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**HOUSING**

# Seabreeze keys change hands

Hospital foundation takes another step towards creating staff housing

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A hearty cheer erupted in the hallway of the Lady Minto Hospital Monday as the hospital's foundation officially took possession of a motel that will be renovated into affordable staff housing.

The purchase of the Seabreeze Inne by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation is about addressing both recruitment and retention, executive director Roberta Martell said, referencing 35 open positions at the hospital. The motel on Fulford-Ganges Road was purchased for \$4 million and will be renovated, with over \$5.6 million raised through donations, including \$2.5 million from the foundation's endowment fund.

The 29 units plus a manager's suite will become between 14 and 20 units of mixed bachelor, one-bedroom and two-bedroom apartments.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

Lady Minto Hospital Foundation director and member of the housing committee Brenda McEachern, left, does a symbolic hand over of the keys to the Seabreeze Inne to Lady Minto Hospital site director Sara Gogo, surrounded by fellow foundation directors and hospital staff. The motel purchase will allow the foundation to supply affordable bachelor, one and two-bedroom units for staff, at a hospital that now has 35 open positions.

**HOSPITAL** continued on 10

**ISLANDS TRUST**

# Trust Council approves trimmed-down budget

New budget sees two per cent property tax increase

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After 11th hour deliberations by the 26-member body that governs the Islands Trust, the trust council passed a \$9.1-million budget with a two per cent increase to property taxes.

In addition to the two per cent property tax increase, an added 1.25 per cent is expected from new construction and development. Included in the 2022-23 budget is keeping land use planning at existing service levels, adding a part-time Conservancy fund development specialist and implementing several initiatives outlined in the 2018 to 2022 strate-

gic plan, the Trust stated in a March 11 news release.

On Salt Spring, projects to be implemented include the Ganges Village planning project, the Coastal Douglas-fir zone and associated ecosystems protection project and a housing action program. All of these are ongoing projects.

As trustees undertook last-minute budget trimming, some \$32,000 in funding for the Coastal Douglas-fir project was removed from the budget. Trustee Laura Patrick made a successful motion to shift some \$32,000 in funding from the Ganges Village project to this project to keep it going with the hopes, she said, of MLA Adam Olsen helping to fill in the funding gap.

An upcoming groundwater sustainability science program focused on mapping recharge potential will include Salt Spring, Thetis, Bowen and several other islands in

the region. Salt Spring Islanders will see a \$60,000 special tax levy to fund the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) and its work on freshwater preservation and protection.

Other projects the budget will fund include the reconciliation action plan, stewardship education, species at risk protection programs conducted through the Conservancy, as well as a heritage preservation overlay mapping and model bylaws project.

A total of 8.3 per cent of the overall budget, \$760,501, is funded by external grants and \$395,500 comes from transfers from surplus and reserve funds. Other funding sources for the budget are property taxes in local trust areas, a municipal tax levy from Bowen Island, the SSIWPA tax levy and rezoning and development permit fees from developers.

**BUDGET** continued on 2

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# Council debates budget; agrees to trim

## BUDGET

continued from 1

Bowen Island, a municipality within the Islands Trust, will see a four per cent increase to its tax levy comprised of 3.09 per cent from property taxes and 0.95 per cent from new development and construction.

Late last year, a \$9.3-million budget went out for public consultation. The budget presented to trust council at the quarterly meeting March 8 to 10 was \$9.51 million with the increase coming from upcoming election expenses and unfinished projects carried over from the previous fiscal year.

Salt Spring Island trustee Peter Grove, chair of the financial planning committee which conducted detailed work on the proposed budget, explained that the committee started with an 11 per cent increase to property taxes and brought it down to three per cent.

With low property tax increases in previous years and over \$750,000 covered by grants, Grove called the three per cent a "reasonable and expected" increase.

The trust asked for public feedback on the draft budget. In a survey completed 1,256 times, 49 per cent of respondents sup-

ported a reduction in services and programs for current levels.

Several trustees expressed that they would not support the draft budget as presented; it represented a seven per cent overall expenditure increase from the 2021-2022 budget.

South Pender Island trustee Steve Wright put forward a motion on March 9 to reject the budget, adding that any budget passed this year should not exceed the 2020-2021 budget.

"If we are going to ask the public and they are going to answer us, we have to obey what they say," he said, noting emphatically the hardship people have gone through during two years of a pandemic and the damage the trust would incur in credibility by not listening to the public.

"Those people have had to tighten their belts, and I find it a little difficult for us to start bloating our budget."

Several trustees noted that public feedback needs to be taken into account—not simply obeyed—as one of many factors the trust considers, including other public feedback, science and expertise, as well as carrying out the object of the trust for residents, but also for ecosystems and all B.C. residents

Laura Busheikin, Denman

trustee and member of the financial planning committee, explained Islands Trust work funded by the budget will address hardships such as efficiencies in planning to get projects done and work on the climate crisis.

"It's not a lot more money, and I believe that our constituents can afford it without undue suffering, and I think it's our responsibility to do this work," she said.

Bowen trustee Sue Ellen Fast said the budget reflects the increasing amount and rate of development as well as several crises: "The biodiversity crisis, for one, climate crisis for another; we've got a narrow window of opportunity to make the world a better place."

Saturna trustee Paul Brent said constituents are worried about scope creep, going beyond the Islands Trust mandate, and the impact on the budget.

Mayne trustee Jeanine Dodds, speaking against a budget increase, noted that "we are in a time right now when people are not happy with the Islands Trust."

She added, "We have a governance review that we need to spend some time on. We need to think about what we should really be doing; we are duplicat-

ing a lot of work that's going on within the province that we don't need to be doing.

Chair of the trust council Peter Luckham noted that it is trustees who have added more and more items to the strategic plan over time.

Chief administrative officer Russ Hotsenpiller said there are around 100 projects on the go.

"We're really over-committing ourselves, but we choose to go ahead anyway and add all this...so it's our fault to a large degree. I think that's part of the response of the public," said Gabriola trustee Kees Langeris.

Director of administrative services Julia Mobbs said there are concerns around workloads and stress on administrative staff, and within the budget there is an additional \$100,000 for contracted services to address this.

After several hours of discussion March 9, and a trimmed budget option presented by Brent, trustees asked staff to prepare a more modest budget for their review. Trustees approved the trimmed-down budget, with some changes, on March 10.

"The budget bylaw received three readings and has been forwarded to the minister. It will be adopted later in the year.

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## ROGERS CELL TOWER

## Residents escalate tower concerns

Complaints focus on handling of approval

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Residents of Canvasback Place, whose homes are near an emergency and wireless telecommunications tower given the green light by the Islands Trust, are escalating their complaint to the provincial level on how the approval was handled.

