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INTERNATIONAL EVENTS

Islanders give support to Ukraine



5 New PARC childcare and rec space completed



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- The Local Liquor St.
- Buckerfield's
- Lifestyle Markets



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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Among those showing support for the Ukrainian people in Ganges on Sunday following the Feb. 24 invasion of their country by the Russian government of Vladimir Putin are, from left, Marcia Jansen with Bowie, Sandra Sedgbeer, Amanda Bapty, Victoria Olchowecski, Igor Darmokhid, Romas Blekaitis, William Shulba and Josephine Fletcher, and Olga Sztabarnicki (kneeling).

Numerous fundraising activities get underway

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Local response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine is gathering momentum on Salt Spring.

A number of fundraising initiatives have been planned, spearheaded by Igor Darmokhid, who moved to the island from Ukraine with his family three years ago. Darmokhid hopes islanders will step up to collect medical supplies, clothing and other needed goods for shipping overseas, and donate funds that can be used for humanitarian efforts.

Darmokhid plans to set up at least one local financial institution trust account so that funds can be quickly transferred to the Red Cross Humanitarian Fund for Ukraine, and he invites businesses and individuals to do what they can for the cause. Moby's Pub, for example, is offering special perogy meals with proceeds going to that fund. Darmokhid will be donating money raised from his own artwork sales and encourages other artists to do the same.

About a dozen people with connections to Ukraine and supporters stood on the island by the fire hall with signs on Sunday as one way to show support for the country that was invaded by Russian forces on Feb. 24 after weeks of mili-

tary build-up. Other islanders had gathered at the spot earlier in the week.

Among them were people of Ukrainian descent, like Amanda Bapty and William Shulba, with family members in Ukraine who are directly affected by the war. Bapty's family does not live near current fighting, but Shulba has a cousin in Kyiv.

"They have four children and some of them are older and they were separated for a period of time," said Shulba. "They just found each other and now they are leaving Kyiv . . . Their lives have been turned upside down, of course."

Josephine Fletcher works with Darmokhid at Thrifty Foods. She came out on Sunday to show support with the belief that if people in Russia and elsewhere speak up, "this control by [President Vladimir Putin] and his entourage is going to fall apart, and the world is going to come together in this very difficult time on the planet. Everybody has to have integrity, empathy, compassion, all those things, it's got to be pulled together. We're in a very difficult place right now."

Romas Blekaitis is not Ukrainian but served as Canada's defence attaché in Ukraine from

2003 to 2006 while in the Canadian military. Wearing several medals related to his service on Sunday, Blekaitis provided observations from time spent in that country and connections he still has there.

Back then, he said, the Ukrainian people were looking to the West, not Moscow, as they started to see and experience the benefits of the West.

"They knew that they were living under an umbrella of lies from Russia," he said. "They had nothing against the Russian people per se, but certainly against the government that, as we see today, is carrying on tyranny that's just stomping on the freedom not just of Ukraine but all of us, because democracy's torch is not just something that's there, it's everywhere."

"Ukrainians aspire to join the free world, and it's on a march that is not going to stop regardless of the successes Putin might have in the near future," he added. "Whether he decapitates the government of Ukraine, he still won't win. He has terribly, brutally underestimated the soul of the Ukrainian people. Even before Mr. Putin launched the invasion he had lost."

UKRAINE continued on 5



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restaurants, contractors, suppliers, and service providers all benefit from the encouragement. If you're interested in helping with future campaigns, promoting our island economics and growing the brand, consider joining our Love Local Steering Committee.

The momentum of the Love Local initiative will live on. Keep an eye out for future events and activities as our Islands' Chambers continue to work together on new and exciting ideas. In the meantime, we'll be inspiring islanders with guides on loving local across the other islands—where can you support farm stands on Pender? Who offers tours on Galiano? How can you visit artists on Saturna? Or where can you relax with a beer on Mayne? Stay tuned for tips from across the region as we highlight our local businesses throughout the Southern Gulf Islands region. Though each has its own character, our unique sense

of imagination can be found on every island, expressed in earth and metal, wool and pigment, word and music, jar and plate. See for yourself!

HOW CAN YOU KEEP PARTICIPATING AS A BUSINESS?

Consider joining our upcoming social media training sessions. Aligning your business to the Love Local brand has many benefits, including; better customer recognition, higher customer loyalty, more word of mouth, and lower price sensitivity. Together, contributing to a strong brand with consistent and recognizable expressions not only promotes local products and services but also promotes what it means to Love Local in our communities.

The fact is, nearly 70% of people spend an hour or more on social media each. It's important to meet your customers where they're at and amplify your own time and energy on those platforms. Our upcoming social media training sessions will give you an overview of the most commonly used social media platforms on the islands—Facebook and Instagram, why they benefit your business, how to plan and schedule content in advance, how to measure your success, and how to use the platforms' additional features. Get in touch to register for sessions happening Mondays on March 7, March 14, and March 21 at 1:00 pm.

As ever, share the love in the Southern Gulf Islands. Shop, eat, and stay here—where your heart is, where your family is, where your community is. *Love Local.*



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A heartfelt thanks from our Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and our great member businesses to all who played along, putting your time where your heart is, and supporting our island communities. You help keep Salt Spring Island the special place that it is!

GOVERNANCE

Local community commission probed

ASK Salt Spring session hears from panel about concept and fall referendum process

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders will soon be hearing a lot more about the local community commission (LCC) governance model, which will likely be put to a referendum during fall local government elections.

A move from a single director to a director plus four elected members overseeing Capital Regional District (CRD) operations on the island is being studied by a group of Salt Spring Islanders and advocated for by the island's current CRD director Gary Holman. How an LCC could look, as well as benefits and unintended consequences, were discussed at a Feb. 25 virtual ASK Salt Spring public meeting with 21 people attending.

An LCC both broadens representation and makes dealings of local government more transparent, Holman said. Discussion and votes on CRD matters would be done at public meetings, whereas now many decisions, including where grants in aid and gas tax funding are distributed, are made by the director and staff.

An LCC could be anywhere from purely an advisory body to having extensive delegated authority, depending on bylaws that establish it. All powers and authorities of a regional district, except for passing bylaws and final approval of items such as budgets and financial plans, can be done by an LCC, explained Brian Webster, a Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission member and one of the residents working on an LCC discussion paper.

"In my personal opinion, this is a wasted exercise if it is simply creating one big advisory commission either to add to, which would be the worst-case scenario, or to replace a bunch of current advisory commissions," he said. "The whole purpose of doing this is to have Salt Spring people on Salt Spring Island — a diverse range of democratically elected people — making more of the decisions." Webster added that a "timid version" of an LCC is "just another layer of local government" and would not be acceptable to voters.

Implementing an LCC could involve consolidating some of the commissions that oversee economic development, parks and recreation, transportation and liquid waste disposal on the island, Holman said. As the largest and most complicated of the commissions, Holman said there is an advantage to keeping the parks and recreation commission. He also wouldn't support the consolidation of entities overseeing the island's sewer systems and water districts as they already have a group of commissioners elected to represent their ratepayers and he wouldn't want to eliminate that relationship.

The opposition to an LCC could come from residents who strongly supported incorporation and who may see it as defusing the interest in incorporation, said Linda Adams, a former Islands Trust CAO who is also working on the discussion paper.

An LCC avoids one of the greatest concerns of incorporation, which is taking on the cost and liability of the island's road network. Adams pointed out that the island's roads are 25.1 metres in length

per capita, which is 2.3 times the B.C. average.

"Our municipal government, if we had created one of those, would be absolutely overwhelmed with some of those costs and would be doing little else," she said.

