

Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

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- INSERTS:**
- Country Grocer
 - Thrifty Foods
 - Pharmasave
 - Home Hardware

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BMO Nesbitt Burns
Joni Ganderton
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GROW YOUR COMMUNITY

Bum Local

PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON
Seagulls gather on a dock on the west side of Salt Spring Island on a winter's day.

Our 2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

starts on page 7.

See all the highlights of the year!



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PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

NEW DIGS: Santa was able to return to meeting with kids this holiday season thanks to a special house provided by and set up outside Country Grocer. COVID-19 safety protocols were in place, including use of a special candy cane dispenser.

PENDER ISLAND

Conservation campaign underway

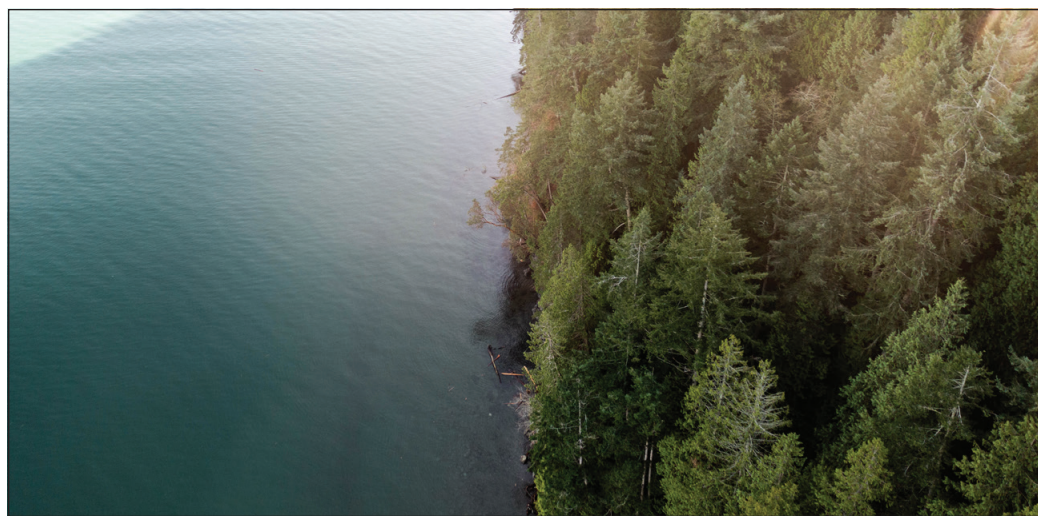


PHOTO BY ALEX HARRIS/RAINCOAST CONSERVATION FOUNDATION

A birds eye view of the foreshore and coastal Douglas-fir forest of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest, a 45 acre property on North Pender Island, which conservation organizations are hoping to purchase and protect.

\$2.18-million fundraising goal set

BY EMLIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two conservation organizations are aiming to raise more than \$2 million to buy 45 acres of oceanfront land on North Pender Island in order to protect the biodiverse and threatened ecosystems and species that reside there.

Securing the property with a \$2.18-million purchase price is the second joint conservation effort by the Raincoast Conservation Foundation and the Pender Islands Conservancy Association after buying 13 acres of land on the island last year. These actions are part of the foundation's Forests for the Future initiative, where buying private undeveloped land for ecological protection is combined with restoration efforts, advocacy, ecological investigation and community science initiatives.

"The value of this land lies particularly in its diversity and proximity to other protected areas on the landscape," said Erin O'Brien, community outreach and project coordinator with the Pender Islands Conservancy.

The property just above Razor Point (KELÁ_EKE in SENCOTEN) is a link between a freshwater wetland, the upland forest and the shores of Plumber Sound.

The property is within the Coastal Douglas-fir biogeoclimatic zone, where over 99 per cent of the original forest was logged and only 11 per cent is currently protected.

More than 100 bird species have been detected on the property, the foundation stated, and its foreshore overlooks the habitat of the 74 endangered southern resident killer whales. The forest itself is made up of stands of grand fir, western red cedar, arbutus and coastal Douglas-fir.

The ecological communities, the unique groups of animal and plant species, in this zone are some of the most biodiverse in Canada, the conservation stated, and offer great carbon storage potential. Yet nearly all of the communities are listed as threatened or endangered by the province.

On the provincial Species & Ecosystem Explorer database, all but very few of the species in the Gulf Islands are listed as vulnerable to extinction, imperilled or critically imperilled, while many have already gone extinct.

"Securing this piece of a highly threatened ecosystem will provide ecological benefits far greater than would be expected from its size alone, because of the diverse coastal, upland forest, and wetland habitats and species it supports," O'Brien said.

The property has been named KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest to reflect the interconnection of land and sea.

"At this marine-terrestrial interface, nutrients from the forest enrich the marine waters while marine-derived nutrients are delivered to the forest by raven, kingfisher and otter, supporting the shallow soils in a cycle of reciprocity as ancient as the land itself," the foundation explained.

The plan to purchase the 45 acres is part of Forests for the Future, an ongoing initiative by Raincoast to protect large tracts of habitat in the Gulf Islands by "acquiring, protecting and restoring" parcels of undeveloped private lands. It's a critical time, the foundation stated, as development and climate change place huge pressure on the food security and living conditions of species in the region. By protecting the land these species live on, the goal is to improve their survival and build ecological resilience.

Shauna Doll, Gulf Islands forest project coordinator with Raincoast, said the property was not on the market when the foundation heard it was to be imminently developed. They approached the landowner with their conservation plans and signed a purchase agreement. They now have 18 months to reach their final fundraising goal.

Doll said she has been surprised by the generosity of donors to an initial fundraising campaign aimed at bringing in \$150,000. One donor offered \$75,000 in matching dollars, if Raincoast could raise the other \$75,000 by the end of 2021.

"The folks of Pender Island have shown up in a really big way already, and we've already raised \$27,000 in less than a week. I was floored," she said.

Together with individual donations, Raincoast plans to approach foundations and seek out grants to get to the \$2.18-million mark.

More details about the property and how to donate are available at www.raincoast.org/forest/.

ADOPT A PET TODAY!

From everyone here at the BCSPCA Salt Spring, we want to wish our community a very happy and healthy Holiday Season!

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TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

DEC 2021/JAN 2022 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
29	0225	2.5	8.2	2	0620	3.6	11.8
	0530	2.4	7.9		1024	3.2	10.5
	WE 1156	3.4	11.2		SU 1424	3.5	11.5
	ME 1941	0.8	2.6	DI 2230	-0.2	-0.7	
30	0348	2.9	9.5	3	0703	3.7	12.1
	0647	2.7	8.9		1130	3.2	10.5
	TH 1223	3.5	11.5		MO 1516	3.4	11.2
	JE 2019	0.4	1.3		LU 2316	-0.1	-0.3
31	0446	3.2	10.5	4	0743	3.7	12.1
	0802	3.0	9.8		1236	3.0	9.8
	FR 1256	3.5	11.5		TU 1610	3.3	10.8
	VE 2100	0.1	0.3		MA		
	1	0535	3.5		11.1	5	0003
	0915	3.2	10.5		0822	3.7	12.1
	SA 1336	3.5	11.1		WE 1345	2.9	9.5
	SA 2144	-0.1	-0.3		ME 1707	3.1	10.2

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG
CHRISTMAS CAROLLERS:
 The 50th anniversary production of Christmas With Scrooge could not go on in 2021 due to pandemic considerations, but that didn't stop some past cast members from carolling for residents of the Extended Care Unit at Lady Minto Hospital last Tuesday. A video of the 2019 version of Christmas With Scrooge is available through Vimeo. See the link attached to this photo on the gulfislandsdriftwood.com website or our Facebook page.

SALT SPRING ISLAND
RECYCLING DEPOT
 349 RAINBOW ROAD
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 for Christmas and New Year's.
 Regular hrs Tues-Sat 10-5

FERRIES

Route 6 online ferries petition created

Two ships proposed for Vesuvius-Crofton

BY GAIL SJUBERG
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring man who wants to see gridlock reduced on the Vesuvius-Crofton ferry route has created a Change.org petition to press BC Ferries for action.

David Courtney has proposed that when the MV Quinsam vessel is brought on to the route in the spring of 2022 that the MV Quinita also be kept in service to increase the number of sailings and capacity on what is known as Route 6.

As of Monday afternoon, the petition titled "2 Ferry Service for Vesuvius Bay to Crofton - The Fix for Route Six" had received 1,050 signatures.

Courtney said he was pleased with that level of support, especially considering that Crofton-area residents had not been made aware of it to date.

"It's plainly obvious to all that Route 6 is underserved," Courtney said on Monday. "This is the perfect moment in time to introduce a two-ferry service using the MV Quinsam and Quinita for the spring of 2022."

Courtney maintains that having two ships on Route 6 will reduce traffic congestion at both Vesuvius and Fulford Harbour terminals on Salt Spring, and at Crofton on Vancouver Island, whose community is impacted by long lineups of travelers on Chaplin Street. Space on the Fulford to Swartz Bay sailings will be freed up, he says, because north-end island residents would be more

2 Ferry Service for Vesuvius Bay to Crofton - The Fix for Route Six

Change.org petition site image.

likely to access southern Vancouver Island via Vesuvius rather than driving down to Fulford and waiting there for an hour before sailing times.

BC Ferries told the Driftwood for a Dec. 1 news story on the

subject that no terminal upgrades were planned to begin until the late 2020s, and that the 63-vehicle capacity, open-deck Quinsam was expected to adequately serve Route 6 for the foreseeable future.

COVID-19

More COVID cases detected in Gulf Islands

Island Health doing contact tracing

As COVID-19 cases rose around the province and the world due to the Omicron variant last week, Island Health issued a notice of potential exposure at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

The dates in question are Dec. 13, 14, 15 and 16.

As per Island Health policy, anyone who was deemed to be in close contact on those dates with people testing positive will be

notified directly by Island Health.

As well, Moby's Pub stated on its Facebook page on Dec. 26 that it had multiple positive cases amongst its staff, who are all double vaccinated and hang out together beyond their work schedule.

"We will remain closed until it is safe to re-open," they stated.

A number of new public health orders were brought in last week in an attempt to control the record number of COVID cases currently in the province.

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

NEW REPORTED COVID-19 CASES

	Week of 11/21 - 11/27	Week of 11/28 - 12/04	Week of 12/05 - 12/11	Week of 12/12 - 12/18
Southern Gulf Islands	2	5	4	8
Saanich Peninsula	28	18	24	43
Greater Victoria	50	51	171	280
Langford to Port Renfrew	22	17	28	56
Duncan Area	48	58	43	38
Chemainus to Nanaimo	26	50	32	10
Total	176	199	302	435

COMING SOON!

The GULF ISLANDS CONTRACTORS DIRECTORY
 will be published in January, watch for the magazine in your Gulf Islands Driftwood.

If you are building, renovating or repairing, this guide is essential in helping you find professional contractors and suppliers to help you get the job done right.

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OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Up for the task

Between the coronavirus pandemic and an acute housing and labour shortage — and their spiralling impacts — the year 2021 was arguably even more challenging than the year before.

While COVID-19 vaccines made it possible for life to return to normal in many respects and for loved ones to be reunited in some cases, for at least part of the year, the prospect of living with the virus, its mutations and impacts for the foreseeable future has been discouraging and frightening.

