problem," said Cooke.

Holman said he would explore those options, while noting that one of the two Kanaka lots currently houses the PARC maintenance facility, but first wants to see if temporary use of Drake Road could become the solution.

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EMERGENCY RESPONSE

RIEP plans for emergencies

Members of group for rural islands make connections

BY RURAL ISLANDS ECONOMIC PARTNERSHIP

Emergency preparedness was the focus of a recent discussion among Rural Islands Economic Partnership (RIEP) members, which highlighted the importance of inter-island reliance, and dependence on regional and national systems during crisis situations.

"The rural islands understand one another, and the unique needs we face as a community," said RIEP board director Gabriola Islander Julie Sperber, reporting on the session in a press release. "No matter the crisis — whether it is a pandemic, fire, flood or other natural or man-made disaster — we need to learn how to plan for recovery by learning what has already worked at a local level, and what to consider on a national and global scale, and then find ways to adapt and implement the best emergency response for the benefit of our communities and businesses."

During the event — which took place two weeks after the south coast was devastated by record rainfall and flooding — a panel of experts shared practical steps for how to mobilize rural communities to prepare for emergency response and recovery. Jeremy Stone, director and founder of Recovery and Relief Services, shared the importance of strategic planning that takes into consideration economic recovery planning for rural communities.

"The pandemic saw many small businesses closing their doors permanently, and the recent floods can have similar economic impacts," said Stone. "Rural recovery requires long-term planning, community collaboration, resilience, and adaptation, and the dialogue RIEP began is an important first step to building solutions for the next crisis."

The Quadra Island Emergency Program spoke about the importance of developing a volunteer-led initiative

that engages the community at the grassroots level in order to prepare and plan for emergencies.

"Local efforts need to recognize and work within the emergency management framework in B.C. Aligning with local authority plans through your regional district and to the province is key to being effective during an emergency," said Jeff Ballingall, coordinator for the Quadra Island Emergency Program. Conversations were had around government response, critical infrastructure such as transportation disruptions, short and long-term supply chain issues, and the resilience of rural islanders finding quick short-term solutions to keep business operating during disruptions.

"RIEP and its members are speaking up, and government needs to listen to rural communities during these climate emergencies. We must secure commitment and funding to empower rural communities to prepare and train in advance of the next crisis, and more importantly be ready for recovery," said Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May, who joined the virtual meeting.

May urged Parliament to provide immediate response on infrastructure, water treatment, highways and hospitals, and emergency training in rural communities.

"We need to act now because doing the same thing over and over again and expecting a different result won't cut it anymore. We must fight climate change, while adapting to the growing climate emergency. We will need a lot more adaptation and a lot more climate action to hold to 1.5 degrees. At the local level we must mobilize. We will need to increase our community resilience."

The RIEP was created to provide a united voice for rural islanders and communities to effect change at the local and provincial level. RIEP represents 18 rural islands stretching from the Broughton Archipelago and Malcolm Island in the north to Saturna Island in the south.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

ALL SMOOTHED OVER: The section of washed-out pavement on Fulford-Ganges Road between Kitchen and Dukes Roads was regravelled Monday after drivers reported huge potholes in that spot and inadequate warning signs over the weekend.

WEEKLY COVID REPORT

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

NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 11/07 - 11/13	Week of 11/14 - 11/20	Week of 11/21 - 11/27	Week of 11/28 - 12/04
Southern Gulf Islands	13	5	2	5
Saanich Peninsula	18	31	28	18
Greater Victoria	49	23	50	51
Langford to Port Renfrew	16	15	22	17
Duncan Area.....	67	37	48	58
Chemainus to Nanaimo.....	15	14	26	50
Total.....	178	125	176	199

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 December 25 - closed
 December 26, 10am - 4pm
 December 31, 9am - 3pm
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SCHOOL DISTRICT

SD64 gets anti-gang funding

Vulnerable youth to benefit from \$10,000 grant from province

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When you are a young person on Salt Spring, the options for engaging in the community often come down to being on the baseball or soccer team.

That's the reality for youth on the island, said Boe Beardsmore, director of instruction and learning services at the Gulf Islands School District (SD64). Broadening these options for youth is part of the goal of a mentorship program SD64 will be running this coming semester, with the help of \$10,000 from the province's School District Mentorship Program.

The \$10,000 is part of \$486,000 in provincial funding going to 24 school districts to run programs to help youth avoid "gang and criminal lifestyles." While Salt Spring Island may not have the same issues with gangs and crime as other B.C. school districts, there are students in middle and high school who are at risk of disengaging from school and engaging with drug culture or "at risk of unhealthy lifestyles, and negatively impacted affiliations with various folks or activities," Beardsmore said.

The program will run January to June with an overall focus on prevention and early intervention. While details are still being worked out, Beardsmore said it will involve pro-social activities, such as a wilderness sports activity, as well as peer support groups, counselling and mentorship for individual students. A focus will be on how to bridge the gap in connection on weekends and holidays, when students are not in school and not supported by the resources available there.

Beardsmore said there are around 10 to 12 students between ages 12 and 19 who could benefit from the program, and SD64 will work with schools to identify who might most need the program.

"The ultimate goal is for them to re-engage fully with the school, and to develop a connection to the community," said Beardsmore.

The hope is that by re-engaging they will also attend more, and with a four-day school week, every day really counts.

"There is a correlation between attendance and achievement, and the more they're in school the better their chances of doing really well and ultimately of graduating high school," Beardsmore said.

The \$10,000 is a one-time grant, Beardsmore confirmed, although depending on the success of the programs across B.C. schools it might become a recurring grant.

Community members pose solutions

SEABREEZE
continued from 1

Cooke also raised the Salt Spring Island Land Bank Society property known as Brackett Springs on Rainbow Road as a possibility for housing. However, Holman said that and two other land bank properties are being foreclosed on by Vancity credit union and the outcome may not be known anytime soon.

While acknowledging the stressful situation created by the LMHF's planned purchase of the Seabreeze Inne, he stressed that the motel would have soon been lost to the community as a housing asset because it was for sale as commercial accommodation.

Cherie Geauveau of the Copper Kettle Community Partnership and the Wagon Wheel Housing Society later told the Driftwood that everyone involved in housing is trying hard to find a solution for the Seabreeze tenants.

"We're reaching out to the community because that's the only thing we can do right now," she said.

Looking to the future, Holman confirmed that BC Housing has committed to a fully funded affordable housing

project on the CRD's Drake Road property, but further information about that is also not publicly available. BC Housing will make announcements when it is ready to do so, he said.

"I'm not at liberty to say any more than that because I don't have permission from BC Housing," he said, adding that any housing project proponent should be in charge of their own information sharing.

