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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

HUNGRY: A pileated woodpecker seeks insects on a fir tree on a Salt Spring property. Spring is in the air with more bird activity evident in the islands.

HOUSING

Drake Road site set for housing

Fast-tracked project to serve Seabreeze tenants and other vulnerable residents

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After months of uncertainty for tenants at the Seabreeze Inne, BC Housing says it will fast track a project on Drake Road to provide permanent housing for people most at risk of homelessness.

Up to 28 modular units are planned for the Capital Regional District (CRD) site at 161 Drake Rd., with BC Housing-funded support for residents also provided. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) has also agreed to extend the lease of the current Seabreeze tenants until construction on Drake Road is finished, at which time the most vulnerable residents will move into the new development to be operated by Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS).

With over 30 vacant positions at the hospital, the LMHF offered in the fall to buy the 28-room Seabreeze Inne on Ganges Hill and transform it into 14-one bedroom apartments for healthcare workers.

The foundation stepped in after plans by Community Services to buy the Seabreeze fell

through, as BC Housing determined it didn't meet their needs.

"Despite their use as an interim emergency measure, we know that hotels are not a suitable long-term solution for people experiencing homelessness," the agency stated on the Drake Road project website.

Filling a need for hospital staff accommodation by buying the Seabreeze also meant the current tenants, most of whom were on the verge of homelessness before moving there, would need to relocate. While the BC Housing lease of the Seabreeze was always meant to be a temporary measure, the question of where the tenants would go remained unanswered for nearly two months until Drake Road plans were made public Jan. 20.

Residents at Drake Road will be living independently, with "daily meals, laundry, employment support, health supports, harm reduction and community programming" available, said BC Housing.

"These units are very welcome and will be

filled quickly," said Rob Grant, executive director of SSICS, who serves Seabreeze residents and shelter clients. Grant pointed to a recent count identifying around 60 people on the island in need of some level of supportive housing.

The up to 28 units will include both permanent supportive housing and shelter space, a representative from BC Housing confirmed. The shelter currently operated by Community Services on Fulford-Ganges Road will close once the Drake Road facility is completed.

BC Housing has identified 22 people currently residing at the Seabreeze who may be in need of supportive housing. Another 15 people reside at the nearby shelter on SSICS property, which is operating at reduced capacity due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Normally the shelter has 23 beds available.

BC Housing acknowledged that 28 units is not enough to house everyone at the Seabreeze and the shelter.

DRAKE ROAD continued on 5

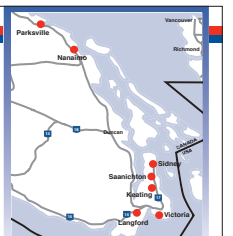
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BC FERRIES

Advisory committee puts forth Quinitisa option

Use of extra vessel for Fulford-Swartz Bay in summer months promoted

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Following the submission of an online petition demanding two-ship service on the Crofton-Vesuvius ferry route, a second proposal to supplement Fulford-Swartz Bay summertime service has been made public.

Last week Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (SSIFAC) chair Harold Swierenga released the committee's suggestion that the MV Quinitisa, currently serving the Vesuvius-Crofton route (Route 6), be used to add extra sailings during peak times

of the day in summer months between Fulford and Swartz Bay (Route 4).

The idea was submitted to BC Ferries in the form of a service request last August. (See sidebar below.)

In the meantime, Salt Spring resident David Courtney came up with the idea of using the Quinitisa as a second vessel continuously on Route 6 when the larger MV Quinsam becomes the permanent vessel on that route this spring. More than 1,900 people have supported that idea on a change.org petition site. Courtney has sought support from residents and politicians on Vancouver Island who are impacted by ferry-related traffic congestion in Crofton, as well as Salt Spring Islanders.

Brian Anderson, BC Ferries' vice president of strategy and commu-

nity engagement, has responded to Courtney's idea on page 12 of this paper by stating that "Substantial service increases, such as adding a second ship onto a route, require investments in terminal infrastructure along with an amendment to the [Coastal Ferry Services] Contract. Dedicating a second ship to this route at this time is not feasible because there is no spare to deploy." The corporation says it is also committed to other improvements on Route 6, in addition to making the Quinsam the year-round vessel, which can take 19 more vehicles than the Quinitisa and is easy to load.

"The SSIFAC does not consider the question of whether the Quinitisa or any other ferry could be better utilized on Route 4 or Route 6 to be an either/or question," said Swierenga. "The

Quinsam will provide a significant upgrade in service to Route 6 this spring, leaving the issues of Route 4 to be dealt with. When the ferry lineup in Fulford extends past the 'pinch point,' there is a whole village with hundreds of residents depending on one lane for traffic in both directions. There is, unfortunately, no other access and no side streets into which traffic can diverge. The non-ferry traffic going into Fulford is much heavier than the non-ferry traffic going down Vesuvius Bay Road toward the ferry terminal."

He also said an additional danger point exists on Fulford-Ganges Road where it curves just past the Beaver Point Road turnoff when people are driving into Fulford.

"The road down to the terminal in Vesuvius is much straighter

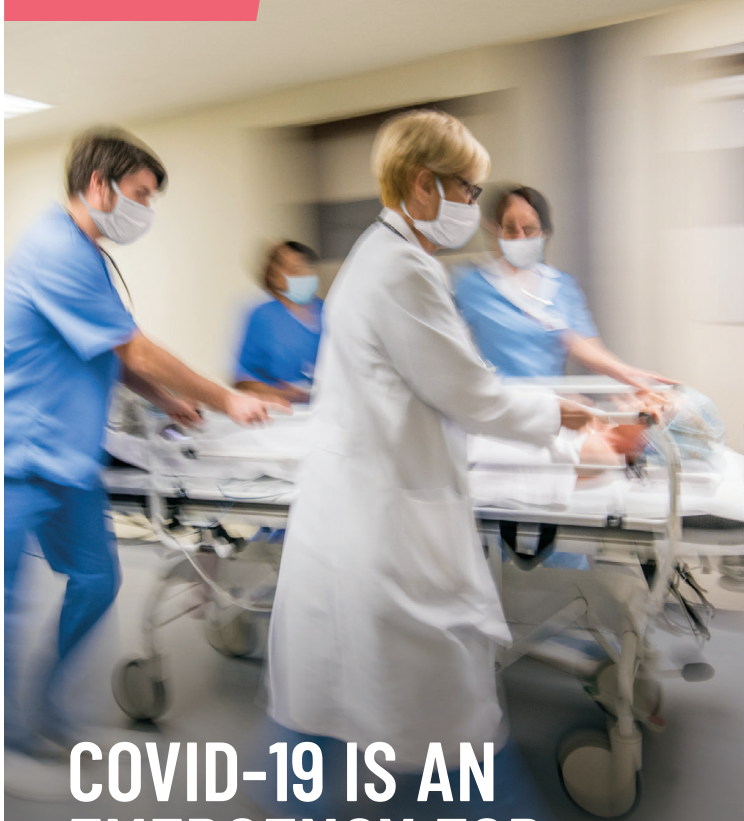
and motorists have a much clearer view of the entire traffic situation," he said, adding that "Neither situation is acceptable from a safety standpoint, but there is at least some improvement coming to Route 6 this spring."

Swierenga said "both Vesuvius and Crofton terminals are scheduled for redevelopment by the summer of 2027 and with the future coming of the twin Island Class ferries, there is an evolving solution to the vehicle lineup and ferry capacity problems on this route."

BC Ferries has not stated its position on the SSIFAC proposal.

Courtney has expressed frustration about the SSIFAC position and is urging people who support his idea to express that to Swierenga, Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman and local trustee Peter Grove.

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Route 4 Quinitisa rationale outlined

Following is the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee rationale for using the MV Quinitisa on Route 4 as a supplement to the Skeena Queen in summer months beginning in 2022, as submitted in a formal service request to BC Ferries on Aug. 4, 2021.

1) There has been a long recognized safety issue on the Fulford-Ganges Road when the ferry lineup extends past the "pinch-point." Although there have been discussions, studies and proposals over the past three decades to overhaul the Fulford terminal and increase parking availability, little substantive has changed and the challenges are very obviously still there. The problem is much more severe during peak season with the increased traffic and the much higher proportion of tourists unfamiliar with the situation. Our position is essentially that if there is no apparent possibility of increasing the supply of parking for the ferry lineup, then the option would be to reduce the demand for this parking by offering more capacity on the ferries. Although vehicle lineups past the pinch point do occur all year round, they are much more common during the peak season, which we are concerned with here. Not only would our suggestion greatly increase safety but it would also substantially reduce the need for traffic control personnel on the Fulford-Ganges Road.

We recognize that there are other terminals in the system where ferry traffic lines up to some extent on

the travelled part of the road but the vast bulk of the traffic tends to be ferry related while in Fulford there is a village with commercial establishments as well as homes with, unfortunately, no other vehicle access.

2) There is significant anecdotal evidence that the overloading of the Skeena Queen and the resulting two-hour wait for the next sailing has resulted in ferry users utilizing Route 6 instead, resulting in the well-known overloading of that route. Increasing the capacity on Route 4 would also help reduce the demand on Route 6 and thereby reduce the overloading and lineups on that route as well.

