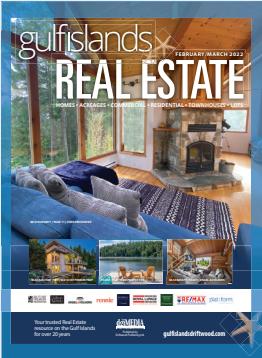


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## Arts and Entertainment...10

Classifieds .....	14
Editorial .....	4
Island Life .....	15
Letters .....	5
Money Matters .....	12
Salute to Search & Rescue....	8
What's On .....	10

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Wednesday,  
Feb. 2, 2022

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Issue 5  
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### HOMELESSNESS

## Park warming space dismantled



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

On Friday morning, Capital Regional District bylaw enforcement officers try to convince people to dismantle the "warming space" they had established in Mouat Park since Jan. 9, or have bylaw and parks staff do the deed. The set-up was moved to another part of the park but further enforcement is expected.

### New area sought for grassroots collective

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A warming space set up at Mouat Park for the past month was removed on the orders of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Friday, yet the people behind the grassroots initiative are continuing their efforts.

The first warming space was set up at Peace Park over the holidays, complete with a barbecue, tents and a propane fireplace. The space transitioned to Mouat Park on Jan. 9 and remained until Jan. 28, when a CRD removal order was enforced and it was dismantled.

Organizers said the space was meant to provide physical warmth, nourishment and human connection at a time when many community members are facing isolation and coping with trauma. Nicole Whitefield, who grew up on Salt Spring and returned to the island after losing her child, said she's been at the space every night since Jan. 17.

"We all need this space to be and grow and heal and eat and cry and freak out and scream and have a space where it's okay," she said. "If I was left in my car and just driving around, I don't think I would be able to come back at all."

I've lost hope and I've gained it back."

Members of the collective attested to the transformative power of the space, including some people in recovery or relying on substances less frequently. Raven Black said they are trying to find a good place for people who are the most marginalized.

"It's okay that they be in the bank machine area staying warm . . . that's not seen," he said. "But as soon as we put something out a little ways in the woods, all of a sudden it's a huge problem. It hurts my heart a lot."

Collective member Kajin Goh said efforts were made to situate the space away from neighbours and other park users, to keep the area clean and be low impact and to connect with and get tacit approval from local government and other agencies. Yet despite their best efforts, the CRD's electoral area director for Salt Spring Gary Holman said there has been a "steady stream of complaints from neighbours and people using the park."

The CRD's parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington confirmed over a dozen complaints have been received regarding "noise, theft, public intoxicating, smoking and off leash dogs."

"I can confirm that we have been called to Mouat Park since the warming space began," Salt Spring RCMP detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook stated. "I would prefer not to comment further at this point as I do not believe the core issue is a policing issue."

Despite complaints, Holman noted that "CRD bylaw enforcement was not initiated for over a month, mindful of the coldest days of the year."

On Jan. 21 the warming space received the first of two bylaw contravention and removal orders signed by the CRD's chief bylaw officer Mark Groulx. The warming space collective said they've tried to speak with Groulx during the process, to no avail, and have instead been in several meetings with Ovington and Salt Spring CRD senior manager Karla Campbell.

The bylaw notice cites the CRD's Bylaw 3795, which prohibits camping in a community park. An exception to this prohibition exists in the bylaw, allowing a person who is homeless to put up a temporary shelter provided they do so at 11 p.m. and take it down by 7 a.m.

WARMING SPACE continued on 3



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## INFRASTRUCTURE

# Paving project discussed

Ganges Hill improvements could be done by end of 2023

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ganges Hill will be repaved by the end of 2023 by the province's transportation ministry, who have asked Salt Spring's transportation commissioners how they want to see the 2.4 metres of bicycle and pedestrian shoulder width distributed.

Mike Pearson, district manager with the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI), told the commission at a Jan. 24 meeting that the project, once tendered, could be completed by the end of 2023. The question is how to distribute the 2.4-metre shoulder between the uphill and downhill side, which Pearson asked the commission to get back to him on as soon as they can.

"Similar safety benefits can be achieved however you distribute the shoulder width," Pearson said.

The concern for commissioners, as Gary Lehman pointed out, is that the hill would not be built to active transportation guidelines. Provincial guidelines say uni-directional bicycle lanes should be at least 1.8 metres wide and commissioners thought they'd have at least 1.5 metres on either side.

"At this meeting we learned no, because of property acquisition issues we are getting 1.2 metres on either side or a total of 2.4 metres," commission chair Gayle Baker explained.

Baker noted that Salt Spring's Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman has committed to working with the transportation ministry and Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen to see if a little more space can be found along the heavily trafficked area of the hill between Ganges village and the Salt Spring Island Community Services shelter.

Commissioner Aubrey Smith also raised the issue of cyclists' speeds going down the hill and whether

pedestrians might need more room to get out of the way on a shared downhill pathway.

Pearson also noted that a request to lower the speed limit in Ganges is with the ministry's engineering group review, and is something he is interested in along with the repaving project. Speed reader boards are also a possibility, Pearson said, which commissioners are also waiting on a report about from the CRD for other areas of concern around the island.

Pearson said refuges, areas where cyclists could pull off along the road, are also a possibility. Baker said she eventually wants to see an area along the hill where people can wait for the bus and ride shares, whereas currently people are just out in front of Embe Bakery. Baker said this area is a dangerous place and one where the bus won't stop, although the bus will stop up the hill by Drake Road.

Many island cyclists attended the meeting and corresponded with the commission, said Baker. While many opinions were shared, "the bottom line is that if we don't get more wider bike lanes, we absolutely have to make that area safer," Baker said.

The ministry is responsible for roads on Salt Spring, while the CRD commission works on cyclist and pedestrian safety and infrastructure. Having ministry staff present at the Jan. 24 meeting is a positive step, said Baker.

"The ministry does own the roads and the fact that they're coming and they're discussing it is a very good sign," she said.

The commission is working with the cycling community on a document for MOTI with details on how they'd like the shoulder width divided as well as safety additions needed between Cranberry Road and the village.

"I think we have a good chance of getting lower speed limits, possibly speed reader boards, refuges and things like that," Baker said, adding that a document will be handed to MOTI by Feb. 2 so the repaving project's design phase is not delayed.

# Space issue seen as 'political hot potato'

## WARMING SPACE

continued from 1

The CRD amended the hours of this exception to allow camping between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m. at a designated field-like area at the entrance to Mouat Park at the end of Seaview Ave.

"Tents and supplies still need to be taken down each day," Ovington stated, adding that the CRD gave the collective an option to submit a park use permit which would allow them to offer services in the park during the day but "all equipment and supplies would need to be taken down each day just like any of our other park activities."

After efforts to negotiate with the bylaw officers present and to reach Groulx on Jan. 28, collective members dismantled the warming space facility and moved it to the area suggested by Ovington.

Community leaders continue to discuss how best to support what Holman acknowledged is a gap in services.

"We're still struggling with the issue of homelessness and the lack of a safe, secure, warm gathering space," Holman said.

While the CRD extensively funds services, housing and organizations that deliver services to people facing homelessness and other challenges, Holman said they are not set up to provide services directly.

The challenge, in Holman's view, is not only where to situate the space but also who will take on the responsibility for managing it.

"We need an organization to take on that responsibility, not just a group of individuals who show up in a park and start setting things up," he said, referencing Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) as the natural choice to take this on.

Holman said two locations owned and run by Community Services, the shelter on Fulford-Ganges Road or the Core Inn on McPhillips Avenue, are good options to host a warming space. Holman is also looking into having a warming space at the CRD's Drake Road property, although it doesn't have sewer or power facilities.

SSICS executive director Rob Grant said the issues the CRD is concerned about, including noise, fire safety and behaviour, are also challenges at their sites. The Core Inn welcomes people with disabilities during the day and youth in the evenings, Grant explained, and is in

a busy residential and commercial area.

"The fact that the CRD is requesting this location indicates that they may not be striving for a healthy community solution, but rather just shifting it onto someone else," he stated.