Making the case that some movement is occurring on the housing front, Holman pointed out that Salt Spring has seven properties currently slated for some kind of mainly affordable housing, and that lobbying had resulted in BC Housing providing funding for increased shelter services through SSICS in the past couple of years.

Use of the province's Speculation and Vacancy Tax was raised by an ASK Salt Spring attendee. Holman confirmed that discussions have been held between Salt Spring's locally elected officials, MLA Adam Olsen and David Eby, B.C.'s attorney general and housing minister, about possibly having the tax applied to the Gulf Islands.

It's an action that Salt Spring Island

Economic Sustainability Commission members would like to see taken to help ease the housing crisis. Commission chair Francine Carlin said her group recently passed a motion to press the CRD Board to have the tax implemented in its electoral areas. It already applies to CRD municipalities, as well as in Metro Vancouver municipalities, and Abbotsford, Mission, Chilliwack, Kelowna, West Kelowna, Nanaimo and Lantzville.

"Data on the impacts of the speculation and vacancy tax (SVT) indicates that it is having the intended impact," states a summary paper written by Holman on the subject. "It is freeing up empty homes for housing and is generating revenue for affordable housing (primarily from foreign owners or Canadians living outside B.C.) in the overall region, but not in the specific communities in which the tax is applied."

ASK Salt Spring, which sees elected officials and community leaders share information with and take questions from the public every Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. — currently in the library program room — is taking a break until Jan. 7, 2022, when MLA Adam Olsen will be the guest.

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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
15	0425	2.9	9.5	19	0710	3.5	11.5
	0802	2.7	8.9		1218	3.0	9.8
	1316	3.2	10.5		SU 1451	3.1	10.2
16	2101	0.8	2.6	20	2301	0.4	1.3
	0513	3.2	10.5		0746	3.5	11.5
	0912	2.8	9.2		1311	3.0	9.8
17	1337	3.2	10.5	21	1517	3.1	10.2
	2129	0.6	2.0		MO 2334	0.4	1.3
	0555	3.3	10.8		22	0819	3.6
1020	3.0	9.8	1407	3.0		9.8	
1400	3.1	10.2	TU 1544	3.0		9.8	
18	2158	0.5	1.6	23	0008	0.4	1.3
	0634	3.4	11.2		0850	3.5	11.5
	1122	3.0	9.8		WE		
19	1425	3.1	10.2	24	0008	0.4	1.3
	2229	0.4	1.3		0850	3.5	11.5
					ME		

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The 4th Sunday in Advent:
Sunday, Dec. 19th at 10:00am

Blue Christmas:
Thursday, Dec. 16. 4:45 pm

Christmas Eve – Festival of Lessons and Carols:
Friday, Dec. 24th at 4:00pm

Christmas Eve – Candlelight and Incense – The first Eucharist of Christmas:
Friday, Dec. 24th at 10:30pm

Christmas Day – Christmas Eucharist: **Saturday, Dec. 25th at 11:00am**

The first Sunday After Christmas: **Morning Prayer, Sunday, Dec. 26th at 10:00am**

OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Places to call home

As Salt Spring's CRD director Gary Holman stated publicly last week, the fate of several people living at the Seabreeze Inne is "top of mind" in the community.

Reduction of Salt Spring's rental housing stock is something that has happened gradually, on a family-by-family basis, with the impact only truly visible when initiatives like Salt Spring Solutions' Goodbye Salt Spring project bring it all together, or when one's favourite coffee shop is closed due to a staff shortage; or when we hear that Lady Minto Hospital has 31 staff vacancies.

With the Seabreeze situation, the reality is more stark: 18 people who are currently housed at the inne

THE ISSUE: Seabreeze Inne tenant relocation

WE SAY: CRD Drake Road solution positive

could be homeless in two months' time. That's a lot of individuals affected at one time. It's good that the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation extended its possession date for acquiring the motel and therefore the amount of time for residents to be re-housed, but it's still not a lot of time and the options are limited. Ideally the foundation would provide even more time for solutions to be found.

A proposal made by Holman to house Seabreeze tenants temporarily on CRD-owned property on Drake Road is one possible bright light. The property will eventually be used for a newly built affordable housing project, funded by BC Housing. That use has long been envisioned since the lands were donated for that purpose by School District 64 many years ago.

Unfortunately, use of that property to help alleviate homelessness both now and in the past has not been supported by CRD staff. That's why Holman last week took the concept directly to the Capital Region Housing Corporation, which consists of the usual CRD board members just wearing a different hat. The possibility will at least be investigated now.

It is easy to be discouraged about the lack of concrete housing progress on Salt Spring when compared to the effort being expended to make changes. As long-time housing advocate Cherie Geauvreau told the Driftwood recently, "There's lots of movement, but nothing is happening."

But Geauvreau is definitely not giving up, and if more community members, CRD staff and board directors can accept that they can and should contribute to solutions, we may yet be surprised by positive outcomes on the housing front.



Turn up heat on unvaxxed

BY AMANDA SPOTTISWOODE

As a responsible B.C. resident who is also a senior with grandchildren, I have received two doses of the COVID vaccination and eagerly await my turn for the booster.

As any rational person can clearly see, we will never get out of the endless round of restrictions to our daily lives (including having to wear masks) until everyone is vaccinated. The ones still holding out are those who are seriously misled about the negative effects of vaccines and the supposed "mildness" of actually getting COVID. Not to mention that they believe that all information coming from bonafide scientists has been manipulated. You simply cannot reason with these people.

Although there are now quite a few things the unvaccinated cannot do, such as go to a sit-down restaurant or travel by air, there are still many things they can do. Included in those things (information available on the B.C. government website) are swimming in a public pool, shopping at any and all stores and travelling on BC Ferries. And those unvac-

VIEWPOINT

inated can still visit a winery tasting room and have their hair or nails done in a salon — really!

I know that some countries are heading towards bringing in mandatory vaccinations but I believe that enough to have avoided the vaccine to date taking to the streets and protesting (maskless), and protests have the potential to turn violent.

My belief is that a much more effective way to "convince" those anti-vaxxers to get jabbed would be to bar them from all but the most essential of services and make their lives isolated. In other words ostracize them. So, no liquor stores, no clothing stores, definitely no swimming pools and no travelling on BC Ferries, where the crew are now mandated to be vaccinated. In addition, no unvaccinated teachers should be allowed into schools (please don't leave this up to individual school boards). Hard to believe that a small minority of

teachers are exposing our so far unvaccinated children under 12 to the possibility of getting COVID. And after a reasonable period of time, those parents who refuse to get their children vaccinated should have to keep them home and home-school them.