The joint Rogers and Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) tower proposal went through a federal approval process and was given a statement of concurrence in July by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC), with trustee Laura Patrick voting against. Residents who live between 43 and 150 metres of the approved tower project have brought their concerns to the Minister of Municipal Affairs as well as the B.C. Ombudsperson, and are asking the LTC to rescind their support of the project.

About 10 families living closest to the tower site organized as the Concerned Residents of Canvasback Place are funding legal representation, said one of the neighbours, Julian Clark. While residents have a range of concerns, including health, real estate values, community aesthetics and having to shoulder an undue burden compared to other Salt Spring Islanders, the main focus of their complaint is the approval process. They allege Rogers, the main proponent of the project, did not abide by or complete the consultation process set out in an Islands Trust model strategy for siting antenna systems, then falsely stated they did so.

The tower at Channel Ridge is CREST's second attempt at locating a tower on Salt Spring Island in recent years, this tower meant to improve emergency communications on the west side of Salt Spring from Vesuvius heading north. The first proposed location at the Salt Spring Legion branch, meant to improve coverage in Ganges, faced strong opposition. CREST was strongly encouraged by the LTC and community members to identify other locations, said chair of the LTC Peter Luckham, and "did a pretty broad sweep of the island to identify locations."

Yet the residents state the LTC didn't require any rationale for why the tower was sited behind their homes, "and no part of the public consultation record reflects any coherent rationale for the currently proposed site." Real estate developer Onni Group owns the land on which the tower will sit and also owns the now-abandoned remnants of the Highbridge Village development nearby. Clark wondered why this larger and more secluded site was not considered for a cell tower location.

Since approval was given by the LTC, trustee Peter Grove has raised concerns that due process may not have been followed. Luckham also acknowledged the LTC is concerned about points raised by residents around the consultation process, asking Rogers in a Nov. 29 letter to hold a public meeting with them. There has so far been no answer to this request, staff confirmed to the LTC on Feb. 15.

"I would suggest that if [Rogers are] listening they reach out to staff and/or reach out to the community in Channel Ridge... and obviously this is escalating, as would be rightfully so by the people being impacted by this," Luckham said at the meeting.

In a letter from lawyer Arden Beddoes, residents told Luckham that a response or action on his request would be a surprise.

"At present, they have the authorization they desire from the local land authority... and they will have little incentive to take any steps unless that decision is rescinded."

The federal body that deals with telecommunications licensing — Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) — confirmed that a letter of concurrence is seen as the final step of an acceptable consultation and gives Rogers and CREST the authority to start planning the tower's construction. Yet if the LTC believes it based its concurrence decision on incorrect or inaccurate information, they can rescind it.

"The Concerned Residents once again implore you to rescind the concurrence decision and require that the proponents engage in the proper procedure, supported by complete and transparent disclosures and the requisite degree of public engagement, before they reapply for the SS LTC's concurrence with their proposed siting of the tower," the letter read.

"It's been, I think, fairly conclusively shown that you had incomplete and inaccurate information. What are you waiting for?" Clark said. "Rescind, have Rogers do the right things. Do the right things yourselves, LTC. Ask the questions about where else this could go. And let's see where it ends up. If you do all the right things and it ends up here, okay... We're not against technology, we're not against putting a tower up."

When reached on March 4, Luckham said it is disappointing that Rogers hasn't reached out to the concerned residents. So far the LTC has not considered rescinding the concurrence, he confirmed. With just over 90 days since his letter asking Rogers to get in touch with the neighbours was sent, Luckham said he may raise the issue at the next LTC meeting.

Patrick said Rogers should have worked harder to meet with the neighbours, noting that the issue of consultation



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

The location of a Rogers and CREST tower given the green light by the LTC is near the Channel Ridge trail network and Water Preservation Society lands.

and not holding such a meeting was the main reason why she voted against the concurrence to begin with.

"This is not a fly-by-night company. This is a major corporation that I would hope would do the right thing: To come forward and meet with this community and see if they can find a resolution or not," she said.

In addition to asking the LTC to rescind the letter, the residents first launched a formal complaint to the Islands Trust. They argue the LTC did little more than "rubber stamp" Rogers' plan "without scrutinizing that proposal in a meaningful way." They allege the LTC failed to adhere to several principles of the Islands Trust, including not allowing affected people a reasonable opportunity to participate in the decision-making process, and failing to provide adequate reasons for giving the concurrence in the face of residents' concerns.

The complaint would normally go to the Trust's executive committee, a body where both Luckham and Patrick sit. If these two representatives recused themselves, which the residents asked them to do because of a conflict of interest, then the body wouldn't have a quorum to consider the complaint.

"I am not aware of a remedy for this situation," the Trust's legislative services manager Carmen Theil wrote. "There is no other specified trust body or trustee(s) designated to step into this process to handle this situation as you request."

Beddoes then asked the municipal affairs ministry to review the issue. They have also started a complaint with the B.C. Ombudsperson's office, yet this body can only consider it once the ministry has dealt with their request.

Lawyers have also written to ISED, asking them to delay approving the site of the proposed tower.

At the time the concurrence was given, a Salt Spring specific policy on antenna siting was not in place and Rogers was only required to follow ISED's default consultation procedure. At a Nov. 9, 2021 meeting, the LTC adopted the Antenna System Siting Protocol, which will guide future siting decisions.

Rogers did not respond to a request for a comment on this story as of publication time.



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# OPINION

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

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



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### EDITORIAL

## Calling on the village

It takes a village to raise a child. The familiar proverb is becoming all the more true as workforce and housing challenges mount on the Southern Gulf Islands.

The village—the people who make up our community—are quite literally being asked to help bring to life the first infant and toddler learning spaces to open on Salt Spring Island since the 1990s.

Janice Shields, one of the passionate early childhood educators (ECEs) behind the Little Rainbows Early Learning Centre, has described the challenges the centre faces to recruit and house certified ECEs. The centre will also need donations for supplies. It's a big undertaking, but as Shields put it: "We couldn't let the opportunity go by. We figured we had to try and create the vision, so here we are."

### THE ISSUE: Workforce and housing challenges

### WE SAY: Step up, as a community, to fill the need

In this week's edition of the Driftwood, we see another example of a "village" coming together, as Pender firefighters, paramedics, doctors, midwives and nurses helped bring baby Leo into the world—marking the first time a baby has been born at the Pender Island Health Centre in seven years. While for some of those involved, it may have been in their job descriptions to help Leo's parents. But their deep connections to their community meant they knew who to call on to assemble a birth team on the fly.

Also this week there is great news about the next steps in the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's plan to create 14 to 20 new units of hospital staff housing at the former Seabreeze Inne. The foundation's board took the realities of island housing—expensive and limited by a water moratorium—and "recombined them in innovative ways to come up with a sustainable solution," said executive director Roberta Martell.