Grant said that the warming space is a grassroots effort and "I don't know that they want or need any leadership or involvement from Community Services." Some staff have connected with people at the warming space, he added, to let them know of services available.

Goh said the discussion of spaces is one example of the "political hot potato" being thrown between the CRD and Community Services."

Several members of the collective agreed they did not want to be managed or "re-institutionalized" by any organization. Instead they are looking at forming their own council with a lateral decision-making structure without anyone empowered over anyone else as a decision maker.

For the time being, the warming space collective are at the space where their belongings were moved Friday. Ovington has informed them that the CRD will proceed with removing and storing any items left in the park. In the meantime, they are looking to relocate and are liaising with legal counsel. More bylaw enforcement was expected on Tuesday, Goh told the Driftwood on Monday.

How to manage complaints and relations with neighbours has been a topic of much discussion among the collective. Group member Toto André said he's seen amazing community support, including donations and visits, yet having to move into the field has put the warming space "on display" and managing noise has been difficult. The collective has been in contact with one neighbouring landowner, and have also worked within their community to try to keep people well and help them deal with their triggers.

The collective acknowledged that people at the warming space are experiencing trauma and some are using substances such as alcohol to medicate, which is an issue across the island yet one which is only out in the open for those who do not have a safe space.

## MARINE INCIDENT

# All safe after engine room fire on water taxi

Area vessels respond

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

All students and crew aboard a water taxi that experienced an engine room fire Thursday morning are safe, and the Gulf Islands School District (SD64) is working to understand the incident further.

Around 7:38 a.m. on Jan. 27, Victoria's Joint Rescue Coordination Centre was notified of a fire on a Gulf Islands Water Taxi vessel in Active Pass. The Graduate was transporting 31 students from Galiano and Mayne Islands to Pender Island when an engine alarm alerted the two crew onboard to a mechanical issue.

"Fire, contained to the engine room, was quickly extinguished by the crew and emergency procedures were followed," a school district news release stated.

A mayday was declared and Canadian Coast Guard vessels Cape Naden, Ganges 1 and the Siyay hovercraft responded. The Coast Guard's marine communication and traffic service also put out a request for assistance from vessels of opportunity nearby, a Coast Guard spokesperson stated. BC Ferries vessels

Coastal Renaissance and Spirit of Vancouver, as well as the HMCS Yellowknife and the Scholarship water taxi all responded. The Coastal Renaissance launched its rescue boat but was stood down shortly afterwards as it was not needed.

"[The response] speaks so well to our Canadian response system and how we look out for each other," said SD64's secretary treasurer Jesse Guy.

All students and one of the Graduate's crew were transferred to the Scholarship and brought to Pender. A second crew member remained on board the Graduate, which was then towed to port for repairs.

Students were delayed in getting to school, where the school district arranged counselling supports and communicated with affected families.

"Most importantly, we're so pleased that all students and crew are safe and we've been assured that appropriate safety processes did occur during this marine incident," Guy said.

As a contractor for SD64, Gulf Islands Water Taxi's Transport Canada certified vessels and crew carry around 100 locals between the Southern Gulf Islands each school day.



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# OPINION

## Driftwood

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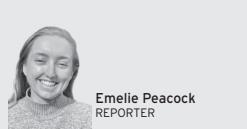
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### EDITORIAL

## Loving #lovelocal

**S**alt Spring Islanders have been feeling the pinch of inadequate ferry capacity when it comes to their needs and desires to access Vancouver Island.

But one way to avoid the frustration and chaos is to just not go there: on the ferries, we mean.

This month the chambers of commerce of the Southern Gulf Islands (SGI) have teamed up to create a fun #LoveLocalSGI promotion that highlights the various islands' offerings and encourages residents to "shop, eat and stay where your heart is."

They encourage residents of Salt Spring, Pender, Mayne, Galiano and Saturna islands to play a social media-centred game called Love Local Bingo Between Feb. 1 and 13. It involves taking photos of yourself or loved ones that correspond to activities on 25 bingo card squares.

Just a few examples are "Screenshot your ideal SGI accommodation," "read or order a book about the SGI," "Donate, volunteer or promote a local charity" and "Treat yourself at a local bakery or cafe." Participants then post the photos to Facebook or Instagram and must tag their local chamber, use specific hashtags and identify both the island where the photo was taken and the entrant's home island. (People who don't use social media can submit photos via email.)

All of the specifics — and there are many — are available via the [love-local.ca/sgi-love-bingo-2022/](http://love-local.ca/sgi-love-bingo-2022/) website. Entering the contest might take a bit of effort, but more than \$12,000 worth of prizes are available to be won for those who participate. Eligibility for grand prizes requires completing one row (so five photos) of the bingo card. It will also be exciting to see all of the resulting photos.

Kudos should go to the organizers of the #LoveLocalSGI campaign for promoting the islands' economies and always valuable inter-island connections.

Ironically, the Love Local promotion does make one want to travel on ferries to visit the other Gulf Islands — and grand prize winners will definitely be travelling — but that doesn't need to happen at peak times, and a trip on the Quinitsa on Route 6 between Vesuvius and Crofton would thankfully not be required.



## Opposition and agreement

BY RICHARD KERR

The criticisms of Maxine Leichter by Jason Mogus in the Jan. 26 Driftwood ("Small dwellings not the villain" Viewpoint) are especially unfortunate since the two writers appear to share many of the same goals for Salt Spring. They may even agree on some ways to meet those goals.

Jason points to the hundreds of small suites and cottages that have been taken from the rental pool to become short-term vacation rentals. He and Maxine would almost certainly agree on the need for Islands Trust bylaw enforcement that could return as many of those dwellings as possible to use as homes for residents.

Jason seems to have misinterpreted Maxine's opposition to the wholesale legalizing of secondary cottages and suites as opposition to the building of small dwellings. That is not the case. Maxine has at no time suggested that small dwellings are "environmental villains." Nor has she suggested that such dwellings are currently "being built en masse."

Maxine would likely agree that with proper planning to avoid negative environmental

### VIEWPOINT

impacts, the construction of small dwellings could make an important and needed addition to the supply of affordable workforce housing.

Maxine's point, with which I agree, is that changing zoning to allow additional secondary residences across much of the island is simply bad planning. Such rezoning provides no guarantee that it will achieve the goal of providing affordable workforce housing where it is needed and comes with long-term risks of inappropriate development.

Jason points to the hundreds of small suites and cottages that have been taken from the rental pool to become short-term vacation rentals. He and Maxine would almost certainly agree on the need for Islands Trust bylaw enforcement that could return as many of those dwellings as possible to use as homes for residents.

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Maxine would likely agree that with proper planning to avoid negative environmental

to find ways of building affordable workforce housing that will protect the island's natural environment. Providing water for such housing close to Ganges in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) is currently a problem. The Islands Trust, NSSWD, the CRD and other agencies should together be looking at creative ways of overcoming this limitation.

The current Crofton-brook expansion has shown that solutions involving rainwater collection and storage can be found. Other possibilities would be reducing leakage from the NSSWD system or increasing system water storage. Could this be funded by the CRD using federal-provincial infrastructure grants, with the CRD directing the increase in available water supply to affordable workforce housing?

Perhaps Jason could reach out to Maxine and others who share her views to find ways of reaching shared goals of preserving Salt Spring's natural environment and making this a better and more affordable place to work and live.

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should BC Ferries do a full Routes 4 + 6 traffic study?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you approve of the Drake Road housing project?

55 150  
NO YES

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

# ISLAND VOICES

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *How do you feel about the truckers' convoy to Ottawa?*

ADRIAN MACK



It is an authentic protest. The truck drivers just want their lives back. That isn't too much to ask, is it?

LINDA HAWKE



I don't really understand what they're asking for, but I hope it remains peaceful.

LARRY PECK



I do believe that we have a responsibility to take the vaccine, not just for us but also for vulnerable people. But it is a shame that radical groups have associated with the truck people. It reduces the impact of the convoy.

USHA HAYWOOD



I support them. I think there is too much government over-reach.

MARK FULKER



It's a small group of people pushing their will against the rest of us.