Also, as Singapore has suggested, those unvaccinated who do catch COVID and end up in hospital should be made to pay for their treatment. Why should the vast majority of us who have rolled up our sleeves be made to pay for the idiocy of the anti-vaxxers?

So far Dr. Bonnie Henry, Health Minister Adrian Dix and the B.C. government have taken the "softly softly" approach. They have done a wonderful job in getting the vast percentage of responsible British Columbians vaccinated, and are now well on the way to protecting everyone over the age of five. Great job! Now it is time to take the gloves off and isolate (literally) the minority who are holding out for baseless reasons and putting the rest of us at continued risk.

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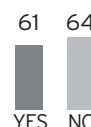
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you concerned about the Omicron variant?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you know what emergency program POD you belong to?



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OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

“The fact those properties are owned by Salt Spring people and we have a crisis and they are there, it seems like a bit of a no-brainer to me.”

RON COOKE, ON PARC/CRD-OWNED PROPERTIES

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

Why did you join the SSI Women’s Institute?

ARIEL GAITT



“Ever since I was a little girl I wanted to be a Pie Lady, and now I get to join the club. I am excited to spend as much time as possible with the group.”

SHERRILL ADSHEAD



My mother-in-law was a WI lifetime member in Arrow Lakes . . . and she always wanted me to join and I did and I enjoy it.

ANGELA THOMAS



Margaret Reid sidled up to me at one point and said, “You bake, don’t you?” and I was recruited as a Pie Lady, and from there it seemed natural to join WI.

JEAN HEDGECOCK



Angela [Thomas] thought it would be a good idea for me to get out of the house and into something.

MARGARET REID



When I heard they were failing because they only had three members [several years ago], a group of us got together to continue it on.”

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

Action needed

Further to the comments by Debbi Toole in last week’s “Road safety attention demanded” story, and my own from 2019, I have written to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding our area of North End Road.

I received the same form letter that I had received two years earlier. Further, I was put in touch with Don Legault, who is the operations manager of South Island, Vancouver Island District. His comments to me are: “I do apologize for the delay in responding, but I wanted my area manager/ops tech Jake Roder to view the location before responding to your email. The intersection is situated in the middle of a curve, and Lepage Road approaches North End on a downhill grade. I am told that if you stop at the stop sign, and then creep forward you can improve your ability to see traffic approaching from the right. We do have 40 km/h curve warning signs on both ends of the curve. We will install ‘intersection ahead’ signs to further warn drivers of the Lepage Road intersection.”

I spoke with Jake Roder, who explained to me that the province would review everything. I asked if the province would consider “strips” to discourage people from driving close to the shoulder. Mr. Roder explained

that the province does not do such work, nor would they change the speed in the area.

Cars come flying around the corner from the south and the north with no regard to blind corners or turns (or children playing, people walking). I asked if mirrors could be installed so that people turning left from LePage could see traffic coming south. A resounding no was the answer.

I love that we have country roads. I hate that some drivers have to rush to the north or south, without regard to safety. I truly hope something can be done before it’s too late.

SUSAN WORRALL,
SALT SPRING

Housing help

I am responding to Anne Palmer’s “Punished” letter in the Dec. 8 Driftwood.

I am sure that people are happy to see that the Seabreeze Inne remains in community use. The issue has been the short notice given to the tenants. And also, the extension to Feb. 15 does not help the tenants when they have no guarantee of any housing to move to.

The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation knew that the Seabreeze Inne was tenanted. They know that there is no housing to speak of on Salt Spring Island. The reason why they want to use the Inne is for housing for medical

staff as it is difficult to find housing here. If medical staff cannot find housing, how can the tenants of Seabreeze Inne find housing?

Although there are general housing issues on Salt Spring Island, the emergency issue is that there will be people sent to live outside in the middle of winter. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation can correct this by ensuring that each tenant is not evicted until they can find other housing. Aside from that, to evict someone in the spring is better than to do so in winter when they may die in the bad weather.

I have no idea why it is so difficult to understand this point.

JENNY MCCLEAN,
SALT SPRING

People pressure

Mark Perry made a valid point in his “People too” letter in last week’s Driftwood when he suggested a possible compromise in the Vortex affair. However, his criticism of the letter writers was misdirected.

Everyone who has written in opposition to Vortex has done so in response to the proposal as it now stands — a proposal that Trust staff have tagged “a large new destination resort.” The sheer scale of the project

beggars any comparison with the former Fulford Inn.

Private citizens have no power to negotiate a new deal with the applicant. Pursuing other options — and there were several — was the job of trustees before they approved the septic variance against staff recommendations.

While it is true that Salt Spring is about people as well as the environment, trustees clearly put tourism and economic goals ahead of environmental protection when considering an application that could severely impact one of the Gulf Islands’ most fragile ecosystems. The enthusiasm they expressed for the project at the time of the variance approval was shocking.

After filing a complaint with the Islands Trust Executive Committee, I received the following response: “The Executive Committee does not have the power to review the decisions of a local Trust committee, to make declarations about that conduct, to negotiate a different outcome or to order that a local Trust committee overturn a decision.”

Trustees, it seems, are accountable to no one. Only people pressure can stop issuance of the development permit at this late juncture.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

Trustees should pursue options for Vortex project

BY LUISA MAFFI AND DAVID RAPPORT

In case there weren’t enough reasons already to oppose the Vortex project — reasons that concerned Salt Spring Islanders have been voicing loud and clear for months — the dramatic consequences of the atmospheric rivers that have been hitting B.C.’s Lower Mainland, parts of Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands ought to be the last straw.

Early on, Trust staff and the water specialist, William Shulba, expressed concern about the plan for the septic field and recommended the project not proceed. In addition, island scientists with high-level expertise in earth sciences, hydrology and ecosystem health, as well as numerous thoughtful community members, have raised strong objections to the project, on the grounds that it threatens the health of Fulford Harbour and thus the health and well-being of our community. We believe the proposed septic field, with its significantly reduced setback, is likely to be inadequate to withstand climate-driven storm surges and sea level rise. Outflows of nutrient-laden sewage would pose unacceptable risks to the health of freshwater and marine ecosystems as well as threats to human health.

The extreme weather events in November are a definitive game changer, calling for a radical rethink on the part of our trustees on the acceptability of the Vortex project. Images of the project site turned swampy and of Fulford Harbour gone

GUEST COLUMN

brown with mud from the torrential runoff, combined with the news of a watermain failure and boil-water advisory in Fulford, have dramatically illustrated the vulnerability of the area to climate change impacts. Further, the recent weather events are unlikely to be one-offs. We are facing a new reality: along with other regions in B.C., this island has become highly susceptible to climate-change-driven catastrophes, be they floods, fires or windstorms. And even before these new and growing threats arose, the island’s ecosystems had become increasingly degraded and thus less resilient, owing to a variety of on-island and off-island human-driven pressures. The attendant risks are no longer hypothetical — they are (literally) lapping at our doorsteps, and they are set to intensify in frequency and severity.