In light of that reality, it can be helpful to focus on positive actions taking place and how we can contribute further to them.

As Salt Spring RCMP quarterly statistics for 2021 have illustrated, mental health is at the root of

THE ISSUE: Challenges of 2021

WE SAY: We are equipped to make 2022 better

so much distress in the community. More than 16 per cent of RCMP calls between April 1 and Sept. 30 had a mental health origin. Yet efforts of groups like the Salt Spring Community Health Society and others to increase the community's capacity to offer peer support can go a long way towards offering essential caring and stability. Stay tuned for news about mental health summits organized for the island in coming months.

Economic hardship and rising food and housing costs have hit the island as elsewhere. But again, Salt Spring Island Community Services Society's food security programs and Copper Kettle Community Partnership volunteers do their best to help feed those most in need. Up until Jan. 2, people can take non-perishable food items to put under trees at the Festival of Trees event in the Harbour House Hotel, or make cash donations to Copper Kettle there.

The housing shortage and erosion of the island's workforce has been devastating in many respects. But it's clear that the powers that be — and much of the community — understand the situation and are now working hard to improve it. Let's hope that results in at least some safe and affordable housing being created before the year is out.

Salt Spring Islanders have certainly learned to be more resilient in the past year. If we can learn to be more understanding and kind, and to support each other more fully, in the next 12 months, regardless of the differences that divide us, we may come out an even better and stronger community on the other side.

Happy New Year, everyone.



It's time for the big talk

BY FRANTS ATTORP

This is not right. The debate about the future of Salt Spring should not be taking place primarily in the media.

By now, a great many are aware there is disagreement about the direction in which trustees are taking the island. "An argument surrounded by water" may indeed be a fair description.

And public discourse is turning ugly. In a Dec. 22 opinion piece in the Driftwood (and first published online the week before), trustee Laura Patrick dismissed concerns about housing policies as "fear mongering." Her article appeared at the same time as a commentary by Jessica Terezakis that levelled similar accusations, but in a more condescending manner. This type of criticism creates a toxic atmosphere that discourages others from partaking in a vital discussion.

There is another, more civilized way to plan for the future. It's called a review of the official community plan, and it involves extensive public consultation in a neutral, government-sponsored forum where there is no pre-set agenda. This would provide a safe place for island residents to air

VIEWPOINT

their views without fear of recrimination. Other forms of input, such as questionnaires, can be used to make the review process more inclusive, but only if they are unbiased.

The Town of Qualicum Beach explains: "An official community plan (OCP) review involves significant public involvement from the beginning to the end so that goals and policies reflect community concerns and hopes for the future. During an OCP update, the review process is open, transparent and requires broad input from residents, elected officials, staff and stakeholders."

So where is the review of our OCP and the attendant public consultation? There has been little or no discussion of the big picture, and no invitation for the public to engage on that level.

Our current OCP has not been reviewed since it was adopted 14 years ago. It states that "approximately every five years, the Local Trust Committee should consider whether a community review and update of this plan is needed."

In 2019, trustees considered a targeted OCP

review focusing on their strategic priorities — housing, protection of Coastal Douglas-fir, water sustainability, and the Ganges Village Area Plan — but soon abandoned the idea in favour of addressing each issue individually through four separate projects.

While this approach has practical advantages, it fractures public consultation, and fails to create an umbrella vision for the future. What do islanders want Salt Spring to look like in 10, 20 or 50 years from now? And how will those local aspirations fit in with the rapidly evolving Trust Policy Statement, which is supposed to protect the Gulf Islands in perpetuity for all British Columbians?

The measures now being planned, particularly on the housing front, will likely require major amendments to our OCP. And this could be just the opening act. When do amendments become so substantial the original vision is lost?

Whether trustees choose to continue with the current four-pronged approach or launch a full-scale OCP review, it's time they hosted a big talk with the community about the future of this island.

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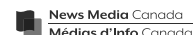
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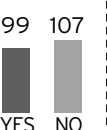
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you think 2022 will be a better year than 2021?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does the idea of a white Christmas make you happy?



Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

ISLAND VOICES

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“There’s such a wealth of human imagination everywhere to get inspired by and draw upon.”

JULIA IREDALE, CHILDREN’S BOOK ILLUSTRATOR

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

What was your highlight of 2021?

TOM HOOPER



My kids’ visit from Ontario this summer.

CATHY CANOVILLE



The opening of Fields and the opportunity for me to work there.

GAIL GULAYETS



We got a puppy and a grandbaby this year.

STEFANIE DONCHAK AND CHRIS PALKO



We sold our family home, bought an RV and moved from Ontario to Salt Spring with six people and three pets.

MIRANDA BANTEL



We’ve got another dog: A yellow lab named Sunny.

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

Health care is a human right

Amanda Spottiswoode’s suggestion in her Driftwood 15 “Turn up heat on the unvaxxed” Viewpoint that we triage health care based on vaccination status is dystopian.

Canada’s universal, publicly funded health-care system is founded on the most basic humanitarian principle: health care is a human right, whether it be for an addict living on the street requiring emergency care from an overdose or an exemplary yoga instruc-

tor requiring breast cancer treatment. Limiting access to essential care based on lifestyle choices would implicate most of us. How many of us are too sedentary, eat too many sweets, drink too much alcohol, smoke, or engage in unprotected sex or extreme sports? In addition, whether correct or not, some see not getting vaccinated as a healthy choice, not a vice.

As someone with an autoimmune disorder, I am grateful for the vaccination rollout, which has significantly reduced potential hospitalizations and deaths. (According to the B.C. COVID-19 update, Dec. 15, from Nov. 9 to Dec. 9 the unvaccinated accounted

for 68 per cent of hospitalizations and 78 per cent of critical care admissions in B.C., despite representing around one-fifth of the eligible population.)

Regardless, Canada’s medicare system, including our network of non-profit hospitals, is part of the “common good,” along with publicly funded roads, transportation and parks, schools, community recreation centres, museums and libraries, police protection and public safety, as well as civil liberties, such as the freedom of speech and association, clean air and water. The sanctity of the common good is a counterweight to the socioeconomic disparities and precarities that

erode social cohesion and democracy. Fortunately, the Canada Health Act requires provinces to provide non-discriminatory, universally accessible health care to receive federal funding, stating “the provincial and territorial plans must cover all residents,” and “access must be based on medical need and not the ability to pay.”

The universality of Canada’s health-care system, which seeks to provide access to all as a right and a public good, is foundational to a healthy sense of what it means to be Canadian.

SAM MILLER,
SALT SPRING

MORE OPINION continued on 6

True confessions sprout from the compost bin

First of all, a little disclaimer. If you are weak in the stomach or have a hard time watching gruesome scenes, it would be best for you to just turn the page and read another article. This column details the shocking true confessions about the sordid activities that are carried out regularly deep within the innards of your compost bin.

On the surface, the principles of composting seem quite simple. For most people, it’s just a matter of scraping unwanted food off your plates into a bucket and then tossing these leftovers and table scraps into a pile somewhere outside your dwelling. Of course you can accessorize your compost with some of those questionable food items that have found their way onto the door of your fridge or far back on some of the lower shelves.

You know what I’m talking about: besides the obvious milk that has soured and the curdled cream, there’s that tube of anchovy paste that was used just once back before the turn of the millennium; the browning block of tofu that is well past its “best before” date; all those jars of homemade relish, chutneys and jams whose labels have long ago decomposed and peeled off and which are now incubating some kind of alien species of lime-green mold; and, of course, the ubiquitous scuzzy plastic baggie filled with slimy decaying cilantro that just kept sitting in your refrigerator because nobody wanted to deal with it.

Some food scraps are better left out of the compost and disposed of some other way. Leftover de-kernelled corn cobs, for instance, seem to survive unchanged for decades and will probably still be intact when future archaeologists come digging for signs of civilization. Banana peels sporting brand name sticky labels such as Chiquita and Del Monte are also troublesome as there is a chance these labels may reappear where you least likely expect (like inside a head of cabbage). Bones are another no-no. Turkey bones have more of a chance of growing into new



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

turkeys than breaking down to produce nutrient-rich soil.

The object of composting, I repeat, is to create an environment where the cellular structures of living organisms break down into simpler building blocks which when mixed together provide the ideal medium for plant growth. For this reason, you also don’t want to include items that will feed and grow instead of decay. Notorious for this kind of misbehaviour are avocado pits, which revel in the ability to split apart, thusly allowing new growth to sprout from the inner core. Uncooked potato bits act in a similar manner and, if you are not careful, may take over your compost bin and turn it into next year’s spud patch.

If all goes according to plan, you hope all this decaying organic matter that didn’t make it into your pie hole will miraculously turn into rich nutritious soil that will nourish a new crop of fruit, vegetables and lush greenery. The key to making this happen is layering and not allowing the compost to dry out. Layering means piling different strata of organic non-food materials, such as sawdust, wood ash, kelp and other types of seaweed, and shredded newspaper flyers advertising special sales that have long ago expired, on top of one another. You can also use dead leaves, grass clippings, biochar and half-chewed apples left behind by renegade deer that have breached your fence line.

There’s a lot going on in your compost once you scrape below the surface. Not all veggies get along with each other. You’ve probably heard of

companion planting where some vegetables grow better when in proximity to others. Well, the same thing is true inside your compost. Leafy vegetables prefer to stay clear of root crops. Pineapples would rather not mix with other fruit that grow on trees. Kumquats are generally snobby while artichokes wear their hearts on their sleeves. Nobody wants to be anywhere near the hot peppers, and the pole beans are looked on derisively as freeloading hangers-on. Broccoli are pretty laid-back and spend most of their decaying time pondering the moral dilemma of whether their name is spelled with two C’s and one L or the other way around.

Of course, the entire sociological order and class system of the common pile of compost is thrown into total disarray when you decide it’s time to turn the compost. Not only are the decaying morsels of matter upended topsyturvy into a state of confusion, but the worms, insects and microbes which do the heavy lifting in your compost are stunned into suspended animation for a few days.

Nevertheless, when order is restored, the earthworms, flies and bacteria, working together in unison, return to break down the solids into smaller particles which can then undergo chemical reactions to help move along the process of soil building. In fact, the earthworms release castings, an organic form of fertilizer also known as “worm poo,” that enrich the compost and improve soil aeration, drainage, as well as water retention.

There you have it: the secret life of compost.

Nobody asked me, but it’s fair to conclude that your compost bin can be seen as a microcosm for the world at large. In fact, the earth is really one big heap of compost. Sure, it can get smelly sometimes, but if you just mix a little bit of this with a little clump of that, give it a stir, keep it moist and let it heat up with its own energy, you will find that decay transforms into growth. That’s how it goes: as the compost turns.

Scientific tests help clear vaccine confusion

BY REUBEN KAUFMAN

INDEPTH

When one equates “science” with “truth” there can be a bit of a misunderstanding as to what that means. Let me explain this using the recent COVID vaccine controversy as an example.

To demonstrate whether or not the vaccine works, you measure the frequency of COVID illness/death in a large number of vaccinated and unvaccinated people, dividing both groups into various categories that might influence the result: vaccine manufacturer and age-group are just two obvious categories. When you get differing percentage outcomes between the vaccinated and unvaccinated people, how do you know that the difference is

“significant” and not just due to chance?