Holman agreed that with extreme weather events becoming more frequent the cost of emergency repairs could swamp a municipality financially.

While larger communities are not usually the ones to establish LCCs, the challenges of incorporation and the unique circumstances Salt Spring finds itself in with a large land area and a small population could be things that make the LCC option a "made in Salt Spring solution," Adams said.

Questions were raised about how an LCC would impact and interact with the Islands Trust. This is a relationship prescribed in legislation, Adams explained, with the Islands Trust Act laying out the role of the Trust in land-use planning and regulation as well as its relationship with regional districts. While no legislation will change, Adams said it could become easier for the Trust to collaborate and coordinate with the LCC as a single body rather than many separate commissions.

"I do worry about the potential for some head butting around, for example, land-use issues," Holman said, so ensuring the existing relationship is reflected explicitly in the LCC's establishment bylaw is critical.

Keeping land-use decisions by the Islands Trust separate from the servicing decisions of the CRD has some advantages, Adams said, such as avoiding the push by municipalities to increase the density of development in order to afford policing, roads and other costs.

"Our system that keeps those things separate is part of what's enabled us to not get kind of sucked into that train and not go that route of increasing development in order to afford services," she said.

An LCC may encourage more women to run for office, Mairi Welman said, "because women like collaborating and a lot of women are terrified to run for office right now because of how toxic the atmosphere can be. I think there's safety in numbers."

Holman noted that the chairs of all the island-wide CRD commissions are currently women.

Ronald David advocated for younger representation on a future LCC, as the elders on Salt Spring may not experience the same pressure young people do.

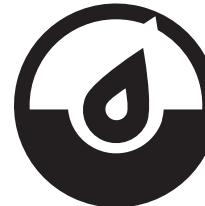
Nejmeh Guermoudi said "diversifying voices and ensuring there's space for everyone" is a key concern in efforts to move towards unity on the island.

Holman advocated for a modest stipend for elected members of the LCC, similar to what mayor and council compensation might look like. Currently, electoral area directors have a base salary of \$40,626 plus expenses, not including remuneration for their roles on CRD boards.

A stipend, Adams said, "hopefully would enable people from all walks of life" to run.

When finished, the discussion paper will be reviewed by the CRD and province for accuracy before it goes to the public.

Holman said an advisory committee would be set up to oversee public consultation and unless there is overwhelming opposition, which he does not expect, the question will be put to voters on Oct. 15. Should it pass, work would start on forming the LCC and members would be elected in 2023.



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, that nominations for TWO trustees will be received in the District office between:

**8:00 am February 24, 2022
12:00 noon March 22, 2022**

Nomination of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed and seconded, by two duly qualified electors of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office at or before 12:00 noon, Tuesday, March 22, 2022.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

Both of the Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road and virtually. Due to COVID-19 guidelines changing frequently, we are hoping to hold the AGM in person, but this could change depending on restrictions; however the meeting will also be held virtually through Microsoft Teams, and the link will be posted on the district website for the public to join. The Trustee election will use an exclusively mail-in ballot process. Voting packages will be mailed on March 22, 2022 and ballots must be received at the District office by April 27, 2022 at 4:30 p.m.

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Elections Act*.

Visit the "Who We Are" and "Becoming a Trustee" pages on our website for more information about the role of a Trustee.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office and online in the Documents/Forms section of the District website.

NOTICE OF 2022 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 5, 2022 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, and virtually through Microsoft Teams (the link will be available on our website).

www.northsalspringwaterworks.ca

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ISLANDS TRUST

Public input solicited for Trust policy statement

Formal activities to continue through April

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Southern Gulf Islanders are being asked for their thoughts as the Islands Trust prepares to make a major update to its overarching policy statement to better reflect priorities of reconciliation, affordable housing and climate change.

The public engagement process kicked off Feb. 25 with an online survey followed by a virtual Q&A session on March 1. These were the first of many opportunities for comment on a document meant to guide the work of the Trust

and better address its stated commitments and the changing demographics, development and other realities of the area over the past 25 years.

After preparing to go to first reading on a draft of the policy statement in 2021, strong concerns were raised by some who feared the Trust was attempting to rush changes through without sufficient public consultation. Several areas of concern arose, including around a proposed prohibition of new private docks throughout the Trust area as well as seawalls and other hard surfaces along shorelines. Others flagged concerns with changes to definitions around agriculture and forestry as valuable traditional activities.

The Trust's 26-member governing body, the Islands Trust Council, decided in July 2021 to defer a first reading that could now take place at the council's June 2022 meeting. It is unclear whether work on the policy statement update will be fully completed before trustee elections in October.

The Islands Trust represents 26,000 residents and 10,000 non-resident property owners on 13 major islands and over 450 smaller ones between Vancouver Island and the mainland, with a provincial mandate to "preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment" of the area. The Trust uses the policy statement to guide the development of official community plans and regulatory

bylaws in each locality. It also informs advocacy on a regional level and inter-governmental collaboration. The document has not had a significant update since 1994.

With a draft policy statement in hand, the Trust is in the midst of a public engagement phase set to run through April and led by ISL Engineering. The March 1 Q&A was recorded and will be accessible on the Trust's website. In addition to the survey and Q&A session, more virtual and in-person activities are being planned. The Trust is also engaging with First Nations on the draft statement.

The survey is available at <https://island-trust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/>.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

New PARC space completed



PHOTOS BY EMELIE PEACOCK
Views outside and inside the 1,500-square-foot multipurpose room at the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre that was completed in late February 2022. The space will house a daycare for infants and toddlers.

Expanded area to house early learning centre and new recreation classes

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Builders were busy assembling toddler-sized play kitchens and tiny tables on Feb. 22 in preparation for a recently completed 1,500-square-foot addition to the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre to be turned into a daycare.

Located directly off the aquatic centre's lobby, the multipurpose space is set up with small sinks and toilets in the corner, a nap room off to the side and a large room separated by a divider, each side featuring large windows overlooking green space and a pond. The multipurpose room will house infant and toddler care on weekdays and recreation programming and community groups on evenings and

weekends.

"The new space can accommodate up to 24 children depending on age but the little Rainbows will be focusing on infant and toddler care so they will initially just have space for 12," said Parks and Rec manager Dan Ovington.

Community groups can rent the space, but the main evening use will be parks and recreation classes like chair fit and martial arts, as well as training and birthday parties on weekends. Some of the new programming includes a creative dance class for 55+ adults, teen girls kickboxing as well as tech and Lego and robotics spring break camps, some of which will also take place in schools.

Funding for the expansion came from the province, which in March 2020 gave \$832,725 to the Capital Regional District (CRD) Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) specifically to support the creation of child and infant-care spaces on the island.

Cost estimates escalated during COVID-19 and Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman committed Community Works Fund dollars to keep the project going, Ovington confirmed at a Feb. 22 PARC meeting.

This funding was in addition to the \$214,000 PARC received from the province to fund the construction of a classroom to house a half-day recreation-based preschool program. The Heron's Nest preschool ran through the fall but was forced to close in the spring, with 30 children affected, due to an inability to recruit an early childcare educator (ECE). Ovington said PARC is actively recruiting and hopes to start the program again in the fall.

The aquatic centre expansion will house the Little Rainbows Early Learning Centre for infants and toddlers, a much-needed service especially for infants, Ovington said. The daycare will open in the spring, with the exact date still to be determined, and will offer full and part-time care. Staffing does not appear to be an issue for the centre, as Ovington confirmed it is being operated by two ECEs. To be added to a list of interested families, people can email executive@giels.org.

When the Rainbow Road pool was built, Ovington explained, no meeting room or programming space was included in the plans. Lifeguard training, first aid training or birthday parties happened in the lobby, he explained, "so having this space is really invaluable for us to run different programs and train up new lifeguards."