On-island opposition to the Vortex is overwhelming. The message: Salt Spring Islanders are not in favour of increasing risks to the health of our harbour, our community and ultimately our economy. Whenever the health of ecosystems is on a downward slide, it is not long before the economy begins to suffer too.

Fortunately, there are options. Our trustees can swiftly reconsider the merit of the proposed development in view of its associated risks. Having previously declared a climate emergency on Salt Spring, they can

recognize that approving the Vortex would enhance our vulnerability to climate-driven adversities, and say no to the project.

The developer has choices, too. He can persist in attempting to push this project through in spite of the manifest risks and of the community’s strong objections. Or he can respect our concerns and recognize that times have changed and that projects entailing substantial threats to human health and the environment are non-starters. He could decide to pull up stakes, and even to go one big step further, earning admiration and respect from this community: he could donate the land to the public for restoration of its creeks and estuary.

Such an ecological restoration project would be a stellar example of doing the right thing in the face of today’s realities. It could serve as an example of how a local community could adapt to climate change and as an inspiration to other communities in our region and beyond.

For the sake of our island, our economy, and our future, the Vortex project ought to be “dead in the water” before becoming “dead under water.”

Luisa Maffi is an anthropologist with a focus on the interdependence between people and nature and on the integrated conservation of biological and cultural diversity. David J. Rapport is an economist and ecologist who served as senior scientist and science advisor to Statistics Canada.



PHOTOS BY NANCY JOHNSON
HOLIDAY SPIRIT: Ganges business windows decorated for the season include, from left, Love My Kitchen and Mouat's Home Hardware. The Mouat's miniature scene is created each year by Sharon Sykes.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

New stairs appreciated

I am writing to say thank you to the CRD Parks and Rec department for installing new aluminum stairs at the Baker Beach access. To all who envisioned these stairs, designed, built, transported and installed with great difficulty, no doubt, thank you.

The site is all cleaned up, the old stairs dealt with. It is truly an amazing project! Solid, never to rot, safe . . . my gratitude to all involved.

MARIE BEAUDOIN,
SALT SPRING

Invitation for literacy

This year, the Friends Book Club has decided to donate to the Salt Spring Literacy Society. Another island book club has donated to the Salt Spring Public Library.

We invite your book club, or you as an individual, to consider making a contribution towards literacy and the pleasure of reading.

DEBBIE MAGNUSSON,
FOR FRIENDS BOOK CLUB

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Accessory dwellings offer one solution

BY JESSICA TEREZAKIS

This is a response to the Dec. 8 "Dangerous rezoning being contemplated" Viewpoint by Maxine Leichter.

INRESPONSE

Maxine Leichter, I absolutely appreciate the care and concern you carry for Salt Spring's natural environment. It is clear that you are a vocal advocate for preserving and protecting the natural beauty of this island. When I read your opinion piece, I felt called to respond because what I am hearing from you is mostly a lot of fear and what I am seeing is a divide on a topic that should be bringing us together.

What our community needs is a conversation; a conversation that recognizes the nuance and complexities that exist when living in a place as unique as Salt Spring. One that recognizes the diverse population that we have and one that acknowledges that we, as a community, have a lot more in common than we would like to think. I would even go as far as to say, most people on Salt Spring, the conservationists, the affordable housing advocates, our elderly community, the folks that are unhoused, working families, all appreciate the natural beauty and uniqueness of this island. Of the diverse groups of people I come across, I would also say that most don't want to see groundwater contamination or have people living in unsafe homes that are not up to building code standards.

I want to gently make something clear, though: A lack of safe, affordable housing options is what creates the conditions for dangerous dwellings to exist in the first place. I also want to acknowledge that yes, bylaws are absolutely important, but just because something is not up to code, doesn't mean that it is inherently unsafe. The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's suspension on bylaw enforcement is a temporary measure until more housing stock becomes available. It is there so that folks are not further displaced during a housing crisis. If homeowners across the island are allowed to rent out legal accessory dwellings, like suites and cottages, on a long-term basis,

then the bylaw around non-enforcement wouldn't need to exist.

An accessory dwelling unit is a really simple and old idea: having a second small dwelling attached to or on the same grounds as a regular single-family house. It is one of the most common strategies across B.C. and elsewhere to modestly increase housing stock without drastically altering the land or neighbourhoods that surround them.

If accessory dwellings are opened, the reality is that not every homeowner on the island is going to rush into being a landlord and nor do they have to. As you said, some people who live here want to enjoy the privacy that this island offers.

Yes, this island has limited resources and services. Opening up accessory dwellings is being done so that islanders can house islanders. It is so that businesses that have been strained by the pandemic don't have to also have the added strain of housing their employees. So that people can hire locals instead of hiring people from off island. So that elderly people can "age in place" and have a family member come live with them. It is so that new homeowners can get help on their mortgages. It is so that our hospital and other vital social services don't have to shut down as a result of a lack of housing for their staff.

Purpose-built subsidized or affordable housing is indeed one piece of the puzzle. These developments take time and resources. We need to find creative solutions that address the immediacy of the housing crisis.

This island is a vibrant place. Let's not let black-and-white thinking dim its colour.

For more information about the benefits and challenges of accessory dwelling units and for case studies across B.C., I recommend reading a report by BC Housing called Accessory Dwelling Units: Case Studies and Best Practices from BC Communities.

I have written this response not representing the views of any organization that I work for or volunteer with.



Send your submissions to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Roses

Vibrant circus roses to the Salt Spring Island Foundation, the Rotary Club of Salt Spring Island, the Salt Spring Island Firefighters Association and the SIMS PAC for your generous contributions to Tsunami Circus. We have been unable to fundraise since COVID began, and your donations allowed us to replace our aging safety equipment. Your support has made it possible for the program to continue and we send you our sincere appreciation. *Tsunami Circus*

Thank you to the Salt Spring Island Foundation for supporting the Salt Spring Island Public Library through the COVID recovery grant.

The Gulf Islands International Program would like to recognize our wonderful host families and to say a big thank you for making the holidays merrier for our international students. You make a lasting impression on these students and we are honoured to have all of you as hosts in our program and community. We wish you a very Merry Christmas and happy holiday season!