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"The ministry does own the roads and the fact that they're coming and they're discussing it is a very good sign."**

GAYLE BAKER, SSI TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION CHAIR

## LETTERS to the editor

### Work together

I feel compelled to speak up in support of Maxine Leichter's efforts to prevent changes to Trust policies that would weaken the Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate.

I happen to agree with Maxine that we're fooling ourselves if we believe the natural environment is adequately protected here. Is it "false" for us to argue that point?

It's clear both Maxine and Jason Mogus are interested in what can be done to provide more affordable housing. I share Maxine's concern that rezoning the entire island could lead to serious problems. I'm curious to learn more about what our local trust committee actually has in mind.

We need to strengthen the Trust's ability to fulfill its "preserve and protect" mandate. Sadly, the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (under Minister Josie Osborne's direction) ignored a Trust request to increase its abil-

ity to do that. We also need to work to protect our communities. There are a few things the Trust can do towards that goal, such as enforcing limits on short-term vacation rentals or limiting house size, but most of the jurisdictional power to deal with the housing affordability issue is in the hands of other levels of government. Diluting the Trust's policy statement by speaking of housing affordability as a priority, when the Trust has virtually no ability to provide it, creates unrealistic expectations.

Let's work together towards goals we share; there's lots of good work being done to protect the land and water and communities we love, but there's so much more that needs to be done.

**JAN SLAKOV,**  
SALT SPRING

### It's not the inn

In his Viewpoint last week, David Fullbrook frames his Vortex project — the construction of 17 tourist accommodations,

plus a retail space and small restaurant, in the highly sensitive ecosystem of the Fulford estuary — as an altruistic act, one that would save the south end from the destitution resulting from the demise, 10 years ago, of the Fulford Inn.

No longer graced with a place to celebrate our human need for intelligent connection, we have "succumbed to division, drama and conflict" that will dissipate only once Fullbrook's "long campaign to rebuild the Fulford Inn" comes to fruition.

Except here's the problem: Vortex is most emphatically not the Fulford Inn, although Fullbrook is certainly aware that fostering the illusion that Vortex is first and foremost a neighbourhood pub rings a useful bell of nostalgia.

But even that nostalgia is suspect. While many of us may indeed remember the Fulford Inn as a fine place to meet in its heyday, its erratic and long decline was also memorable. And we've moved on, to other gathering places, as the concerted and informed opposition to

this misguided project indicates.

Disturbingly, Fullbrook remarks that climate change, habitat loss, declines in fish stock, homelessness and drug addiction are horsemen "we cannot defeat." We can only "face them" together — presumably at the-place-that's-not-the-Fulford-Inn. Well, those in opposition to Vortex would insist that they, at least, are attempting to address some of these issues, especially the ones this project directly threatens: declining fish populations, biodiversity and concerns around climate change — including a potentially tidal-dominated groundwater table, and a whole lot of fresh water piped in from Weston Lake for tourists to shower in.

I'm having trouble seeing how our "obligation to each other," as Fullbrook phrases it, would be answered by supporting a project that shouts so clearly, in this day and age, "Business as usual!"

**ELISSA POOLE,**  
FULFORD

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 7

## Humans and pigs hang out in the same trough

I'm bored. Bored, bored, bored. I'm so bored I may even wash the car, except that I can't, can I, because I've turned the outside water off for the winter. I could tidy the garage, I suppose, but that's hardly likely to put the sparkle back into my life.

I'm bored of COVID, jabs and masks, bored by the weather, bored of the lineups to get off the island and I think we have mice in the basement. We have two cats, and I swear the mice are helping themselves to their kibble because the cats are too bored to do what cats are supposed to do and deal with them.

I am so bored I'm even considering selling my house and buying a large RV to live the life of a gypsy, criss-crossing the nation, never in the same place for more than a week. The problem with that particular daydream is that Mrs. Mc would as soon live in a cardboard box as in a Winnebago and secondly I'm particularly parking-challenged so a 40-foot RV would present special problems. I did once spend some time in a tent, which was an experience I vowed never to repeat and, in any case, I believe I have acquired enough life status not to suffer any time sleeping on the ground.

There was, however, one event this month which, as a lifelong hypochondriac and invalid-in-waiting, piqued my interest.

Doctors in the U.S. have transplanted the heart of a pig into a man who needed a new one. Imagine! All the spare body parts a surgeon could possibly need and a rack of ribs on the side. Of course, it's not entirely fair on the pig but at least it would have had the satisfaction of knowing it had crossed over in a good cause and not as a Sunday roast or with a stainless-steel rod up its bottom on a weekend rotisserie.

Oh, look, I know there will be plenty of you out there who will come down quite properly on the side of the pig but it's fair to say that pigs, like saints, are much more



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER  
THING

esteemed dead than they are alive.

Mine may be a callous argument, I know, but when you have a dodgy heart, a pacemaker, AND a top-of-the-range gas barbecue the sacrificial pig is always going to be a star.

Of course, there is an ethical aspect to this but frankly I've always been inclined to leave my ethics on the side of the plate with the salad and Brussels sprouts. Provided my lamb chop, pork loin or ribeye donor has been dispatched with dignity and a minimum of unpleasantness I'm grateful to be at the head of the food chain. Especially since I don't personally have to do the dispatching . . .

The pig's problem, from a pig's perspective, is that it is too darned useful dead. An average 260-pound hog will give about 150 pounds of meat, but that is just the beginning and by no means its greatest contribution. Medicines like insulin and the blood thinner heparin are produced from hog byproducts, as are the "cillins" — amoxicillin, ampicillin and penicillin.

In fact, pound for pound, a pig offers so much of itself that the old cliché "everything but the squeal" is entirely true, which is probably not especially reassuring to poor old Porkie.

Set aside the morality or otherwise of breeding any living creature, tweaking its genes and killing it for its more inedible organs, the recent heart transplant pre-

sented another philosophical conundrum: David Bennett, the man who benefitted from this first pig's heart turned out to be a wrong 'un.

And the arguments began. Should a man who had stabbed another man to death, however many years ago, be given the opportunity of a new and longer life?

The victim's relatives were, needless to say, enraged. Never mind that the heart recipient was already at death's door and would most certainly die without the transplant and will quite likely die despite it, they were adamant that he shouldn't have been given the heart, that it should have gone to a more deserving soul.

The dead man's sister was furious. "They are making out David Bennett as a hero and a pioneer. He's nothing of the sort, the doctors are, but he's not!"

The doctors, on the other hand, argue that it's not for them to decide who should or should not get treatment and that the patient's need is the only moral criteria. David Bennett needed a functioning heart to go on living and they had one in the fridge, its previous owner having been spared the bacon slicer for a higher calling.

There's just one aspect of this medical leap forward I can't quite get my head around, though. While I (and I'm assuming a great many of you) will applaud the surgeons and scientists, it would likely be an entirely different story if Mr. Bennett now had a Labrador's heart beating in his chest.

It remains to be seen how long Mr. Bennett lasts, but there's no question he outlived the pig, which was selected for this benevolent vivisection because it has a metabolism remarkably similar to ours, which is surely a metaphor if there ever was one.

Humans and pigs in the same trough. Who'd have thought it, eh?

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

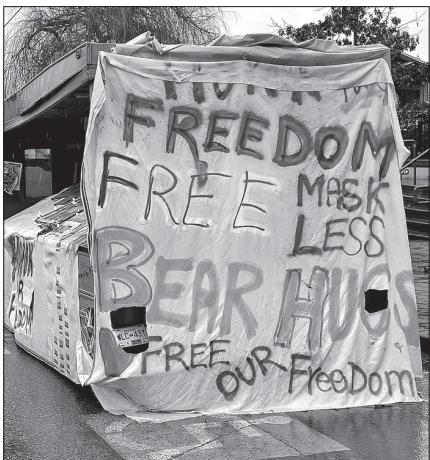


PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

**SIGNS OF FREEDOM:** One of the signs displayed at Centennial Park and other spots in Ganges on the weekend as a "Freedom Convoy" converged on Ottawa to demand an end to vaccine mandates and other COVID-19-related government rules. Several individuals also gathered to rally in Ganges on Saturday.