3) Hourly service on Route 4 during the peak season would be a major benefit to Route 1/4 thru-fare travellers. Travellers in the Route 4/1 direction who miss the Route 1 connection at SWB only have to wait an hour for the next Tsawwassen-bound sailing while travellers on the Route 1/4 direction who miss the Skeena (it is often full when you drive off the Route 1 ship in peak season) have a two-hour wait. Hourly service on Route 4 during the busy time of day would mean a wait of only one hour.

4) Hourly service on Route 4 during the peak season could very possibly eliminate the need for the traditional Saturday extra sailing of the Skeena.

5) The above measures to resolve the pressures on the Fulford terminal and the Skeena Queen would put off the need to

significantly modify and expand the BCF presence on the ground at that location. Eventually, terminal improvements will be needed, but the current safety and traffic concerns would be significantly alleviated.

6) We recognize that the Quinitisa is a designated relief ferry to replace other ferries while they undergo maintenance or repair, but since most of that work is undertaken during the non-peak season, utilizing it on Route 4 during the peak season would not be a major disruption. It is also very conducive to this requested service in that the extra dock at Fulford is available to park the Quinitisa when it is not in service.

We would ask that BC Ferries consider that a peak season service by the Quinitisa would have it making the first Fulford-Swartz Bay sailing at 8:50 a.m., then leaving SWB at 10 a.m. and continuing the pattern 10:50, 12:50, 2:50 from Fulford and 12, 2 and 4 from SWB except on Fridays when the schedule would be two hours later to accommodate the heavier Friday evening traffic to Salt Spring.

We recognize that the Quinitisa is theoretically scheduled for retirement later in this decade and would suggest that consideration be given to its eventual replacement by an Island Class ferry.

The Skeena Queen provides admirable service on Route 4 and we are sure that peak season backup by the Quinitisa would solve many of the current issues of safety and capacity on this route.

COVID-19

Fire board vaccination policy opposition raised

Paid-on-call force warns responder pool will be impacted after Feb. 28 if mandatory vaccination brought in

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Community members are voicing their opposition to a policy that makes a COVID-19 vaccine mandatory for all of Salt Spring's firefighters by Feb. 28.

The mandatory COVID-19 vaccination policy was approved by trustees on Dec. 13, and made public at a Jan. 17 Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board meeting. While leaders at Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue say the policy is necessary for public safety and the safety of their employees, many community members opposed the policy in speeches at the Jan. 17 meeting, as well as letters and a petition submitted to the fire board.

Cameron Proudfoot, a paid-on-call firefighter who has been with the department for seven years, said while the policy doesn't affect him currently it is affecting colleagues.

"What I'm seeing in our community, it's like the fire department is a microcosm of this," he said. "The mandates are forcing people to have to choose between their work, their livelihood, their families. It's causing an incredible amount of stress in these families."

He asked for the policy implementation to be pushed forward, and for the board to look at other options such as rapid testing, masking and changing of assigned duties.

"I'm not here to deny vaccines, mandates, the existence of COVID or anything like that, I just wanted you guys to be able to have a face of one of the firefighters who's going to be mandated out of their jobs," Red Oakes, a paid-on-call firefighter who has been with the department for seven years, told the fire board.

Oakes said there were plenty of firefighters who would be let go because of the policy, and that there would be a "decreased response of our firefighters due to this mandate."

The policy requires all "high risk" employees, which includes all firefighters, to provide proof of full vaccination, or proof that they are unable to be vaccinated, by Feb. 28. Those who fail to do so will be placed on unpaid leave for up to six months. At the six-month mark, if they are not fully vaccinated, "the district may terminate their employment."

Employees can request an accommodation under the policy for medical, religious or other prohibited grounds of discrimination under the BC Human Rights Code. Andrew Peat, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue's chief administrative officer, said accommodation requests are a human resources matter, so he could not comment on whether anyone had asked for accommodation.

How the mandate will affect operations is not clear.

"There was a percentage of firefighters that approached me," said Fire Chief Jamie Holmes. "That could change our

operations," he said, but did not elaborate further in the public portion of the Jan. 17 meeting.

Captain Ken Akerman is president of the International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) union local for Salt Spring, which represents the nine career firefighters at the department.

"I don't believe it's going to be an issue with the career members. They'll be able to respond," Akerman said when asked how the policy might impact operations. He noted he could not speak for the over 30 paid-on-call firefighters not represented by the IAFF.

Our union continues to encourage and strongly recommend that all members be vaccinated to prevent the spread of COVID-19," Akerman said.

"It's extraordinary, we are infringing on member's personal beliefs and right to choose and so it's all very carefully written," Peat said of the policy, adding that the fire department asked for input from members on a draft version of the policy and it has also been looked at by legal counsel.

Peat added that he can't speak for the motivation of the trustees who implemented the policy.

A request to speak with board chair Rollie Cook was not answered as of publication time, however, the policy's preamble details how a potential COVID-19 outbreak at the fire department would severely compromise the ability to respond to calls.

"Fire Rescue is a small organization, and its effectiveness relies on the ability of its trained and dedicated employees being able to respond," the policy states.

The policy also noted that the nature of firefighting entails members having in-person contact with the public, with each other and with other first responders and the RCMP.

"Our members come in contact, routinely, with vulnerable people in our population, be they elderly, be they economically disadvantaged and we're putting them at risk... if we haven't taken every precaution to protect them and ourselves," Peat explained.

The policy states that it aligns with recent vaccine mandate announcements for all BC public sector employees and federal employees such as RCMP members.

Fire departments across B.C. have been grappling with implementing similar policies to Salt Spring's. A labour arbitrator is deciding on the case of nine Richmond firefighters on leave without pay after the city implemented a mandatory vaccination policy there. In an agreement with their firefighters union, the City of Vancouver has temporarily allowed staff to continue working on the condition that they take a COVID test and share the results before each work day. And some fire departments are being heavily affected by the COVID-19 virus. The Surrey Fire Service used rapid testing to keep staff levels up, amidst 25 per cent of their workforce contracting the virus over the past month.

The board received seven letters and a petition with 101 signatures in opposition to the policy. Thirteen people spoke at the Jan. 17 meeting, including a local constable and mem-

ber of Mounties for Freedom James Elliott.

Noting that his opinions don't reflect those of the federal government or of the local detachment, Elliott said he and the group "stand united against the forced coercive medical intervention of Canadians [and] against the discrimination faced by those who have exercised their right to decide on their bodily autonomy."

Several speakers and letter writers brought up potential negative side effects of vaccination, while others emphasized the high numbers of people in Canada who are already vaccinated, at 83 per cent as of Jan. 23, and noted that the vaccines do not necessarily prevent people from getting and passing on the COVID-19 virus.

The board has to review the policy every six months, Peat emphasized, and any mandates from the provincial or federal government would trump it.

Changing the policy would require a two-thirds majority of the board, Cook said, adding that the board will look at the matter again at their Feb. 14 meeting.

"The mandates are forcing people to have to choose between their work, their livelihood, their families. It's causing an incredible amount of stress in these families."

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MEDIA

CFSI gets broadcasting licence from CRTC

Fundraising campaign next part of process

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Community Radio Society (GICRS) has received permission to operate a radio station and transmitter on Salt Spring Island.

The decision from the Canadian Radio-television and Telecommunications Commission (CRTC) was released on Monday.

"It's fantastic," said GICRS president Damian Inwood. "It's been such a long journey and of course we are absolutely delighted."

The station will broadcast at the same FM frequency — 107.9 — and with the

same call letters as its commercial predecessor CFSI.

Inwood and other GICRS members have been working to bring radio back to Salt Spring and the other Gulf Islands since 2016.

In its application, the society committed to providing 126 hours of programming each week, with a minimum of 105 hours devoted to local programming. Inwood said multicultural, Indigenous and diversity programs would be in the mix. The radio station would be vital for communications purposes during emergencies when other communication channels are down, he noted.

First steps for the society are to expand the current board and launch a fundraising campaign to pay for transmitters and

other equipment. Inwood said the society has more than \$5,000 in the bank but probably needs closer to \$80,000. Existing CFSI transmitter spaces at Mount Belcher and Mount Bruce will be used. A broadcast location must also be secured.

He thanked everyone who supported the station's CRTC licence application and hopes that will translate into financial assistance for the next phase of the project. People with ideas for programs will also be invited to submit them in due course.

CFSI currently runs 24/7 programming online at islandsradio.ca.

The previous CFSI owner, Salt Spring Island Radio Corp., had its licence revoked in July of 2015 for non-compliance with its regulatory obligations.

COMMUNITY OPINION

Public feedback wanted about fire department

Further topics to be addressed in future

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders are being invited to share their opinions about important island matters through a new online opinion forum called Salt Spring Insights.

Created by two local companies — Return On Insight, a market research consultancy, and Marketworks, a digital media company — the aim is “to raise the level of conversations here and offer a clearer picture of local opinion on Salt Spring topics,” they state in a Jan. 19 press release.

The process sees individuals sign up to become panel members. They will then receive regular invitations to participate in surveys on different topics and be eligible to win prizes for participating.

“Confidentiality is a crucial concern of Salt Spring Insights, and all information collected is kept strictly confidential, with no answers ever being attributed to individuals. All survey answers are summed up and presented in aggregate form.”