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Capital Regional District



Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 10 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3911 (Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2015), residents within the Highland and Fernwood Water Local Service Area are invited to attend:

Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Thursday January 13, 2022
Time: 10:00 am
Place: Creekside Meeting Room
108-121 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3911, real property owners or residents in the Fernwood and Highland Water Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is four plus the Electoral Area Director (three members resident electors; and one member may be a resident elector of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area). There are two positions expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3911 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538.4304 or email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected.

Driving under the influence: YOU HAVE EVERYTHING TO LOSE



DRUNK DRIVING: TRUE OR FALSE?

1. DRINKING COFFEE ACCELERATES THE METABOLIZING AND ELIMINATION OF ALCOHOL FROM THE BODY.

FALSE. Time is the only factor in sobering up. Getting some fresh air, having a nap, or taking a cold shower aren't any more effective than drinking coffee in eliminating alcohol.

2. ONLY 3 PERCENT OF ALCOHOL IS ELIMINATED THROUGH SWEAT.

TRUE. This means that busting some moves on the dance floor won't help you sober up more quickly.

3. NO MATTER HOW MANY DRINKS ARE CONSUMED DURING AN EVENING, ALL YOU NEED TO DO TO BE SAFE IS TO STOP DRINKING AN HOUR BEFORE DRIVING.

FALSE. To respect allowable legal blood alcohol levels, it takes a lot longer than 60 minutes before being able to drive, especially if someone has been drinking for hours.

4. IT TAKES TWO HOURS TO ELIMINATE ALL ALCOHOL FROM THE BLOOD WHEN A BLOOD ALCOHOL RATE OF 0.07 HAS BEEN REACHED.

FALSE. It takes about five hours to eliminate all that alcohol from the blood.

5. ALCOHOL AFFECTS PERIPHERAL VISION, HEARING, THE CAPACITY TO EVALUATE DISTANCES, AND REFLEXES.

TRUE. All these factors mean that a person who has consumed alcohol has lower levels of concentration, poor coordination, and will likely be unable to react properly when faced with an obstacle.

5 THINGS YOU COULD LOSE AS A RESULT OF IMPAIRED DRIVING

Getting behind the wheel after consuming drugs or alcohol can have dire consequences. Here are five things you may lose as a result of this choice.

1. YOUR LICENCE

One potential penalty for driving under the influence is that your licence may get revoked. In some regions, first-time offenders are prohibited from driving for a period ranging from several months to a year.

2. YOUR MONEY

In addition to getting fined for the infraction, you'll need to pay for a lawyer. You can also expect to spend more on car insurance for many years to come. Additional expenses may be involved too. Depending on the circumstances, you may have to settle up with a victim or pay into a compensation fund. You may also need to pay for a breath alcohol ignition interlock device.

3. YOUR CLEAN CRIMINAL RECORD

If you're found guilty of driving under the influence, you'll end up with a criminal record, which could complicate many facets of your life, from landing a job to travelling.

4. YOUR JOB

If your job requires you to operate a vehicle (for example, if you're a trucker, delivery person or taxi driver) you may be forced to leave it. This may also be the case if your employer demands that you have a clean criminal record.

5. YOUR LIFE

Impaired driving heightens your risk of being in an accident, and if you add poor road conditions to the equation, it could make matters worse. If you get into a car crash, you could be seriously injured or killed, or you could injure or kill your passengers or other road users.

If you plan to consume drugs or alcohol, make sure you have a safe way to get home. Call a taxi, hire an Uber or catch a ride with a friend.

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Joy & Happiness

ART REVIEW

Christmas tradition makes return to Gallery 8

Artworks of all sizes bring warmth to annual group show

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The holiday season is a little lighter on events than usual this year due to the ongoing pandemic, but one tradition that's in full effect is the Christmas exhibition of small works at Gallery 8.

Originally launched as a show of eight-by-eight-inch works that would suit gift giving, the exhibition has evolved over the years to encompass pieces of many different sizes while continuing to offer special artworks by the entire cast of gallery artists. The group show is a great time to catch up on which new artists may have joined the team and what the older favourites are currently working on. Since gallery owner Razali May has opened a second space in Grace Point Square called Coast Gallery, this year the show spills over into the new gallery and offers even more to check out.

Small works may remain the focus, but visitors to Gallery 8's second level will be immediately impressed by some larger sculptural works by James Stewart. Safia, a portrait bust of an older man from Morocco that is two times life-sized, showcases the artist's incredibly sensitive eye and hand. Cast in bronze, the light patina retains the colour and texture of natural clay. The subject's lined face and bemused expression suggest years of hard living and a deep humanity, with an air of both skepticism and generosity toward the outsider.

Another Moroccan scene that carries some Christmas connotations is Nuweiba, portraying a young boy on a large camel. Stewart captures an evocative moment that contrasts the boy's softer presence with the hardened, sinewy camel, with its head stretched upward in opposition to the rider's and curled in introspection. Every tendon and bone seems to be visible through the animal's skin, in a remarkable understanding of anatomy and form.

Those who are searching for artworks in the "small" theme will find an entire collection by Adam Noonan fits the bill with charm. His dozen or so local landscapes in oil on board tend to capture the full-bodied golden light of late afternoon. This glow is further intensified by the works' smaller surface and heavy black frames, while the

quiet scenes of heritage homes and country lanes are utterly charming.

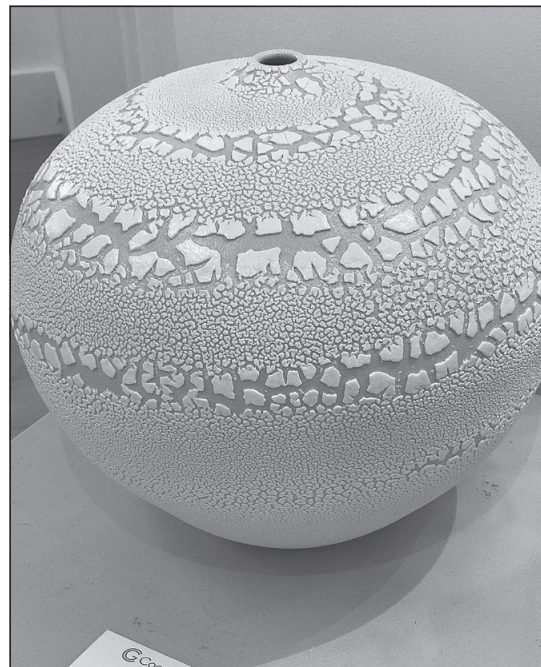
Shelley Wuitchik has a pair of 10-by-10 encaustic paintings that combine organic forms with a perfectly employed colour palette. Jelly Joy 4 and 5 are abstracted underwater gardens with golden seaweed and marine blue tones set off by touches of vibrant orange and a Caribbean sea-blue. While the scenes are ocean inspired, they also call to mind the imagined expanses of outer space.