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## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

**FEBRUARY 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
<b>2</b>	0707	<b>3.6</b>	11.8	<b>6</b>	0142	<b>1.5</b>	4.9
WE	1216	<b>2.7</b>	8.9	SU	0852	<b>3.4</b>	11.2
WE	1625	<b>3.1</b>	10.2	MO	1549	<b>1.6</b>	5.2
ME	2346	<b>0.4</b>	1.3	DI	2139	<b>2.4</b>	7.9
<b>3</b>	0736	<b>3.6</b>	11.8	<b>7</b>	0221	<b>1.9</b>	6.2
TH	1310	<b>2.4</b>	7.9	MO	0913	<b>3.3</b>	10.8
JE	1729	<b>2.9</b>	9.5	LU	1638	<b>1.4</b>	4.6
<b>4</b>	0026	<b>0.7</b>	2.3	<b>8</b>	0304	<b>2.3</b>	7.5
FR	0803	<b>3.5</b>	11.5	MA	0933	<b>3.2</b>	10.5
FR	1405	<b>2.2</b>	7.2	TU	1726	<b>1.2</b>	3.9
VE	1839	<b>2.7</b>	8.9	WE	0953	<b>3.1</b>	10.2
SA	0105	<b>1.1</b>	3.6	SA	1813	<b>1.1</b>	3.6
SA	0829	<b>3.5</b>	11.5	ME			
SA	1458	<b>1.9</b>	6.2				
SA	1959	<b>2.5</b>	8.2				

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# Local mental health focus shifted

BY LINDA UNDERWOOD & DAVID NORGET

Salt Spring came together last month to explore the concept of peer support and examine how it could help support existing mental health services, fill service gaps and connect our community.

The first in a series of summits planned by the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network's Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI) took place via Zoom on Jan. 11 from 2 to 5 p.m. and Jan. 18 from 3 to 6 p.m. with over 55 local service providers, people who access services, people who are marginalized and interested community members, connecting. Bringing these diverse voices together is one of the goals of the Summit Project, whose mission is to help create a community in which everyone belongs and where each person's needs are recognized as unique. As such, a critical part of the planned summits involves the meaningful inclusion of people with lived experience and marginalized voices. The initiative itself is not focused on providing mental wellness services but rather on acting as a bridge to the community doing so.

Peer support is essentially the support provided between people who share a common overlap of life experience. This could be a mental health challenge or illness, or a marginalized experience. The Peer Support Summit highlighted Jake Flood, from Greater Victoria's Umbrella Society, talking about their successful peer support program. Participants were invited to consider how peer support might serve the Salt Spring community, what we would need to consider to make peer support a reality and how peer support might look in a small community. Participants were also invited to reflect on what else would need to be considered in our community.

What came out of these conversations is not surprising. Participants were asked who would benefit from peer support. The answer: Everyone! Participants spoke to the importance of mutual support, partnerships between community organizations and members, and ensur-



PHOTO COURTESY SSHAN

Screen shot of one of two Mental Wellness Initiative summits held via Zoom last month.

ing key oversight and tracking are built into peer support programs. Building off successful peer support models and playing to Salt Spring strengths, i.e. our natural environment/connection to the land, were also mentioned.

A peer support program would require training, including skills and boundaries like confidentiality. Consistent themes emerged around listening to marginalized community members, the importance of safe(r) spaces, the need to understand the current picture of services (asset mapping), education and communication, and efforts to reduce stigma. Next step actions were also brought to the discussion.

The next MWI Summit, on the topic of lay counselling, will occur Tuesday, Feb. 8 from 2 to 5 p.m. and Feb. 15 from 3 to 6 p.m. via Zoom. Lay counselling, where lay individuals receive training and are supervised by a professional, is a form of support provided in a formal one-on-one office environment. It is a model where finances are not a barrier to access.

Both lay counselling and peer support build on the effective efforts already occurring through the work of profes-

sional providers and community organizations and make effective use of skilled community members who, for example, have been certified in mental health first aid. Both contribute to social justice by involving peers that understand the issues of marginalized people and make support more available. Perhaps most importantly, peer support and lay counselling help reduce stigma and the "us versus them" mentality and encourage community resilience; the more the community gets involved the deeper the positive momentum of mental wellness for the whole community.

The summits are free! Any interested individual can register by contacting William MacPherson at [willieonsaltspring@gmail.com](mailto:willieonsaltspring@gmail.com) or Charleen Rolston at [Charleen.Rolston@islandhealth.ca](mailto:Charleen.Rolston@islandhealth.ca). In March the MWI is planning a third summit series (March 8 and March 15) that will focus on community follow-up actions to the January and February summits.

SSHAN and the Mental Wellness Initiative give thanks to grants from Island Health's Community Wellness, the Salt Spring Island Foundation and the CRD's Grants-in-Aid funds.

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# Director reports on housing and service progress

The decision by a group of well-meaning advocates for our most vulnerable residents to locate a "warming space" at Peace Park, then at Mouat Park, has precipitated a barrage of conflicting complaints, from concerned neighbours and park users urging CRD to enforce its bylaws to accusations of heartlessness by the "Warming Space Collective."

Despite numerous complaints about noise, public intoxication and families feeling unsafe, CRD bylaw enforcement was not initiated for over a month, mindful of the coldest days of the year.

I requested CRD staff to work with the collective and other agencies like Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) to explore options for a temporary warming station. Staff held several such meetings to discuss options, including arrangements at Mouat Park consistent with the longstanding bylaw. I've already raised Drake Road possibilities with the CRD Board, but the property has no services. Staff have also suggested the possible use of the court-yard behind the Core Inn (which received a \$30,000 gas tax grant from CRD), supported by a portion of over \$200,000 in funding secured by CRD for SSICS from the Union of BC Municipalities for COVID recovery services.



**Gary Holman**  
CRD DIRECTOR'S  
**REPORT**

These suggestions aren't considered viable by the parties.

It's important to remember there are a number of facilities (including CRD-funded spaces such as the library and swimming pool) where anyone can get warm during the day, as long as their rules are respected. The SSICS shelter (now receiving year-round, 24/7 funding from BC Housing), the pool and the new laundromat all have showers. SSICS, Copper Kettle/Wagon Wheel, the Salt Spring Community Health Society and Islanders Working Against Violence have together received over \$25,000 in CRD Grants-in-Aid for their good work providing support services and mental health wellness initiatives on Salt Spring.

CRD should and does play a role in addressing housing and support services for homelessness, but we're not a direct provider. The CRD Emergency Social Services function (now contracted to Red Cross) can open public warming centres

in case of major events such as power outages, and I've asked CRD staff to investigate funding possibilities from Emergency Services BC.

There are gaps in housing and support services on Salt Spring, but despite voter rejection of the proposed CRD Community Safety Service, we have made considerable progress in recent years. In collaboration with other agencies and organizations, CRD has helped advocate for, or funded:

- 24/7 funding (over \$900,000 per year) for the SSICS shelter with showers and laundromat.
- BC Housing funding for transition housing at the Seabreeze Inn, all 28 rooms of which are secure until the summer of 2022.
- Establishment of a new laundromat providing essential cleaning services and shower facility to which CRD has contributed \$19,000 in funding.
- \$25,000 in Grants-in-Aid funding to a number of local organizations providing support services for our most marginalized residents.
- BC Housing commitment for 28 units of fully funded supported housing on the CRD's Drake Road property (donated by School District 64), with commercial kitchen and common space. The value of this BC Housing investment (in addition to

\$2.5 million for Salt Spring Commons) will exceed \$10 million, plus the ongoing costs of on-site management and supports for individual tenants.

## Public disorder in our local parks is a symptom of the gaps in services for our unhoused and underhoused on Salt Spring.

In addition, 80 units of affordable rental housing (20 per cent of which must be at social assistance shelter rates) have just been built or will be completed by June of 2022. The CRD Regional Housing First (RHF) and Regional Housing Trust Fund has provided over \$7 million to affordable housing projects on Salt Spring, including Murakami Gardens, The Cedars women's transition housing and Croftonbrook.