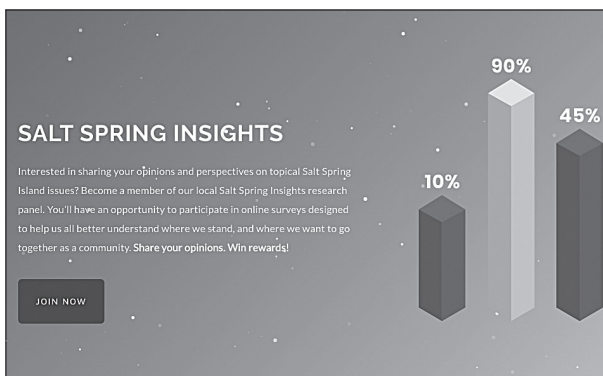
The first topic Salt Spring Insights will address among panelists involves Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue, which has hired Return On Insight to engage with the public about attitudes toward firefight-

ing and emergency service facilities on the island.

“Diversity of thought is essential for any community to thrive,” the companies state. “By participating periodically in professionally crafted online surveys, managed and administered by an experienced team, islanders can safely and confidently add their unique perspective to Salt Spring Insights and help inform decisions and actions being taken to improve life here on our island, one issue at a time.”

To sign up, go to saltspringinsights.com.

For more information, contact Return On Insight president Bruce Cameron at rbc@returnoninsight.ca.



Screen shot of Salt Spring Insights web page.

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ISLANDS TRUST

Francis Bread seeks new retail bakery space

Rezoning attempt dropped after obstacles prove insurmountable

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The owners of Salt Spring Island's Francis Bread are looking for a new home for their bakery after deciding not to continue with a rezoning process for their location on Churchill Road.

Meghan Carr and Peter Hunt began operating their bakery as a home-based business at 125 Churchill Rd. four years ago, on the family's property in an area which felt very commercial with two of Salt Spring's largest hotels and the marina nearby. As their bakery grew in popularity, Carr said they realized they were outgrowing their home-based business situation and began working with local government on a way forward.

They had hoped to rezone their property from residential to commercial, making the bakery as well as two accommodation units on the property legal. With overwhelming community support at a Jan. 19, 2021 Local Trust Committee meeting, trustees allowed the bakery to keep operating without facing bylaw enforcement until their rezoning application was resolved.

"We're hearing loud and clear

about the value of this business and a community amenity in your midst," said LTC chair Peter Luckham, who added that he'd never seen as many letters of support for any application previously with close to 500 messages received.

While the focus for Carr and Hunt has always been on the bread and wanting to provide a staple product to the community, their energy has for the past few years been spent on attempting to get the rezoning through the island's unique governance system. Working with three governing bodies — the Islands Trust, North Salt Spring Waterworks District and the Capital Regional District — was a challenge Carr said.

The bar is set quite high, she explained, with various requirements that are challenging to meet without access to unlimited finances.

"So we just had to make a decision as a small business to move on or keep going," she said. "And it felt too financially and emotionally exhausting to be able to keep doing that."

Carr said she hopes to see a solution around the North Salt Spring Waterworks moratorium, as this is the main reason they abandoned their plans to continue the bakery on the current property. The property was serviced by the waterworks district, however, using that water for commercial uses was not allowed so the owners transitioned

to bulk water supply for the bakery. But the bulk water solution is at variance with the Islands Trust Policy Statement concerning water as well as portions of the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan.

A staff report presented at a Jan. 18 LTC meeting noted that no precedent exists for a rezoning on the basis of bulk water, either within the Islands Trust or provincially, "likely due to the difficulty of ensuring provision of potable water from an approved source in perpetuity for increased intensity of use." As a result, staff did not recommend proceeding with the application "on the basis of bulk water supply for the commercial uses on the lot."

"I see Francis Bread as being part of that [Salt Spring community] culture."

PETER GROVE
Salt Spring trustee

"Unless we make really significant investments, without the guarantee of our zoning even going through, we're stuck. We can't go forward," Carr said.

In the LTC's discussion of the rezoning Trustee Laura Patrick noted that while water is a critical

consideration for the Islands Trust, "it is not the only value that we can be making our decisions on in a community."

The water issue on Salt Spring is one which ties into the broader issues of housing and business operations on the island, issues which Carr and Hunt never wanted to be involved in.

"I didn't realize how the community is fractured in some ways. I think we really wanted to be this community space," Carr said.

When their business was growing in popularity and began being talked about in the media and at the Islands Trust, they began getting some negative feedback.

"We never wanted to be controversial, we just wanted to make bread. But it felt like people were taking that out of our hands and making it about 'How should the island be? Who should get to be here?'" she explained.

"I don't want to be known for zoning issues, I just want to be known for making delicious bread," Hunt said, who added that running the business is a lot of work even without the rezoning process. "I'm sure if anybody tried to learn how to make sourdough during the pandemic, they know how much work it is."

While Carr said disappointment and heartbreak is how it feels currently, she added that they are moving on with a positive attitude to

find a space that works for them before the summer. That may prove challenging, as the bakery needs a kitchen and also a place to house the specialized baking equipment and wood-fired oven they use.

At last Tuesday's LTC meeting, trustees put the rezoning application into abeyance for six months, allowing Francis Bread time to find a new location. Carr said they appreciate the time they've been given to come up with a plan. They're not leaving the island, she said, and want to continue to be a part of what makes Salt Spring the community and culture it is.

"I see Francis Bread as being part of that culture," trustee Peter Grove noted in his support of the abeyance.

Locals can purchase their products at the Salt Spring Mercantile, at The Woodshed, and by ordering at francisbread.com and picking up at the bakery.

"Basically we've turned the bakery into a farmstand kind of set up," Carr said, in order to minimize traffic and business and to keep having a minimal impact.

Owners of the bed and breakfast units on the property, Nicholas Hunt and Celia Duthie, plan to continue to operate, and will be connecting with the waterworks district about their business, which was opened 15 years ago and before the water moratorium came into effect in 2014.

Shelter outcome of some concern

DRAKE ROAD

continued from 1

"We will work closely with people to identify their individual needs," the housing agency stated. "The most vulnerable will be offered places at 161 Drake Rd. and we will work to find other housing solutions for those who require fewer supports." This could take the form of rent supplements for people who are able and want to rent in the private market. "We are committed to ensuring that no one ends up back on the streets," BC Housing stated.

Grant said there are still a lot of unknowns with the Drake Road project and more clarity is needed. "The part of this plan which reduces emergency sheltering capacity in the community will be a challenge," he stated Friday.

"The 2021 homelessness count identified about 150 homeless on Salt Spring, of which 100 were unsheltered and the rest were in provisional accommodation," Grant said of the need. "The emergency shelter has been at full capacity for years, and there are still many people in vehicles, camps and sleeping rough around the island."

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen said the elected officials working with the provincial government through this process were very clear that they don't want to be in a lesser situation than they are in today.

"It was a tricky area to navigate, and so far it appears that we're pretty close to being in a similar situation to what we're at now," Olsen said. "But what we're doing is taking temporary housing measures that the government put in place for COVID and making them permanent with the new facility."

The province is using the authority it has under the Interpretation Act, often referred to as paramouncy powers, to fast track the project straight to construction.

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman

said he supports this approach and has been assured by BC Housing that all regulatory requirements will be met. A well has been dug at the site that can support the water needs of around 30 units, he said. While paramouncy could raise some concerns, Holman emphasized that "this is a crisis, an ongoing crisis, and we need to move quickly."

"These folks are already in our community," he added. "So surely everybody is going to be better off, not just those folks but the community, if they've got secure housing where they're getting ongoing support."

Site preparation and construction is set to start "in the coming weeks" with the buildings expected to be ready in late summer.

BC Housing stated they will be engaging with neighbours and the public in January, people can submit questions and comments online at letstalkhousingbc.ca/salt-spring-island-supportive-housing or to community-relations@bchousing.org.

Olsen acknowledged the "huge amount of coordination" to come to this outcome of purpose built housing for shelter, supportive housing and housing for healthcare workers, and especially the local leadership by Gary Holman and Rob Grant.

"It really was a collaborative effort," Holman said. The Drake Rd. Site, located next to Phoenix Elementary School, was donated by the board of the Gulf Islands School District to the CRD for affordable housing for families many years ago.

"It's pretty rare and a pretty remarkable gift from the school district to the CRD, without which we wouldn't be talking about this," said Holman.

BC Housing is only using around 15 per cent of the five-acre site for this project, so there is room left for further development. Holman has allocated gas tax funding to drill for more potable water this year, and then a proponent would be needed. "We're open to offers," he said.

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Quinitsa dreams

It seems the MV Quinitsa is a vessel we either love or we hate.

When the 44-car capacity ferry was brought in to replace the much larger Howe Sound Queen on the Vesuvius-Crofton route (#6) in 2019, chaos reigned. It was clearly unable to handle traffic demand and has been despised ever since. Thankfully BC Ferries brought back the Bowen Queen for the past two spring and summer seasons, and the 63-car capacity MV Quinsam is scheduled to take over Route 6 duties this spring.

Salt Spring's ferry traffic volume on both Route 6 and Route 4 (Fulford-Swartz Bay) will likely remain a serious issue, however. Two different solutions have been floated for the short term, both involving the much-maligned Quinitsa.

Salt Spring resident David Courtney has suggested the Quinitsa remain on Route 6 as a year-round supplementary vessel when the Quinsam

takes up residency. But the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee had already proposed the Quinitsa be used for peak time sailings between Fulford and Swartz Bay during the summer months.