Think of measuring the frequency of heads and tails when tossing a coin. If it's an honest coin we obviously expect each frequency to be 50 per cent. Well, I have just tossed a quarter 50 times (honestly, I did!), and the result was 52 per cent heads and 48 per cent tails; not exactly 50 per cent, but presumably that small difference is due to a chance deviation that is not “statistically significant?” How is this relevant to our issue?

Well, If the vaccine has no effect on reducing COVID, one would expect, in a randomized controlled trial, that the ultimate frequency of COVID would be the same in the vaccinated and unvaccinated groups. But as with coin tossing, you don't expect the frequencies to be exactly the same. But if you do get a lower frequency of COVID in the vaccinated group, how does one determine whether or not this reduction is really “statistically significant?”

In science we conduct a so-called t-test, the mathematical details of which I won't bore you with here! In essence, it tells you the probability of getting the result you did “by chance alone.” The usual

convention is to call the difference between the two treatments as “statistically significant” if there is no more than a five per cent chance that it is similar to a coin toss. The efficacy of the current COVID vaccines easily meets this criterion. So although one might be able to suggest that there might be other problems with the vaccine that might affect some people, one should not doubt that the vaccine is generally “effective” in protecting most people from an adverse reaction to COVID.

OK, Reuben, does that mean you think that anti-vaxxers are idiots? No, not at all! As is often stated, if someone does not want to inject something into their bodies, they shouldn't be forced to.

On the other hand, those who wish to avoid vaccination currently have to put up with certain well-known restrictions in the public domain, and that too is reasonable. One has the choice, but each choice comes with consequences.

There's another important message in all this. It is perfectly fine, even admirable, to write in opposition to some viewpoint. But please don't malign the author as part of the message. This is something one reads so often. Maligning the author does not strengthen your argument, it actually detracts from it.

The writer is a retired professor of biological sciences from the University of Alberta.

Dissecting COVID-19 death rates at home and around the world

BY MELODIE HERBERT

INRESPONSE

In response to the opinion piece authored by Manon Bolliger ND on Dec. 22, I would like to make a few comments.

Ms. Bolliger says that less than 0.3 per cent of cases are fatal from COVID-19. I believe this 0.3 per cent case fatality rate is an error.

On the Worldometer Covid website, <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/> the following information can be found. For simplicity I have rounded out the numbers.

If you take the number of deaths, and divide by the number of cases, then multiply by one hundred, you get the death rate per 100 cases. The calculations, as of Dec. 24, 2021, are as follows:

Place	# of cases	# of deaths	Deaths per million
World	278,000,000	5,400,000	693
USA	56,630,000	834,000	2,497
Canada	1,940,000	30,000	788
Israel	1,360,000	8,239	883
Sweden	1,270,000	15,200	1,494
Norway	370,100	1,257	229
Finland	230,400	1,500	270
Australia	292,500	2,200	84

DEATH RATE PER 100 CASES	
World.....	1.94%
USA.....	1.49%
Canada.....	1.54%
Israel.....	0.60%
Sweden.....	1.20%
Norway.....	0.34%
Finland.....	0.65%
Australia.....	0.75%

Although Norway comes close, none of the death rates are as low as 0.3 per cent, the number provided by Ms. Bolliger.

Looking at the number of deaths per million population, you see that the USA has 2,497, and Sweden has 1,494. These numbers are considerably higher than the others, and I think this reflects the following: In the United States, 30 per cent of the adult population have been reluctant to get vaccinated, and they have resisted social constraints on behaviour, more forcefully than in many other democratic countries. On the other hand, Sweden, contrary to most other G20 nations at the time, initially planned to allow the virus to spread, in an early effort to reach herd immunity. Approximately eight months into the pandemic, Sweden's leadership announced regret for that approach.

Australia has been successful in imposing tighter long-term social restrictions and restricting international travellers from their insular country. They have low case and death rates, and as a result I would expect that they have a smaller increase in health-care spending due to COVID. I would also speculate that Australia's health care systems have been impacted by COVID to a lesser degree compared to much of North America and Europe.

There are 222 countries on the Worldometer Covid website. I have selected 7 seven representative countries to include, plus the world totals. I have included countries that are economically stable, where life expectancy is in the upper 70s. I suggest that these countries are good comparisons for Canada.

In countries with lower socio-economic opportunities and large crowded populations living in poverty, life expectancy is much shorter, and the population mean age is much lower. In a younger population, the death rate has been shown to be lower, as many cases are among children. International news tells us that vaccine supplies in many countries have been limited and as a result, COVID has been spreading rapidly, while killing large numbers of the people in India, South Africa, South America and Eastern Europe.

The following list shows the deaths per million population as of Dec. 26th:

- India..... 343
- South Africa..... 1,502
- Mexico..... 2,282
- Brazi..... 2,879
- Croatia, Romania, Czechia, Slovakia each have over 3,000 deaths per million population.
- Hungary..... 3,980
- Bulgaria..... 4,443
- Peru..... 6,017

It is important to acknowledge that the actual number of cases listed for each country may be inaccurate, for many reasons, including shortages of testing materials, and unaccounted asymptomatic cases. Similarly, the numbers of deaths due to COVID are likely inaccurate. However, these are the numbers that are readily available to the general public.

Early in 2020, the average death rate per 100 cases of COVID was estimated to be two per cent. In Canada our death rate is now 1.54 per cent, thanks to early efforts at isolating the vulnerable, social distancing, restricted travel and masking. In 2021 the prompt distribution and uptake of vaccinations, recognition of the aerosolization of this virus, coupled with a responsive health-care system has been effective in lowering the curve of cases and deaths with the fourth wave, known as the Delta variant.

The small numbers of vaccine-hesitant Canadians should be encouraged by the evidence of success here at home, in keeping our death rate low and our health-care system afloat.

COVID vaccines, particularly the mRNA vaccines, have proven to be safe and effective at

preventing severe disease and death. Setbacks in the management of the pandemic have been a result of the rapid evolution of new variants and waning immunity to both the disease and the vaccines. Recent news tells us that the hospitalized cases are predominately the unvaccinated or the under-vaccinated. While there are side effects to the vaccine, the benefits far outweigh the risk.

As of December 2021, almost 9 billion vaccine doses

have been administered worldwide, with overwhelming evidence that these vaccines are saving countless lives while carrying far lower risks than the disease they're designed to prevent. People should be more concerned about potentially severe disease, death, or long haul symptoms of COVID, and waning immunity.

Let's not forget the terrible news of large freezer trucks beside American hospitals to hold cadavers, the triaging of ICU beds in Italy, the shortages of oxygen and the cremation fields in India, reflecting the overwhelmed health-care capacities that have occurred elsewhere. This pandemic has been well-managed in Canada. Nevertheless, the need to postpone elective surgeries again in B.C., beginning Jan. 4, 2022, is evidence that our health-care system is struggling and has been running at over-capacity for almost two years.

Coronavirus continues to be a formidable opponent that will require adaptation and ongoing research, to cope with the present and future variants. Curtailling the spread of this scourge requires widespread social cooperation.

On Dec. 24 I copied 278,000,000 cases and 5,400,000 deaths for the world. On Dec. 26 I find 280,000,000 cases and 5,416,000 deaths. That's two million new cases and 16 thousand new deaths in two days. This pandemic is an ongoing challenge.

The Omicron variant is now producing 2,500 new cases in B.C. daily. I suggest you stay informed, stay home, wear N95 masks when out for essential activities, and get your vaccinations as soon as possible.

The writer is a retired MD, family doctor and Salt Spring resident.



Rants

The mess in the above photo has been dumped, for some weeks now, at the corner of Blackburn and Fulford-Ganges roads. What possessed anyone to do this when the transfer station is located a kilometre up Blackburn Road? This is not the first time this corner has been used for this purpose. This is shameful and disrespectful to this beautiful island. Kids are taught to clean up after themselves. Maybe a few adults should go back to school. *Derek and Jenny Barrio*

Roses

A dozen Christmas wreaths to

the team that replaced our cash box on the Park Drive/Kanaka farm stand to raise money year around for international charities. Thanks to student Harlan Harris for fabricating the new secure box, teacher Darrell Watson for overseeing the project, and to David Holt for the inspiration, coordination and instillation. You rock!

Salt Spring Island Public Library sends heart-felt thanks to the participants of the island book clubs that supported our annual campaign and interlibrary loan program through the book club challenge. We wish you all happy reading in 2022!

2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

PULL OUT SECTION

pages 7-16

A month-by-month look back at 2021 through the pages of the Driftwood

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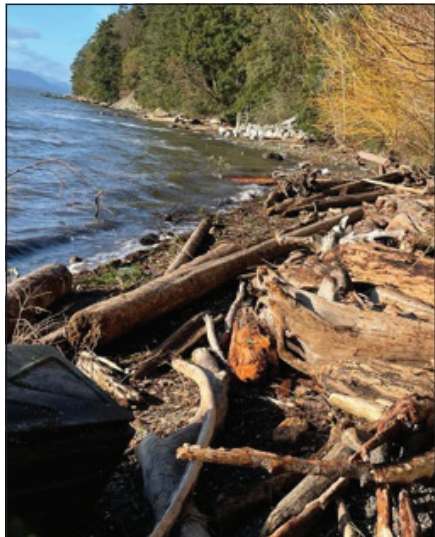


PHOTO SUBMITTED

Debris from oyster lease floats in Booth Bay washed up on the beach following a Jan. 13 storm.

January

- The average Salt Spring home value increased by more than six per cent over the previous year, reflecting strong interest from buyers for properties located throughout the Gulf Islands and on Vancouver Island. The average-valued single-family home on Salt Spring was provisionally set at \$681,074, an increase of 6.4 per cent compared to the previous year's \$640,401 valuation. Waterfront homes on Salt Spring became even more desirable, with values jumping 12.6 per cent from an average \$892,497 in 2020 to \$1,004,594.
- The first doses of Moderna coronavirus vaccine were expected to arrive on Salt Spring during the second week of January for immunization of high-risk health-care



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Drummond Park was blocked off to the public on Jan. 20 after a suspicious device resembling a pipe bomb was found by a passerby. Explosive specialists determined the item did not post a real threat.

workers and residents of long-term care facilities. Members of that high-priority group who were able to travel had also started having vaccinations done in Victoria.

- Salt Spring Islander Anne Marshall was told that she was a recipient of the Sovereign's Medal for Volunteers from the Governor General of Canada. The medal recognizes living Canadians who have made a significant, sustained and unpaid contribution to their community, in Canada or abroad.
- A Jan. 13 storm resulted in power outages as well as the sinking of a tug boat that caused a diesel fuel spill. The vessel owned by Wahl Marine Construction broke loose from its moorings off the north end of Salt Spring. Flotation blocks from oyster farm rafts also ended up littering Baker Beach as a result of high winds and tides.
- Salt Spring Trail Riders group mem-

bers initiated a petition calling on BC Parks to reverse course on wetland restoration work at Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park that had limited recreational trail use for many participants, including horseback riders.

- Salt Spring RCMP were called to Drummond Park on the morning of Jan. 20 after a suspicious device was observed at the park by a passerby. Sgt. Clive Seabrook said the cylindrical object was consistent with what a pipe bomb might look like, although the casing was plastic and not metal. RCMP explosive specialists from the Lower Mainland were called in to deal with the potential threat and determined it was not an explosive device. Drummond Park was closed to the public until about 5 p.m. and people were asked to avoid the area.
- The Capital Regional District (CRD) gave notice that some trees growing along a new pathway on Lower Ganges Road between Baker and Booth Canal

roads would be removed to improve safety for workers.