With COVID-19 restrictions putting a pause on lifeguard training and recertification, the Greater Victoria area, including Salt Spring's aquatic centre, is seeing a shortage of lifeguards and resulting reduction in hours at the pool. Ovington confirmed training is ongoing on a group of new, local lifeguards.

Construction on the addition began in July 2021 and was finished in February, with some delays from the expected December completion date as the crew waited for building supplies. Left to complete are fenced-in outdoor play areas.

Help for Ukraine appreciated

UKRAINE

continued from 1

Anyone who would like to assist with fundraising or other efforts is urged to email Darmokhidi at darmohidi@gmail.com. E-transfers may also be sent to that address.

Darmokhidi is grateful to everyone who has supported the cause so far. People are invited to join the group on Sunday, March 6 at Centennial Park at 12:30 p.m.

"I appeal to those who have friends or relatives in Russia," wrote Darmokhidi on his Facebook page. "Call your family and friends and ask them to join the protesters in Russia who want a stop to the war.

Words of sympathy do not help. Action is needed."

For the full text of Darmokhidi's message, see the Driftwood's [gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) website.

As of Monday, an estimated 500,000 Ukrainian people had already been displaced by the war. The mayor of Kyiv stated in news reports that his city's ability to deliver food and other aid was severely impacted.

Russian and Ukraine representatives met Monday to seek a path that could see an end to fighting.

Tensions between Russia and Ukraine have been building since what is called the Revolution of Dignity in 2014, due to disagreement over whether ties should be increased with the European Union or the Russian Federation, and other factors.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

TORCHED: An RV outside Gulf Islands Secondary School went

up in flames on Feb. 21 at 2 a.m., according to owner Chris Dushko. The owner told the Driftwood he does not know why someone would want to set fire to the RV, and noted there was no battery, propane unit nor "any other way it would [have] burned down without the assistance of someone." Dushko stated last week he was dealing with the insurance company and then removing the vehicle. The RCMP did not respond to a request for comment by publication time.

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Capital Regional District

CRD

Notice of Meeting**Capital Regional District Board
2022 Financial Plan Bylaw Approval**

A meeting of the Capital Regional District Board, including budget discussion for 2022, will be held:

Date: Wednesday, March 16, 2022

Time: 1:00 pm

Place: CRD Headquarters, 6th Floor Boardroom
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC



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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Will more be merrier?

Salt Spring's governance is under the stage lights again as discussion about establishing a local community commission (LCC) gets underway.

Exploring the LCC idea was a campaign promise made by Gary Holman when he ran for CRD director during the 2018 elections. Initially the hope was to have a referendum on the concept completed in time to elect LCC commissioners during this fall's elections. Holman has said that both the pandemic and delays around trying to resolve another governance issue, that of potentially having the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) become a CRD entity, led to the LCC issue being pushed further ahead than originally planned. At this point that change will not be taking place. (The

fact that the NSSWD has been providing maintenance services to CRD-run water services without a legal contract since December of 2019, despite NSSWD attempts since last summer to get new contracts finalized, is just one example of why that change may not be occurring.)

Last Friday's ASK Salt Spring meeting heard

from Holman and others working on a discussion paper about the LCC concept that would see islanders elect a CRD director and four LCC commissioners rather than a sole director as at present. Hopefully that document will illuminate many more details than were revealed on Friday, and public dissection can give shape to possible bylaws that might result and be voted on at a referendum in October.

Brian Webster is a longtime Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission member contributing to the discussion paper. As he pointed out during Friday's session, there is no point simply adding to the plethora of existing commissions and CRD bureaucracy with one more body if true change does not result.

Spreading the responsibility of providing CRD services among more people who are accountable to their electorate would no doubt be a positive thing. It would reduce the quite untenable load for the sole director and should lead to better processes, but if an LCC simply adds costs without resulting in substantially improved governance, it would not be worth doing. But it is early days to be speculating on the impact of an LCC, so we look forward to release of the LCC discussion paper and further public discussions to come.

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Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)



Seed swap returns to roots

BY BEN CORNO

As snowdrops, plum blossoms, daffodils, and lilac buds return for their big reveal, one is enticed back outside from the comfort of their heated enclave to their favourite natural spaces, and maybe to the garden to survey winter's leavings and plot a reinvigoration of the space, and of the spirit.

Through the last two years, gardens, yards, trails, beaches and parks welcomed retreat from the droll but serious business of health orders and restrictions. In the outdoors, you can host your own impromptu gatherings with oneself, or a loved one, and make an event of something as simple as raking back the debris of the fall to make way for the promise of spring.

The pandemic has not been kind to events since March of 2020. Some established events have been held over, or retooled. Volunteer groups and organizers have been tested to fabricate events that comply with capacity limits, and still invite the meaningful participation to justify hosting. Almost two years to the day from the

VIEWPOINT

initial shutdown, Island Natural Growers and the Salt Spring Island Farm-Land Trust will host the 2022 Seedy Saturday Seed Swap at The Root this Saturday, March 5.

In an effort to keep the event simple enough to host outdoors, Island Natural Growers has chosen a return to the initial impetus of the Seedy Saturday movement by hosting a seed swap at The Root at 189 Beddis Rd. Bring your viable, home-saved, or abundant seed to swap with others, or help yourself to pre-packaged seeds by cash donation.

With consistently shifting rules around how and where a gathering the size of Seedy Saturday could be held, and who they could include, the organizers have chosen to keep their focus on community and go outside for this event and speak directly to the historical purpose of Seedy Saturday.

In 1990, Sharon Rempel organized the first "Seedy Sunday" seed swap, held at VanDusen Botanical Gardens. Rem-

pel was spurred on by an interest in procuring heritage seed varieties to populate a 1880s-themed heritage garden she was planning to install at the Keremeos Grist Mill. She found it was very difficult to find heritage seed varieties commercially, and used the seed swap as a way to encourage gardeners to bring out their favourite saved seeds for sharing among the community.

This seed swap concept has broadcast itself across the continent, and has evolved into opportunities for regionally specific seed companies to vend, plant experts to teach their tricks, seed-sovereignty activism to amplify and the communities at large to gather in the late-spring for a reconnection of friends, and to check-in how we fared through the winter.

Please join us between 12 and 3 p.m. on Saturday, March 5 at The Root at 189 Beddis Rd. for an event that offers the opportunity to meet up with friends, old and new, and swap seeds, stories and smiles while we welcome ourselves outside for this year's gardening get-together.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you want to hear more about the LCC idea for Salt Spring?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should suites be allowed in accessory dwellings on Salt Spring?



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

FROM THE BACK ISSUES

1972

• Islanders were dealing with the aftermath of a storm "of almost unprecedented violence" that saw winds reach gusts of 95 mph on Feb. 27, leaving a trail of damage and injury. Two houses on Salt Spring Island and two uncompleted houses on Galiano were reportedly demolished, with damage reported to many other homes. Hydro crews were expected to be working for more than a week to restore power.

1982

• The Islands Trust was calling for a fall referendum on nuclear disarmament. While the Trust was not empowered to hold the vote, council was encouraged to send a resolution to regional districts within the Trust area to push for a national referendum.

1987



Two boys play with a feline known as The Portlock Cat since it often came to the field on soccer Saturdays.

1992

• Salt Spring RCMP were still searching for a man wanted for questioning in a Feb. 24 assault on a Fulford woman in her home. At least 150 people gathered at Beaver Point Hall for a March 4 meeting to get information from and share their concerns with Ganges RCMP.

2002

• A community meeting heard about the benefits of vacation rentals on Salt Spring, in response to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's planned enforcement of a bylaw prohibiting them.