Both proposals raise practical questions that only BC Ferries personnel can — and should — answer. For Route 6,

with only one berth on each side, both ferries would need to be in operation for the entire day, as there is no second berth at either end for the extra ferry to park. That hardly seems efficient or practical. For Route 4, is it efficient to move only a maximum of 44 vehicles every two hours between Fulford and Swartz Bay?

Where BC Ferries will find more people to run a second ship on either route in these times of crew shortages is probably an even more critical question.

Regardless of which actions are taken this summer, it is not reasonable to leave the three communities of Crofton, Vesuvius and Fulford Harbour plugged up with vehicles for several hours of each day, and have sailing waits squeeze economic activity to the degree they now do, so BC Ferries must do something to alleviate the situation. The fact is that having a vessel capable of carrying 19 more cars between Crofton and Vesuvius almost hourly is going to make a big difference to Route 6.

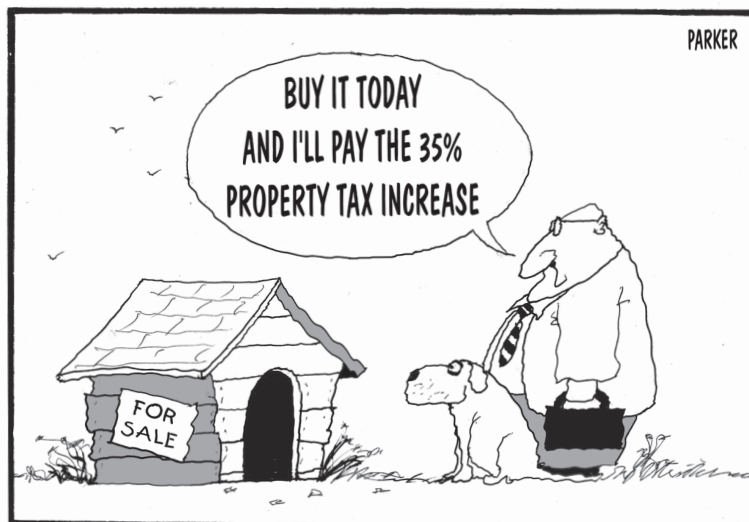
Both citizen Courtney and the SSIFAC should be thanked for pressing BC Ferries to do something about Salt Spring's immediate ferry traffic congestion issues. The future is another matter entirely, and we hope the corporation is motivated to deliver on both timelines.

THE ISSUE:

Route 4 and 6 ferry congestion

WE SAY:

BC Ferries needs to take some action



Restore the public square

BY DAVID FULLBROOK

When the Fulford Inn closed in 2010, I did not see myself assuming ownership of the property. Far from it.

Something changed for me as the years of inaction passed by. I suppose I could say I lived nearby and would drive by it often, watching the impacts. I suppose I could say it was the murder of Joseph Birney in that area, or the noticeable decline of Fulford village life, or just the absence of a place that had a heartbeat and vibrancy that I was familiar with. I honestly don't really know. In time, by about 2015 or so, however, I came to the view that the decline of the Fulford Inn was the loss of an essential gathering and meeting place to our community.

We may each of us feel tangible personal grief when considering the challenges our community faces — climate change, habitat loss, fishery decline, homelessness, income inequality, drug addiction — but these horsemen have always been lurking. No simple decision or plan will emerge which solves any of these problems. The only way we can meet the challenges of the future is to build and strengthen our community life, our connection and obligation to each other. We cannot defeat these

VIEWPOINT

horsemen, only face them, and that will be easier if we do it together.

Albert Camus wrote: "All great deeds and great thoughts had a ridiculous beginning. Great works are often born on a street corner or a restaurant's revolving door." This is the public square: the place where we gather and engage in a sharing of viewpoints, backgrounds and abilities. It is in the public square that ideas and opinions clash and wrestle and give rise to innovation, enterprise and opportunity. Literally and figuratively we inhabit a world today without a public square; it has been privatized "online" and called "speech." Largely fuelled by division, drama and conflict, this private square is so antithetical to our shared history that we find ourselves in a world where complexity and intellect are frequently outmatched by emotion.

Much as it may feel better to hang on to a simple principle and hold true to that belief through to the bitter end, in the real world we must measure and weigh the practical benefits and costs and determine the best path forward on the basis of

many outcomes. This does not come without often difficult compromise.

Much has been written of late in this newspaper regarding the Vortex project and the various reasons why the proposal should be denied by the Local Trust Committee. I share all of the concerns of the authors and I support their important voices for our island. Instead of debating, I hope to build understanding. For that purpose I created an easy-to-navigate website (www.saltspringvortex.com) to provide access to the technical information, design rationale, and various design plans that make up the basis of the application. I hope people will visit the website for themselves and inform their understanding of the proposal. While the Islands Trust hold the bar for development high, a view of the website will illustrate that we have well exceeded that bar.

As always, I thank the many neighbours and friends who have supported our efforts during this long campaign to rebuild the Fulford Inn. I look forward to the final decision and moving one step toward realizing the goal of reestablishing a community gathering space and public square at Fulford Harbour.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you approve of the
Drake Road housing
project?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you appeal your
property assess-
ment this year?

41 127
YES NO

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: }

"We never wanted to be controversial, we just wanted to make bread."

MEGHAN CARR, FRANCIS BREAD

SALT SPRING SAYS

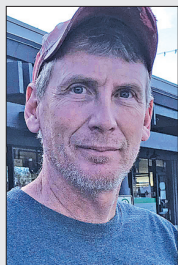
WE ASKED: *What is your favourite show or series on TV or a streaming service right now?*

MARGUERITE LEE



I enjoy watching home improvement and cooking shows.

BILL BOYD



I only watch sports. Hockey and football are favourite.

DEBORAH MCNISH



The Expanse, a science fiction series on Prime.

LARRY NELSON



My all-time favourite is Star Trek

WENDY HARTNETT



I like to watch Knowledge Network as I am interested in history.

LETTERS to the editor

Small dwellings not the villain

In this newspaper and elsewhere, Maxine Leichter continues to make strong, yet false, statements on housing and the environment that can't be left unaddressed. ("Protection goals sabotaged," Jan. 19 Viewpoint.)

First, every housing advocate I know, and every trustee, is a hard-core environmentalist. All trustees take protection of this special place seriously, as does the unique conservation mandate of the Trust Act, which has world-regarded protections built into its core. Suggesting our environmen-

tal protections are "a mirage" and that trustees "favour development" as they seek to balance other community concerns creates unnecessary fear and simply has no basis in reality.

Second, our island's official population has barely grown since 2000 (2001 population: 9,279. Today: under 11,000). Raising fears about thousands flooding our shores is a tired trope almost as old as Salt Spring, but for a variety of what should now be fairly obvious reasons, it's just not happening.

Third, small suites and cottages are not being built en masse. Rather, hundreds have left the rental pool to become short-term vacation rentals. With the cost of build-

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

ing so high, along with severe water considerations, even the Trust's first step into legalizing more small dwellings is hardly going to lead to "thousands" of new buildings, as is claimed.

Small dwellings are not only not being built, they are also not the environmental villain. The real development pressure on this island today is for more new-build large-footprint high end homes, usually on cleared land, far from town, with water-intensive gardens.

The island's embattled workforce is not going to ruin Salt Spring island, and advocating for regular people to be able to stay in the place they have built is no threat to any of our deeply held environmental values.

I sometimes wonder if those who continue to see villainy in sustainably housing our modest workforce are themselves so overwhelmed with climate grief they are blind to the complexity of the issue. People should get help for their legitimate trauma at the state of the world, but stop taking it out on our small community. We are literally fighting to make ourselves more resilient to the many oncoming disasters we will continue to face. I shudder at the brittle place we will become with no on-island workforce left.

JASON MOGUS,
SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Won'ts and don'ts could be as important as wills

Sooner or later, you will be in the position I found myself in a few weeks ago. You will realize that you have reached a stage in your life when it is time to consider what will happen to your stuff when you are no longer here. Even if previously you had the foresight to draw up a legal last will and testament, you may discover that times and situations have changed enough to make many of the declarations in your will outdated or even obsolete.

For instance, I found that many of the articles which had been so important to me at a younger age were no longer of any value or in much demand. My giant glass jar filled with copper pennies and my prized collection of bottle caps from all around the world, for example, had lost all meaning in a world obsessed with bitcoins and non-fungible tokens. Similarly, I was living so far back in time that my substantial contribution from my estate to The Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Dinosaurs was probably well past its "best before" date.

Just in case you didn't know, a last will and testament is a document which explains and clarifies what will happen to your estate and property at the time of your death. Actually, "explains and clarifies" is a total misrepresentation because nobody, not even the lawyers who draw these things up, have a clue about what is actually stated in the will. This is because the language used in these documents is a legalese jargon that was imported from the planet Grrxxl about 500 gazillion years ago before it was destroyed by a giant affidavit hurdling through space.

Just to get a taste of the language used in wills, why don't we chew on this witty little paragraph: "A disposition to a person's Issue alive at a particular time 'per stripes' means the trustee must divide the estate or relevant part of it into a sufficient number of shares." Sounds like a party about to break out, doesn't it? It's easy to see how the inhabitants of Grrxxl were probably relieved by their imminent destruction.