The CRD had tendered the construction contract for Phase 2 of the pathway between Central and Booth Canal to Don Mann Excavating the previous fall. Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman had acknowledged community concern around keeping large trees, but reported that WorkSafeBC regulations determined some trees deemed dangerous must be removed for work to continue.

- Shellfish harvesting at Burgoyne Bay was closed by emergency order on Jan. 21 due to a marine fuel spill. While harvesting in the inner part of the harbour is prohibited year-round due to sanitary contamination, the emergency closure extended the zone as far as Daffodil Point on the northern side of the bay, which impacted Cowichan Tribes' use of the resource.

- BC Ferries announced that a terminal upgrade project planned for Fulford Harbour in 2022-23 would be "pushed back significantly," and the scope of the upgrade was also undetermined. Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee (SSFAC) members were disappointed to hear the news, caused in part by the impact of COVID-19 on BC Ferries revenue.

"We're now 37 years and counting since the community has been wanting to change the safety situation in Fulford," said SSFAC member John Wakefield. "To hear it's been delayed four or five years is disappointing."

- Only one case of COVID-19 was reported in the Gulf Islands during the month of January, for a total of 21 cases confirmed since the beginning of testing in January of 2020.



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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO COURTESY SD64; PHOTO AT LEFT BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Above: Fernwood Elementary School students mark Pink Shirt Day on Feb. 24, which speaks out against bullying. At left: Scene at a Lakefair Drive fire on Feb. 11.

February

- Some abandoned boats and barges left to rot in Gulf Island harbours for years were on the list for removal this spring with full funding for the effort extended by the federal government. Included in the program was \$551,202 to remove 24 boats around Victoria and the Gulf Islands. Salish Sea Industrial Services Ltd. had the contract to remove the vessels, which had been previously surveyed and identified for removal by the Dead Boats Disposal Society.

- The province instituted a slight enhancement to COVID-19 safety guidelines in early February, while also announcing that restrictions against gatherings outside one's immediate household or "bubble" would continue for the foreseeable future. Changes to health regulations for schools meant all middle and secondary students and K-12 staff would be required to wear masks in all indoor areas unless sitting or standing at their seat or workstation, if there was a barrier in place or if they were eating or drinking. Gulf Islands Secondary School principal Lyall Ruelhen said efforts had helped keep the school's environment safe, with only one known COVID-19 case with potential for exposure known to have occurred in the school year to date.

- Four Salt Spring Island non-profit organizations announced they had received a major gift from the estate of a generous islander. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, Salt Spring Public Library, ArtSpring and the Salt Spring Seniors Centre had each received \$102,000 from the Estate of James William Crawford, with a further, smaller

amount to be released once the estate was finalized.

- Salt Spring Fire Rescue teams responded to three fire calls within 24 hours on Feb. 10 and 11. They first extinguished an excavator fire on a Churchill Road property, and the next day started the morning by investigating a possible chimney fire on Garner Road. A couple of hours later they battled a structure fire at a Lakefair Drive residence that displaced Lisa Sigurgeirson Maxx and her brother Steve Sigurgeirson.

- North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) trustees accepted a final feasibility study and recommendations to build a dissolved air flotation plant at Maxwell Lake. Trustees also determined they would proceed with a quality-based selection process to secure a consultant for the project's design, tender and construction inspection.

The district has been under an Island Health directive to replace the plant since 2009. While Maxwell Lake plant treatment does not produce water that meets current drinking water guidelines, improving St. Mary Lake water quality was a more pressing priority. That goal was achieved with completion of an \$8-million DAF plant in 2018. The NSSWD's long-term capital plan has envisioned the project completed in 2025.

- A long-made call to include Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands in the Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) was finally heard. The provincial government announced that the islands would in future be eligible to apply for funding from ICET and be included in other services that ICET provides. Until

the change, communities in the Capital Regional District were excluded from the ICET service area because the CRD itself is an "urban" area.

- Longtime Salt Spring Islander Lynne Partridge was honoured by being named a StarMeritus in the BC Entertainment Hall of Fame. Partridge was nominated by legendary B.C. singer-songwriter Roy Forbes for her pioneering work in representation for performing artists.

March

- The non-profit group Transition Salt Spring released the Climate Action Plan (CAP) 2.0 via Zoom on March 2. The 102-page report, which required 18 months of intense volunteer effort, contained 250 recommended actions for reducing greenhouse gas emissions produced on Salt Spring Island.

- Downtown Ganges turned into a danger zone for a brief moment on Sunday, March 7 when one of two metal poles used to string banners snapped off at the base during a windy period. The two poles were set into a concrete pedestrian island near the fire hall.

- Some residents in the 75-plus age category were frustrated after attempting to book their COVID-19 vaccinations on the island. People reported being told they could either wait two months for an appointment on Salt Spring or travel to another community for a shot sooner. Island Health's media relations department told the Driftwood that the problems were occurring because the Salt Spring immunization clinic had experienced "unexpected demand."

- About 40 Salt Spring Islanders gathered in Centennial Park on March 20 as part of a "Worldwide Rally for Freedom" against COVID-19 rules such as mask-wearing and the restrictions on movement and gatherings. Salt Spring RCMP Sgt. Clive Seabrook had issued a statement earlier in the week asking people not to gather publicly in violation of public health orders, but no violation tickets were issued.

- New provincial restrictions were brought in on March 29 as a three-week "circuit breaker" measure after the province had a record high of 936 new COVID-19 cases logged on March 26. Food and liquor-serving premises were limited to patio, take-out or delivery orders until April 19, and indoor adult group fitness classes were also shut down.

- Salt Spring Island Community Services was notified that BC Housing had agreed to provide 24-hour-per-day funding for the island's homeless shelter.

- The long-awaited Salt Spring Water Optimization Study report was released by a consultant hired by the Capital Regional District to look at how best to deliver water services on the island. Four options for improving on-island water governance and administration were examined, with creation of "an independent CRD Salt Spring Island department through a legally binding mechanism that reports to a single elected Salt Spring commission and that would only operate and manage drinking water systems" being the recommended option. As of December, no governance change had been initiated.

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

April

- Pat and Rosemarie Keough of Meyer Road were surprised to look outside their kitchen window on April 3 to see a large male Roosevelt elk on their property. Conservation officers have advised in the past that the animals occasionally swim from Vancouver Island.

- Island Health set up a full-time COVID immunization clinic in the ArtSpring gallery space, which would remain operational through the summer.

- The Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Association was happy to receive a cheque for \$75,000 from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, representing a Shaw Family Community Grant, to complete a covered arena project for the program at 700 Upper Ganges Rd.

- Public feedback was being requested about a proposed emergency communications and wireless communications tower in the Channel Ridge area. The joint project would see Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications Inc. (CREST) team up with Rogers Communications on a 40-metre tower supporting multiple antennae. The proposed location was part of the Channel Ridge development property owned by the Onni Group, currently hosting a water tower and a TELUS communications tower.

- Salt Spring livestock farmers were asking members of the public to respect the island's agricultural community and to keep their dogs under control following a deadly spate of dog attacks on sheep. Falcon Farm owners Julia McKinley and Fraser Baldwin lost six breeding ewes and a lamb at the end of March, while eight of their newborn lambs were left orphaned. A nearby neighbour lost one more sheep that same night. Farmers were frustrated by the CRD's lack of action. They believed the suspect dogs were responsible for close to 60 livestock deaths on multiple farms over the past few years and should have been destroyed long ago.

- Circuit-breaker restrictions were extended to the end of the May long weekend with travel limited to within one's own health authority and no



PHOTO BY CHRIS MARSHALL / COURTESY IWAV

Partners involved in the Islanders Working Against Violence Croftonbrook affordable housing project held a ground-breaking ceremony for the Phase 3 building in April.



PHOTO COURTESY PAT & ROSEMARIE KEOUGH

A rare sight on the island was a male Roosevelt elk at a Meyer Road residence in April.

non-essential BC Ferries travel allowed. Police were given new limited enforcement authority to conduct highway checks in some areas and to issue fines. In the meantime, vaccination registration for people aged 18 and up was opened on April 23.

- Salt Spring RCMP released statistics that indicated the detachment responded to 646 calls for service between Jan. 1 and March 31. Incidents included five child pornography investigations, eight sexual assaults, 139 mental health complaints, various traffic violations and multiple COVID-19 -related complaints. Some 305 foot patrols in Ganges and Centennial Park

and 85 licensed premises checks were also conducted during the period.

- The outlook on increasing Salt Spring's parkland inventory with a purchase at Mount Maxwell became sunnier when the island's Parks and Recreation Commission agreed to consider a park acquisition proposal for lands on Mount Maxwell. The opportunity to buy anywhere from one to four forested lots comprising a 345-acre property on Seymour Heights first came to the commission as a presentation by Salt Spring Solutions the previous fall. The desire was to see the continuation of recreational activities that have historically taken



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

B.C. government signs were installed at ferry terminals in the spring to discourage non-essential travel.

place there, such as horseback riding and mountain biking, while keeping the second-growth forest intact. The property on the north side of the mountain would connect to a large contiguous protected area, including the Mount Maxwell and Burgoyne Bay provincial parks and the Mount Maxwell Ecological Reserve.

- Salt Spring's transportation commission heard from residents and frequent users of Baker Road who said sight lines at the Lower Ganges Road intersection were dangerously impacted by the new retaining wall installed as part of pathway construction in the area. Commission members directed CRD staff to immediately examine options for improving safety in the area, while ensuring the pathway was completed in time for a major provincial funding deadline. They also resolved that any future pathway designs must come to the commission for recommendations before they are finalized.

- The Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island presented the first in a series of three Conversations on Racism online panel discussions on April 20. The series featured people with lived experience of racism and was put together "to create a safe space for people to talk about racism, listen to people's experiences, share stories and learn from each other," said the society's Rumiko Kanesaka.

Happy New Year!

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY ALAN BIBBY

Search and Rescue members from Salt Spring, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland attend a debriefing on May 15 following a search for Salt Spring resident Sinikka Elliott, who was found deceased.



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

About 120 people attended a rally on May 22 to support Fairy Creek land defenders and to demand a stop to logging of old-growth forest in that area on Vancouver Island. An even larger rally was held on Aug. 23.

May

- Moya Doherty marked four decades as an Island Savings credit union employee on May 5, having been hired when the institution was known as Duncan and District Credit Union. Doherty then retired on Oct. 29, with cookies and cake offered to customers in the branch.

- Fields Holding Company announced it planned to return to Salt Spring Island this summer with a new department store at the former Slegg Lumber site at 804 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Slegg had closed at the end of November in 2019.

- An invasive lizard species that had over-run gardens from Sooke to Saanich was confirmed to have made landing on Salt Spring, and officials were asking members of the public to help keep tabs on the situation. Channel Ridge resident Pat Miller discovered the first known instance of the common wall lizard on Salt Spring, which was confirmed by Gavin Hanke, the Royal BC Museum's curator of vertebrate zoology.

- Forest ecologist and B.C. native plant expert Andy MacKinnon confirmed that Gulf Islands arbutus trees were suffering from parasitic leaf blight, which resulted in leaves and branches turning black and falling off. Climate change was the most likely culprit for allowing the blight to get an upper hand, he said.