CRD increased funding for its RHF program by \$10 million this term and secured matching commitments from CMHC and BC Housing, altogether

adding another \$30 million to this \$90-million fund which is still open for affordable housing grant applications.

CRD has committed \$270,000 in gas tax (Community Works Fund) funding for affordable housing on Salt Spring including Salt Spring Commons, Croftonbrook and potable groundwater supplies at Drake Road, the first time gas tax funding has been used to support such projects on Salt Spring.

Public disorder in our local parks is a symptom of the gaps in services for our unhoused and underhoused on Salt Spring. Greater RCMP and CRD bylaw enforcement presence at Centennial Park and CRD management of the United Church meadow (at the request of the church) have made both more welcoming public spaces.

There is more to do, including proactive planning for extreme weather events. CRD participates in a SSICS-led coalition on homelessness, and will continue working with agencies and organizations that provide supporting services. We will also continue to uphold our democratically established bylaws in a balanced and considered way to ensure that our local community parks can be enjoyed by their neighbours and all members of the public.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

### Not a public space

David Fullbrook's Viewpoint in last week's paper, in which he describes his proposed Fulford Harbour development as offering the island a "public square," relies on a sleight of hand.

A public square, by definition, is owned by the public, as represented by the relevant level of government. Private property — in this case commercial private property — is owned by an individual, company or corporation that can develop it for the purpose of making a profit. The Vortex development, should it ever come to pass, would be private property. It would not and cannot be a public square.

An example of the difference can be drawn from Mr. Fullbrook's Albert Camus quote: "Great works are often born on a street corner or a restaurant's revolving door." If you're so inclined you can stand on that street corner — public property — barefoot and shirtless for as long as you want. But the door to that restaurant — private property — may well bear a sign: "No shoes, no shirt, no service."

**MURRAY REISS,**  
FULFORD

### Warming space options

I recently attended a gathering at the Warming Space in Mouat Park.

I am very impressed with the initiative of some very warm-hearted, community-minded citizens of Salt Spring Island who set up a warming space a month ago in minus-11-degree weather with the snow and black ice that we had on the island in December and January. I was surprised to learn that the warming space has been put under Capital Regional District (CRD) bylaw pressure.

If you look up warming spaces in B.C., you

will find that most B.C. communities have accepted winter warming spaces. Instead, on Salt Spring Island, we have no initiative to create a warming centre by the "municipality" or similar body.

However, I am not writing to specifically seek funding for that initiative. Rather I am concerned with the pressure on the warming space by CRD bylaw enforcement. This is the exact opposite direction we need to go in as a community. We need to become like most other B.C. communities who have warming centres in the winter. The reasons for stepping in to provide this type of space has been to fill a gap as the CRD has not provided a warming space for Salt Spring Island. Community Services is stretched thin as an organization. I would like to see a space set up at the CRD's property at 161 Drake Rd. as a permanent warming space for winters and as a cooling space for the summers. We are going to be experiencing more and more extreme weather and not everyone has a house to go to and to be out in extreme weather has already been deadly for many.

At the very least, I hope that the warming space can be treated in a respectful manner as it dismantles. The very last thing that should be done is bylaw enforcement on volunteers working to provide supports to our community members.

**JENNY McCLEAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Great writer

Kudos to Emelie Peacock for being such a great reporter and writer.

Her articles are very well-written, with an introductory paragraph and topic sentences so that you can easily read and understand the story. She includes supportive details in a way that avoids rambling and extraneous information. She's a wonderful addition to the Driftwood staff.

**DAVID STEWART PAINÉ,**  
SALT SPRING

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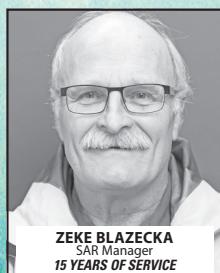
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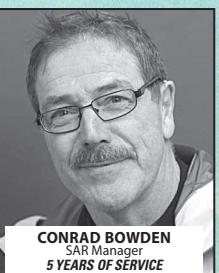
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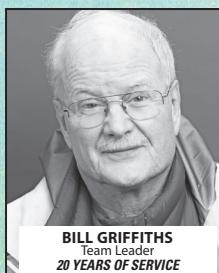
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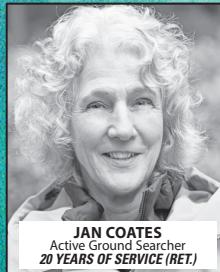
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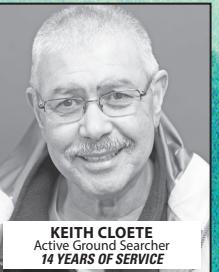
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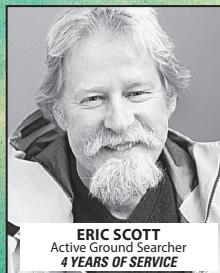
PATRICK FRISCH  
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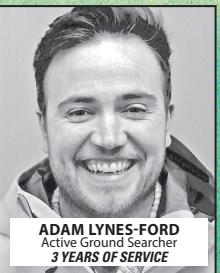
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DAN SNOWSILL  
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2 YEARS OF SERVICE



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Active Ground Searcher  
3 YEARS OF SERVICE

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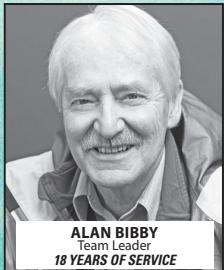
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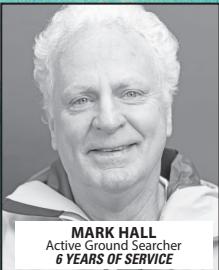
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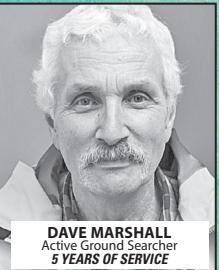
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Team Leader  
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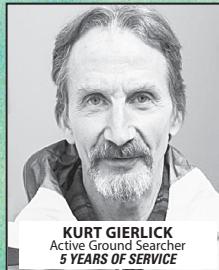
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5 YEARS OF SERVICE



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Active Ground Searcher  
10 YEARS OF SERVICE



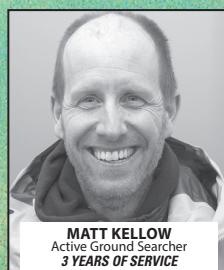
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Active Ground Searcher  
4 YEARS OF SERVICE



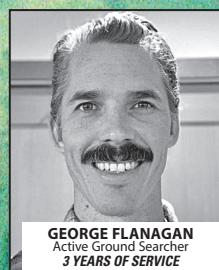
CINDY GARVIN  
Active Ground Searcher  
4 YEARS OF SERVICE



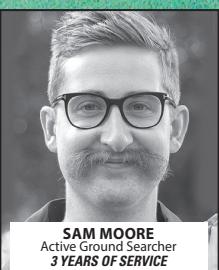
FERNANDO MARCENA  
Active Ground Searcher  
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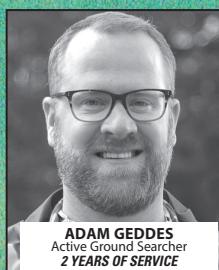
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PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

**READY TO SING:** Viva Chorale! choir director Caroni Young, second from left, addresses the audience at Sunday's Awake & Dreaming concert at ArtSpring, expressing her group's pleasure at being able to sing for a live audience again. Twenty-one of the choir's members participated, along with Young and accompanist Shirley Bunyan. The choir's next show in May will have an East Coast ceilidh kitchen party theme and will hopefully not require singers to wear masks and allow audience members to sing along as well, said Young.

## CONCERT PREVIEW

# World-leading pianist visits ArtSpring's stage

Angela Hewitt presents program of Couperin, Messiaen and Brahms

#### SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

What do Salt Spring Island, Toronto and Halifax have in common? Amazingly they are the only three stops on Angela Hewitt's current Canadian tour. And luckily for us, we get to welcome her for two performances.