A recently transplanted ceramic artist named Janus makes a fine addition to the Gallery 8 team, both as an artist and as a welcoming staff member. She has a range of decorative and sculptural pieces at the two galleries; small works shown at Gallery 8 include three framed raku impressions of animals. Janus lets smoke provide much of the tonal depth to these works, which feel expressive and natural. That feeling is likewise found in small sculptures of torsos that drip with texture and flow into draped skirts. She shows a different but very intriguing side to her work in stylized figurative sculptures inspired by mythology, on view at Coast Gallery.

Avril Kirby's signature series Conversations With Thomas is getting much deserved attention this month, since it has been featured in a Salt Spring Public Library exhibition and talk along with pieces being shown at Artcraft Winter. The works are a collaboration between family members separated by some 200 years of history — Kirby established the dialogue by layering her photographs onto her great-grandfather's drawings. Some particularly fine examples of the series are up at Gallery 8, including a woodland scene where Kirby places a wall of ghostly tree trunks behind her ancestor's dynamic sketch of twisting trunk and branches. An impressionist splash of colour in fall leaves is perfect in its sparing adornment.

Long-time gallery stalwart Bill Boyd is known for impressive technical skills that enable him to create large-scale vessels in perfect proportion and for his jewel-like crystalline glazing. An orb-shaped vessel with a tiny round mouth shows a lovely counter balance with its crusty matte finish. The "Crawling White" glaze breaks apart in tiny cells with a wider strip that spirals around the orb for satisfying contrast.

Also showing prowess and refinement after long experience with her chosen materials is Karen Reiss. Her towering ceramic sculpture Cause and Conditions is a complex work. Round forms that are splitting open and embedded with seashells speak both to the wonders of nature and provide a lament against environmental collapse in our oceans.



PHOTOS BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Ceramic artworks at Gallery 8 include, from left, a Bill Boyd vessel with unique glazing and two sculptures by new gallery artist Janus.



Capital Regional District

CRD

Cedars of Tuam Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Ensuring that public health and safety protocols are followed, a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting will be held. There will be limited capacity at the venue with a maximum of 10 people in-person, including members of the Commission and staff.

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3055 (Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2003) residents within the Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Area are invited to attend:

Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Friday, January 14, 2022

Time: 10:00 am

Place: Creekside Meeting Room
108-121 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3055, real property owners or residents in the Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2022.

Total membership on the committee is two plus the Electoral Area Director (one member must be an owner of real property; and one member may be a resident). There are two positions expiring December 31, 2021.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3055 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Any questions about this matter should be directed to Shayla Burnham, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538.4304 or email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

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NOTICE OF OFFICE CLOSURE

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE SALT SPRING ISLANDS TRUST!

The Salt Spring Islands Trust Office will be closed to the public from Monday, December 27, 2021 through Monday, January 3, 2022.

Regular office hours will resume at 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 4, 2022.


We look forward to serving you in the New Year.

To leave a message, please call 250-537-9144 or email, ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca

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Obituaries



Victoria Linda Hadessa Mihalyi
 (AKA Vicki Miller)
 1952 ~ 2021

Victoria has flown up into the wide blue sky. Famous on Salt Spring Island for her Flying Dreams Productions, such as HuM, The Dharma According to Fifi, and SpeakEasy, Victoria brought Aerial Arts to Salt Spring, borne aloft ever since. Countless dance and aerial artists have been inspired by her work here—she was a consummate athlete, dancer, martial artist... if this list went on it would fill the page!

As with many islanders, Victoria had an extra-ordinary life before she re-invented herself here. Born in Toronto, April 23, 1952, she married Max Miller at 20, and has enjoyed a flourishing love with him ever since. Known as Vicki Miller, she was a powerful animal rights activist and rescuer for many years, swerving Canadian beliefs toward mercy to the protein-providers we forget. Unto herself, and ever-amplified by her faithful Max, she was a Force.

Her long-time Toronto friend Lynne Thomas wrote this: "You took over the Humane Society and made people take notice of the suffering. You brought animals rights to Canada. (Yes, there were others [PETA co-founder Ingrid Newkirk, SPCA ally Jim Strecker...] but you led the charge.) You graced the cover of Toronto Life, saved so many beings from being tortured inside labs, and you made people look at what was on their dinner plates. Then you wrote a novel, ["Tribe of Star Bear"] competed in Tai Kwon Do tournaments as a black belt, studied Golden Shield Qi Gong for five years and taught the art of Aerial Flying..."

Her old friend goes on to describe Victoria's many shining facets... her work inspired entrepreneurs who went on to create the "cruelty-free" icon on cosmetics, such as the Body Shop and others, hailing back to the 80's, pioneers cut from the same cloth. She was a practicing Buddhist in her later years, a gardener, and wise friend... When asked in her final hour what message she'd have for friends and loved ones afar, she said, "I love you. Only love."

She is deeply loved and missed by her devoted husband, Max, just shy of their 50th year together. She is also dearly loved and missed by her sister Rosemary (Rosie), and sisters-in-law Cyndy and Cyd; also many loving nieces, nephews, human friends around the world, and of course, the entire animal realm. Please no flowers: donate to any animal welfare support group of your choice if you feel so moved.

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries


Obituaries

In loving memory of
Joseph Gerald Langdon
 October 4, 1954 - November 26, 2021

Joseph Gerald Langdon died November 26th 2021 in Ladysmith BC. Joe left us surrounded by people who loved him very much; his brother Gary, sister-in law Paulette, sisters Sue, Leigh and Leslie, and many, many nieces and nephews.

Joe was born October 4, 1954, in New Westminster, B.C. He was the son of Jack and Doris Langdon. Joe was a kind and caring man who was loved dearly by his large family and many friends. Joe had a very diverse working life. He worked throughout BC and Alberta at logging, machine operating, farming, fishing, and carpentry. Joe took great pride in being a very hard worker. Joe was known as someone who would give anyone a helping hand, especially his family. Joe has left us with many stories to remember him by.


He will be sadly missed by us all.



Obituaries

Obituaries

Susan Bloom
 1936 - 2021



Susan died peacefully in her beloved Castle by the Sea on December 6th, 2021.


The flag on her dock has been lowered to half mast as friends and family remember this remarkable woman.

Her philanthropic work began as a young woman and continued up until her very last day - working to preserve and protect some of the most amazing wild places for future generations. She worked tirelessly and was genuinely committed to the protection of wildlife, their habitats, and the protection of ancient forests and oceans. During the past 35 years, she generously supported her Salt Spring Island community (often behind the scenes) - she will be missed immensely.

Susan believed strongly in grassroots organizing and worked to help small groups of passionate people do extraordinary things.