Don't get me wrong. I readily admit that leaving a will behind when it's time to check out from this planet is a useful and



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

probably necessary exercise. After all, you wouldn't want those you leave behind to quibble and squabble over who gets to take home that heirloom chafing dish, would you? But is anyone going to really decipher that "the residue of the estate of the third party hereby relinquishes all gifts, inheritance, succession, and other death taxes" means that one of your deemed inheritors might refuse to wade through your unorganized tool shed to find out if you left anything of any real value in those tobacco cans filled with rusty nuts and bolts? Hey, if I had wanted to understand the language used in wills, I would have studied Egyptian hieroglyphics in college.

Many wills specify who will be designated to carry out the wishes of the deceased. This responsibility falls to the Trustee or the Executor. It's important to differentiate between the two positions. Basically, your Trustee is someone you trust. It follows, therefore, that your Executor is someone you don't trust. The name, Executor, comes from the same root as Executioner, who is sometimes affectionately referred to as the hangman or the fellow who pulls the lever on the guillotine.

Naming somebody to be your Executor is about the worst thing you can do to a friend or family member. You might as well ask your Executor to take a bullet for you or sip your portion from the poisoned chalice. Administering your estate will so complicate their lives that they will wish they had croaked first and will probably hate you long after you've departed from this earthly orb.

I think that there is a better idea than leaving behind a will that will probably satisfy none of your beneficiaries and cre-

ate bad feelings among the ones you leave behind, which they are certain to take to the grave. I propose a legal document called a "Won't" which would specify in very plain language who you don't want to leave what to. The Won't will prevent your good-for-nothing nephew from walking away with that old dependable chainsaw you knew he always craved.

Your Won't should be divided into a series of sections called Don'ts. You can start off with a universal Don't, which names all the friends, relatives and acquaintances to whom you leave absolutely nothing. This can be followed by a number of more specific Don'ts to make sure that certain people don't inherit certain items. Each Don't should identify a designated part of your estate and a particular eligible beneficiary you would like to see shut out.

For instance, you want to single out any and all ex-spouses and make sure that none of them get their sticky hands anywhere near your collection of vinyl records which would probably be worth an oil sheik's fortune if only the labels hadn't faded so badly that they can no longer be identified and the covers have been pressed against each other for so long that they are impossible to separate.

Not all Don'ts need to be material objects. You may have a neighbour who has been pestering you for ages to allow him to take down that hedge of tall, spindly cedars you planted decades ago on your side of the property line. Even after you are gone, your Won't can deny your beneficiaries from giving him permission to cut your hedge just so he can have a better glimpse of the ocean. Who says you can't derive satisfaction from the grave?

Nobody asked me but, whether you leave behind a Will or a Won't, you are much better off than if you don't. If you neglect to get your affairs in order, the authorities are bound to step in and probate your estate for you. When all is said and done, you may find that your life will be mismanaged after death much like it was while you were still alive.

Let's build back better in B.C. with budget

BY MLA ADAM OLSEN

As the BC NDP government attempts to move into the post-pandemic world, the scars from our global fight against this vicious virus have been revealed.

The pandemic has exposed divisions in our society and as I prepare for the spring 2022 session of the BC Legislative Assembly, a major focus will be the coming budget. At the beginning of the pandemic there was a multi-partisan effort to provide the provincial government with the resources it needed to support British Columbians through the challenging time. There was hope that the government would lead us in a collective effort to build back better.

COVID-19, and the series of severe weather events in 2021, has shone a light on deepening social inequality and decaying infrastructure, and how that is hampering the delivery of services like public health, transportation and education.



Adam Olsen
MLA'S
REPORT

The impact of unsustainable resource extraction methods has led to collapsing biodiversity, wildfires, floods and landslides. The impacts of not investing in public health, and specifically primary care, has led to a growing two-tier health-care system where clinics with family doctors are charging annual membership fees, and corporations such as TELUS are offering a premium primary health care service for those who can afford \$4,700 a year.

It surprises me that the expansion of a two-tier health care system is happening under the watch of the BC NDP. However, this is just

one of many examples of growing inequality on their watch. Instead of focusing on collaboratively building back better, the BC NDP government has been in reaction mode, scrambling from one crisis to the next, applying band-aids.

We will be debating the budget starting in mid-February and there is a lot of pressure on Budget 2022 to offer a fiscal response to the wide array of social and environmental challenges we face. As this government is increasingly insular, the coming Speech from the Throne and budget are an opportunity for them to clearly lay out their goals and show their plan.

This is the opportunity for the BC NDP to articulate how they are going to address the confluence of crises in housing affordability, the thousands of deaths resulting from increasing toxicity in the illicit drug supply, the infrastructure deficit exposed by powerful and extreme weather events, an exhausted

and fragile health care system, and our battered and failing ecosystems.

I hope in 2022 the BC NDP will be open to a more collaborative approach. None of the challenges we face are best solved through political ideology or theory, but through courageous, engaging and empowering leadership.

Building back better is not about returning us to where we were pre-pandemic, but rather how are we going to build a society that produces a resilient and thriving economy without devastating the natural environments our survival and well-being depend on and does not further worsen the growing inequality that is leaving many of our friends and family behind.

I will continue to do my job as an opposition member critiquing the budget, but my hand will always be out to the Premier to work together, because building back better is a responsibility we all share.

Accurate traffic forecasting among requests to BC Ferries

The following is addressed to BC Ferries president and CEO Mark Collins and sent to the Driftwood for publication.

BY DARRYL MARTIN

As president of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce I am writing you on behalf of our 200 member businesses to request immediate improvements to ferry service provided both at Vesuvius and Fulford. Be assured we would not be writing were this not a serious matter.

The urgency of this issue is underlined by the fact that over 1,900 affected residents of Salt Spring and Cowichan have signed a petition concerning the inadequate service on the Vesuvius-Crofton ferry route (Route 6). We understand the petition, spearheaded by a private Salt Spring resident (not affiliated

INDEPTH

with our Chamber) will be delivered to you very soon. We totally support the central thrust of the petition, namely that the wait times and parking lot overflows cannot be endured any longer.

Most of the consequences of inadequate service for residents and for business — supply disruptions, increased trucking costs, wait times for off-island trades, lost tourism — are well known to BC Ferries so we will not address them here. However, you also need to be aware that at both Vesuvius and Fulford, parking lot overflow causes the main lane to the terminal to be blocked for the one to two-hour gaps in sailing times. Consequently, traffic

is forced to travel in the opposing lane, creating a severe risk of head-on collision especially on the blind curves approaching Fulford.

In 2017, BC Ferries sought approval from the Ferry Commissioner for the retirement of the Howe Sound Queen from Route 6 and replacing it with the significantly smaller 44-car Quinitsa. BC Ferries reassured us that their traffic modelling showed the smaller ferry could handle the traffic. Many residents raised concerns, and the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee (SSIFAC) stated that this was only acceptable for a very short term. The Quinitsa entered service in June 2019 and the doubters were immediately proven right, leading to three chaotic years on Route 6.

That is in the past, and Route 6 users look forward to the arrival

of the Quinsam this spring. For the first time in years a suitable vessel will be serving the route. But with the promise of the Quinsam came news that BC Ferries has put off terminal improvements until the late 2020s, and that perhaps there may be two ferries in 2035. It seems nothing has been learned from the modelling fiasco of 2017. This timetable is completely unacceptable.

While the problems of Route 6 are currently front and centre, the problems of Route 4 (Fulford) have existed for years and also need attention. Some time ago, the SSIFAC submitted a request for the use of the Quinitsa to supplement service during the high demand months. If approved it can provide relief, but clearly must be an interim measure only.

Salt Spring has two connections

to Vancouver Island for very good reasons. Given the geography of both islands, two essential trade routes have developed over many years. We strongly suggest that, in addition to making immediate service improvements on both routes, BC Ferries take immediate steps to permanently upgrade its traffic forecasting methodology. A better system would provide guidance to decision makers as to the path forward for both routes. Our Chamber proposes to work collaboratively with BCF, the SSIFAC and other agencies to see a state-of-the-art traffic forecasting system developed and implemented for both Salt Spring routes. In future this will go a long way toward preventing serious capacity mismatches like the ones that have led to the citizen petition, and this letter.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour							
JAN/FEB 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
26	0050	2.5	8.2	30	0523	3.5	11.5
	0341	2.4	7.9		0936	3.1	10.2
WE	1020	3.4	11.2	SU	1318	3.4	11.2
ME	1815	0.9	3.0	DI	2131	0.1	0.3
27	0252	2.8	9.2	31	0600	3.6	11.8
	0458	2.8	9.2		1033	3.0	9.8
TH	1048	3.4	11.2	MO	1421	3.3	10.8
JE	1903	0.6	2.0	LU	2218	0.1	0.3
FEB							
28	0357	3.1	10.2		0635	3.6	11.8
	0640	3.0	9.8	1	1124	2.9	9.5
FR	1125	3.4	11.2	TU	1524	3.3	10.8
VE	1953	0.3	1.0	SA	2303	0.2	0.7
29	0442	3.4	11.2	2	0707	3.6	11.8
	0819	3.2	10.5		1216	2.7	8.9
SA	1217	3.4	11.2	WE	1625	3.1	10.2
SA	2042	0.1	0.3	ME	2346	0.4	1.3

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Rooster noise violates bylaws

The truth about roosters: CRD Bylaw 3384 states "No person shall make, cause to be made, or continue to make any noise or sound in the Electoral Area which creates a noise that disturbs or tends to disturb the quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of the neighbourhood or of persons at or near the source of such noise or sound."