Hewitt is considered one of the world's leading pianists. Born in Ottawa but now based in Europe, she travels extensively for recitals and to play with major orchestras around the world. She has long been established as one of J.S. Bach's foremost interpreters, and often conducts concertos of Bach,



PHOTO BY RICHARD TERMINE

Angela Hewitt, who has added a second performance to her Salt Spring Island stop on Feb. 10 after the first concert on Feb. 11 sold out.

Mozart and Beethoven from the piano. This has seen her lead the Toronto Symphony, the Hong Kong

Philharmonic and Copenhagen Philharmonic, among countless others. Unsurprisingly she has been

described as one of the busiest pianists on earth. Alongside her playing, Hewitt is the artistic director of the annual Trasimeno Music Festival in Umbria, Italy — which also sees her on stage in various capacities during this week-long event — and an ambassador for OrKidstra. This social development program for youth in inner-city Ottawa harnesses the joy of making music and learning an instrument, along with learning valuable skills such as commitment, teamwork and tolerance.

Music education, working with and nurturing new talent, are also key themes in her life. Many gifted pianists have taken part in Hewitt's frequent masterclasses in Italy, and school children in remote communities across Canada have been treated to special concerts. Even the pandemic couldn't put pay to that completely: in spring 2020 Hewitt moved online, offering daily short

pieces to stay in touch with her fans and students.

With her original ArtSpring date of Feb. 11 a quick sell out, Hewitt very kindly offered us a second performance for Thursday, Feb. 10. Audiences will delight in her choices for the program. They include Couperin's Dix-huitième Ordre; a selection of Messiaen's Preludes; and Sonata No. 3 in F minor, Opus 5 by Brahms. Tickets are selling fast. Don't miss this opportunity to see one of the world's premier pianists on stage on our small island.

Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m.

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

# what's on this week

**Thurs.** **Feb. 3**

#### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Mic & Jam.**  
Royal Canadian Legion. 7 to 10 p.m.

#### VIA ZOOM

**B.C.'s Groundwater Licensing Program.**  
Free webinar presented by provincial government and Islands Trust staff. Link at <https://bit.ly/3KLDRkr>.

**Poetry Open Mic.**  
With guest poet Wendy Donawa. 7 p.m. Get the link through [programs@saltspringlibrary.com](http://saltspringlibrary.com)

**Fri.** **Feb. 4**

#### ACTIVITIES

**StoryWalk.**  
Follow the trail of laminated signs from a children's book beginning from the Salt Spring Public Library through Mouat Park and toward the Rainbow Road pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

#### VIA ZOOM

#### ASK Salt Spring.

This week's guest is MLA Adam Olsen. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email [ask@ask-saltspring.com](mailto:ask@ask-saltspring.com) for the link.

#### Sat.

#### ACTIVITIES

#### StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

#### Sun.

#### ACTIVITIES

#### StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

#### Mon.

#### ACTIVITIES

#### StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

#### Tue.

#### VIA ZOOM

#### Mental Wellness Initiative Summit.

Free event in a series presented by the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network. Today's subject is Lay Counselling. 2 to 5 p.m. To register, email [willieonsaltspring@gmail.com](mailto:willieonsaltspring@gmail.com) or Charleen.Rolston@islandhealth.ca.

#### Poetry of Presence.

Facilitated by poet Lorraine Gane. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at [staroftheseas@ gmail.com](mailto:staroftheseas@ gmail.com) for the Zoom link.

#### Transition Salt Spring Electric Vehicle Webinar.

Learn about options for electric vehicles and rebates. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Free. Registration is required: <https://transitionsaltspring.com/lets-go-shopping-for-an-ev/>

#### Feb. 8

#### VIA ZOOM

#### Mental Wellness Initiative Summit.

Free event in a series presented by the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network. Today's subject is Lay Counselling. 2 to 5 p.m. To register, email [willieonsaltspring@gmail.com](mailto:willieonsaltspring@gmail.com) or Charleen.Rolston@islandhealth.ca.

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#### THE FRITZ CINEMA

**The Matrix Resurrections** shows on Friday, Feb. 4 through Tuesday, Feb. 8 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca) for more movie info. COVID-19 protocols, including vaccine card and mask requirements, and limited seating, in place.

#### EXHIBITIONS

**Sofia Jain-Schlaepfer** presents an art show titled *Earth Whispers* in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room until Feb. 28 during library opening hours when the program room is not otherwise in use.

**Looking Up** — the seventh annual display of artwork by **Suzanne Prendergast** and **Bill Underwood** shows in the ArtSpring lobby on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and before evening concerts in February.

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

**GIFTS and Friends Art Show** is on at the Salt Spring Coffee Co. Cafe until Feb. 28.

# Poetry Open Mic

with guest poet Wendy Donawa

Via Zoom through the library

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# Money Matters

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## RETIREMENT PLANNING

# Professional advice valuable



### Five reasons to get help from a financial pro

Your savings and investments are the key to a comfortable retirement. However, many people find navigating the world of finance confusing. Luckily, financial professionals make managing your money easy. Here are five reasons working with a financial adviser or planner is the smart way to prepare for retirement.

1. They know the ins and outs of the industry and can offer up-to-date advice.
2. They'll take your whole financial situation into account to create a money

management plan tailored to your unique circumstances.

3. They can tell you which of your expenses will increase when you retire and which are likely to decrease.
4. They understand the different investment options available and can guide you towards those that best suit your needs.
5. They'll advise you on what actions you need to take to achieve your financial goals.

With the right financial professional, you can rest easy knowing that your needs are met. And if you have any questions, they're just a phone call away.

## SMALL BUSINESS

# CRA offers help for small business owners

### Liaison officers available

The Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) offers free Liaison Officer services to owners of small businesses and self-employed individuals to help them understand their tax obligations. A visit from a liaison officer is 100 per cent confidential: the information you choose to discuss with them will not be shared with other areas of the CRA, or anyone else.

The CRA has helped over 17,000 small business owners and self-employed individuals virtually through the Liaison Officer service since the beginning of the pandemic and over 69,000 small business owners and self-employed individuals since the start of the program in 2014.

#### How can this service help you?

There are two ways that businesses or self-employed individuals can benefit from the Liaison Officer service:

1. personalized visits by phone or online (videoconference)
2. webinars for associations or groups

#### During a personalized visit, a liaison officer will:

- Answer your tax-related questions and address concerns
- Discuss common tax errors and financial benchmarks in the small business community
- Provide information on various online tools and electronic services offered by the CRA
- Provide recommendations on how to strengthen your bookkeeping system
- Discuss COVID-19 related measures, if needed

#### During a webinar, the liaison officer will:

- Explain common tax errors
- Demonstrate how to use financial benchmarks for relevant industries
- Provide information on the CRA's services
- Explain general bookkeeping concepts and best practices
- Discuss COVID-19 related measures, if needed

Learn more at [www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html](http://www.canada.ca/en/revenue-agency.html)

### Are you missing out on paying less tax today, while saving for your retirement?

If your annual notice of assessment (NOA) from the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) shows available contribution room the time to act is now. For example, contributing \$10,000 to an RRSP that generates a 3.75% return, compounded annually, could turn into approximately \$30,175 over the span of 30 years.

Consider working your RRSP contribution into your budget. With a monthly investment plan, an amount you specify is automatically deducted from your bank account on a regular basis and invested inside your RRSP. We will work with you to help determine the dollar amount and frequency that works best for you.

**Ashleigh Roslinsky**  
8 year Salt Spring Island resident, Consultant,  
Investors Group Financial Services Inc. and  
member of the Salt Spring Poultry Club  
[Ashleigh.Roslinsky@IG.ca](mailto:Ashleigh.Roslinsky@IG.ca)



This is a general source of information only. It is not intended to provide personalized tax, legal or investment advice, and is not intended as a solicitation to purchase securities. Ashleigh Roslinsky is solely responsible for its content. For more information on this topic or any other financial matter, please contact Ashleigh.