As real estate surges and rentals remain scarce, the village will be called on to lend a hand perhaps more than ever before. With climate change and the cost of living very real stressors, our community may need to come together in more unconventional and innovative ways.

And doing it together, as paramedic Shannon Brayford tells us, results in a better outcome for the child and for the community.



## LCC must have real powers

BY BRIAN WEBSTER

While it's great to be discussing Salt Spring's need for a Local Community Commission (LCC), it's unfortunate that, from its very first sentence, Bob Moffatt's critique of a proposed LCC is inaccurate.

Far from "another layer of government," the LCC that I would support replaces at least four of our current advisory commissions, creating efficiencies, breaking down silos and streamlining decision-making.

I understand why those who oppose the existence of the Islands Trust would want to critique that agency, but Mr. Moffatt neglects to mention that an LCC proposal has nothing to do with the Trust. Those who favour getting rid of it have every right to pursue that goal and establishing an LCC would not change that.

An LCC is about the other responsibilities of local government, everything from parks and recreation to transportation, economic development to liquid waste, housing to gas tax funding allocations and potentially numerous other areas. While Salt Springers can't change the Trust without provincial legislation, we can create an LCC to bring decision-making on these and many other

### VIEWPOINT

issues to our island.

Essentially, Mr. Moffatt is trying to restart the incorporation debate. We've been there and done that before—twice. Incorporation was rejected by well over 60 per cent of voters in 2002 and again in 2017. Who knows when the province will ever fund yet another incorporation study? There's good reason to think it may be another decade or more, if ever.

Meanwhile, our local government services are in serious need of improvement, with a fragmented system overseen only by local CRD staff and our one elected director. An LCC could change that fundamentally by eliminating island-wide advisory commissions and replacing them with a single elected body with the power to get things done.

Mr. Moffatt suggests it's bad for the province to continue paying for road maintenance and policing. But he doesn't mention what would happen to our property taxes if Salt Spring residents took on those costs. He says an LCC would lack authority over legal, financial and human resources affairs and have

no real power, ignoring the fact that regional districts can delegate almost all of their powers to an LCC, the only exception being final approval of bylaws and comparable decisions.

The fact that Salt Spring would continue to have just one representative on the CRD board ignores the fact that—if given the powers it should—real decision-making under an LCC would be made on-island by our locally elected representatives. All that would need to go to Victoria is final rubber-stamping of bylaws.

Whether a proposed LCC will be empowered to do as much as I've described here depends on the community consultation process that will soon be underway, as well as negotiations with the CRD. I urge all community members to participate and to clearly tell our electoral area director and the CRD that we need an LCC with broad responsibilities and significant authority. Anything less would be wasting its potential and selling our community short.

Brian Webster is a Salt Spring resident, farmer and business owner who helped develop a discussion paper for the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Director on the possible establishment of a LCC.

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you continue to wear a mask in public indoor spaces?

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you concerned a nuclear conflict may be inevitable?

105 119  
YES NO

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# ISLAND VOICES

## FROM THE BACK ISSUES

Some items published in the Driftwood during the same week of the year noted.

1972

BC Hydro reported that 75 men worked for a week to repair Gulf Islands power service damage after a Feb. 2 storm. Fifty poles and 10 miles of power line were on the ground. "The crews worked a 16-hour day for six days. They are not permitted to work more than 16 hours at a stretch," Driftwood was told by a Hydro spokesman.

1982



BC Ferries vessels were sporting a new logo, with four people needed to paint the four

1992

An island-wide challenge to reduce Salt Spring's waste stream by 20 per cent was set to kick off. A Salt Spring Island Community Society project spearheaded by Sheila Harrington, the Islands Earth Day Challenge '92 was asking schools, businesses and families to set up systems that would reduce their garbage at least 20 per cent by Earth Day, April 22.

2002

Notice of the first sightings of Rufous hummingbirds had come in. Tom Thomas of Main Street had seen his first returning hummer on March 14. "He's a super little character," Thomas said, recognizing the bird as one of his regulars. "He sits on the foot rest in the feeders and when he puts his head forward, his feathers come up."

2012



Raffi, an internationally known musician and founder of the Raffi Foundation for Child Honouring, was set to release a song called On Hockey Days, hoping to raise awareness about the serious impacts of hockey violence.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Preserve and protect

It's good that the LTC has followed its "preserve and protect" mandate by putting a hold on the Vortex development and requiring consultation with Tsawout and Cowichan First Nations.

Reference was made to old photographs. The estuary was far larger before it got covered over by rock fill, and was spanned by a long trestle bridge that let the estuary thrive as a critical ecosystem.

Restoring Fulford and Soule creeks is something we should do now as we face the threat of climate change-induced rising tides.

The Vortex, if approved, would be a commercial island in a sea of quiet farms and residences. Like the old metal-recycling business, its location would be an inappropriate source of noise and traffic.

A perfectly fine entertainment and recreation venue, indoors and therefore quiet,

is almost next door at Fulford Community Hall.

The former Fulford Inn's dining room was chronically quiet. I remember well because I went on many dinner dates there, including the night marriage was proposed to me (I said, yes, instantly), when there was but one other customer in the dining room and nobody in the bar. I raise my glass to the nostalgic memory.

History, as events in Ukraine now remind us, can turn on a dime, though the "horseman" of climate change and sea-level rise are happening more slowly.

"Business as usual" comes up against the Islands Trustees' sworn responsibility to preserve and protect.

The developer has lawfully relied on the zoning, but it's long past time to think globally and act locally. If Justin Trudeau can waste \$5 billion to buy the TMX pipeline and pay multiples of that for its obscene cost over-runs, then the federal government obvi-

ously has tiny fractions of that amount to help remediate a few critical habitats around Canada as well.

And the province of B.C., having shelled out a considerable sum to remedy its Grace Islet fiasco, can be called upon as well.

DENNIS LUCARELLI,  
ISABELLA POINT ROAD

### Honour OCP

Ever since 2019, when the Vortex proposal first came before our locally elected Local Trust Committee, Islands Trust staff have raised concerns about the adequacy of the conceptual sewage and stormwater plans submitted by the developer.

The Trust's senior freshwater specialist has recommended that concerns about pollution of the groundwater, nearby streams and ocean be addressed by detailed groundwater water and biology studies.

The most recent staff report reiterated these concerns and

called again for the missing information. Yet, at their February meeting, our trustees again failed to require these studies.

So, will our trustees honour our island's OCP that obligates them to protect the creeks and ocean, and require the missing information be provided and made public before deciding if the application should be approved?

This would assure the public that our trustees are not approving a development that puts the fish-bearing creeks and the Fulford Estuary at risk.