Main points expressed were that vacation home renting did not take away business from other accommodations providers or deplete the long-term affordable housing market, but provided a needed service for the tourism industry.

2012



From left, Salt Spring sisters Suzanne Gay, Catherine Kennedy and Elizabeth Gay, and their mother Carol Johnson were on the Food Network TV show called Family Cook Off.

LETTERS to the editor

Reduce scale of Vortex

I think most of us in the South End would love a useful and vibrant community hub on the old Fulford Inn site, rather than the sad, empty space we see today, but not by compromising the health of the fish-bearing creeks (two of them), the ecologically sensitive estuary and the harbour. The Vortex project, as proposed, is just too big.

The main problem is the sewage. Although the property indeed offered commercial accommodation for many decades, it never coped with over 30 possible occupants (17 units), having showers and flushing toilets, etc., plus a res-

taurant with guests and staff, all at the same time.

The developer has applied for variances, to allow the septic fields to be closer to water bodies — creek and harbour — than is allowed by the land use bylaw. Islands Trust staff did not support this application in 2019, and have not since, but the trustees did approve it (the approval has since run out of time). The designer of the septic system explained that alarms would sound if a problem develops in the septic field. But then what? Will damage have already been done? Where is "preserve and protect" in this?

The lack of objective information on the holding capacity of the site is worrying. Given the increasing effects of climate

change, especially flooding and rising sea levels, why have the trustees not requested independent hydrological studies? Surely the development — any development — should be designed to fit the results of such analysis, rather than the land use changed to fit the development.

If David Fullbrook would reduce the scale of his development, he would probably find a warm welcome for a lively centre in the South End.

MARLYN HORSDAL,
REYNOLDS ROAD

Delightful

On the 10th and 11th of February, Salt Springers had the opportunity of attending recit-

als given at ArtSpring by internationally renowned pianist Angela Hewitt.

From the beauty of Couperin to the intricacies of Messiaen to the power and emotion of Brahms, Angela had the audience completely silent and rapt. Angela held a Q&A after her encore; she was, as always, down to earth and infinitely approachable.

I last heard her play when she was about six years old; the promise that was apparent then has been realized a thousand-fold.

JANE GARTRELL,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"[Putin] has terribly, brutally underestimated the soul of the Ukrainian people."

SALT SPRING RESIDENT AND RETIRED LT-COL. ROMAS BLEKAITIS,
FORMER CANADIAN DEFENCE ATTACHE TO UKRAINE

Canada's once dignified reputation now sullied

I don't want to get all metaphysical with you, but time is a strange thing and the older you get, the stranger it becomes.

Time is generally defined as "the indefinite continued progress of existence and events in the past, present and future regarded as a whole," which is doubtless as true as it is incomprehensible, but it doesn't account for my nose hairs and rambling eyebrows. Nor any of the lumps, bumps and other countless indignities of being overhauled by time.

Nor does it explain how time moves infinitely slowly when your day is emptier than a politician's promise and unaccountably speeds up when an event presents itself so that you will inevitably be late or miss it altogether.

In a few weeks I shall be 72 years old, once considered a great age, but not so much today, even though, as I look at it written on the page here it shakes my self-regard. It's also an age that inclines you to look backwards somewhat more, because to look ahead at 72 is asking for trouble.

When I first came to Canada more than 30 years ago, I came as an immigrant, a well-placed, well-set-up immigrant certainly, but a bright, shiny new Canadian nonetheless with the promise of a good job and excellent prospects.

I came to Canada from Australia, which in those days, despite the golden climate and the apparently endless opportunities, was still an invariably spiteful, suspicious and an often rabidly racist, sexist and homophobic country on the far side of the world.

I brought my young family to Canada then because of its impeccable credentials, its international reputation as a fair-minded, infinitely generous nation, a country of thoroughly decent people who were invariably on the side of right.

In those days I knew nothing of the atrocities committed on native Canadians but had been appalled by the systemic mistreatment of native Australians. I'd had colleagues who



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

had been schooled by Jesuit priests and bore the scars, but I had no suspicion that Catholic nuns and priests were similarly brutalizing aboriginal Canadians.

Thirty years ago Canada was, it seemed then, a beacon of moderation and integrity, so relentlessly reasonable that it merited little attention on the world stage. Canada was so nice that it's very niceness had become an international byword.

Not so much today. Oh, it's still ostensibly a gentle giant, two-and-a-half billion acres of outdoors with a pretty boy prime minister, but events chiefly driven by the internet have curdled its soul, something 150 years of proximity to a boundlessly smug and often empty-headed crybully next door had failed to do. There is an argumentativeness, a belligerence that I swear was never there 30 years ago, nor even 10 years ago, and is the antithesis of MY Canada but has been played out and amplified by ignorant or misguided protestors in our major cities.

I'd come from London's politically polarized Fleet Street via an angry Australian tabloid to the sedate and measured calm of the Vancouver Sun newsroom, from a newsroom in Sydney that was bellicose in its sexism and racism. Women were "Sheilas" and not especially regarded and aboriginal Australians were "Abbos" and given no regard at all. Gay men were "poofters" and an English incomer "another pommie bastard."

Of course, nowhere is perfect. After the freneticism of London and Sydney the Vancouver Sun sometimes felt less like a news-

room and more like a scriptorium. Listen hard enough and behind the rattle of computer keyboards you could just make out the scratch of quills.

While London was all about angry politics, the pointless lives of so-called celebrities and filthy-rich footballers, Vancouver was more concerned with the mildly bonkers government of Premier Bill Vander Zalm, softwood lumber tariffs and salmon quotas. It's still about softwood lumber tariffs while Vander Zalm has descended into full-blown conspiracies, apparently convinced that COVID is a communist plot, bless him.

And it is those endlessly burgeoning conspiracies, I think, that have so sullied the Canada I swore allegiance to when I became a fully-fledged citizen.

It feels uncomfortable to complain of "unCanadian activities," but the recent anarchical protests by "truckers" and worse still those who have abused health workers outside hospitals have no place in the Canada of my memories.

There is always a place for righteous anger, but not this self-righteous egocentrism and the laughable calls for "freedom." Freedom from what? Freedom to do what? There is so much freedom in Canada it is hard to know what to do with it and to hear truckers demanding the "freedom" to prolong a pandemic that has so far killed almost six million worldwide is a travesty of reality.

Worse still, they hijacked the Canadian flag, for so long an icon of everything that was decent. Like Trumpian rednecks, they paraded it through the streets alongside swastikas and Confederate flags of historic slavery, and tarnished the Maple Leaf forever.

They would have better served their fellow countrymen by staying behind their steering wheels, taking their shots and allowing Canada to get through this pandemic in the way it has invariably approached crises: calmly, courteously and with the dignity it was once so famous for.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

MARCH 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
2	0548	3.4	11.2	6	0043	1.6	5.2
WE	1109	2.4	7.9	SU	0717	3.2	10.5
WE	1553	3.0	9.8	MO	1355	1.4	4.6
ME	2245	0.7	2.3	DI	2025	2.7	8.9
3	0613	3.4	11.2	7	0123	2.0	6.6
TH	1150	2.1	6.9	MO	0735	3.2	10.5
TH	1659	2.9	9.5	LU	1437	1.2	3.9
JE	2325	0.9	3.0	LU	2148	2.7	8.9
4	0636	3.3	10.8	8	0209	2.3	7.5
FR	1232	1.8	5.9	TU	0752	3.1	10.2
FR	1804	2.8	9.2	MA	1520	1.1	3.6
SA	2112	2.7	8.9	ME	2327	2.8	9.2
5	0004	1.3	4.3	9	0305	2.6	8.5
SA	0657	3.3	10.8	9	0806	3.0	9.8
SA	1314	1.6	5.2	WE	1606	1.1	3.6
SA	1912	2.7	8.9				

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Looking ahead by looking back

Perhaps I'm simply flogging a tired or dead horse, however, anyone interested in what the future may hold for Salt Spring Island might find it fascinating to spend time looking through past issues of the Gulf Islands Driftwood via the Salt Spring Archives' digital collection.