## FINANCIAL NEEDS

# Getting a second opinion makes sense

Top three reasons shared

SUBMITTED BY CHERYL MORIARTY  
WEALTH ADVISOR, ISLAND SAVINGS

*Getting a second opinion on your plan has many benefits, but here are the top three.*

#### 1. YOU'LL KNOW IF YOU'RE ON TRACK TO REACHING YOUR GOALS

Priorities can shift and so can your financial needs. If you've been with an advisor for a long time, or are investing on your own, a second opinion offers a fresh perspective to identify gaps, and an opportunity to re-examine the timelines and goals you may have set for yourself years ago.

#### 2. IT CAN IMPROVE YOUR RETURNS BY RE-EVALUATING YOUR INVESTMENT DECISIONS

Diversification is one of the most common techniques that can help you improve returns, balance your asset allocation and weather any storm. Diversification is used to reduce the impact of low performance of any one security on your entire portfolio by combining a variety of investment types within a portfolio.

#### 3. YOU'LL BUILD MORE CONFIDENCE IN YOUR PLAN

A different advisor may ask you other questions you hadn't considered and share a different approach on your investments and financial goals. No matter where you are in your financial journey; whether you are just getting started or working on your legacy plan, working with a professional will help you reach your goals faster.

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## FINANCIAL STUDIES

# Survey shows levels of financial stress

### More help needed to navigate retirement issues

A study released by Manulife Investment Management on Jan. 25 revealed that most Canadians want to be more confident in their financial decisions.

The second Canada Retirement Study: Stress, Finances, Well-Being of Canadians found that "Canadians are feeling the impacts of the pandemic, which include financial stress for so many," said Brett Marchand, head of retirement for Manulife Investment Management, Canada. "The study's findings underscore the importance for individuals to seek, and workplaces to provide, continued financial guidance. Advisors and workplaces have an opportunity to help reduce Canadians' financial stress by offering support that will help increase their knowledge of investment opportunities and confidence when making financial decisions."

The study found six core stresses affecting Canadian workers and future financial plans:

- Financial positions have improved, but stress has worsened: Seven in 10 people surveyed rate their financial position as good or better than it was pre-pandemic, but more than twice as many workers surveyed report major stress during the pandemic compared to before, with 30 per cent feeling extreme stress in the past six months.

- Mental health continues to be impacted throughout the pandemic: COVID-19 has had a negative impact on workers' mental health, with 36 per cent reporting personal finance as their main source of stress as well as workload (34 per cent), relationships (31 per cent) and work-life balance (30 per cent). And respondents were split on what comes next, with 40 per cent feel optimistic that things will get better in the year ahead, whereas another 40 expect things to stay the same for a while.

- Retirement plan participants are taking better care of their finances, with three common goals: The study found that more people are taking better care of their finances by checking credit reports and scores. Three in five report they will retire about when they originally planned to or earlier. And, those with a financial wellness plan offered by their employer (11 per cent versus four per cent) are more likely to say that they plan on retiring earlier than planned.

- Workers are concerned about basic needs (health care and daily expenses) in retirement, but are unsure whether they're ready: Just under half of the respondents have a comprehensive financial plan for retirement, and seven in ten are at least moderately interested in receiving recommendations on Canada Pension Plan strategies from their employers.

- Gender plays an important role on sentiment when it comes to financial positioning: Males and workers with financial wellness plans are more likely to cite their current financial situation as very good/excellent. Compared to females (36 per cent versus 46 per cent males) who are less comfortable with the amount of debt they are carrying and are more concerned about basic expenses like food, transportation and taxes in retirement (29 per cent versus 22 per cent).

Manulife says the takeaway of this year's study is the interplay of trends that raised workers' awareness about the precarious nature of their finances. Almost half of workers would like to be more confident about making financial decisions, creating an opportunity for employers to review programs that better support employee and organizational wellbeing. Employers can incentivize workers by providing flexibility and expanding financial wellbeing supports and offerings.

*The online, bilingual survey of 1,002 Manulife plan members drawn from a panel of everyday Canadians was conducted from Aug. 25 through Sept. 4, 2021.*



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## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Career Opportunities

## Career Opportunities

## Janet Barbara Marshall

April 4, 1947 – January 25, 2022



Sadly, our dear friend, Janet, has passed away, aged 74, at Lady Minto Hospital. She went peacefully, after a courageous battle with cancer.

Janet was predeceased by her parents, Edward and Claire Quinn, and is survived by her closest cousins, Judy, Carole and Diane. Born in Montreal, she spent her early years working with her father in his transportation business. She moved to Salt Spring in the early 80's, and her parents followed her later.

Janet had a great love for Salt Spring, spending her first years, here, cooking for folks in a small deli. She then trained as a realtor and spent many happy years at Century 21. Later, she worked at Field's, until it closed.

Janet loved to feed people, whether with a pot of soup or a bag of cookies. She took that role very seriously. Upon retirement she became a volunteer at the Lady Minto Thrift Shop and was a helping hand in Dan Hardy's office and in the cafe at Country Grocer. When she wasn't volunteering, she filled her days with crossword and sudoku puzzles, solitaire, old movies and game shows.

Janet would have liked to thank all of the staff at Lady Minto and at Brachaven for their excellent care over the last few years.

Tiny, but feisty, Janet will be missed and remembered by all who knew her.

If desired, donations in Janet's name may be made to Lady Minto Hospital, 135 Crofton Road, SSI, B.C., V8K 2R8.

## In Memoriam Gifts



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[saltspringfire.com/job-opportunities/](http://saltspringfire.com/job-opportunities/)

Closing date for receiving applications is February 18, 2022.

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## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

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**TIP OF THE WEEK:** READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE

The planetary line-up reveals a somewhat rare instance of all planets Direct. In other words, no planets are retrograde! Moreover, this will be true until April 30th when Pluto at 28 Capricorn 35 is the first to turn retrograde again. Interestingly, this exactly coincides with the Solar Eclipse New Moon in Taurus! Generally, when no planets are retrograde, communications tend to be more straightforward and matter-of-fact. It is also worth mentioning that this tends to be a strong characteristic of the Water Tiger, the year cycle of which has just begun and which continues until the next New Moon in Aquarius on January 21 2023. So, this rare window of time will last almost three months, during which we can expect a freer flow of communications and when actions and behaviours tend to be more assertive, for better or worse, since perception is invariably subjective and this could manifest as assumed matter-of-fact perspectives become even more polarized. Yes, the Year of the Water Tiger will prove... exciting.

## Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

An impassioned charge ahead is likely now. Again, this impulse began almost two weeks ago and will continue until mid-month. Your focus may well be to secure what is yours or what you feel you deserve based on what you have earned over the years. In any case, money is likely at the forefront of your mind or directly related practical affairs.

## Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

A focus to cultivate a practical and realistic perspective on reality is extra strong now. Your place in the world in terms of career or your social status in general is strongly featured. Invariably, you are probably in a rebellious mood and feel a strong urge to push your way through any and all opposition.

## Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Deep changes continue to rumble through your world. These are pushing you to dive deep to truly feel into what you truly want and need. As well, the impulse to get answers is strong and includes research. With your ambitions raging, you yearn for new knowledge to be able to think and act with clarity. Yet, knowing which direction is best may not be so obvious.

## Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

A dynamic exchange on relationship fronts continues. This is not likely to be an especially tidy process. It includes sifting and sorting, purging and generally processing layers of history, tradition and experience. Amidst it all, you are undergoing a consequent process of change and transformation. Yet, you may be so in it as to not be able to see it yet.

## Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Some major changes are underway in your overall lifestyle. Some of these may have come about suddenly, perhaps even all of them and all at once. These are invariably shaking things up and you are challenged to give to situations more than you would like to. Positively, you are willing to make the efforts and are committed to creating a brighter future.

## Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

A powerful creative impulse is yours to enjoy now. It is likely that you could find yourself busy on a variety of fronts in this regard. Mercury now direct is making things more straightforward than they have perhaps been for the past few weeks. A learning curve has also been activated by this flow of change yet requires focus and patience.

## Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Although you feel an impulse to retreat, you also find yourself endeavoring to forge a future that you can depend upon. Creating a stable base of operations is implied. This is true whether the stability is external, material and obvious or internal, emotional and elusive. It may also manifest as a combination of both. Success may require some very clever thinking.