Over and Out Mama Bear.


Coming Events




Celebrating the Ancient Pagan Rite of **Saturnalia** from Dec. 17 to Dec. 24, highlighted by the Winter Solstice, 7:59 am Dec. 21.

We wish our friends & neighbours enjoyment of the longer, brighter days!

Andy & Caroline Hickman



Celebrations



Birthday Wishes

Look who's 60...
Sargent Cydney

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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

An exuberant and brazen mood has been extra active these past weeks. Yet, as the Moon culminates, be careful of a 'go big or go home' attitude. Attending to your practical affairs has and continues to take centre stage as you focus to receive returns for your efforts over the years. Venus retrograde could overemphasize material ambitions, so aim for balance.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Themes of change and transformation linked to your public and professional life continue to shake your world. These may include some pleasant surprises as a wave of positive influence comes to the rescue. Yet, you will still have to exercise discipline and contraction if you are to meet the opportunities of expansion implied.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

As the Moon waxes to full in your sign, circumstances will nudge you to balance self-assertion with desires for harmony on relationship fronts. This process could inspire new visions, philosophies and understanding. Dealing with practical affairs, meanwhile adds a sobering note with reminders that death and endings are a part of life.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Health is ever an important topic and remains a central theme for you. As you undergo a steady process of returns for past lifestyle habits you are given the opportunity to understand. Of course, you can also make changes now. Be willing to reach out to others more focused and knowledgeable in this regard such as a wellness coach or guideline.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

Creative inspiration and social expansion combine to uplift your spirits. While the need to be committed to making key changes remains, this is a time for some celebration. The change part requires some measure of surrender and adaptation to the changing times. Work inwardly to prepare mentally and emotionally to put flexibility and willingness on alert.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

The Gemini Full Moon will shine its light on your career and social status in general this week. Your focus is sober and practical as you implement strategic thinking and actions. This includes financial interests and investments. A push to expand your outreach is featured and will become increasingly apparent and overlap into 2022.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

The urge to go on an adventure must contend with more sobering realities close to home. You might be wondering how necessary it is to travel and is it worth the effort and/or expense. Redirecting your focus to other activities that can satisfy the itch to experience some form of liberation may be the answer.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Weighing your options and doing the math is a likely focus of late. Diversifying your financial portfolio or opportunities to stimulate new streams is featured. Where, when and how to best invest your time, energy and money are prominent questions on your mind. This trend will not only continue, it will deepen as well.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Whether by choice or circumstance, you have and continue to take some strong leads and initiatives. Practical considerations are guiding your focus. You are determined to work smarter than harder and are busy analyzing how best to do it. Exchanging ideas and strategies with significant others feels important and necessary.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

By the end of this week the Sun will enter your sign marking Winter Solstice. This annual transit tends to activate new initiatives over the course of Capricorn time, which extends three weeks into January. Sun, Venus, Pluto and Mercury will gather to strengthen your resolve. Rest as you can, this next push will require all your reindeer power.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

A visionary activation occurred at the time of the eclipse and now it is culminating. Positively, it is synchronizing with creative inspirations. Yet, these are likely to lead you inward more than to venture out. Happy to analyze the world, plan and strategize from behind the scenes, you may not emerge from your den much despite the festive season.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

The full light of Luna will shine brightly in your skies illuminating new insights and realizations. These might include better understanding the workings of your subconscious mind. Discussions about dreams both experienced at night and regarding the future are in the script. Expect to be seen and heard, so think twice before committing words.

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ISLAND LIFE

FUNDRAISER

Sneakers go extra mile for food bank

Prediction Run tops \$1,200 in final event of the year

BY SUSAN GORDON
SALT SPRING SNEAKERS

A merry band of Salt Spring Sneakers and friends braved damp, chilly weather on Saturday, Dec. 4 for the group's annual Prediction Run.

Participants run or walk a five or 10-kilometre route, making a donation in advance of the start, with all funds going to the Salt Spring Island Harvest Food Bank.

Athletes are not allowed to wear their usual timing devices, having provided the official timer — this year managed by Eric Ellis — with a prediction of how long it will take them to complete



PHOTO COURTESY SS SNEAKERS

Salt Spring Sneakers running club members at their Prediction Run.

the route. The course remains a mystery until the morning of the event, but begins and finishes on Walker's Hook Road, near the home of the hosts, Eric and Julie van Soeren, who are long-time members of the Sneakers.

Prizes were awarded to those

whose finish was slower than predicted, and those who managed to shave a lot more time off their jaunt than predicted.

Most Predictably Advantaged was won by Mary Freeman, who was 46 seconds slower than the time she had predicted. Most Pre-

dictably Disadvantaged was a tie between John Tulip and Anne Synnes, who were 9 minutes, 46 seconds faster than their predetermined time. And while the event was not a race — in the classic sense of "racing" — it was hard for at least two Sneakers to avoid the competitive urge. Dashing for a fast finish in the 10K were Jill Thompson and Pat Peron, tying for first place with a time of 50:26.

The runners and walkers enjoyed a warm fire, brunch, prize-giving and general revelry at the after-party, thrilled to be a part of a new record amount of money raised by the Prediction Run. Organizer Julie van Soeren was pleased to deliver a cheque for \$1,220 to the food bank, wrapping up Sneakers club events for 2021.

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what's on this week



Wed. Dec. 15
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Music Presents: Arcadia. Featuring students from the guitar class, composition class, GISPA music and the GISS jazz combo. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Music Bingo. Wednesdays at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.
Festival of Trees. Bring food bank donations and admire decorated Christmas trees in the Harbour House Hotel lobby.

VIA ZOOM

Check Mates Teen Chess Club. 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.

Thur. Dec. 16
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Music Presents: Arcadia. See Wednesday listing.
Open Mic and Jam. At the Legion. 7 p.m. (Preceded by the Turkey Draw at 5 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

Blue Christmas. A service of reflection for those who find the season difficult or have lost a loved one. All Saints By-the-Sea. 4:45 to 5:45 p.m.
Festival of Trees. See Wednesday listing.

Fri. Dec. 17
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Chorale's Wind in the Willows Food Bank Fundraiser. Choral music, carol singing and story reading by special guest Chris Humphreys. ArtSpring. 7 p.m. All proceeds benefit the Salt Spring Food Bank.

Fri. Dec. 17
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Van Dangos. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the Meat Draw at 5 p.m.)
Simone and Mike. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday listing.

Sat. Dec. 18
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tom Hooper. At Moby's Pub. 8:30 to 11:30 p.m.
Ugly Christmas Sweater Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the Meat Draw at 5 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Farm Stand Light Up & Tour. Second-annual self-guided farm stand shopping event. See Farm Stands, Farmers and Foodies of Salt Spring Island on Facebook for a printable map.
Festival of Trees. See Wednesday listing.