"I can't think of a similar year in the 35 years I've been studying trees on the coast," MacKinnon said.

- A four-day search ended in tragedy

with the discovery of the body of Sinikka Elliott on the south side of Mount Erskine on May 15. The Salt Spring resident, an associate professor of sociology at UBC and the mother of two adult children, was reported missing on May 12, with her car located that evening near the Mount Erskine trailhead.

Some 139 members of 21 search and rescue organizations and many other emergency response groups helped in the search. Foul play was not suspected.

- About 120 people lined the road in front of the Salt Spring RCMP station on May 22 to demand the halt to logging of old-growth forest on southern Vancouver Island. Numerous Salt Spring Islanders were among those participating in blockades and other grassroots efforts to protect old-growth forest slated for logging near Port Renfrew. One of those people, Kim Murray, described a "militarized" police presence and arrests of protesters taking place in an atmosphere where media were denied access.

- Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue and Eagle Eye Marine Services crews were called to Ganges Harbour on the evening of May 22 when a fishing boat moored off Old Scott Road caught fire.

SSIFR Captain Ken Akerman reported the fire department was called out at 8:30 p.m. and 12 members were kept busy until 12:30 a.m. The 39-foot fishing boat was tied to a dock and was unoccupied when it caught fire by unknown means. It was already 40 per cent involved when firefighters arrived. The dock was saved by SSIFR efforts.



PHOTO BY KASSY MARR

Salt Spring firefighters battle a blaze that broke out at Windsor Plywood in the early hours of June 1.

June

- Windsor Plywood lost their main office and showroom in a devastating early morning fire June 1. Twenty-six firefighters and eight apparatus fought the fire for 15 hours, pumping over 100,000 gallons of water, which prompted a boil water advisory for customers who get their water from Maxwell Lake. No one was injured in the blaze, which was contained to the one building, and co-owner Ken Marr was confident in a fast recovery for the business, which had been on the island since the 1970s. Twenty per cent of the building's 55 staff were laid off at first due to the fire. However, operations were back to as normal as possible with temporary buildings on the Rainbow Road site and services beefed up at the company's Beddis Road contractors yard.

- Salt Spring Island filmmakers, artists and musicians had their fingerprints all over two short films nominated for Leo awards, given out by the Motion Picture Arts & Science Foundation of British Columbia.

Director and former Salt Spring Islander Deanna Milligan directed *Lucid*, nominated for four Leos including best musical score by Salt Spring Island musician Marta Jaciubek-McKeever. The film was partially filmed on the island and featured local faces Georgia Acken, Keith Picot, Christie Roome and Metta Rose.

Eight Leo nominations went to *Mr. James is Dead*, an action-spy comedy whose creative forces were Peter Hoskins and Daniel Irving, graduates of Gulf Islands Secondary School who credited their experience with creative programs on the island with influencing their current paths.



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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY DAVID CLARKE

Children's shoes were placed on the steps of the Salt Spring Public Library as a response to news that the remains of 215 Indigenous children had been found at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School.



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

Lady Minto Hospital staff give their thumbs up to news that a community fundraising campaign was underway to gather the final \$2 million of \$10.4 million needed to build a new emergency department at the hospital. Funds were in place by the early fall.

June, continued

- Salt Spring skateboarders and non-skaters came out in droves to support a girls club in Zeballos village, population 107, started by five youth with a hankering to use their community's skate park. Monique Comeau, a teacher in Zeballos and part-time Salt Spring resident, pulled together donations of new and used skateboard sets which Zeballos students can sign out from the school.

- The Salt Spring Laundromat and Soap Exchange opened at 162 Fulford-Ganges Rd. on June 1, following years of intense volunteer effort and fundraising to make the social enterprise a reality. The facility would be operated by the Wagon Wheel Housing Society. Salt Spring had been without a public laundromat since 2016.

- The island's parks and rec staffers were at their wits' end, having spent the summer months finding new graffiti tags daily and working to remove them from Centennial Park buildings. The same tags appeared on bus shelters, garbage cans and road signs. Police said an investigation had been opened and head of parks and rec Dan Ovington said staff were looking into lighting and cameras in the park and that public art to deter tagging could be discussed in the future.

- A campaign with a big ask, \$2 million to be exact, was started to help get a new emergency department built at Lady Minto Hospital. The project had a total \$10.4-million price tag, with the hospital foundation committed to paying \$7.4 million of that amount and the Capital Regional District supplying the other \$3 million.

- Some Gulf Islanders were up in arms about the

Islands Trust planning a first reading of the Trust Policy Statement, a high-level policy document meant to guide the Trust and all its communities into the future. Some felt the Trust was attempting to force through major changes without consulting the public, while Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick said she trusted the process unfolding. In July, Islands Trust Council decided to put the brakes on first reading until December (although that did not end up occurring) and in September voted to spend up to \$150,000 on public engagement.

- Izzy Nowell swept the second American Poultry Event ever held on the island, taking home Grand Open Champion, Junior Champion, Champion Bantam and more for her Rhode Island Red bantam hen. The Salt Spring Island Poultry Club called it a "huge win" for Nowell, as the prize is not often taken by a young person, in this case a Grade 9-er. The show also saw many other juniors enter for the first time, including five champion birds from the school hatching program.

- A heat dome descended upon B.C. late June, with record heat predictions of 36 C and a humidex of 42 at the Saturna weather station June 28. With people flocking to lakes and sheltering in their homes, the fire department luckily did not get any heat or lake safety related calls, but bus services were cancelled some days and some local businesses closed up shop during the heatwave.

- Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue crews fought a June 28 multi-storey structure fire at the Mineral Springs Resort, which saw the loss of Melissa Poulsen and Madison Poulsen-Howe's dog and four cats as well as their home and all of their belongings, yet no people were in the residence or injured. Crews fought the



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Firefighters battle a blaze at the Mineral Springs Resort, containing damage to one building, in the middle of the record-breaking heatwave.

fire for nine hours, shuttling over 30,000 gallons of water from St. Mary Lake. Acting fire chief Jamie Holmes said the abnormally high temperatures, as well as the building's distance from a fire hall all combined for fast fire growth and crews arriving to an "entrenched working fire."

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW

July

- The CRD expressed interest in a proposal that could see Salt Spring with Canada's first 3D-printed bus shelter. Salt Spring engineer Jon Scott, who had recently worked on Canada's first 3D-printed house in Nelson, made a pitch to the transportation commission to consider the idea.

- Phöenix Lazare released her debut album Gold this month, followed by a music video in October. After schooling at Berklee College of Music and time spent honing her craft in Nashville, Lazare was back on Salt Spring and detailed how the album came together with the help of local talent and musical family and friends.

- Drought-stricken Salt Spring was declared at stage four drought by the provincial government, a step below the highest level, and the North Salt Spring Waterworks District also moved to stage four. All islanders and visitors were urged to conserve water.

- With Coast Salish peoples present in the Southern Gulf Islands for over 5,000 years according to archaeological records, an effort was launched to re-establish this historic connection of the W SÁNE peoples with the islands known as E Á ES (tlu-tla-chus) in the SEN-COTEN language. The E Á ES Revitalization Project planned to produce five videos and community forums on the islands in 2022.

- A sexual assault program opened on Salt Spring, where survivors could access emergency services, counselling and ongoing support and advocacy. A 24/7 help line was launched (250-931-7712 or 1-833-946-7712). "These services are confidential and free, and survivors will be listened to and believed," Islanders Working Against Violence (IWAV) wrote, adding that all genders and people 13 and older could access the program.

- Among the 52 Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) finalists announced in July was one Salt Springer, photographer Connie Kuhns, as well as Pender Islander Joanna Rogers. A total of 143 Gulf Island artists submitted their works, with 51 works chosen to be showcased at the Parallel Art Show which ran alongside SSNAP.

- Following the discovery of remains of 215 children at the site of the former Kamloops Indian Residential School in May, the Penelakut Tribe confirmed the existence of 160 unmarked and undocumented graves on Penelakut Island. The island formerly known as Kuper Island is the site of the Kuper Island Industrial School, where Indigenous children from the Gulf Islands, Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland were forcibly taken.

"Too many did not return home. It is impossible to get over acts of genocide and human rights violations," a statement from Penelakut Tribe's chief, council and elders read.

- Two aircraft suffered significant damage yet no one was injured on July 15 when a Seair Cessna 208 struck the back of a Harbour Air single-engine De Havilland Otter parked at the same dock in Ganges Harbour. The Seair plane was started at the dock to depart for Vancouver when it propelled itself forward, the plane's propeller striking the Otter's flight control surfaces and removing them from the aircraft. Both planes went out of service and had to be towed or barged to Vancouver for repairs.

- A late July sailing of the Skeena Queen was delayed and then cancelled due to the presence of half a dozen orcas who stayed in Fulford Harbour for around two hours. A marine mammal expert confirmed they were Bigg's or transient killer whales. Passengers on the ferry expressed concern about eight whale-watching boats getting close to the killer whales, and possibly preventing them from leaving.



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

Two planes were damaged in an incident at the Ganges Harbour floatplane dock.



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

A North Salt Spring Waterworks District watering restrictions sign indicates Stage 4 in effect, which took place at the end of June due to low lake levels.

- Pender Island's Kady Dandeneau was preparing to compete in wheelchair basketball at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo. Training for the athletes, ongoing since May, included more than four hours of daily practice, as well as lifting, cardio and shooting workouts, preparing mentally and adjusting their circadian rhythms to adjust to the 13-hour time difference.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

#Goodbye Salt Spring display in Salt Spring Coffee Co. window.

#Goodbye Salt Spring

The Driftwood was host to a series of stories documented by Salt Spring Solutions over the summer, detailing how islanders were being affected by the lack of affordable housing. Artcraft manager Sarah Hyams recounted the six times she has had to move in the past three years with her son. Kate McWilliams and Laurent Boucher left Salt Spring after a combined 30 years on the island, noting the decline in opportunities for musicians, young people as well as people with disabilities to make a life for themselves on the island. BC Ferries employee Tammy Desjardins and her family had experienced all kinds of housing in their four years on Salt Spring, including a leaky trailer, a communal home with sewer issues and mould that made her daughter sick and were in August in desperate need of a new home on island so Tammy could make it to her 5:30 a.m. Long Harbour shifts. Barefoot Daughters soap artisan Aly Cole and her young family moved back to the east coast after seven years on Salt Spring, during which time they only had heated water for six months and lived in everything from boats, yurts, cabins and even a converted chicken coop. "[Where we are now] we have a mud room, our own laundry, hot water and space for my daughter to crawl," she said. "When you don't have those things for so long, this feels like luxury."

Transition house employee Cindy Orser, who herself faced housing insecurity and paying 70 per cent of income to rent a home with her mother, explained how the housing crisis and abuse are interconnected. Many people end up moving from one transition home to another, not finding stability, and sometimes returning to the place they fled or becoming homeless where they are vulnerable.



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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO COURTESY ISLAND HEALTH

Some of the staff working at the COVID-19 immunization clinic at ArtSpring. Seventy-seven eligible Salt Spring residents aged 12 and older had received their first dose of vaccine by the time the dedicated clinic was closed.