We do not dispute that a new meeting place would benefit the community, but this proposal is for a major tourist resort with 17 large motel units. It cannot be allowed at this location if it will pollute the nearby streams and marine environment.

MAXINE LEICHTER,  
SALT SPRING ISLAND

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It's a win for the hospital, it's a win for healthcare, it's a win for workforce housing on the island."

LADY MINTO HOSPITAL FOUNDATION BOARD CHAIR DAVE TAYLOR.

## Transportation demands advocacy

BY ADAM OLSEN  
SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS MLA

There is always a long list of transportation issues in Saanich North and the Islands and I'm thankful for the millions of dollars invested in our riding over the past five years.

I am grateful to Minister Rob Fleming and his regional team for their responsiveness to our advocacy.

In August 2019, the provincial government announced a long-awaited upgrade on the Pat Bay Highway at Keating X Road.

The new flyover project already has a \$16-million commitment from the federal government and \$2.5 million from Central Saanich; the provincial contribution will be known when the design is finalized.

I expect a detailed report on public consultation to be released soon with more details of how this critical project will proceed.

In January of this year the Ministry announced another long-awaited upgrade to the Pat Bay Highway at Mt. Newton X Road.

For years Central Saanich commuters have been requesting transit stops at this major crossroad.

The \$7.6-million project will allow buses to jump the queue at the traffic light, give safer active transportation

### GUEST COLUMN

options to cyclists and pedestrians, and add bus stops on both the north and southbound lanes. This is an important improvement for transit on the Pat Bay Highway.

Unfortunately, there remain many challenges with improving roads on the Gulf Islands.

The islands were excluded from the Southern Vancouver Island Transportation Strategy released in 2020 despite their membership in the Capital Regional District. This has made it more difficult to advance the transportation needs of the Gulf Islands.

Shortly following the 2020 election, I helped facilitate the creation of a working group that meets monthly to look at how we can increase the safety of pedestrians and cyclists on Salt Spring Island.

The Salish Sea Trail Network includes the roads between the Fulford and Vesuvius terminals.

There are several challenges, including an inconsistent and restricted road right-of-way, but we will not be deterred.

Our goal is to be able to identify funding and be better prepared so that there are "shovel-ready" projects on the route when funding becomes available.

Another issue is Canal Road on South Pender Island. Constituents have been raising the dangerous dip in the road for the past year.

I raised these concerns with Ministry staff, and after the atmospheric river last fall, it was finally determined repairs were needed.

Work is underway to complete these upgrades.

This would not be an update on transportation in Saanich North and the Islands without mentioning BC Ferries. I am grateful to all the BC Ferries staff who have kept our marine highways running through the global pandemic.

I have met with the proponents of a petition requesting increased ferry service at Vesuvius Bay and I will continue to advocate to both BC Ferries and Minister Fleming to improve the service and terminals in both Vesuvius and Fulford.

This is by no means an exhaustive list, there are many other transportation issues that we are advocating on in every community in the riding.

The intense rains last fall damaged many roads in the riding. Thank you to all the transportation staff in the regional office and contractors working on the repairs. If you notice a maintenance issue, please contact your local Emcon office or contact my team at Adam. Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca or 250-655-5600.

# Biking bliss: imagining a safer path network in the future

BY SIMON ROMPRE

To many, the landscape we live in is something that we usually experience at a distance. Occasionally, we stop and really look at it, but most of the time we just go through it on our way to work or wherever our destination may be.

For many of us who have decided to live in a rural setting like Salt Spring Island, this disconnection we experience while driving around seems like a waste. Why would we spend all this effort to get out of the city to end up either too busy or just too distracted to appreciate this beautiful place we call home?

"It is by riding a bicycle," wrote Ernest Hemingway, "that you learn the contours of a country best, since you have to sweat up the hills and coast down them . . . you have no such accurate remembrance of country you have driven through as you gain by riding a bicycle."

Touring by bicycle on country roads, mountain trails and quiet streets is a choice recreational activity. By combining human power with a bike and an appropriate path or road, we can travel in an ecologically sound way while getting the exercise we all need to stay healthy.

## INDEPTH

However, our home island of Salt Spring is not exactly a safe place to cycle. Our main roads are busy, narrow, winding and have very little shoulder to ride on. I often wonder how this is considered a cycling destination? While the car culture we all live in has many advantages (it's easy, fast and convenient), it's made cycling much more difficult.

I personally feel uncomfortable with the fast pace of life and lack of physical exercise that goes with car culture. Maybe because I like feeling fit, and maybe because I also feel concerned about pollution and climate change that ultimately lessens our quality of life, I yearn for a more bike-friendly world.

One of my favourite things to do is getting on my bike, often with no specific destination in mind and exploring quieter roads. The highlight of all this exploration is finding new rideable trails that link it all together. Wouldn't it be wonderful if everyone was offered such an opportunity with minimal safety risk?



PHOTO SUBMITTED

Bob MacKie and friends recently rode around Pender Island, where quieter roads and a slower pace make cycling a pleasure.

have bike-friendly stops all over the island for refreshments and food.

Bicycles use a very different kind of fuel and can run on local produce and clean water, and, as one can imagine, that kind of fuel is way tastier and can be harvested organically right here!

This may be a dream that seems hard to imagine; but really, dare I ask, why is it so hard to make it so? What is it that has hardwired us into believing that the only way forward is hard and fast, especially when this fast lane leads us straight into a brick wall of environmental degradation?

Maybe we have to revisit our priorities and consider what it is that we value most: the comfort that comes from having to do no physical effort, even though this may mean increase in greenhouse gases, bad air quality, more noise and poor health; or, the simpler joys of physical exercise while either travelling or even getting groceries or getting to and from work.

Riding a bicycle may make one feel naked and vulnerable in comparison to being tucked inside a car or a truck, but to what extent does this attitude benefit our lives and communities? Maybe it's time to reconsider what makes a good life and remove some of the obstacles that keep us from rediscovering the simple joys of riding a bicycle.

It looks like I am not the only one feeling this way and there is a movement happening out there. The truth is that riding a bike or an e-bike is a lot of fun, not something you want to miss out on.

We may feel worried and anxious about the future of the planet, but who said that it has to be all doom and gloom? Getting on our bikes and exploring our communities might just be the perfect antidote for the times we are living in. As we say when deciding on a vacation destination: where shall we go next?

*The writer is a member of the Cycling Salt Spring committee of Island Pathways. To support safer cycling and path networks, become a member of Island Pathways ([www.islandpathways.ca](http://www.islandpathways.ca)) and consider joining the Cycling Salt Spring committee.*

## COVID-19 IN BC



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Get your booster



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Get your kids vaccinated

Learn more at [gov.bc.ca/covid-19](http://gov.bc.ca/covid-19)



## Vortex

"Equating apples to oranges," I thought, as I read last week's letter to the Driftwood supporting the Vortex project. It has become common in political discourse to steer topics off-course—to suggest that the issue being contested is one thing when, in fact, it is totally other.