Sadly, one thing that became crystal clear to me as I read these old newspapers was that Salt Spring has moved a long way back from being the vibrant community it once was. Having lived here for 25 years, I've witnessed the loss of many excellent venues and family events, long gone well before the impact of COVID-19.

A partial list:

- Kings Lane Bowling — fun for the entire family and great burgers too.
- The Fulford Inn — busy every night as islanders met to socialize and listen to live music.
- The Vesuvius Inn — meals enjoyed on a deck drenched in late afternoon sunshine.

The Salt Spring Hysterical Society — always brilliant and hilariously local.

- Sea Capers — a fun, family summer event that brought visitors to this island.
- Cudmore Field Fly-In — families enjoyed looking at small airplanes there on B.C. Day.

• Fulford Marina — it attracted boaters to explore the Fulford area.

- Fulford Day — an excellent, family weekend event put on by dedicated volunteers.

• The Ganges Harbour boardwalk — the plan to complete the harbour boardwalk, what happened?

- Pitchfork Social — music brings people together, as this venue once did.

These were all part of our once vibrant, island life. As one can see, though, there's an established trend here and, now that the "Vortex" concept appears to be swirling down the proverbial drain, it shows no signs of changing course anytime soon. No doubt some will be pleased by this, however, as one long-time island realtor told me when I moved here in the mid-1990s, "Salt Spring Island is in danger of becoming like Whistler, a place for the aging and the wealthy, holding little appeal for families, who probably couldn't afford life here anyway."

In hindsight, how sadly prophetic those words are. Will there ever be the courage to at least place as much emphasis on our island economy as is currently given to the environment, and improve the chances of a vibrant future? Or is this island destined to simply continue down the road of complayancy?

MARK PERRY,
SALT SPRING

What is a vortex?

I Googled the meaning of "vortex" this morning. The first link that comes up is to the Cambridge English Dictionary, which gives two definitions.

The first definition is "A mass of air or water that spins around very fast and pulls objects into its empty centre." The other definition is "A dangerous or bad situation in which you get more and more involved and from which you cannot escape."

It seems like the perfect name for the proposed new resort on the site of the old Fulford Inn.

DON THOMPSON,
FULFORD HARBOUR

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Reflections on two invasions

BY GEORGE SIPOS

At 5 in the morning on Feb. 24, 2022, Russian forces invaded Ukraine.

At 4 in the morning on Nov. 4, 1956, Russian tanks began a similar assault on the city of Budapest to put down a popular uprising against Soviet domination of Hungary.

What connects these two events, apart from their early morning onset, is something for historians and political analysts to mull over. For me there is a simpler and more visceral connection.

I was seven years old in 1956, living with my parents in a three-storey apartment building not far from the Danube on the Buda side of the city. By the beginning of November there had already been much drama in the country. The uprising started on Oct. 23 when the communist head of state was forced to step down after students, workers and just plain folks overran the secret police headquarters, occupied the radio station and toppled a huge bronze statue of Stalin by tying one end of a rope around his neck and the other to the back of a truck.

Of course I did not see any of this. I was only seven. I know of these events only from later adult stories and from books. What I do know more personally comes via a child's memory.

In the evening of what must still have been Nov. 4, my parents and I found ourselves, together with the other 20 or so residents of our building, in a basement bomb shelter. After the tanks did whatever it was they did during the day, word was that the Russians were setting up artillery on a hill overlooking our part of the city. A nighttime bombardment was expected.

The shelter was somber and rather dreary, but not particularly uncomfortable. There may have been bunk beds, though 65 years later I wouldn't swear to it. One of the tenants, an elderly WWI veteran, had brought along his old tin helmet and kept the half dozen of us children happy trying it on and learning to salute.

I guess he was keeping us occupied while adults attended to more important matters, which mainly involved tinkering with my father's radio in the hopes it could catch Voice of America — not an easy matter in a basement. They succeeded in the end and heard that the whole Free World was appar-

INDEPTH

ently on our side, that they supported our valiant struggle, etc., etc. There was an air of excitement among the adults in the shelter as they of course translated the speeches into the expectation that U.S. paratroopers would soon be dropping from the sky, probably before morning.

Do I really remember these details? After all these years I have some doubts. But some aspects of these memories I'm sure are authentic. I remember the comfort and excitement of knowing that whatever was coming, we had our shared tin helmet, which could transform calamity into adventure.

Beyond this though, I remember a stronger and more palpable mood of anxiety and fear emanating from the adults. The events unfolding in the city outside were anything but adventure. Lives were at stake.

I don't mean just the prospect of being wounded or even of dying. But the normality of everyday life was about to vanish. The small events of ordinary routine — making coffee, putting socks and underwear into drawers, feeding the hamster — were suddenly going to be wrenching from us, leaving only what Shakespeare called "bare, unaccommodated man." (Don't worry, I obviously didn't read Shakespeare till at least 15 years later, so this is clearly me speaking as an adult.)

And it is this which I find heartbreaking now as I see on the news people taking shelter in the Kyiv subway, or heading on foot down highways to who knows where. They are pulling suitcases. Women push strollers containing toddlers dressed for winter. Teenagers check their cell phones. Tomorrow they may die. But hopefully they will live through whatever fate brings them and come out unharmed.

Unharmed, however, is not the same as unscathed. The stability, the benevolent dependability of ordinary lives will have been cruelly and pointlessly wrenching from them. Perhaps their ability to believe again in the normality of a world governed by reason, trust and grace.

It is this inner devastation — as much as death and material destruction — that is the profound pathos of the events in Ukraine.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident and author.



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SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

Documentarians attend screenings at festival

Part of events through Sunday

BY STEVE MARTINDALE

SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

Two visiting filmmakers will present their award-winning documentaries this weekend at the Salt Spring Film Festival at ArtSpring.

Los Angeles-based documentarian Zach Carver will be here on Friday with field producer and camera operator Yana Kehrlein to present *The Race to Alaska*, a wildly entertaining film capturing the perils and the perseverance of the intrepid competitors in one of the world's most challenging endurance races. *The Race to Alaska* has won audience favourite awards at the Port Townsend, Powell River and Anchorage International film festivals.

Originally from Seattle, Carver's film *Sin Matador* premiered at the Aspen Shortfest, and won the prize for Best Comedy Short at the Long Beach International Film Festival. His short film *Amateur Dictator* won the Audience Award at the Austin Film Festival. Carver's films have also screened at festivals in Seattle, Brooklyn and Hawaii, as well as internationally in Lanzerote and Tenerife on the Canary Islands, and at the Vesak International Buddhist Film Festival in Sri Lanka.

Vancouver-based documentarian Cassie De Colling, originally from Australia, will be here on Saturday to present *Precious Leader Woman*, her award-winning film on snowboarding superstar Spencer O'Brien. Part Haida and Kwakwakw'wakw from Alert Bay, O'Brien is a two-time world champion, six-time X Games medalist and two-time Olympian for Team Canada. O'Brien has also been invited to



PHOTOS COURTESY SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

From left, Cassie De Colling, director of *Precious Leader Woman*; Zach Carver, director of *The Race to Alaska*; and a film still from *The Race to Alaska*. De Colling and Carver will present their films at the Salt Spring Film Festival on Saturday and Friday, respectively. The festival opened at ArtSpring on Tuesday and continues through Sunday.

attend the screening, although her availability has not yet been confirmed.