August

- Salt Spring saw the lowest levels at St. Mary Lake compared to other recent drought years on record since 2009, save for 2015, while Maxwell Lake was at its lowest compared to drought years in that period. North Salt Spring Waterworks District sent letters to property owners who used excessive amounts of water: 75 property owners who used over 20,000 gallons of water in May and June got letters, and 51 letters went to people who used over 30,000 gallons. The average for single-family dwellings for those months over the past five years was 7,455 gallons. NSSWD financial officer Tammy Lannan said some of the biggest water users have estate-like acreages with lush gardens and landscaping, and so education about water use was a first step.

- As the immunization clinic at ArtSpring wound down in early August, Salt Spring had 77 per cent of eligible people 12 and older having received their first COVID-19 vaccine dose. The rate was comparable to the rest of Vancouver Island, yet lower than the 91 per cent rate on other Southern Gulf Islands that saw "whole community clinic" events offered. The second dose rate was 67 per cent on Salt Spring and 85 per cent on other Gulf Islands. Salt Spring businesses were largely meeting pandemic requirements WorkSafeBC found, after reviews of 19 businesses found unsafe practices at only two loca-

tions and only one was given an order to comply.

- Having had the dreams and plans of building 30 small affordable homes on Drake Road since 2016, Tami and Fernando Dos Santos got conditional approval for a groundwater use licence and movement on rezoning the property. The next step for the Dragonfly Commons development was to work with NSSWD for assistance to create an appropriate water system.

- For art lovers thirsting for live theatre, news that ExitStageLeft and Graffiti theatre would perform two Shakespeare inspired original works (Lend Me Your Ears by Scott Hylands and Besse's Will by Jeffrey Renn) was welcome news. Performing during a pandemic was what Shakespeare's own theatre company often did, leading to a minimalism in props and costumes and reliance on the Bard's poetry. Just six weeks later Hylands would be diagnosed with acute myeloid leukemia and a GoFundMe campaign aimed to fund costly immunotherapy treatment.

- The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee gave their support, in the form of a letter of concurrence, for plans by Rogers and Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) to build a joint commercial and emergency cell tower at Channel Ridge. Residents of the area opposed the location of the tower,



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Arnez Joe, a member of the Quw'utsun Tribe's Tzinquaw dancers, along with drummers Joe Akerman, left, and elder Qwiahwultuhw (Ron George) were part of an Aug. 26 ceremony to unveil a mural created at the island's library by Indigenous youth.

while support came from local agencies including the fire department, search and rescue and ambulance services on the island. Canvasback Place residents would continue to push against the project throughout the fall, starting with asking the LTC to reverse its decision.

- Things appeared to have calmed down at Centennial Park, in terms of both the daytime parties and the complaint calls. Proactive RCMP foot patrols as well as pandemic travel restrictions were likely behind the change, said Corp. Matthew Crist.

- Tragedy struck the island as a 19-year-old man who was visiting the island went missing while swimming at St. Mary Lake. The man's body was found a day later by the RCMP's Underwater Recovery Team, aided by multiple agencies, including search and rescue, fire, ambulance and the coroners service.

- Salt Spring Storm pitcher Ryen Dunbar was called up to help neighbouring Langford Lightning at the U16-C girls' softball provincial championships. Lightning were lucky to have Dunbar pitch for them, as two other teams had also asked her to join. The team won all eight games played during very smoky skies and poor air quality in Kamloops July 16 to 18.

- In a pre-election announcement, the federal government said they would



PHOTO COURTESY DUNBAR FAMILY

Salt Spring Storm pitcher Ryen Dunbar, who helped the Langford Lightning win the provincial U16-C girls' softball title.

work with the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority to manage marine traffic and reduce reliance on freighter anchorages around the Southern Gulf Islands and as far north as Gabriola. This was welcome news, yet Islands Trust Council chair Peter Luckham said he and others would continue to advocate for the "complete elimination of commercial freighter anchorages in the Trust Area." While remote anchorages were used rarely in the past, they've morphed into full-time auxiliary parking lots for overflow port traffic, staying for weeks at a time.



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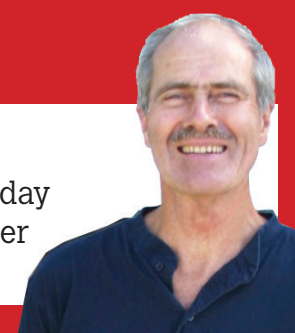
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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

Ruckle Heritage Farm display exemplifies the 2021 Salt Spring Fall Fair theme.



PHOTO CONTRIBUTED

Larmour Lands purchase partners work to clear gorse from recently purchased Lot F.

August continued

- Late August saw a lot of activity for first responders, including a moped and pick-up truck crash on Lower Ganges Road on Aug. 20. As well a man brandished a replica handgun during an argument in Ganges the day before, and two intentionally set fires were also dealt with by firefighters.

- A 2.5-acre piece of land was purchased by donors, allowing continued public access to Mount Erskine Provincial Park from the southern approach as well as allowing people to enjoy the spectacular views of the Salish Sea along that stretch of trail.

- Young Indigenous artists with input from elders, led by Charlene Johnny, turned a bare cement wall at the library in Ganges into a lively ocean scene. The project, primarily funded by a \$10,000 Salt Spring Island Foundation grant, saw 10 youth come to the island to complete what chief librarian Karen Hudson said would be a "visible symbol of the library's commitment to truth and reconciliation."

- A two-year provincial ban on new private docks in the Gulf Islands came as a complete surprise to local government and people working in the marine construction industry when announced by the province in late August.

September

- Amidst a drought and pandemic restrictions, the Salt Spring Farmers' Insti-

tute and islanders managed to pull off the 125th year of the Salt Spring Fall Fair in September.

- Local e-bikers had one more place to charge their rigs, as several island groups got together to install four charging outlets and two bike racks at Ruckle Park.

- Community members determined to finish a project championed by the late Matt Steffich and Arvid Chalmers started a GoFundMe fundraiser, to bring in \$100,000 towards finishing the Ganges harbour walk.

- A board game based on a wildly popular children's app, The Incredible Tales of Weirdwood Manor, was brought to life by Salt Spring's Paul Pattison and Mike Cassie. Testing of the board game prototype, which is more geared to the adult player, took place on the island in September.

- Around 200 residents protested in Ganges on Sept. 13. as the provincial government instituted a system of vaccine cards and proof of vaccination being required to access dining, fitness and other entertainment venues.

- Incumbent Green MP Elizabeth May was re-elected for the fourth straight term in the Saanich-Gulf Islands riding of the 44th Canadian general election. May received 38 per cent of the popular vote and became one of only two Green Party members in parliament as the party saw diminished support. Justin Trudeau's Liberals again formed a minority government.

- Paper Covers Rock, a new annual readers and writers festival, was initiated in 2021 and featured an in-person kids book reading, a reading with Cedar Bowers, whose debut novel Astra was longlisted for the Scotiabank Giller Prize, and a number of other live and in-person workshops and events. Festival initiator Terry Potratz's plan to hold the first festival the previous year was postponed by the pandemic.

- Transition Salt Spring launched its climate action coach program, to help people mitigate climate change in a tangible way in their own homes.

- Six hundred donors came together to protect forest and wetland ecosystems on the lands formerly owned by Michael Larbour in the Beddis and Sky Valley roads area, after clearcut logging on mature forest on another lot in the area. The land will be used for farming, as well as conservation of the forested parts. Another lot had been purchased for conservation purposes the previous year to be held by the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society.

- Around 80 people came out to the United Church Meadow on Sept. 24 to rally for climate justice. Speakers emphasized how climate justice encapsulates a whole range of issues and called for a transformative climate emergency plan that recognizes the interconnected climate, ecological and social crises, and embeds equity, anti-racism and social justice at its core, while also upholding Indigenous rights.

- Salt Spring's fire department proposed a \$4.27-million budget for 2022, which would mean a 9.1 per cent tax hike or a just under \$50 increase for a home valued at \$633,000. The main reason for the increase is higher total wages and benefits following a late 2020 arbitration ruling, as well as a \$500,000 transfer to capital reserve funds for the new fire hall which is expected to be voted on in the spring.

- The Salt Spring Apple Festival also returned after a hiatus in 2020. The Beddis Castle apple orchard was one of the places opening its doors to the public, which it only does for the annual festival. The orchard was started when Samuel Beddis planted seeds of apples the family ate on their voyage over the Atlantic, as well as over 40 varieties of apples shipped from Ireland in the late 1800s. The castle property's owner, Susan Bloom, a noted island philanthropist, died on Dec. 6, 2021.

- SD64's 1,500 students started their school year in a new way as a result of the upcoming closure of the Salt Spring Island Middle School. SIMS Grade 7 students stayed in the middle school for the year, while Grade 8 students went to Gulf Islands Secondary School, adding 100 new students to the school. Grade 6 students would stay in elementary school for two more years, with Salt Spring Elementary gaining 40 more students as a result. Students from Galiano, Mayne, Pender and Saturna were also affected by the change, with Pender now able to host students in Grades 8 and 9.

Looking ahead to 2022.

Your vigilance, your patience, your resolution will keep us all safe.



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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

Jean Gelwicks of Partners Creating Pathways speaks at a special event at Portlock Park on Oct. 1 to honour pathway contributors over the years.



PHOTO BY TONY MCLEOD

Water pours across Isabella Point Road on Nov. 15, resulting in a washout that required an extensive road closure and repair, along with other roads on Salt Spring.

October

- Four Station 25 volunteers were honoured by the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue in October. Nic Futter and Tom McKeachie were awarded Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary (CCGA) Leadership Medals, and Futter also became Volunteer of the Year. Brad Grindler received a CCGA Administrative Excellence Medal, while Melissa Hayward received the New Member Award.

- All of the folks who forged the path and helped complete the Ganges Village Pathway Network were celebrated in October, with a special thanks to the Shaw family whose legacy giving through the Salt Spring Island Foundation helped build the pathway from Portlock Park to the beginning of St. Mark's cemetery as well as helping to fund many other community projects.

- With COVID-19 cases on the rise, mask mandates in schools expanded to include students in kindergarten through Grade 3 from the mandatory Grade 4 and up classes put in place before the start of the school year. Co-chair of the District Parent Advisory Council Adria Kray voiced her support, citing recent COVID-19 cases in local schools, and called for vaccination for everyone eligible and for children when those become available.

- Water use restrictions were eased down to Stage 3 from the more stringent Stage 4 in place since the summer

months in the NSSWD, thanks to ample rainfall replenishing St. Mary and Maxwell lakes.

- In an arts-crazed community, not seeing live performances during the pandemic was a huge change. ArtSpring's season kicked off in early October with a Wen Wei Dance performance, after having been closed every day save for 22 days for the past year and a half. Another balm for weary souls came in the form of Pitchfork Social blues sessions in September and October featuring Harry Manx and friends at Beaver Point Hall.

- Two-year-old Kailash Pilheden returned home to Salt Spring for a "snuggle puddle" with his family, after undergoing treatment for acute myelogenous leukemia (AML) and even celebrating his second birthday in hospital before getting the news that he was in remission.

- The biennial Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) grand prize went to Kriss Munsya of Vancouver for his Dream Tonite piece, an allegorical photo composition on racism and black male identity. Jurors awards went to Klehwetua Rodney Sayers for his Hot Rod Pink sculpture, Virginia Morgan for her Raven Steals the Sun carving, Jacqueline Huskisson for her multimedia drawing Shock and Sherry Park for her painting Lunch. Several other honours were given out to both SSNAP artists and those in the Parallel Art Show of work by Gulf Islands artists.