In this case, once again, we are being asked to believe that the Vortex project is about our community's "love and care," and that the developer's aim is to "bring happiness back to our shores."

Sorry, but that has absolutely nothing to do with why there is a lack of support for building a sprawling motel on a flood-plain close to fish-bearing streams and endangered habitat. The issue is environmental, pure and simple, and is in no way relevant to "socializing like we used to."

We have a Trust that waves its flag about climate crisis, and yet does

## MORE LETTERS

nothing about it: no independent hydrology or biology reports ordered; setbacks ready to be waived; mouths pursed when passionate and informed community members plead with them to follow crystal clear guidelines in the Official Community Plan about development on that very same estuary.

Personally, I will experience "happiness" if the estuary's vegetation is protected, the fish are protected, and if the rare mollusk that lives 100 years and whose life cycle depends upon healthy young salmon in Fulford Creek is protected.

Those of us who oppose this development do not oppose community, love, care, or happiness. We simply extend our love and care to the ecosystems with which we share this planet, and we are cognizant that time is running out for doing so.

ELISSA POOLE,  
SALT SPRING

## Road trips

Now that the weather is improving and more people are walking on the roads, I would like to give a warning to pedestrians, especially those walking on narrow roads that have no shoulder. Remember they are roads and not sidewalks.

The speed limit on Salt Spring is usually 50 km/hour, unless marked otherwise. Most traffic is moving at the speed limit or higher. People walking are very difficult to see, unless they are wearing reflective clothing or bright colours like neon green or orange. It is not enough to be wearing light colours.

And if you are wearing dark colours it is almost impossible to see you. If you are pushing a stroller please make it visible by putting reflective tape on it. This could save your life—or the life of your child.

GEORGINA MARCOTTE,  
SALT SPRING ISLAND



# World Water Day

## March 22, 2022

### Nature's finite gift demands our attention

Get educated about water on this World Water Day

SUBMITTED BY THE SALT SPRING ISLAND WATERSHED PROTECTION ALLIANCE

World Water Day reminds us we live at the intersection of climate change and an elevated concern about our ability to manage freshwater resources.

Our surface and groundwater systems depend on rainwater for supply. Water infiltrates nearly every aspect of daily life. Whether hiking in forests or growing a garden, water is a crucial gift. The heat, drought and floods of 2021 serve as harbingers that guide our community toward wise action for water management.

To celebrate World Water Day on March 22, the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) has organized educational resources to help islanders adapt to the shifting norms.

"I think water security is going to become an increasing concern for individuals and society as a whole. We are getting larger downpours and longer droughts. For those who are building in the Gulf Islands, it just makes sense

to install a potable rainwater system," stated Fernando dos Santos, whose rainwater system is featured in one of the soon-to-be released rainwater videos at [www.ssiwpa.org/category/rain-tour/](http://www.ssiwpa.org/category/rain-tour/).

Later this spring, SSIWPA member Transition Salt Spring will launch the annual Climate Coach Rainwater Rebate program, offsetting the cost of rainwater storage for a limited number of qualifying applicants. Islanders may check for eligibility and join the waitlist at (or): [form-can.keela.co/future-rainwater](http://form-can.keela.co/future-rainwater).

#### EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES FEATURE:

The Rain Water Storage Challenge! Track the volume of rain storage that you build—our goal for the island is to reach three million gallons of new annual storage by 2026: [www.ssiwpa.org/2022/02/27/rain-water-storage-challenge/](http://www.ssiwpa.org/2022/02/27/rain-water-storage-challenge/)

Information about algae, cyanobacteria and lakes ([www.ssiwpa.org/category/lake-water-quality/](http://www.ssiwpa.org/category/lake-water-quality/)) is especially important for those who draw water directly.

• Know Your Groundwater Well is a SSI-oriented digital brochure [www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SSIWPA-Know-Your-Well-Brochure-Final.pdf](http://www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/SSIWPA-Know-Your-Well-Brochure-Final.pdf)

• Groundwater Resources At a Glance: [www.ssiwpa.org/2021/05/04/water-resources-at-a-glance/](http://www.ssiwpa.org/2021/05/04/water-resources-at-a-glance/)

• Non-Potable Rainwater Harvesting guide and virtual Tours, including insights from our local experts: [www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Library/SSIWPA-Projects-Reports-and-Presentations/Communications-Materials/SSIWPA\\_rainwaterHarvesting\\_FinalSeptember2020\\_Web.pdf](http://www.ssiwpa.org/wp-content/uploads/Public-Library/SSIWPA-Projects-Reports-and-Presentations/Communications-Materials/SSIWPA_rainwaterHarvesting_FinalSeptember2020_Web.pdf)

• In this beautiful short film—Freshwater Salt Spring [www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4F7p570VMM](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4F7p570VMM)—SSIWPA members, the Water Preservation Society and the Stqeeye' Learning Society portray how adaptation to a new freshwater climate norm should consider Indigenous watershed stewardship and western science. The film setting is at Xwaaqw'um, "the place of the female Merganser duck," also known as Burgoyne Bay. SSIWPA is so grateful to all who contributed.

• Take the one-minute video challenge about groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible [www.worldwaterday.org/](http://www.worldwaterday.org/)

What will be your commitment toward freshwater sustainability on World Water Day? For more information, and digital resources mentioned in this article, please visit [ssiwpa.org](http://ssiwpa.org) or contact SSIWPA coordinator Shannon Cowan at [ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiwpa@islandstrust.bc.ca).

The Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) is a roundtable of government agencies and local organizations—a learning hub that provides an avenue for collaborative local freshwater monitoring and analysis. SSIWPA's goal is to support the coordination of projects undertaken by its member agencies.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

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# World Water



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## Be Water Wise Use Only What You Need

Water is a precious resource and supplies on Salt Spring are much more limited than in other parts of BC. Please join islanders as we work together to ensure that we use this limited resource wisely. Below are conservation tips for indoor and outdoor water use.

### Try these conservation tips:

#### For Outdoor Water Use

- Use mulching for gardening.
- Install rain catchment barrels for any outside water use.
- Install a large holding tank to store enough water for the summer months
- Use drip irrigation instead of sprinklers.
- Ensure your hose is not full of water when temperatures drop.

#### For Indoor Water Use

- Keep showers under 5 minutes and turn off water while lathering.
- Run only full loads in dishwashers and washing machines.
- Shut off the tap while brushing teeth, shaving, and washing.
- Flush less often.
- Install low flow fixtures.
- Put a bucket in your kitchen sink to catch excess water and use it to water plants.
- Inform guests about our island's limited water supply and ask them to be part of the solution.