Tracing O'Brien's remarkable recovery from a debilitating diagnosis with the support of her Indigenous community, *Precious Leader Woman* premiered in November at the Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival, where it won the People's Choice Award. A month later, De Colling was named Best B.C. Director at the Whistler Film Festival.

De Colling's career began in the mountains of Kashmir, where she directed *Beneath the Boarder*, a documentary on the changes facing a young Kashmiri boy as his home trans-

forms from a war-torn village to a booming backcountry ski town.

De Colling has also directed the short films *Uku360*, *Foreign Correspondent* and *Al's Journey*. Her documentary short *Allie* came in third place at Tropfest in Sydney, Australia, the world's largest short film festival, where it also won the award for Best Cinematography.

The film festival is now underway and continues through Sunday with screenings at ArtSpring at 4 p.m. and 7 p.m. daily. Tickets are available online, in person and by phone via the ArtSpring box office or visit www.saltspingfilmfestival.com.

what's on this week



Wed.

Mar 2

Fri.

Mar 4

Sun.

Mar 6

Mar 9

ACTIVITIES

SS Film Festival.

At ArtSpring. A Once and Future Peace shows at 4 p.m. Daughter of a Lost Bird shows at 7 p.m. Advance tickets through artspring.ca.

Thurs.

Mar 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic & Jam.

Royal Canadian Legion. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SS Film Festival.

At ArtSpring. The New Bauhaus shows at 4 p.m. Forest for the Trees: The Tree Planters shows at 7 p.m. Advance tickets through artspring.ca.

Peace Walk With Candles. Silent candlelight peace vigil walk with families and friends around the track at Portlock Park — A quiet and meaningful way to share our hopes for peace in Ukraine and around the world. Portlock Park track. 7 to 7:30 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Poetry Open Mic.

With featured poet Matsuki Masutani. 7 p.m.

Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.



LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Brent Knudsen.

Former member of Cease & Desist and Randy Bachman's band performs at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SS Film Festival.

At ArtSpring. Lady Buds shows at 4 p.m. The Race to Alaska shows at 7 p.m. Advance tickets through artspring.ca.

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 Ganges Village Task Force chair Jenny McClean. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@saltspring.ca for the link.

Sat.

Mar 5

ACTIVITIES

Seedy Saturday Seed Swap. A return to the roots of Seedy Saturday. Buy, trade and share seeds at The Root. 189 Beddis Rd. 12 to 3 p.m.

StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

SS Film Festival.

At ArtSpring. P.S. Burn This Letter Please shows at 4 p.m. Precious Leader Woman shows at 7 p.m. Advance tickets through artspring.ca.

ACTIVITIES

SS Film Festival.

At ArtSpring. It Is Not Over Yet shows at 4 p.m. My Tree shows at 7 p.m. Advance tickets through artspring.ca.

StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

Mon.

Mar 7

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

Tues.

Mar 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Marco Vitale In Concert.

Salt Spring Baroque presents harpsichordist in concert at All Saints By-the-Sea. 7 p.m. Admission by donation.

VIA ZOOM

Islands Trust Council.

Quarterly meeting can be viewed through the islandstrust.bc.ca website. People can also attend the meeting in person at the Vancouver Island Conference Centre in Nanaimo. 1 to 5:30 p.m. Plus delegations and public comment period from 7 to 9 p.m.

An Evening With the Celtic Poets.

Bring your favourite Celtic poet's poem to share or join us to hear and respond to poems brought by others. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at staroftheseassi@gmail.com for the Zoom link.

Wed.

ACTIVITIES

Music Bingo.

See last Wednesday's listing.

VIA ZOOM

Islands Trust Council.

See Tuesday listing except the times are from 9 a.m. to approximately 5:30 p.m.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

Spider-Man: No Way Home shows on Friday, March 4 through Tuesday, March 8 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

- Salt Spring Gallery presents *For the Love of Art*, work by artists Alison Brodie, Lisa Lipsett, Carol Newmeyer, Nathalie St Amant and Olga Szkarbarnicki until March 16.

- *Small Works by Gabrielle Jensen*, in Unison pastel, is up through the end of March at *Dragonfly Art Supplies*.

- *Alexandra Aristera* shows her artwork in the programs room of the *Salt Spring Public Library* through March when the library is open (Monday through Saturday) and the room is not otherwise in use.

Seedy Saturday

Buy, trade and share seeds.

Saturday, March 5

At The Root: 189 Beddis Rd.

12 to 3 p.m.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Artist Jan Sharkey Thomas (1930 - 2022) has died at home in Ganges at age 91, predeceased by her loving husband Clifford Kelly.



Our family's 'Cat Woman' was an artist extraordinaire, legendary hermit and lover of nature and all her animal kingdom. Jan lived life on her own terms and with powerful commitments she held throughout her life, to observe, create and share her special talent for revealing the unique personalities inherent in animals everywhere. Through her art, she humanized her subjects; be they cats, ocelots, raccoons, birds and deer, otters or whales. She depicted her subjects exposing their individuality as deserving and equal members of the planet's eco-system. If artists can be said to be painting self-portraits within their work, Jan had an uncanny way of putting herself into her painted animals and it's through their eyes, particularly those of the feline species, Jan will have a lingering presence for a long time.

She is remembered lovingly by friends and a huge extended family. We, her sons, Antony, Ethan and Paul, while missing her dearly, are so very proud to live on in her legacy of self-expressive imagination and wonder found in this precious existence of life she gave us.

A fond and special thank you to Antony and the VA home services for making it possible for her to stay at home near her bird & deer feeder window for as long as possible.

In lieu of flowers, friends and family are encouraged to pay tribute, by any support to nature conservancies and animal rights societies that expand awareness of the importance of, and inter-connectiveness of all life forms on our delicate and beautiful planet.

www.JSharkeyThomas.com

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Rants + ROSES

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Roses

Venturing out on Valentine's Day, my first shopping trip after a month of illness, I decided to buy a bouquet of flowers for my family who had cared for me all that time. When I went to pay for them, I discovered that they had already been paid for by a delightful young woman with whom I had chatted briefly at Thrifty's about fishies. Aah, the kindness of strangers. I wish I knew her forte.

Sheila Ellis

A rose to whomever dropped off the VCR at the laundromat for Peaceworks! A huge thank you and a belated Happy Valentine's to you!

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com

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

The powerful Pisces New Moon is in the spotlight this week. Loaded with emotion fuelled by imagination, the outer expression is likely to range from heightened visions of peace, unity and spiritual truths to hysteria, over-reaction and bleary-eyed sentimentality. It may be that this full range of emotional reaction may be warranted and understandable. The follow-up Moon-Sun conjunction is the Moon also conjuncting both Jupiter and Neptune just hours later. These will produce mixes of dramatic tones complete with heroic and noble appeals on one hand and passionate, revolutionary and pageantry complete with marching beats and dedicated postures on the other. Pisces time is not usually this sensational and boisterous, but then we are not living in 'normal' times. Accepting that it is time for the world to change will help and we are invited to vote and pray regarding the direction and quality of it to co-create a better world for all of the souls divinely ordained to inhabit it.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

A busy time behind the scenes conceals an ardent ambition to prevail. In addition to forging ahead, you want what is your perceived due, what you feel you have earned and deserve. This determination will escalate to revolutionary proportions this week. The Ram is charging to defend its turf and it is sanctimoniously pissed.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