So, when someone moves into your closely spaced neighbourhood and brings a rooster that wakes you up every morning at 4:30 a.m., and asking them nicely to re-home it doesn't work, your only option is to call bylaw enforcement. Recently, however, there has been a trend of backyard rooster owners on Salt Spring claiming they are farmers and invoking the "Right to Farm Act." Unfortunately for them, there is a BC Farm Industry Review Board.

In his recent dismissal of a complaint to BCFIRB (mentioned recently in a very one-sided two-week profile on roosters in the Driftwood) chair Peter Donkers states: "I conclude that the respondent's poultry operations do not fall within the definition of a farm business and in fact, are more in relation to a hobby or lifestyle preference. As such, I conclude that the noise complaint from the rooster does not relate to an underlying farm business and as such, I would dismiss the complaint on this basis. Having found that there is not an underlying farm business, it is unnecessary to go further and consider whether the noise complaint actually relates to a farm operation conducted by a farm business."

Which brings us back to the CRD noise bylaw, now fully enforceable. Rooster owners can choose to re-home their rooster or, at their own expense, must fully soundproof their coop so that no early morning crowing can be heard by their tired neighbours. They must ensure that the noisy bird be securely cooped every evening in the sound-proof coop and not

released until after 7 a.m. This fair option allows for a backyard hobbyist to own these irritating birds AND for the rest of us to get a good night's sleep.

So, if you too are woken very early every morning by your neighbour's noisy lifestyle preference, call CRD bylaw enforcement and file a complaint, and don't feel bad about it. You are entitled to peace, quiet and rest as much as your neighbour is entitled to their backyard hobby.

ELISABETH WALTON,
SALT SPRING

Object misunderstanding

The Jan. 19 Viewpoint article by Maxine Leichter states that: "Many of us have long assumed that the Islands Trust area is a special place where the natural environment is protected." The wording of the Islands Trust Act in reference to the environment does not include "natural."

The Viewpoint also states that: "Some trustees even argued that the word 'environment' should be interpreted to include 'people.' These trustees are correct as the 'environment' wording of the Islands Trust Act does include 'people.'"

The Viewpoint refers to "the protection of the unique amenities and the environment." The Islands Trust Act also importantly includes to preserve and protect "the trust area for the benefit of the residents of the trust area."

A misreading of the object of the Trust achieves no more than a common misunderstanding, and as a result most of the Viewpoint opinion which states that the protection of the goals of the Islands Trust Act have been "sabotaged" or is a "mirage" does not represent reality or what is afforded for the benefit of the residents by the Islands Trust Act.

Our trustees have a responsibility to the language of the Islands Trust Act.

A.P. DORAZIO,
SALT SPRING



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COMMUNITY SERVICE

Duo takes on Ganges village litter

Roger Brunt and Doug Wahlsten volunteer their time

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Roger Brunt and Doug Wahlsten met in 2012. They became friends, wrote a guidebook to the fairy doors on Salt Spring Island, and now they are cleaning up a large part of downtown Ganges every Wednesday.

It all started about four months ago. Brunt, an award-winning writer and maker of beautiful wooden fairy doors on Salt Spring Island, and Wahlsten, a retired neuroscientist, psychologist and behaviour geneticist, meet weekly in town for coffee.

They talk about new projects, the weather and politics. But there was one thing that came up in their conversations every single time. Brunt: "We complained about how downtown Ganges was littered with garbage."

"We were wondering what was happening because every week it seemed to get worse," he continued. "At some point, we decided that we couldn't keep complaining forever. We had to man up and do something about it."

They bought garbage bags and grabbers, brought buckets and started to pick up litter on a weekly basis.

"It is just hard to see that our town looks like this," added Wahlsten.

Every Wednesday they get together, have a coffee and clean up the downtown area on the western side of Fulford-Ganges Road.

"The other side of the road does look better and garbage cans are emptied regularly, so we focus on



PHOTO BY MARCIA JANSEN

Roger Brunt, left, and Doug Wahlsten with buckets and grabbers as they pick up trash on Hereford Avenue in Ganges.

this side of town," said Brunt.

"Each week we both collect a full bag of garbage, it doesn't get less," said Wahlsten. "We never seem to get ahead of it."

"We pick up lots of disposable masks, many beer and pop cans,

paper coffee cups, wine bottles, socks, toothbrushes, food packaging left behind after lunch and cigarette butts by the million," Brunt added. "We found a whole stack of cards, that we collected card by card over several weeks, and what

astonishes me the most is plastic bags with dog poop. Why put it in a bag if you are leaving it on the street anyway?"

People appreciate the work the two friends do, by thanking them on the street.

"And we got cookies once," said Brunt with a smile. "We don't mind doing it. It is a social event, a chance to get together and meet people, and dogs. Doug always carries dog treats."

The two friends think they will keep up with the cleaning until someone takes over.

"We know that there was someone who picked up garbage for donations, but we haven't seen him in a while," said Wahlsten. "It is hard to tell who is responsible for keeping our town clean since we're not incorporated, but it would totally make sense if someone was hired to do this permanently."

The clean-up that Brunt and Wahlsten are doing weekly is in addition to the work Colin Ward is hired to do through Alan Moberg's landscaping business, for Mouat's Trading Company.

"I have been picking up trash and emptying garbage cans an hour a day in the morning, for three years now. Seven days a week, rain or shine," Ward said. "But it is hard keeping up in that limited amount of time. When I come back the next morning, the streets are scattered with litter all over again. Sometimes it is overwhelming."

Cleaning up in town is just one of a few jobs that Ward has.

"It is very rewarding," he said. "I like connecting with people I meet in the streets, and I am happy to see that the town looks a bit better when I am done. I've been on Salt Spring Island since 1971. I am proud to live here, but the litter in the streets bothers me too."



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CONCERT PREVIEW

Community choir returns to ArtSpring stage Sunday

Viva Chorale! presents
Awake and Dreaming

SUBMITTED BY VIVA CHORALE!

Viva Chorale! choir is excited to present its Awake and Dreaming concert on Sunday, Jan. 30 at 2 p.m. at ArtSpring.

Awake and Dreaming is comprised of songs that walk the boundaries between dream and reality; songs that will get your toes tapping and your heart pumping, and songs that will cause you to pause and reflect and hold the ones you love a little closer. This concert is about the in-between times; the dawn and dusk times, the time of realization before wakefulness, and the day-dreams of peace and reconciliation.

Artistic director Caroni Young has created a varied program with a broad representation of

cultures and choral styles, and something for all to enjoy. Several pieces were selected from our previous two concerts that could not be held due to the pandemic. Choir members voted on their favourites, and will finally have a chance to perform them for an audience. Come experience the beauty of voices singing in harmony and the joys of live music!

Audience members will hear Eric Whitacre's gorgeous setting of The Seal Lullaby by Rudyard Kipling, describing a mother lulling her seal pup to sleep in safe waters. We will sing of the dark times and the way we look to the light of the sun and the moon for courage and strength in Susan Labarr's Wisdom of the Moon. The boundaries between Night and Day and the joys of everyday life and the natural world are present with Morning has Broken, arranged by Phillip Stopford.

The line between reality and dreams and hopes for a better future are also present in Reena Esmail's TaReKiTa, which she wrote for a Los Angeles choir whose singers were homeless or recently experiencing homelessness. In this unique piece the choir imitates traditional Indian instruments. Cree composer Andrew Balfour represents the border between sea and sky and the reflection of light on water with his stunning piece Qilak.

Tickets must be purchased in advance via artspring.ca or at the ArtSpring Box Office, which is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Masks are required for everyone age 5+. Proof of vaccination required for age 12+, with valid government photo id for age 19+. There will be no intermission. The choir will be masked throughout the performance.

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Obituaries

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Concrete & Placing

Janet Wheeler

1946 – 2022

Artist, healer, wife, soulmate, friend, mother and proud grandmother, Janet suddenly passed away on January 13th at Victoria General Hospital, with her husband and daughter by her side.

Janet was born in Sheffield, England and grew up in Kent, where she swam for the county. She trained as a teacher and graduated from her college with a distinction. She taught elementary school for many years and then became a teacher of flower arranging, taking part in national and international competitions, and was asked to teach in Russia at the time of perestroika, which she successfully did for three seasons. She developed a love of stitched textile and helped start and run her local Embroiderers Guild branch in the UK, her art continued when she moved to Canada in 2010 and she joined groups in Vancouver and then Salt Spring. She frequently exhibited her work, most recently in the Mahon Hall and the library here and enjoyed working with the many fellow artists in each group. She also valued her work as a healer in the Healing Touch ministry at Vancouver's Christ Church Cathedral and regretted so much that the on-going pandemic had curtailed this work.

She had just celebrated her 54th wedding anniversary, and is survived by her husband, Simon and their two children, Clare, married to Alec, and Neil, married to Fay, and her three beloved grandchildren, Henry, Rowan and Finley, together with her sister Ann and brother-in-law, Bob.

She loved her cats, baking Victoria sponges and chocolate in any form.

Many, many thanks for all the medical help she received from Dr Paula Ryan and the emergency team at Lady Minto Hospital, including the paramedics and fire personnel who were on site so quickly, plus the Air Ambulance staff and all at Victoria General Hospital. Heartfelt thanks also to our local Beddis community who have provided truly wonderful love and support.