- Business owners on Salt Spring said

the ongoing labour shortage had forced them to shut early or shut for a certain day of the week and to otherwise adapt by cross training, offering incentives, bringing in automation and even housing workers as Country Grocer has done.

- One person was found dead after a cabin fire on Beaver Point Road Oct. 30, where crews had to ferry water up a narrow trail to the cabin as no road access existed. RCMP said there was nothing to indicate the fire or death was suspicious and the coroners service said they would not be releasing the identity of the deceased person.

November

- Salt Spring Islander Neal Kennedy sustained severe injuries in a Nov. 2 car accident on Rainbow Road that was caused by an epileptic seizure. A GoFundMe page was set up to aid Kennedy as he underwent surgery for major injuries and faced a long recovery ahead of him.

- Tree Frog Daycare announced they would be closing by Nov. 30, after being unable to secure enough staff trained as early childhood educators (ECEs). The closure affected the families of 12 children, as well as families on the waitlist which usually numbers over 20.

- The Remembrance Day parade and open house at the Legion in Ganges were suspended due to the ongoing pandemic, but a public ceremony was still held in

Centennial Park on Nov. 11. In addition, a First Poppy Ceremony was held a few weeks earlier to launch this year's Poppy Campaign. The year 2021 was the 100th anniversary of when Canada adopted the poppy as a symbol of remembrance and honour for sacrifices made by veterans.

- Mid-month, the Gulf Islands experienced a deluge of rainfall which filled creeks and lakes, flooded local roads and resulted in at least one mudslide. Three roads were closed for a week following the Nov. 14 and 15 flooding, with 150 mm of rainfall measured by weather observer Osman Phillips between Saturday and Tuesday morning. The rainfall event also caused power outages, one localized boil water advisory and two shoreline warnings where storm and wastewater had entered the ocean.

- People who live in dwellings considered "unlawful" under Islands Trust regulations would not be subject to bylaw visits, except for cases where health and safety required it. Salt Spring's local Trust committee decided to accept all of the recommendations of a housing task force set up to find solutions to the ongoing housing crisis on the island, including stopping bylaw enforcement and looking for ways to expedite rezoning processes for affordable housing plans, as well as looking at how bylaws could be changed to allow more rentals in secondary suites, cottages, garages and other spaces.

As we move into a new year,
we thank you for your patronage
and readership, wish you and
yours all the best and look
forward to serving you in 2022.

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2021 YEAR IN REVIEW



PHOTO BY PIERRE MINEAU

Ruth Waldick of Transition Salt Spring and North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustee Gary Gagné take measurements in the Maxwell Lake watershed to get set for a fire risk and resilience project.

November continued

- Salt Spring Islanders were shocked and saddened to hear of the death of former Driftwood photographer and well-loved islander Derrick Lundy on Nov. 13. Lundy had received a diagnosis of multiple organ cancer only one month earlier. A candlelight vigil was held in Rotary Marine Park the following week, but family say a larger public event will be organized in the spring of 2022.

- With 31 open positions at the hospital and difficulties hiring due to the state of housing on the island, LMHF offered to buy the Seabreeze Inne and turn it into 14 one-bedroom apartments for staff. The foundation stepped in after efforts by Salt Spring Community Services to purchase the hotel together with BC Housing fell through. The 18 people residing at the hotel, many at risk of homelessness and renting rooms there under a temporary BC Housing arrangement, were unsure where they would go once the hospital foundation takes possession in late February.

- Jamie Holmes became Salt Spring's new fire chief, after 25 years of services and being deputy fire chief since April of this year. He replaced Arjuna George, who did not return from medical leave.

- Firefighting personnel attended a fire in a West Eagle Drive cabin on Nov. 20. When crews arrived, the cabin was fully engulfed in flames and firefighters

spent five hours extinguishing the fire. No injuries were reported. Five days later they put out a fire inside one unit of a fourplex on Maliview Drive.

- A Canadian Coast Guard hovercraft struck a sailboat on its way out of Ganges Harbour to take a patient to Vancouver on Nov. 22. While the coast guard said the hovercraft Siyay was going eight knots and did an emergency move to avoid hitting an unlit sailboat, nearby witnesses said the struck vessel did have a light on its bow and the hovercraft was travelling at well over eight knots.

December

- As traffic troubles on the Vesuvius Bay to Crofton ferry route refused to ease from summer to fall, Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce president Darryl Martin called for an acceleration of plans to have a two-ferry system on the route by 2025. BC Ferries say this is a primary consideration for the mid-2030s, which would also require upgrades at terminals on both sides to allow charging of the hybrid "island class" ferries overnight. The switching out of the Quinitsa with the Quinsam on the route this coming spring is expected to bring some relief to the congestion.

- Community members rallied to help Rudy Hexter after he was severely injured in a crash between his electric motorbike and a vehicle on North End Road. Hexter was in hospital in critical condition and



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

Traffic aiming for the 3 p.m. sailing from Vesuvius to Crofton on Tuesday, Nov. 23 is lined up past the Langley Road turn-off, which was a typical situation throughout the fall after the smaller Quinitsa vessel replaced the Bowen Queen on the route.

needed several surgeries to repair his left shoulder and right leg.

- Galiano Islanders were at the epicentre of a 3.6 magnitude earthquake that awoke many Gulf Islanders with a bang and was felt as far away as Sechelt and Sooke.

- ArtSpring announced it would have a new leader at the helm in January, with Howard Jang becoming the new executive and artistic director, taking over from Cicela Månsson. Jang's background includes orchestra manager for the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, executive director of Ballet BC and Arts Club Theatre Vancouver, among other posts with major arts organizations. Jang had moved to Salt Spring Island last year.

- Transition Salt Spring prepared to take on some groundbreaking research into fire risk and resiliency in the Maxwell Lake watershed, as the organization announced receipt of substantial funding for the project that will include data collection and building a database, and testing out treatments to mitigate fire risk. Researchers from multiple universities, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue, North Salt Spring Waterworks District, Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy were all partners in the project that was being funded by a \$100,000 commitment from Environment and Climate Change Canada's EcoAction Fund, \$25,000 from a private donor on the

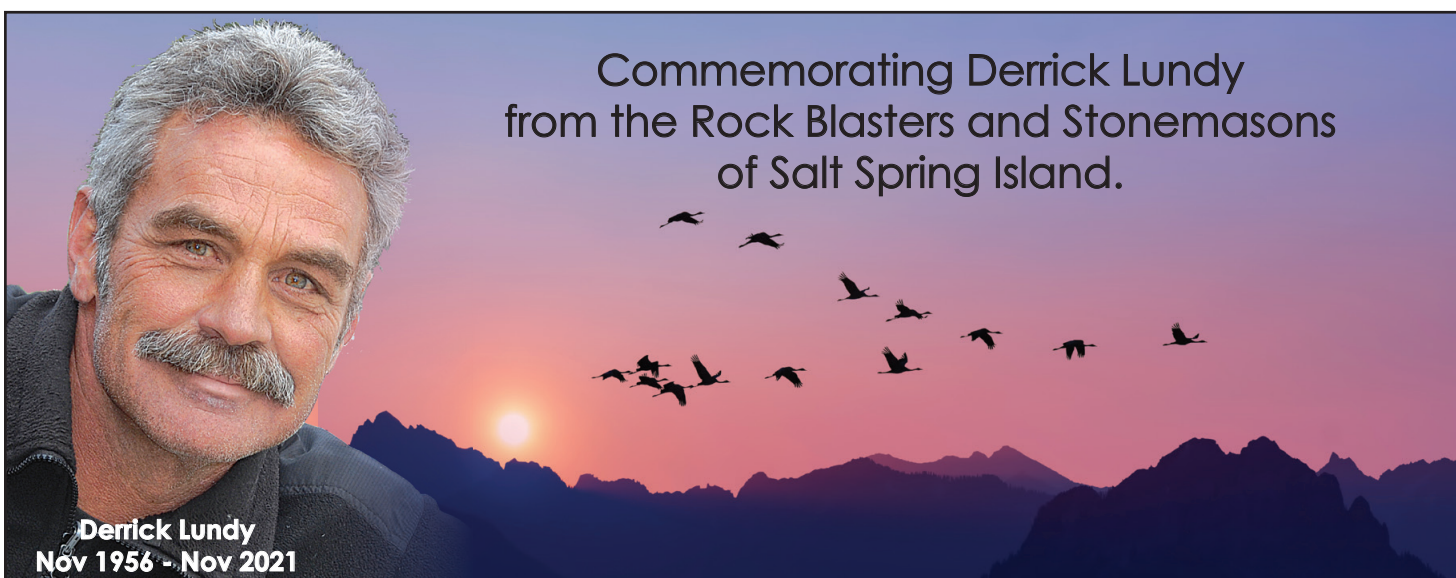


PHOTO COURTESY SSIFR

Jamie Holmes was named Salt Spring Fire Chief after holding the acting chief's position for several months.

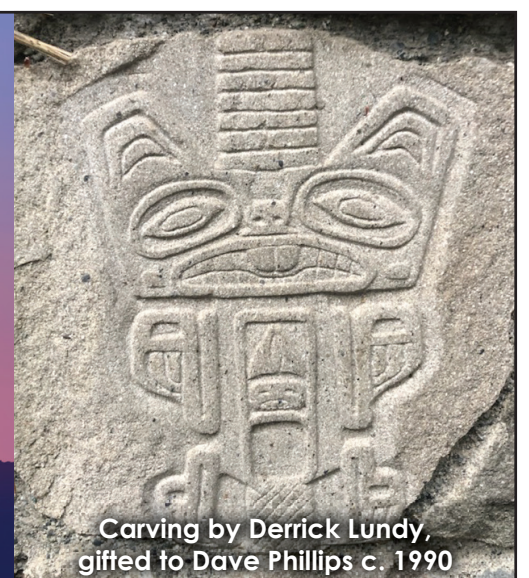
island and work-in-kind offered by the NSSWD.

- Salt Spring resident David Courtney initiated a change.org petition just before Christmas, asking that BC Ferries institute a two-vessel system on the Vesuvius-Crofton ferry route by continuing to use the Quinitsa, as well as the larger Quinsam when it is transferred to the route from Gabriola-Nanaimo in the spring of 2022.



Commemorating Derrick Lundy from the Rock Blasters and Stonemasons of Salt Spring Island.

Derrick Lundy
Nov 1956 - Nov 2021



Carving by Derrick Lundy, gifted to Dave Phillips c. 1990



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Happy New Year

LIVE THEATRE

GISS students set to present The Addams Family

Entertaining show perfect for all ages

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School's Grade 10 drama class has spent the fall semester working hard on their production of *The Addams Family*, which opens at ArtSpring next week.

The new musical comedy that is ideal for all ages runs Thursday and Friday, Jan. 6-7 at 7:30 p.m., and on Saturday, Jan. 8 at 2 p.m.