A rebellious mood has been percolating for some weeks now and the tempo will increase this week. If you cannot find the appropriate tools or resources to handle matters diplomatically, you will dig in and charge with similar passion as your Aries friends. You will hardly be able to hide your feelings and you will likely not want to.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

You have entered an expansive time and either others are noticing or you are making efforts so they do. You want to be seen and heard for your ideals, principles, visions and dreams. How others interpret what you want to be recognized for might swing from high-minded, philosophical and spiritual interests and views to more popular or even glamorous values.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Your vision and scope of the world is expanding. Your sights are set on the higher road, yet you may have to first see through and beyond your habitual perspectives and/or dreams and illusions in the face of harder realities. This can be described as a process of achieving increased objectivity over what and how you want to think and believe.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Purging, processing the past and clearing the clutter continue as a central theme. Such cycles can prove messy and tedious yet liberating and rejuvenating. The secret to this success is to have a clear vision of your dreams and the outcomes of your goals. Communication and negotiations with others figures prominently.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

You are in an expansive cycle, yet you have work to do to realize it in its fullest victory. The process of making these extra efforts will increase over the coming days and weeks. Be ready to give more than usual. This process will contribute to new interests, daily rhythms and priorities. Be ready to adapt to unexpected twists and turns.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

The powerful Pisces influence on your health, daily routine and overall lifestyle in general continues as a central theme. This health alert began some years ago but has escalated since 2022 began and is now undergoing its next major phase. Aim for creative and innovative solutions and avoid over-dependency on others wherever possible.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

A creative cycle is underway. This week it will shift to take on more gravity as you dig deeper to get to the bottom of things. Creating a new sense of harmony close to home may include family members and efforts to beautify. Renovations are a distinct possibility yet could prove more psychological than literal.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Your focus has been to achieve a state of peace and tranquility close to home. This has required an emphasis on practical realities as well. Now the focus is shifting to themes of truth and justice which stand to ignite your passions to share your beliefs and convictions more strongly than you have perhaps for some time.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You yearn to see the silver lining in things these days. You may be wondering if there is value, purpose and meaning in what is happening in the world generally and in your world specifically. Circumstances of late have guided you to push into new territory whether literally or figuratively and things will take a creative turn this week.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Pisces time is one in which you are destined to discern between what is real and ideal. It is a time to remember the spiritual side of life, to acknowledge the law of change and of impermanence and that everything perceived as owned can be understood as borrowed. Meanwhile, expect to push into new territory with revolutionary assertion.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 19)

A pioneering push continues. Positively, this is an expansive time yet one in which you find yourself in unfamiliar waters. Doing the inner work to adapt is featured. This theme includes a busier time behind the scenes and could prove creatively prolific. The secret to your success now includes working on your dreams and visions rather than living in them.



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ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

Getting to school without a car encouraged

Reasons for walking, cycling and taking the bus outlined

BY ROBIN JENKINSON

ISLAND PATHWAYS

Did you walk or bike to school as a child? If you're over 60, it's likely you did.

In 1969, only 12 per cent of students were driven to school and half walked or biked, whereas by 2012, only 12 per cent walked/biked, and over half were driven. In one generation, the way students get to school has been completely inverted.

To encourage more students to bus, bike and walk to school more often, BC Healthy Communities selected 12 schools across B.C., including Salt Spring Elementary, to participate in an Active School Travel pilot program for 2022.

Island Pathways is building on this project to offer reduced-cost helmets, bike skills and safety workshops to children from all of Salt Spring's public primary schools during the month of May. Plus, ICBC and the Lions Club have chipped in to support an exciting West Coast pilot of All Kids Bike, an innovative Strider Bike two-week in-school P.E. program to teach every child on Salt Spring to ride a bike by age seven.

Why? There are so many reasons to encourage active school travel. Jennifer Keesmaat, the former chief city planner for Toronto gave a fabulous TEDxRegina talk in 2012 on the topic.

She says, "Walking to school is an indicator of what we believe in and what we choose to value ... of the health of our children, our environment, and communities."

Child Health

Data show increased happiness, decreased stress, increased concentration for at least four hours, better school grades and overall academics, alertness, lower BMI, and better sleep associated with active travel to school. Across



IMAGE COURTESY ISLAND PATHWAYS

Salt Spring map: Students who live within 2.4 km of school are most likely to walk, and 4 km to bike. Beyond that, they may walk or bike to the bus. Today, only one out of three children in North America who live within a mile of school walks or bikes, versus 90 per cent of kids who lived near school in 1969.

Canada, only 12 per cent of children get their 90 minutes/day of recommended physical activity. Childhood obesity in Canada has doubled since 1979. Biking or walking to school helps.

Environment

Here in B.C., the greatest contributor to greenhouse gasses is transportation (40 per cent), and passenger transport comprises the biggest share. In its appropriately named CleanBC Roadmap to 2030, the province set targets to increase the share of personal trips made by walking, cycling, and transit for all ages from about 25 per cent today to 30 per cent by 2030, 40 per cent by 2040 and 50 per cent by 2050.

CHARITY SUPPORT

Foundation grant cycle opens

New Indigenous Priorities Fund added and application process made simpler

SUBMITTED BY SSI FOUNDATION

The Salt Spring Island Foundation has added a new fund and additional application options for its 2022 spring grant cycle.

A new Indigenous Priorities Fund will be launched this month. A collaboration of the Salt Spring Island Foundation and the Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation, the fund aims to support cultural sustainability with an annual commitment of up to \$50,000 for four years.

The spring funding cycle opened on March 1 and the deadline to submit applications is March 31. Four streams of grants are available:

- Regular grants — Up to \$141,500 in the spring cycle.
- Foundation of Youth grants — Up to \$5,000 in 2022.

- Indigenous Priorities Fund — Up to \$50,000 in 2022.
- Neighbourhood Small Grants — Up to \$500 per project.

The foundation is also introducing new application procedures and removing some barriers to make the process easier. Applications to the Indigenous Priorities Fund and regular grants can now be submitted as a video (with the budget as a separate document), and staff can arrange to transcribe applications over the phone.

Registered charities and non-charitable organizations that wish to partner with a charity are invited to the foundation's Spring Grant Info Zoom Sessions on Thursday, March 17 at 10:30 a.m. and Friday, March 18 at 6:30 p.m. Registration for these Q&A events is required. See the foundation's ssi.foundation.ca website for details.

Information is also available at ssi.foundation.ca or by calling our office at 250-537-8305.

Safety

In a 2020 survey of Salt Spring Elementary families who usually drive, 82 per cent would prefer walk and wheel, but choose to drive because of legitimate traffic safety concerns and convenience. The sad truth is that auto and road collision is the leading cause of injury and death for ages one to 19 in Canada. The neat thing is: when you choose not to drive, you are helping to improve the safety of our roads for everyone! And, evidence shows that children are more likely to be harmed in a car accident compared to walking to school.

Our choices affect safety. Collisions increase with traffic volume and traffic speed. Road safety for students walking to school is inversely related to the number of people who drive their children to school. On average, school drop-off drivers make up at least 10 per cent of rush-hour road traffic. School staff who drive add more. We can add slow-zones and more signage, but choosing not to drive, itself, contributes to safer roads.

It goes without saying that improved safety for children, and for all pedestrians and cyclists, improves the quality of life for our community as a whole.

Community connection

Studies show that walking and biking to school encourages more friendships, a greater sense of belonging and social connection, better understanding of one's local built and natural environment, improved spatial awareness, and self-sufficiency. Win win win.

Most importantly, it's fun!

As Keesmaat states, "Walking to school is a simple, hopeful, and powerful act."

So, how can you take steps to walk, bike or bus more often?