The funeral service was held January 22 at All Saints by the Sea in Ganges, a memorial service will be held at a later date.



In Remembrance of (CHARLES) JULIAN WAKE

(1947-2022)

Born in the UK on 16 February 1947, Charles Julian Wake was of Welsh, English, and Scottish ancestry. Going by the name of Julian, he was the son of Roger Wake and Olwen Mary Wynne-Finch. He attended Eton College. In 1966, he came to Vancouver to study forestry at UBC. Switching fields, he went on to earn a BA and MA degrees in social anthropology.

Julian married in 1977 and had two children. The family lived a countercultural life in the Kootenays for many years.

Julian worked in multiple capacities for many First Nations in several areas of British Columbia. He had a deep appreciation and immense respect for First Nation cultures. His work also took him to Nepal, Jamaica, and Peru, and he travelled extensively, pursuing adventures and experiences. Wherever he went, he would always immerse himself in the customs and culture of the country. Valuing connection, he kept in touch with his friends around the world and made regular road trips to the Kootenays and across BC to see friends.

On retiring, Julian moved to Salt Spring Island where one of his pleasures was to go to the Saturday market. While he'd pick up the odd item, the main purpose of attending was to chat to his many acquaintances and friends on the island and to meet new people.

At his home on Saltspring Island, he placed a number of feeders on his deck. He delighted in watching the birds visit.

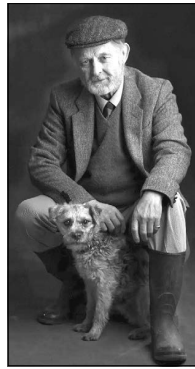
Julian was also a proud gardener. Despite his failing health, he turned the land on his property on Saltspring into a fine sanctuary. He planted a large vegetable garden, surrounding it with a high fence to ward off the deer. A string of Tibetan prayer flags fluttered from the tops of two of the fence poles. He sought out seedlings and unwanted rose bushes from neighbors to further enhance the natural beauty of his patch of land.

Julian always spoke of his two children with kindness and love. He was immensely proud of them both and of them.

On Sunday, January 16, 2022, a month before his 75th birthday, Julian died peacefully surrounded by family at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria, BC.

Julian is remembered with love by his children, his family in the UK and France, and his friends in Canada and abroad.

A memorial service will be held in the future.



Beth Ranney

18 October 1926 – 19 January 2022

Letabeth (Beth) was born in Ingersoll, Ontario, the oldest daughter with 3 younger brothers to Arthur & Grace Waring. Beth, as her brothers called her, was one of those young women who chose to help the war effort by working in agriculture, having already completed her advanced music studies in piano. At the end of the war she married Paul Ranney, after he returned from the navy, and started her long career as a piano teacher.

Beth and Paul worked hard with a market gardening business in addition to their jobs, as well as caring for their 3 children. Over the years they transformed their old Salford house into a big comfortable home.

On retirement Beth and Paul moved to Salt Spring Island, where they fit right in with that active and creative community. Beth sang for the Salt Spring Singers and later with the Lost Chords choir. She was the accompanist for a vocal quartet and often played at events where a capable pianist was needed. Throughout her 36 years on Salt Spring Beth volunteered in many roles with OGIFA (supporting production of coffee from Omatepe Island in Nicaragua). She drove, packed groceries and answered phones for Salt Spring Seniors and threw many great parties for these groups.

Beth and Paul were adventurous & loved to travel. Beth organised house exchanges to Australia, Ireland & Italy. They went to Nicaragua, Africa and New Zealand. Visiting Australia 5 times to see their daughter Kathy, they explored wild natural places in preference to cities. Beth made 2 more trips to Australia after Paul was gone, the last in her 90s. She loved swimming in the ocean baths. Beth was strong minded, resourceful and intelligent, a great model for her children.

In her lifetime Beth has grown a lot of food and flowers, played many tunes and sang many songs. She is remembered by friends as a wonderful musician who generously shared her gift. She had great capacity for living life to the fullest and brought a pragmatic acceptance to all that life had to offer. Beth was a caring, considerate and generous person, always looking to help others without being asked. She was a wiz at crosswords and Sudokus, always had a book on the go or a pair of socks being knitted.

Beth is remembered with appreciation and affection by many piano students and missed by her friends at Meadowbrook where she has lived for the past 6 years. She will be greatly missed by her children Kathy and John, her 5 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. Beth said at the end of her life "don't mourn me – be happy for me". So we celebrate the full and good life she lived.

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Celebrations

Celebrations

Margaret Spencer
turns 90
on January 28th!

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OUTDOOR RECREATION

Sundays added to trail and nature club activities

AGM set for Jan. 27 via Zoom platform

SUBMITTED BY SSI TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB

Sunday afternoons are now an option for hikes of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, complementing the usual Tuesday morning hikes, walks and rambles in February.

The planned schedule is outlined below, but people should be sure to check saltspringtnc.ca for last-minute updates.

Tuesday, Feb 1

- Hike: Kees Visser will lead a hike through Bryant Hill starting from Stewart Road. Meet at 9:45 a.m. at ArtSpring to car pool or at 10 a.m. at a small parking area on Stewart Road near the entrance to Peter Arnell Park.

- Walk: Mary Lou Cuddy will lead a moderate and very scenic walk on the Tsawout Reserve. Depart ArtSpring at 10 a.m. or meet at Reginald Hill entrance. Park at the end of Morning-side Road by the mailboxes.

- Ramble: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 6

- Hike: Meet at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. and we will choose a destination for a two to three-hour hike. Bring a snack and water. New members are welcome to participate.

Tuesday, Feb. 8

- Hike: Bob Keates will lead a hike in Channel Ridge starting at the Sunset Drive access point (150 yards south of the West Eagle intersection). The group will loop around and then follow the crest of the ridge back to John Myers' bench for lunch. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. to carpool or at 10 a.m. at the Sunset Drive access point.

- Walk: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to pick a leader and decide on a walk.

- Ramble: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 13:

- Hike: Meet at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. and we will choose a destination for a 2-3 hour hike. Bring a snack and water. New members welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 15

- Hike: If any of the previous sched-

uled hikes have been cancelled due to poor weather, they will move to this spot.

- Walk: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to pick a leader and decide on a walk.

- Ramble: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 20

- Hike: Meet at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. and we will choose a destination for a two to three-hour hike. Bring a snack and water. New members welcome.

Tuesday, Feb. 22

- Hike: Carron Carson will lead a hike to the summit of Baynes Peak, starting at the trailhead at Armand Way. Meet at ArtSpring at 9:45 a.m. or at 10 a.m. at the end of Armand Way.

- Walk: Meet at ArtSpring at 10 a.m. to pick a leader and decide on a walk.

- Ramble: Meet at Centennial Park at 10 a.m.

Sunday, Feb. 27

- Hike: Meet at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. and we will choose a destination for a two to three-hour hike. Bring a snack and water. New members welcome.

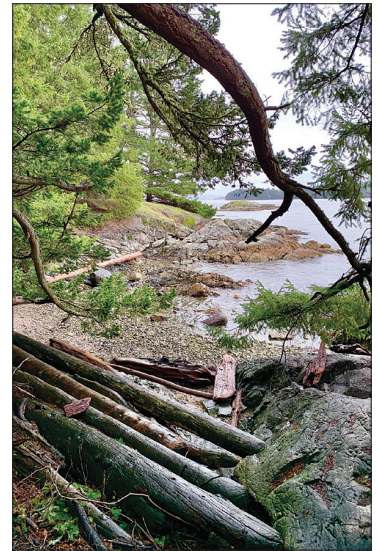


PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

Part of the shoreline on the Tsawout trail, which the walkers group of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club will venture to on Feb. 1.

POETRY

Victoria writer Wendy Donawa anchors poetry open mic



PHOTO COURTESY SSI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Poet Wendy Donawa.

Next Thursday evening event held via Zoom

SUBMITTED BY SSI PUBLIC LIBRARY

On Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m. the Salt Spring Island Public Library will host a Zoom Poetry Open Mic with featured poet Wendy Donawa.

Born on Vancouver Island, Wendy Donawa spent three adult decades in Barbados,

where she raised her family and worked as a college instructor and museum curator. Returning to Victoria, she respectfully acknowledges that she lives on the traditional unceded lands of the Songhees and Esquimalt Nations. The B.C. coast's salty winds and the Caribbean's easterly trade winds make equal claim on her imagination and memory.

Her poems have appeared widely in poetry journals,

anthologies, chapbooks and public transport buses. Her first book, *Thin Air* of the Knowable (Brick Books, 2017), was long-listed for the Raymond Souster Award and was a finalist for the Gerald Lampert Memorial Award. Our Bodies' Unanswered Questions (Frontenac House, 2021) is her second book.

Lorna Crozier has called Donawa's poems "fiery calls to action . . . in a world rife with inequity and injustice, this . . .

is the kind of beacon we need . . . Unwavering, uncompromising and fiercely wise."

The Salt Spring Library is grateful to the League of Canadian Poets for funding this event.

To register for the evening, please email programs@saltspringlibrary.com.