People may remember *The Addams Family* TV show that ran from 1964 and 1966, which was based on ghoulish characters created by New Yorker cartoonist Charles Addams. The musical comedy being undertaken by GISS students also includes a "normal"

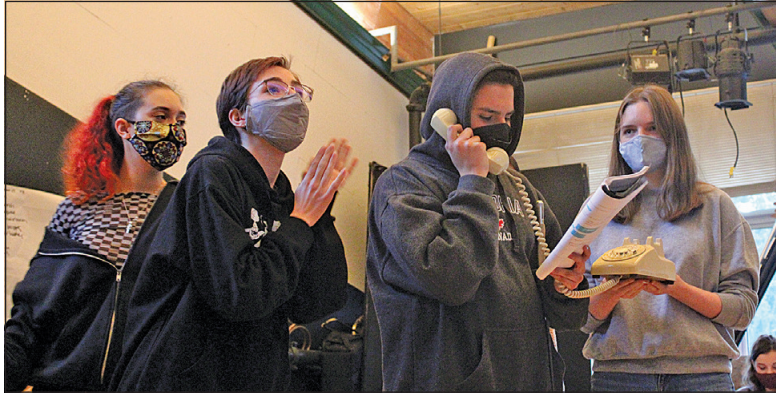


PHOTO BY REITH HUMPHREY

Rehearsing a scene from *The Addams Family* are, from left, Jaqueline Curran, Abby Zacharias, Santiago Lobo Montoya and Nuala Stafford.

family called the Beinekes. Dynamic tension results when Wednesday Addams and Lucas Beineke fall in love and want to marry each other, and Wednesday needs a meeting of

the two families to go off without a disaster.

"They come over and Wednesday wants just this one normal night, with no weird Addams fam-

ily things. But it doesn't quite happen that way," said student Dash Debruin as part of an interview with the Driftwood before the Christmas holiday break.

"We've got two families who are complete opposites," explains student Killian Irsch. "On the one hand, you have the Addams, who are a very eccentric, very dark family . . . And on the other hand, you've got the Beineke family from Ohio, which I am a part of. They are the perpetuated stereotypical American-dream family."

One of the interesting things is that secrets are never kept between Addams family members, but Wednesday asks her father Gomez to keep her marriage plans secret.

"I think it's a really entertaining show to watch," said student Abby

Zacharias, who has also done the play's choreography, adding that even though it has strong themes of family, love and authenticity, "It is definitely just created for entertainment."

The students were happy with how the show was progressing.

"It's all coming together now," said Nuala Stafford. "You can really see it with the set and the props and from being in the play. Now, it's like, 'Whoa, this is actually happening, and it helps us visualize it more, so I think that's pretty awesome.'"

While both the weather and rising regional COVID cases are potential causes for concern that the show could be cancelled or postponed, as the Driftwood went to press on Dec. 28 it was still slated to run.

Tickets are available only through ArtSpring at www.artspring.ca.

ISLAND ARTISTS

Salt Spring illustrator brings magical holiday tale to life

Christmas witch tale enchants

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It took six months from when Julia Iredale got the call to work on a magical pagan-themed Christmas tale written by two Hollywood artists, to when she put the final touches on *The Legend of the Christmas Witch*.

A recent transplant to Salt Spring, Iredale grew up on a Mayne Island sheep farm and has been illustrating book covers as well as children's and young adult books since finishing school at Emily Carr University of Art and Design in 2015. Iredale's latest creative endeavour tells the tale of a young orphan with magical abilities on a search for her long lost brother Kristoffer Kringle, whose name may ring a bell this time of year.

Iredale was connected by her agent with co-writers Aubrey Plaza, an actor and producer who famously played April Ludgate on *Parks and Recreation*, and producer and writer Dan Murphy.

"It's sort of a pagan Christmas-themed, alternative pagan idea. I love it," Iredale said of the story.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

Salt Spring illustrator Julia Iredale.

Her illustrations depict protagonist Kristorn's early life in the Black Forest of Germany, where she lives a magic-tinged childhood watched over by a witch and her raven. Her artwork then moves Kristorn along an adventurous journey to the South Pole and back in search of her brother, meeting a cast of jolly non-human friends and getting dangerously close to a world where children mar-

vel and adults fear and seek to destroy her.

It took six months from seeing the manuscript to completing the artwork for the book, with the majority of illustrations done digitally save for a few handpainted works and watercolour washes.

In the past she's worked on landscapes, scenes and animals, and she's now moving more into children's books which come with a wide variety of characters. This involves illustrating their personalities and costumes, as well as depicting them from different angles and through time.

"There's a lot to learn as you move into that children's book world. It's been really fun," Iredale said.

She draws from a repertoire formed from her many years spent drawing, along with research and inspiration from other artists, including favourites Júlia Sardà, Carson Ellis, Shaun Tan and others.

"It comes from within and also from engaging in other people's incredible art," Iredale said, including film, video games, books and more. "There's such a wealth of human imagination everywhere to get inspired by and draw upon."

Having always been intrigued by psychology and the concept of the subconscious,

Iredale also draws from dreams or states of "waking dream conversations" she can have as she walks alone in the woods.

This practice of walking by oneself in nature, uninterrupted by people, can prompt imaginings of what kind of mythical creatures could be living there or what kind of meeting one could have.

"Your identity dissolves a little bit and you start to become part of the scene that you're walking through," Iredale said of the process. "I love getting outside of the sort of mundane, everyday mind and getting more into a free flowing, mystery mind."

A lot of her art is centred around nature, which she was able to explore and interact with during her childhood as an un-schooler on Mayne. Her musician mother and architect and painter father encouraged their children's forays into guiding their own education, Iredale said, adding that she feels lucky to have had "interesting, curious, activated parents . . . they really helped us to learn and become curious people."

"There's just more room for my imagination to play when I'm surrounded by spacious, non-human worlds," Iredale added. "And I can think more in terms of mythic creatures and let my imagination run wild."

what's on this week



THE FRITZ CINEMA

For this week's movie info, see www.thefritz.ca.

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

• Beginning Wednesday, Jan. 5, the **Art Connection** group exhibits work from a show called **Making Scents** in the **Salt Spring Public Library program room**.

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

• **Avril Kirby** shows photographic works from her **Conversations With Thomas** series in the **library program room** through December.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Painters' Guild** member **Marian Hargrove** exhibits watercolour works in the **Country Grocer** cafe through December.

• **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.

Festival of Trees at the Harbour House Hotel

Support the food bank and Copper Kettle Daily through Jan. 2.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Drafting & Design

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Linda Haworth
2021

Linda passed away quietly surrounded by family and friends on Monday, December 20th, 2021.

Linda had been coming to Salt Spring for the past 35 years, purchasing a home 22 years ago and finally moving here permanently when she retired. Linda loved Salt Spring and contributed to the island as a volunteer with Lady Minto Thrift Shop, as a volunteer shopper at Thrifty's, dog sitting at the summer market, and driving seniors to medical appointments.

She loved dogs and a lucky few were sat by her regularly. She fed a plethora of birds that visited daily and provided endless enjoyment. Linda's relationships with her numerous friends and her nieces and nephews were precious to her. Her generous, kind and welcoming spirit drew people to her, and she will be missed dearly by many.

Special thanks to Dr. Crichton, Dr. Verheul, the SSI Home Care team, Country Grocer pharmacy staff, the ALS Clinic and ALS Society, and the numerous friends that supported her during her illness.

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Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) You will be drawn inward as 2022 begins. Gathering information from outer sources will shift to include more inner access. Your focus will turn to fortifying foundations. Counting and cutting losses is part of the plot. This taking account process may include friendships and associations you no longer deem beneficial. Consolidation is a keyword.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Increasing your network will prove important this year. This comes as a feature of a renewed drive for power and leadership. Strategic diversity regarding key contacts and allies will strengthen your resolve. A new sense of spirituality will be both your call and summons. Yet, you will learn that not everyone will follow.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) You could emerge as a spiritual leader this year. Yet, you may have to safeguard against becoming a source of unfounded intrigue and consequent hysteria. Directing your focus to a larger whole and/or collective will grow steadily. Health concerns could emerge and you are wise to remember that pure water food is the best medicine.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Some cycles ask us to let go and let God lead and you have entered one of them. While self-control is within our power, it pretty much ends there and we certainly cannot control the natural order of things. Focusing to make contributions to larger realities could also result in activating your personal power and leadership.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) 2022 stands to be a time of returns and this could manifest as some form of inheritance, but not necessarily financial. Mergers and joint ventures will hold more appeal and could lead to notoriety and greater professional success. Your focus will become increasingly practical and you will aim for precision and refinement.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) Get ready for expansion and increase in your relationships, both personal and professional. The pace could prove strong and steady, leading to some important new opportunities by June. These will spur your ambitions, which will come to a peak by late summer. All the while, you will be reaching for higher ground; to advance to the next level, or two.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) Your overall state of health will come into focus this year. This includes your mental, emotional, spiritual and physical health. Understanding that each supports or defeats the other will play a strong role. The financial flow could also waver, requiring creative thinking to overcome. Change is a keyword and you are wise to cooperate with it fully.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Jupiter in Pisces will bless you with creative inspiration. It is important that you catch the wave early, though. It will lead to new levels of independence and confidence as the year progresses subject to a measurable process of personal transformation. On the other hand, you will experience a renewed sense of commitment to business and love.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) You will enter mystic waters early on in 2022 in which you will feel quite confident to swim. Each stroke will increase your confidence levels which will build steadily all year. This will manifest as practical ambitions if simply to improve your skill levels even in your hobbies and pastime activities. Make the most of this go-ahead year.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) Get ready to be busier tending to a variety of fronts. The more able you are to handle the pace, the more progressively confident you will feel. This will support creative interests, choices and actions leading you forward and each will uplift the other. Your command and authority will also increase, supporting you to feel and act with greater integrity.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) Your spiritual life will experience a boost this year. This will manifest as also contributing to practical activities elevated by your ability to transcend attitudes and self-concepts that may have previously held you back. Much activity will be directed to home and family. You will realize that the time for needed changes has arrived and you will rise to the occasion.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Jupiter in your sign will trigger an expansive, adventurous and enthusiastic mood and attitude. This vibrant wave will remain strong through mid-May and can be harnessed for the blessing that it is. Bringing thoughts, ideas, innovations and visions down to earth is part of the plot. Your resolve to accomplish goals will be stronger than usual.

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Firstborn of 2022 Contest

We can't wait to see who will be the first baby of the New Year!

Several community sponsors are set to shower the first baby of 2022 with many generous gifts. Salt Spring Island's first tiny new resident of the year will enjoy these wonderful offerings, presented in a basket:

A \$50 gift certificate from **West of the Moon**. A \$100 gift certificate from **Pharmasave**. A \$50 gift certificate from **Salt Spring Books**. A jacket and shampoo from **Old Salty**. A \$50 gift certificate from **Kiddin' Around**.

The **Gulf Islands Driftwood** is excited to offer the first born baby their first print media appearance and keepsake: an 1/8th page, colour baby announcement. We look forward to announcing the special delivery!

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We'd like to use this space to express our sincerest gratitude to all our readers and advertisers. Your support is the lifeblood of the Driftwood.

To our advertisers, thank you for choosing our publication as a means to spread the word about your businesses and activities. You are the reason we're able to keep providing the members of our community with the quality coverage they need and deserve.

To the readers who turn to us every week for the latest local news and stories, thank you for being there. We do it all for you.

As we approach the dawn of a brand new year, our mission remains the same as ever: to give our island community a voice. Thank you, once again, for allowing that voice to be heard.

On behalf of the entire team at the Driftwood, we wish you the happiest of holiday seasons and all the best for 2022.

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