Since 1988, Island Pathways volunteers have advocated for safer transportation and better regional connections for Salt Spring Island, have built kilometres of separated, packed gravel multi-use pathways with partners, and have coordinated many years of GoByBike BC, Helmets for Life, and Walk&Wheel to School events.

Become a member of Island Pathways today and consider joining our Cycling Salt Spring committee.



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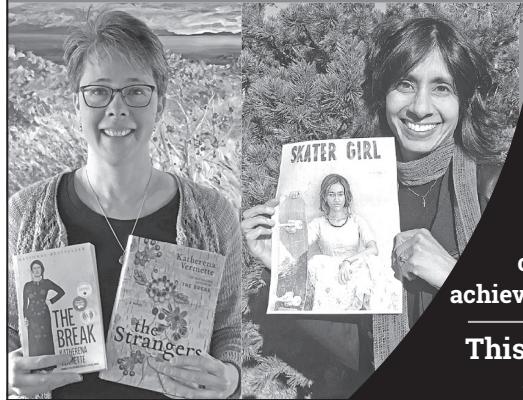
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International Women's Day • March 8th #Break the Bias



On March 8th, it is International Women's Day; a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, & political achievements of women.

This year's theme is
#BreakTheBias.

The Circle Education and Islanders Working Against Violence are celebrating International Women's Day online with inspiring book and movie recommendations about women breaking the gender bias.

Find us on Facebook or Instagram.



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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

**FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE
CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS
AND FRIDAYS -
MARCH 9 - APRIL 29, 2022**

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District.

Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

Books recommended for IWD

'Breaking the bias' titles shared by IWA chair

International Women's Day on March 8 is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural, and political achievements of women. Below, Sophia vom Bauer Jackson, chair of Islanders Working Against Violence and former manager of Black Sheep Books on Salt Spring, shares her favourite books about, or by, women breaking the gender bias. Vom Bauer Jackson holds a master's degree in North-America studies and within this interdisciplinary field, Women's and Gender Studies had the greatest impact on her.

Virginia Woolf: *A Room of One's Own*

This is my personal favourite. Published in 1929 this essay is still well worth reading, not just for the beautiful language. Woolf touches on many topics that are still relevant today to all women who want to be creative — not just writers. It is a book that speaks to me through the divide of nearly a hundred years.

Caroline Criado Pérez: *Invisible Women – Data Bias in a World Designed for Men*

A really important read. Perez examines the bias against women in every kind of data collected, from health care to safety guidelines, from economic development



PHOTO BY SOPHIA VOM BAUER JACKSON

Sophia vom Bauer Jackson, chair of Islanders Working Against Violence, with some recommended books.

to policymaking. Easy to read science writing touching all aspects of women's lives. It opens our eyes to how the exclusion of women from the data collected affects women's health and wellbeing, their safety and economic prosperity, their ability to participate in the world.

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *We Should All Be Feminists*

I chose this book because Ngozi Adichie challenges stereotypical notions of feminism in a very personal way and discusses in a clear argument why the gender divide

is harmful to all — women and men. If you don't have time to read, you can also listen to her TED Talk which she adapted into this essay.

Cathy Converse: Against the Current – The Remarkable Life of Agnes Deans Cameron

A Canadian author writing about an extraordinary British Columbian. Agnes Deans Cameron, who lived from 1863 to 1912, was born in Victoria and took a path in life highly unusual for a woman of her time. She was an educator (the first female principal in the province), writer, lecturer and adventurer, and worked tirelessly to achieve workplace equality and voting rights for women.

Judy Rebick: *Ten Thousand Roses – The Making of a Feminist Revolution*

Judy Rebick is another Canadian writer and activist. Rebick brought together the many stories that reflect the activism of Canadian women from the 1960s to the 1990s. I believe it is important to know and to understand what the women before us did to make a better world as well as to acknowledge what they achieved.

Check out the Facebook and Instagram accounts of The Circle Education and Islanders Working Against Violence for more book and movie recommendations.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Wood stove upgrade rebate program fires up

Transition Salt Spring shares tale of two neighbours and their wood stoves

BY ROB LOWRIE

TRANSITION SALT SPRING

George and Hanna are retired on the Gulf Islands and rely on their 20-year-old wood stove plus electric baseboards to heat their home. They have a good supply of wood on their property. Windstorms have done most of the falling for George, so he just needs to cut up the trees and split the wood for storage. He's ahead with one year's supply already in his woodshed.

Their younger neighbours Kerry and Liam, who are in their working years, are always in catch-up mode trying to get enough wood for that year's heat supply. For added heat, they use the house's original baseboards. They tend to burn wet wood in their 1970s stove that came with the house. There never seems to be enough time to dry it. Liam forages for firewood on the backroads in the Spring but usually has to buy two or three cords in the fall just to get through the heating season.

Kerry has pretty bad asthma and neighbour George has a heart condition. Both have become worse over the past few years.

As George and Hanna age they're aware that the wood heat lifestyle will become more challenging. Lately, George has learned about the negative health effects of wood smoke and has started to think of its impact on his heart. His neighbour Kerry's old stove seems to pump out more smoke than George's stove which uses drier, more seasoned fuel.

Along comes a Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate program offered by Transition Salt Spring (TSS), a local group dedicated to lowering emissions and helping Salt Spring deal with the impacts of climate change. Over dinner, the two couples get into talking about how they heat their homes. Both talk about their challenges. George commits to looking into the rebate more and contacts the Climate Action Coach from TSS.

Fast forward six months later. George and Hanna now have a heat pump as their main source of heat. The heat comes on at the flick of a switch and they're ready for the next inevitable heat dome. They chose to remove their wood stove and ended up receiving a \$1,000 rebate from Clean BC plus \$750 from the Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate. They've noticed a significant difference in the cost of heating their home with a heat pump versus their former wood stove and electric baseboard combination. They'll see how it goes without the wood stove. Because of



where they live on the island they don't lose power very often. They'll use their generator for power backup if necessary.

Kerry and Liam made changes too. They decided to upgrade their old uncertified (no EPA rating) wood stove to a new EPA 2020 certified stove. They got a \$300 rebate for replacing their old stove through the TSS Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate program.

Their longer-term plan is to do what George and Hanna did but the initial cost is just too much for them right now. They plan on keeping their new wood stove and eventually switching to a heat pump by taking advantage of the Clean BC Better Homes BC rebate of \$1,000. Using that grant they'll not only keep their new wood stove but they'll also qualify for further rebates to add insulation and new windows.

Kerry and Liam are now much more aware of the negative effects of wood smoke. They're now working a year ahead to gather firewood, so now their wood burns hotter and cleaner. They also use a moisture metre to confirm that their wood is less than 20 per cent moisture content.

The results: their wood supply goes further, gives better heat, a more efficient burn and there's less harmful smoke in the neighbourhood's air plus their hydro bill is less. No more scrambling for last-minute firewood either. In a neighbourly gesture George gave Kerry their aged and now unneeded firewood.

Kerry's asthma doesn't seem to flare up like before. He is out on the water paddling now, instead of chopping his wood. He is no longer tied to keeping his wood supply up and is finding more time to take up his new hobby of kayaking around the island's bays.

If you want to paddle more and chop less, find out about the Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate at transitionsaltspring.com and follow the Climate Action Coach links. The program launches this month.

The Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate provides rebates to encourage replacing polluting old wood stoves with cleaner heating options, including electric heat pumps, pellet stoves and new emissions-certified wood stoves.

For information on the health impacts of wood smoke go to www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/air-quality/indoor-air-contaminants/av

One Cool Island is a regular series produced by Transition Salt Spring on how we can all respond to the climate crisis — together. Rob Lowrie is Transition's Climate Action Coach and videographer and can be reached at climatecoach@transitionsaltspring.com.