Together we can make a difference

[www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca)

## North Salt Spring Waterworks ASKS:

*What do you do to conserve water?*



**GRANT TAMBOLINE**

- Low flow shower head
- Short showers
- Turn off water while brushing teeth
- No lawn watering
- Drought resistant shrubs and plants
- Catch rainwater in barrels for summer use



**TANDY CUDMORE**

- Put a basin in the kitchen sink to catch water and use to water garden
- Turn off water while lathering hands or while lathering in the shower
- Use rainwater catchment for all watering that does not require potable water

## WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER

**WE RELY ON OUR  
WATER SYSTEMS TO  
KEEP US CLEAN AND  
HEALTHY**

From source to tap to drain and back, our water systems sustain us. In North America, 15% of available fresh water is used in our homes and businesses, 43% is used by agriculture to provide us with food, and 42% is used by industry to make the products that supply our households and businesses. Water is also used in the natural environment to sustain our ecosystems. B.C. residents use, on average, about 80 gallons of treated drinking water in their homes every day. Of this, only .5 gallons is used as drinking water – the rest is used to flush our toilets, bathe, wash our clothes and dishes, water our lawns and gardens, and sustain our households.

Imagine if our water systems fail? We rely on our water systems to keep us clean and healthy. As Gulf Islanders, we are fortunate to live in an environment rich with beauty and natural spaces. However, along with this beauty come additional challenges when it comes to climate change. As we have seen in this past year, climate change drastically affects our availability of water since

## Maxwell Watershed Protection

As islanders, you are helping to play a vital role in Maxwell Lake's watershed protection by honouring the fact that it is private property and not open for swimming, picnicking, mountain biking or off-road vehicles such as motorbikes and ATVs. These activities slowly degrade the watershed because the expansion of trails and pathways creates a direct route for nutrients and sediment to enter the lake during the rainy season. This nutrient loading negatively impacts water quality in both the short and long term. A healthy and intact watershed helps to filter and purify runoff before it reaches the lake.

The risk of wildfire during the summer months, especially in a drought situation,

is significant and could cause devastating and permanent damage to the watershed and the district's ability to supply water. The NSSWD has owned property on the shore of Maxwell Lake for more than 100 years. In 2001, additional land in the watershed was purchased for the purpose of protecting Maxwell Lake for drinking water. The "Save Maxwell Lake – Protect the Source" public campaign was launched by NSSWD, the SSI Water Preservation Society, the SSI Conservancy, and the Save Salt Spring Society, and in 2001, the funds raised were used to purchase an additional 50 acres of Maxwell Lake waterfront and 270 acres of Rippon Creek watershed (diverted to fill Maxwell Lake).



# Water Day

## March 22, 2022



Left: Maxwell Lake

Below: St. Mary Lake



ABE HOHN

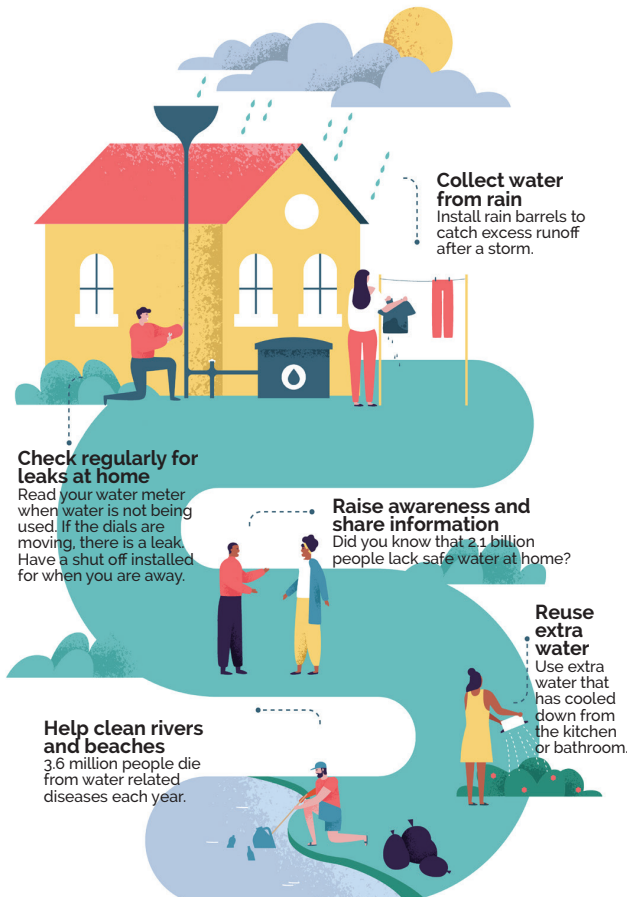
- Installed low flow toilets and shower heads
- Installed recirculation pump to decrease time it takes water to get hot
- Utilize pressure washer for exterior tasks

we depend solely on rainfall for our water supply. Unlike Vancouver Islanders or Mainlanders, there is no significant snowpack to help us sustain our water supply into the summer. We need to find impactful ways to protect our source water (lakes), maintain our systems, conserve potable water, and capture/store precipitation both as a district and individually. Together, we can accomplish this by changing our habits. Individuals can make impactful reductions in water usage by seeking opportunities to avoid using potable water to wash vehicles, sidewalks, or buildings, to water lawns and gardens, or to flush toilets. We need to look at other solutions from around the world to ensure we have a sustainable resource for future generations.

You can find more information about ways you can conserve and help support water sustainability by visiting [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-conservation](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/air-land-water/water/water-conservation) and [www.valueofwater.ca/water-facts/fun-facts/](http://www.valueofwater.ca/water-facts/fun-facts/).

## World Water Day

Here's what you can do to help



## Some interesting facts:

- Have you checked your toilet for leaks lately? A leaky toilet can go through 12,000 gallons per bi-monthly billing period or more than 200 gallons per day.
- Free toilet testing kits are available at our office or put a few drops of food colouring in the tank and watch to see if the water in the bowl turns that colour. If it does, you have a leaky toilet.
- A garden hose left on for one day can waste over 8,000 gallons of water.

## By the numbers

It takes

**15** gallons of water to grow 1 apple.



NSSWD have **1847** water connections on our system



It takes over

**26**

GALLONS of water to make 1 glass of wine.



On the NSSWD system, single family dwellings use an average of **7,455 gallons** in the May-June billing period.



# Lady Minto affordable staff housing in sight

## HOSPITAL

continued from 1

There is already a list of hospital employees who are underhoused, the board noted, who may be moving in once the renovations are complete.