People wanting to read a poem for the open mic part should sign up at 6:45 p.m. One poem only can be read by each participant.

what's on this week



Thur. Jan. 27	Fri. Jan. 28	Sat. Jan. 29	Sun. Jan. 30	Mon. Jan. 31
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT ArtSpring Presents: Chloe Kim & Joana Hood. Violist and violinist perform music by Mozart, Michael Haydn and more. Concert dedicated to retiring ArtSpring artistic and executive director Cicela Månsson. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Advance ticket sales only. COVID protocols in place, including 50% capacity in theatre. Open Mic & Jam. Royal Canadian Legion. Hosted by Rough and Tumble. 7 to 10 p.m. ONLINE North Salt Spring Waterworks District Trustees' Meeting. Public welcome to observe meeting via MicroSoft Teams. 10 a.m. See northsaltspringwaterworks.ca for the link. Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club AGM. Annual general meeting for members via Zoom. 10 a.m. Contact secretary.sstnc@gmail.com for the link.	ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. Follow the trail of laminated signs from a children's book beginning from the Salt Spring Public Library through Moutat Park and toward the Rainbow Road pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. VIA ZOOM ASK Salt Spring. This week's topic is emergency preparedness with managers from the transportation ministry, Emcon road maintenance services and the CRD emergency operations centre. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com for the link. Sat. Jan. 29 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Rattlin' Roaring Willies. Lively Scots and Irish music with Tim Fanning, Michaela Cunningham and Simon Trevelyan. A Trincomali Folk Club concert at 142 Lawnhill Dr. 7:30 p.m. Tickets at trincomalifolk.com.	ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing. Sun. Jan. 30 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Viva Chorale! Awake & Dreaming. Choral concert at ArtSpring. 2 p.m. (Note there is now only one concert, down from the originally scheduled two.) Advance ticket sales only. COVID protocols in place, including 50% capacity in theatre. ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.	ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.	ACTIVITIES StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

West Side Story shows on Friday, Jan. 28 through Tuesday, Feb. 1 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See www.thefritz.ca for more movie info. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements, and limited seating, in place.

EXHIBITIONS

- The Art Connection group presents paintings interpreting the title "Making Scents" in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room from Jan. 5 to 28 during library opening hours when the program room is not otherwise in use. They also have work in the lobby showcase.

- Salt Spring Photography Club exhibits images in the ArtSpring lobby on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and before evening concerts in January.

- Salt Spring Painters' Guild member Sheri Stander exhibits her watercolour paintings at the Country Grocer Cafe Display Wall through February. Subjects include flowers, animals and buildings.

Poetry Open Mic
with guest poet Wendy Donawa

Via Zoom through the library

Thursday, Feb. 3 at 7 p.m.

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OLD BOYS SOCCER

Mike Davis earns first MVP honours of 2021

New team uniforms and The Big Mike Show fend off potential Zgoda comeback at GISS

BY FRASER HOPE
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Sporting new team colours, the Old Boys men's soccer team returned after the winter break on Jan. 16 to play before an energized crowd at GISS for the first game of the year.

Even though it was a home game, injuries and other commitments resulted in the team having no substitutes on the bench, meaning that ever-reliable Mike Davis donned the goalie gloves in net. Our "first foot visitors" Zgoda FC were short two players but gallantly declined an Old Boys replacement. Under spring-like skies, the large supporting crowd enjoyed the change in

the weather and agreed this return to action was welcomed as much for the boost in mental well-being as for the game.

Scott Howe, sporting the captain's armband, led out the team to thunderous applause from his many supporters.

Old Boys immediately attacked down the right wing with David Toynbee prominent in two drives that saw a shot come back off the post to the amazement of all in the press box. Video assistant referee (VAR) confirmed "no goal!"

Immediately at the other end a Zgoda player managed to kick Tony Wilson and fall over in the penalty box. Penalty! 1-0 to Zgoda. Wilson was sent to the sin bin for 10 minutes for registering surprise at the decision.

The Old Boys quickly replied with an intense attack that saw Mike McCormick smash a rebound off a defender in from eight metres to tie the score 1-1.

Zgoda then had a breakaway and were disappointed to see

the powerful shot cannon off the crossbar to the relief of the spectators.

Attacking down the right wing, Wilson judged a fine cross for McCormick to get enough noggin on the ball for a well-deserved fight back and a 2-1 score. Good defensive work by captain-for-the-day Howe brought up the half-time whistle.

Half-time discussion centred on the confidence-boosting new team outfits. (Fans can visit the team store and avail themselves of a replica shirt to support the Old Boys.)

When the second half began, Howe, ever playing the gentleman captain, offered his services to Zgoda to make the sides even at 10 aside. For the first 10 minutes or so it seemed the move would backfire on the Old Boys as Zgoda with Howe's aid began to make inroads on the home defence. Keeper Davis had to make a goal-saving dive to prevent the first of many attacks.

The Old Boys then regrouped as a Toynbee and Graham Tweddle combination produced a third goal and gave the team some breathing room.

This reporter was honoured to be presented with a new team shirt bearing the numero uno, which I am delighted to say I was allowed to wear to bed.

Then, taking advantage of long stamina training, the Old Boys began to dominate a tiring Zgoda team. With victory almost certain, the home team had to thank Big Mike for making a series of three crucial saves that could have turned victory into disaster: full-length diving

saves that seemed destined to hit the back of the net to tie the game!

A deflated Zgoda, turned back by TBMS (The Big Mike Show), gave away a final goal to Ronald Baretto, who latched onto a through ball from McCormick. Final score: Old Boys 4, Zgoda 1.

Post-game analysis revolved around the Davis performance in goal, which prevented a comeback by Zgoda. By a unanimous decision, Davis was named MVP to the great delight of the family supporters.

This reporter was honoured to be presented with a new team shirt bearing the numero uno, which I am delighted to say I was allowed to wear to bed.

Old Boys played Gordon Head Gunners on Saturday at Lochside Park under the floodlights and a report will surface in some format as I had to record the event in my little iPod Touch. An update will follow.

ADVERTISING FEATURE

BC Ferries Plans to Support Growth on Salt Spring Island – Crofton Route

Dear Salt Spring Island Community,

We have heard recent concerns about traffic growth on the Vesuvius – Crofton route (Route 6) and the ability of the ferry system to continue to meet community needs. This update provides information on the developments we are seeing and our plans to accommodate growth going forward.

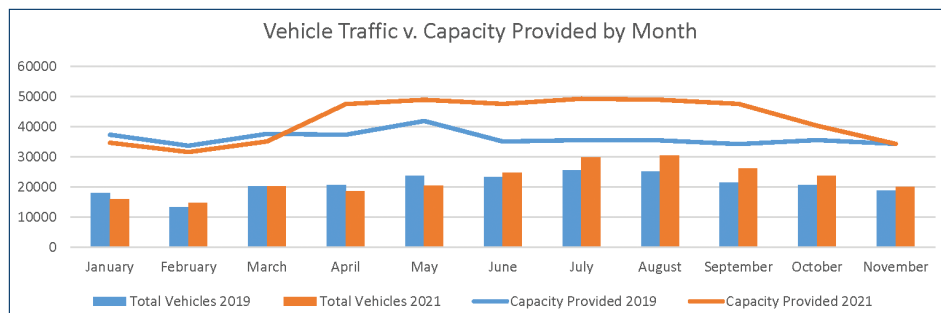
Traffic has grown on Route 6; so has capacity

Like most of our inter-island routes, traffic volumes are growing on Route 6, and were higher in 2021 than they were pre-pandemic in 2019. You can also see from the graph above that the capacity provided has grown and always exceeded demand.

During the peak months of July-September, this additional capacity resulted in approximately 30% fewer sailings leaving full this year compared to 2019. Despite this capacity increase, we know there is still pressure for certain sailings during the day. To support this growth, we are introducing the *Quinsam* to the route this spring. The *Quinsam* will provide 43 per cent more vehicle capacity per sailing (~19 more vehicles, and up to 100 more passengers). Long term, Route 6 may receive two Island Class vessels.

What is required to support further increased service on Route 6?

Ferry system capacity for each route is set by the Province



of British Columbia under the terms of the Coastal Ferry Services Contract. We meet or exceed the capacity requirements on Route 6, as we do on all BC Ferries routes. Substantial service increases, such as adding a second ship onto a route, require investments in terminal infrastructure along with an amendment to the Contract. Dedicating a second ship to this route at this time is not feasible because there is no spare to deploy.

Our plans to support growth on Route 6

We are supporting growth on Route 6 immediately and over the long term by:

- Placing the *Quinsam* into service, providing more capacity and easier loading procedures to make operations more efficient
- Holding conversations with the Province on capacity growth across our system, including the Crofton – Vesuvius and Swartz Bay – Fulford Harbour routes
- Establishing processes to accept regular commercial traffic on Dangerous Goods sailings and free up space at busier times
- Exploring options to make travel more certain, such as through the introduction of reservations (we would engage the community before implementing changes)

Crofton and Vesuvius terminal redevelopment

We expect to complete redevelopment of the Crofton and Vesuvius terminals by summer 2027. Redevelopment will allow us to improve traffic flow, enhance customer comfort, and prepare for the introduction of new vessels. Work is underway to update redevelopment plans and we will re-engage with the community prior to beginning construction. You can learn more about plans for both terminals at www.bcferryprojects.ca.

We recognize travel patterns are changing through the pandemic. I hope this update explains the considerable work that is happening behind the scenes to improve service on Route 6 now, and into the future. I would also like to thank our Ferry Advisory Committee members who continue to work with us and represent community needs for all three Salt Spring Island routes.

Sincerely,

Brian Anderson

VP Strategy and Community Engagement

BC Ferries