Sun. Dec. 19
ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Farm Stand Light Up & Tour. See Saturday listing.
Festival of Trees. See Wednesday listing.

VIA ZOOM

Winter Solstice – a Celebration of the Light. Ceremony of blessings using visualization, nature mandalas and music. Via Zoom from 3 to 5 p.m. Register at staroftheseasi@gmail.com for the Zoom link and further details.

Mon. Dec. 20
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Merry Monday. Carol singing led by Valdy in the Salt Spring Mercantile parking lot. 6:15 p.m. "Masked, muffled and merry."

ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See Wednesday listing.

Tue. Dec. 21
ACTIVITIES

Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.
Festival of Trees. See Wednesday listing.

Wed. Dec. 22
ACTIVITIES

Festival of Trees. See last Wednesday's listing.

Wed. Dec. 22
ONLINE

Daniel Lapp's 18th Annual Home for Christmas Concert. An online, cross-country, multi-media celebration premiering via the Victoria Conservatory of Music's YouTube channel. 7 p.m. See <https://vcm.bc.ca/event/daniel-lapps-home-for-christmas/>



Merry Monday
Carol singing with Valdy
The 2021 "Masked, Muffled and Merry" version.
Dec. 20 at 6:15 pm in the SS Mercantile parking lot.
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THE FRITZ CINEMA

Eternals runs Friday, Dec. 17 through Tuesday, Dec. 21, nightly at 7 p.m. plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See 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** in the gallery in Grace Point Square, with more works at **Coast Gallery**, 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 Saturday, Dec. 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

• **Heather Webb** has artwork at **Dragonfly Art Supplies** this month.
• **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.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Island Printmakers** present **Foot Stomping Prints** in the **ArtSpring** lobby until Dec. 16, on Tuesdays through Thursdays, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. only.
• **ART can HELP** sale of work by **Julia Lucich** to benefit **Food Banks Canada** and the **Canadian Red Cross.** Online at julialucichart.com/art-can-help/ through December.



YOUTH ACTIVITIES

Library's young volunteers make digital waves

Teen group rocks TikTok and much more

BY LAVONNE LEONG
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Many things went quiet during the pandemic. But for our library's teen volunteers, it was a chance to branch out.

Volunteering as a teenager for the Salt Spring Island Public Library (SSIPL) used to be a matter of shelving books, helping run face-to-face programs for smaller kids, and the like. But when COVID-19 hit, many of those things were no longer possible. The library's operations had to evolve, and the teen program evolved with it.

Case in point: As of this writing, Vancouver Public Library's TikTok account has 643 followers, and the SSIPL account has 1,700.

How did our local library end up with more followers on the influential social media and video-sharing platform than there are teenagers on-island? Maia Cassie, age 15, who creates the lion's share of the library's TikTok posts, says she builds those posts with audiences and algorithms, which puts TikTok posts in viewers' feeds based on common interests, in mind: "It's partly algorithms. What I try to do is use songs or audios that are popular, so people are more likely to see it. And it's also about networking, looking at the pages of other libraries, commenting on their posts, getting in touch individually with people."

Now, just as libraries have become about much more than books — at SSIPL, even with many programs still on pause, you can borrow musical instruments, use a 3-D printer, or



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Some of the library's teen volunteers meet on a recent Saturday before decorating the library for the season: From left, standing is Maia Cassie, library technician Amy Trepanier and Max Wild, and Matilda Colvin, seated.

reserve a meeting room — volunteering as a teen is about much more than shelving.

Today, the library's cadre of about 20 active youth volunteers run the library's teen blog, Instagram account and literary zine (The Bookworm), compile its Spotify playlists, and host webinars on politics, the environment and other topics. The most recent web event was one of a series of youth-led conversations with our member of B.C.'s Legislative Assembly.

"We talked about the housing crisis on Salt Spring, and Fairy Creek, and how different parts of government need to be more connected," says Matilda Colvin, 15, the series' organizer. "It wasn't just relevant to teens; it was relevant to everyone, but it was cool that this was a bunch of teens, with no adults, talking directly to Adam Olsen."

Youth can still participate in-person — for example, when you walk past the library's "Christmas tree of books," you'll have teen volunteers to thank for that — but teen volunteers can contribute from anywhere.

"We have someone who just moved to England but is still volunteering for us," says Amy Trepanier, the library's teen program coordinator. She's talking about Isaac Lewis-Corke, who under the username wackyzacie2 hosts a library-sponsored podcast called Minecraft for Beginners, in which he takes newbies through the ins and outs of the popular educational building game.

The benefits run both ways. Behind the scenes, the library's tech and personnel infrastructure can support teens in building

life skills that will later come in handy.

"If one of them initiates a program, like Matilda did, they'll have access to Canva," a design layout program," says Trepanier. Then they put in the marketing sweat equity: "They'll go into Canva, create the promotional materials, upload them to Instagram, send them to me, I put them on our Facebook accounts, and they create posters that some of our Saturday students distribute around town, and get put up on all our display boards."

Every teen volunteer interviews with Trepanier, then enters or creates a role according to their interests. Max Wild, a ninth grader at GISS, loves art, so he was the go-to person when the library needed a logo for their new chess club.

Wild, who also makes art for The Bookworm, says he's learned a lot already.

"It's a good work experience. I've learned how to take feedback and work in a proper environment."

Cassie, the library's TikTok mastermind, says, "I started volunteering because I needed some service hours, but once I started volunteering at the library, I realized it's not all manual labour; it's making fun content and sharing ideas with other people."

Colvin agrees that one of the best facets of volunteering is creating connections. Of the MLA Olsen webinars, she says, "People think, 'Oh my gosh, I have to talk to a politician and be all smart about politics and invested in government,' but really you can come to the session and just listen, or ask one question. It's just an opportunity to talk to your local representative and do a function of democracy that should happen more often."

Volunteering as a young person creates "a sense of community engagement," says Trepanier. "That was really lacking when I was a teenager [growing up elsewhere in Canada]. If you'd asked me then, 'How are you connected to your community,' I would have had no clue what you were talking about. Feeling like you belong, is huge."

The library's annual giving campaign is happening now, and runs through the end of the year. Look here for ways to contribute: <https://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop/holds/annual-giving-campaign/>.

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Season's Greetings

Advertising Deadline Change

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be closed at noon on Fri Dec 24 and all day Mon Dec 27, and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Tuesday, Dec 28.

ADVERTISING DEADLINES FOR THE GULF ISLANDS DRIFTWOOD

Wednesday Dec 29 edition will be as follows:

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