Some units are also meant to be left open as temporary housing for staff who want to try out life on Salt Spring before committing to a permanent move, said director Derek Fry. Units will also be available for the regular rotation of locum physicians and nurses who support the hospital.

"Having a place for them that's easy and that's always available makes attracting locums and fill-

ing those vacancies much, much easier...to keep the management of the hospital more smooth," said director and member of the housing committee Brenda McEachern

Director and fellow housing committee member Humberto Martinho noted that with construction of a new emergency department commencing this year—another success for the hospital foundation with \$10.4 million raised—the need for staff and housing will be even greater.

While the Seabreeze plan won't solve the entire problem, McEachern said, it will go a long way to addressing what hospital site director Sara Gogo has indicated are critically important:

recruiting and retaining hospital staff. Design work has started with architects from the Jensen Group, and construction is expected to start in the fall.

Martell said she hopes the foundation can skip the rezoning process, given the Nov. 9 Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee decision to defer bylaw enforcement for any commercial accommodations being used for long-term residency.

"People are already using it in this manner, we just want to make it better," Martell explained. "It's not a change of use or a change of land use. It's just a renovation."

Renovations could begin in June if no rezoning is required. Otherwise, the foundation will

need to try and usher through a rezoning in six months Martell said, as the hospital cannot wait.

"This is about quality of life on the island and I think a small change like, 'Oh, is it nurses living in there or folks from the shelter?' is a moot point when we really need to get moving," she said.

The purchase of the Seabreeze was not a simple real estate transaction. BC Housing was temporarily leasing space in the motel for 18 people who were at risk of being unhoused.

When a Salt Spring Island Community Services attempt to purchase the property fell through, with funding from BC Housing not forthcoming, the hospital foundation put in a bid. This left

the fate of the temporary residents hanging in the balance.

On Jan. 25, BC Housing announced it will build 28 units of housing with supports at a Drake Rd. property donated to the Capital Regional District by the Gulf Islands School District. A temporary lease has been negotiated between BC Housing and the foundation, so the tenants can stay at the Seabreeze as this build is completed.

"It's a win for the hospital, it's a win for healthcare, it's a win for workforce housing on the island," said chair of the board Dave Taylor. "It's a win for people who don't have a home to go to because BC Housing...is going ahead and fast-tracking permanent supportive housing on Drake Road."

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## ON STAGE

# Dance show bridges communities

Dancers of  
Damelahamid  
present Spirit  
and Tradition at  
ArtSpring

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

Margaret Grenier, the artistic force behind Dancers of Damelahamid, needs no introduction.

Grenier and her company return to ArtSpring on Wednesday, March 23 at 7:30 p.m. with Spirit and Tradition, a piece exploring "how we can turn to our ancestral teachings to remember both teachings that have been relevant to us over the ages, as well as ones that are currently relevant, and will define our future."

With its focus on the importance of carrying intergenerational knowledge, and aimed at all-ages audiences, Spirit and Tradition was created from the artistic vocabulary Grenier learned from her parents, Ken and Margaret Harris, who, in turn, learned their practice from Grenier's grandmother, Irene Harris.

For Grenier, community and



PHOTO BY CHRIS RANDLE

Dance collective Dancers of Damelahamid, from the Northwest coast of B.C. in Gitksan traditional territory, are presenting their piece Spirit and

identity are integral to the piece.

"The work we do bridges many communities. We wanted to create something that helps people understand who we are as Gitksan and Cree Indigenous family," she says.

Spirit and Tradition continues to evolve, and after its 2010 debut has recently begun touring again. The immersive storytelling of this piece not only

includes dance and song in traditional regalia and masks, but also projections, soundscapes, and LED puppetry.

The themes of Spirit and Tradition are fitting considering the legacy of Dancers of Damelahamid. The company has been performing since the 1960s with a focus on cultural revitalization after the 1884-1951 potlatch ban was lifted.

"Because we have the aware-

ness of how close we have been to losing these practices, I am deeply compelled to do this work as a dance artist, director and choreographer. I see the importance it carries for the next generation. It's not a focus on revitalization, but on transformation. What I can offer is different to what my parents' generation offered, and it's laying the foundation for what the next generation will create."

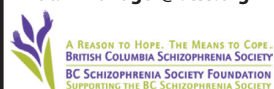
Grenier also emphasizes the need to find a way to be in balance with the majestic landscapes of the Northwest Coast, from where the dance collective stems.

"[The landscapes] are in a fragile place right now, and it's important we listen to how to be a part of our ecosystem, as opposed to seeing ourselves as separate from it."

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

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# what's on this week



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**Wed. Mar. 16**

## ACTIVITIES

**Music Bingo.** Every Wednesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

## VIA ZOOM

**Bumblebee webinar.** 'The Buzz on BC Bumble Bees: a Webinar with Syd Cannings.' Register by emailing debra@saltspringconservancy.ca. 7 p.m.

**Thurs. Mar. 17**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**St. Patrick's Day With the Buck Dodgers String Band.** At Moby's Pub. 4:30 to 7:30 p.m.

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

## ACTIVITIES

**Adventure talk.** "Sea to Sky: a 10-day ski mountaineering traverse of Vancouver Island": Stefan Gessinger presents stories, slides and videos. RSVP to info.sstnc@gmail.com. At Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

## VIA ZOOM

**SSI Foundation Spring Grants Info Session.** See ssifoundation.ca for details. 10:30 a.m.  
**Salt Spring Public Library Association AGM.** To register and get Zoom link, email admin@saltspringlibrary.com. 3:30 p.m.

**Fri. Mar. 18**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Morien Jones.** Live at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

**Karaoke Night.** At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

**DAISSIs and Daffodils hike.** Hike with Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island (DAISSI) from the base of Mount Maxwell through to Daffodil Point. RSVP to Jenny at: www.prideallyear.ca. 12:50 - 3 p.m.

**ASK Salt Spring.** Trustee Laura Patrick is this week's guest, at the Library Program Room. 11 a.m. - 12 noon.

**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

**SSI Foundation Spring Grants Info Session.** See Thursday listing, except the time is at 6:30 p.m.

**Sat. Mar. 19**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Back on the Rock Presents A Tale of Two Prodigies.** Jean-Sébastien Lévesque leads the chamber choir and orchestra in a concert of works by Mozart and Mendelssohn. Fulford Hall. 7 p.m. Tickets bachontherock.com or at the door.

**Sat. Mar. 19**

## ACTIVITIES

**Vinyl Sale.** Huge vinyl and CD sale, 379 Lower Ganges Road with proceeds to Gulf Islands Community Radio. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
**StoryWalk.** See Friday's listing.

**Sun. Mar. 20**

## ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Arts Council AGM.** At Mahon Hall. 11 a.m.  
**StoryWalk.** See Friday's listing.