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# ISLAND LIFE

## HISTORY

# Stark-Estes portrait on display

Black History Month marked at the library

### SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ISLAND HISTORICAL SOCIETY

For Black History month the Salt Spring Island Historical Society is pleased to collaborate with the Salt Spring Island Public Library to display a portrait of pioneer Sylvia Stark with her father Howard Estes.

This 8 x 4-foot sepia-toned piece was commissioned by Stark descendant Judy Sims and painted by Alli Hames. "The Stark family were early pioneers with an incredible history demonstrating bravery and determination the likes of which we rarely see today," said Hames in her artist's statement.

Sylvia Estes was born into slavery in about 1839. As a child she taught herself to read, which was illegal at that time. Her father Howard bought his family's freedom in 1849 and they



PHOTO BY CHRIS MARSHALL

Ceridwen Ross-Collins, left, of the Salt Spring Island Historical Society, and Salt Spring Public Library technician Amy Trepianer hold the portrait of Salt Spring pioneers Sylvia Stark and Howard Estes created by island artist Alli Hames.

later travelled from Missouri to California where Sylvia married cattle farmer Louis Stark. In 1858 the families emigrated with a large group of Black Americans to the colony of Vancouver Island. From there Louis and Sylvia staked a claim with

the fledgling colony on Salt Spring Island, near Vesuvius Bay and later inland. Their cabin still stands on Stark's Road. Both Howard Estes and Sylvia Stark are buried at Central Cemetery.

More information on the public viewing of the por-

trait is available on the library's website at [saltspring.bc.libraries.coop](http://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop) and the library's Facebook page.

As well, two copies of the 63-page biography *Sylvia Stark: A Pioneer* will be available at the library circulation desk to read in the library as a reference item during the month of February. Historical society members will receive an email with information.

For more history resources, go to [www.saltspringarchives.com](http://www.saltspringarchives.com) and click on the Estes/Stark Collection.

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## YOUTH SPORTS

# Young athletes scale obstacles of island life

Sports dreams pursued

BY MARCIA JANSEN

DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

What if you have big dreams in sports, but live on a small island? Four young athletes talk about the challenges of living on Salt Spring.

### Scott Goddard

Scott Goddard, 14, belongs to the top 20 tennis players in his age group in B.C. He and his family regularly travel to Victoria and Vancouver for tournaments and practices.

His competitiveness is one of the reasons he chose tennis as his sport seven years ago.

"It turned out that an individual sport works better for me," Goddard said. "In an individual sport, you only rely on yourself. It is easier to elevate your level."

Goddard practises two times a week with his coach Marjorie Blackwood at the Salt Spring Indoor Tennis Centre.

"I used to train four times a week, but right now it is only twice a week. It is hard to find players of my level. That's why I mostly play with adults. That is a downside of living on Salt Spring. I would rather play with kids my age. Luckily Emily Allen, who lives in Victoria, comes over once a month to train with me and I go to Victoria to train with her. She is two years younger than me, but we are



PHOTOS AT RIGHT AND LEFT SUBMITTED BY FAMILY MEMBERS; PHOTOS IN MIDDLE BY MARCIA JANSEN

evenly matched."

Goddard doesn't think his competitors in Victoria and Vancouver — where there are more facilities and people to train with — have a big advantage over him.

"I am lucky that I have a great coach in Marjorie and that we have an indoor court on Salt Spring Island, so I can play year-round. I have a lot of support here."

Goddard won the U14 Boys Salt Spring Fall Indoor Tournament, held at the indoor tennis courts on Salt Spring last October, and recently won the U14 boys singles title at the

Victoria Junior Indoor Tennis Open in Victoria. He hopes to play college tennis in the future and wants to make the jump to the pro tour from there. His role model is Roger Federer.

"He is all-round and moves super gracefully. I would love to adopt his play style."

### Kadence O'Dwyer

Kadence O'Dwyer, 13, has been playing soccer since she was four. She started in the Salt Spring United's house program, and played a year up on Colin Walde's gold team.

In 2019 she tried out for the Vancouver Island Wave program, the island's highest level of youth soccer participating in the BC Soccer Premier League. It was a dream come true for O'Dwyer when she made the team. But it is a big commitment for her parents, with weekly practices in Victoria and games in the Lower Mainland.

"I really wanted to play at a higher level," O'Dwyer said. "My team practises three times a week, but luckily my coach is pretty flexible. I am allowed to come to just one practice a week because I live on Salt Spring Island. I have two younger brothers, my dad has his own business and my mom works for the school district. It would have been hard for them to take me over four times a week."

Although she practises only one day a week with her team, she can keep up with her teammates.

"When I am there, I try my hardest," she said. "I am in FAST soccer on Salt Spring Island on Fridays and I play a lot of soccer after school with my brothers. I do worry a little bit about the future, though. The practices of the older groups start and end later, and we can't take the last ferry back to Salt Spring. I might have to give up on Wave at that point."

O'Dwyer would like to play soccer on a scholarship in college or for a professional team.

"My role models are my coach Olivia Swinton, who played for the Vikes, and Clare Rustad. Clare grew

up on Salt Spring Island and played for Canada's national team. It is great to have an example that you can live on a small island and still become one of the best players in the country."

### Dreuhn Pinney

Dreuhn Pinney, 14, was four years old when he started swimming with the Salt Spring Stingrays. In 2016 he competed in his first provincial championships.

"My mom told me I went into the finals just one hundredth of a second behind the first-place swimmer, but I didn't really realize what that meant," said Pinney. "I just swam, and afterwards I was brought out to the podium. It turned out I won gold. It was a big surprise."

Since then he has been a medal contender in the backstroke races. But what he maybe likes even better is that he made a bunch of new friends.

"After I won that gold medal, I became friends with the guy who won silver. We are rivals, but we are really good friends. I have friends in Sidney, Abbotsford, Nanaimo and Port Coquitlam. We compete, hang out between the races and we even get together if we're not swimming."

Salt Spring Island only has a summer swim team. From May until August, Pinney practises from Monday to Thursday in the afternoon and three times in the morning before school.

"It would be great if I could swim all year. It would be better for my development as a swimmer. I have talked about it with my parents, but it would be too complicated. I would have to go off-island every morning before school and again after school. I also love to swim with the Salt Spring Stingrays. If I switch to a winter club, I wouldn't be racing with my friends."

Pinney's role model is Ryan Murphy, a four-time Olympic gold medalist and the world-record holder in the 100-metre backstroke.

"I admire his technique and all that he has accomplished. I would

love to swim for a varsity team and compete in the Olympics one day."

### Nick Dawson

Nick Dawson, 13, plays hockey for the Cowichan Valley Capitals Bantam Rep hockey team. He and his family go off-island five to six times a week for practices and games.

"I come from a hockey family," said Dawson. "My dad played hockey, and I was once asked to skate in the warm-up when my uncle played junior hockey. I started skating when I was two and we still lived in Fort St. John. When I was four years old, the age I started hockey, we moved to Salt Spring Island."

Dawson has played rep hockey for five years. That means he and his team travel on Vancouver Island for games and to the Lower Mainland for tournaments.

"I practise three to four times a week and have one or two games on the weekend. On Monday, practice ends around 10 p.m. and we can't catch the ferry back, so we stay in our motor home at a friend's house. The next day we take the early ferry back to Salt Spring. On Tuesday we go over in the evening, so I can do an early morning practice on Wednesday."

After all these years, Dawson is used to the travelling.

"I am definitely getting less rest than my teammates, but I am used to feeling tired. I do most of my homework on the ferry, but I decided to drop out of French immersion in Grade 6. It is easier if I have less stress about homework."

Dawson loves that hockey is a team sport and the friendships that come from it. His role model is Sidney Crosby, captain of the Pittsburgh Penguins.

"He is an excellent leader and he always works harder than the rest. My goal is to play junior or university hockey and it would be great to eventually play in the NHL. That is every hockey player's dream. I also hope to play for Canada in the world junior championship. It's not easy, but I am going to work really hard for it."

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