**Mon. Mar. 21**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Vetta Presents Bassoon!** Chamber music concert with Ingrid Chiang, Michelle Mares and Joan Blackman at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Check for ticket availability.

## ACTIVITIES

**CFUW meeting.** Susan Hannon speaks on the history and present day activities of the SSI Conservancy. Public is welcome, masks required and proof of vaccination. Lions Hall, 10 a.m.  
**StoryWalk.** See Friday's listing.  
**Transportation Meeting.** Transportation Commission monthly meeting in the Library program room. 1 p.m.

**Tues. Mar. 22**

## ACTIVITIES

**Trivia Tuesday.** Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

**Wed. Mar. 23**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Dancers of Damelahamid.** Indigenous dance group presents Spirit and Tradition show at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

**Music Bingo.** See last Wednesday's listing.

## THE FRITZ CINEMA

**Death on the Nile** shows on Friday, March 18 through Tuesday, March 22 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 limited seating, in place.

## EXHIBITIONS

- Gallery 8 presents **Raised on a Song and a Story** - the Art of Will Millar with an opening on Thursday, March 17 from 5 to 8 p.m. The show continues through March 24.
- Today, March 16, is the last day to see the **For the Love of Art** exhibit at Salt Spring Gallery.
- **Salt Spring Painters Guild** members show work in the lobby of ArtSpring until April.
- **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.
- **Salt Spring Photography Club** member Colton Prevost is exhibiting at Country Grocer Cafe this month.

## All About The Bees

**"The Buzz on BC Bumble Bees"**  
a webinar with Syd Canning

Wednesday, March 16, Via Zoom, 7 p.m.  
Register by emailing debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.

**THRIFTY FOODS**

Ganges, Mouat's Centre 7:30am to 9pm / Customer Service 250-537-1522

## ARTISTS WANTED

# Ganges mural project gets financial boost

Four murals set to grace village walls by summer's end

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Four new murals will grace various walls around Ganges by the end of this summer, thanks to a project geared at getting visitors to frequent places off the village's beaten path.

A joint Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce and Salt Spring Arts project was successful in receiving up to \$50,000 from the THRIVE Small Capital Program, enabling them to commission four murals downtown.

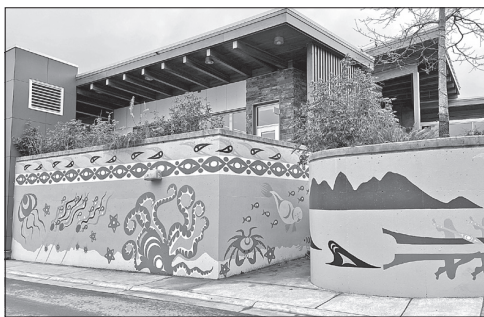
These works will serve as stops on a public art walking tour meant to expose visitors to the less-visited shops and cafes on Ganges' smaller side streets that feed into the oft-frequented waterfront area.

Yael Wand, executive director of Salt Spring Arts, said hiring for a project coordinator is now underway, and they hope to launch an artist call for the four murals this week.

Mural artists from across Canada will be invited to submit concepts on the broad theme of "sustainability, reciprocity and creativity."

The planning is taking some time because this is a first for the arts council and the chamber, Wand said, and also because the work is geared towards making this something that is repeatable in the future.

Locations for the murals have been identified, however, they cannot be disclosed yet as agreements with busi-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Four new murals coming to Ganges will join the mural outside Salt Spring Public Island Library, completed in 2021.

nesses are still being finalized. "Every site is so individual, literally from the surface of the wall, to the access to the site, to the relationship with the business, to what the artist's specific needs are," Wand said, identifying some of the work that the mural coordinator will take on.

"Part of the intent is really to be able to highlight the arts as a pillar of our community. We don't get a lot of that visually in Ganges so we want to amplify that," Wand said.

Inga Michelson, of the chamber, said, "The Ganges Village mural walking tour will facilitate stronger connectivity between...existing cultural assets," including the island's arts organizations, galleries, studio tours and the

Salt Spring National Art Prize. Wand expects most artists who apply for the project will be from the region and the hope is to get a mix of submissions from local artists, some with mural experience and some stepping up into this medium, and artists from beyond Salt Spring.

Special efforts will also be made to attract submissions from "members of Salt Spring's youth, queer and BIPOC [Black, Indigenous, People of Colour] communities," a March 1 news release stated.

Another goal, Wand said, is to use the murals as a way to "bring people back into healthy conversation."

"There's nothing like a piece of art in public to get people chatting and stopping and talking," she said. "We've been very conscious about the spaces that we've selected because we want them to be places where...they really enliven the space...and they maybe will encourage people to gather in those spaces."

Wand said the plan is to have around three quarters of the project funding going to the artists with the rest set for preparing the mural sites, paying the coordinator position and supporting artists with things like scaffolding and lifts. Normally, artists pay for their own mural materials. A few other funding sources are being looked at, Wand said, on top of the \$50,000 received.

For artists from beyond the island, Wand added, the idea is to have them stay or billet with local residents. This part of the project has not fully been worked out yet.

The \$50,000 funding comes from the THRIVE Small Capital Program, funded by the Island Coastal Economic Trust, Tourism Vancouver Island and the Vancouver, Coast & Mountains tourism region.



## TREASURE FAIR

### SAVE THE DATE

#### Silent auction:

Thu July 14 - Sun July 17

#### Live auction:

Sat July 16

Donations gratefully received from Fri Apr 15  
[treasurefair.artspring.ca](http://treasurefair.artspring.ca)

PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG  
Artistic director Jean-Sébastien Lévesque rehearses with Bach on the Rock members for their March 19 concert of works by Mozart and Mendelssohn set for Fulford Hall.



## MUSIC

# Mozart and Mendelssohn on tap

Next up for Bach on the Rock

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Jean-Sébastien Lévesque was chosen as one of three artistic directors to work with the Bach on the Rock (BOTR) Chamber Orchestra and Choir for their 2021-22 season, he decided to jump on a ferry from Vancouver and see the group's concert at Fulford Hall on Nov. 6.

Like everyone in the hall that night, he was surprised when the lights went out just as the choir and musicians, led by artistic director Marco Vitale, were set to sing and play their first notes.

"I secretly hope a power outage will happen again," he told the Driftwood with a smile when asked how he would respond to that same situation.

Lévesque said he was impressed by how the group adapted to the sudden loss of electricity.

"Bach on the Rock members asking for help from the audience showed that there was a strong sense of community. And it surely added to the event: dimmed cellphone lights can be seen as a modern form of candles."

Lévesque, who received his extensive musical training in Québec where he was artistic director of two choirs, now lives in Vancouver. He will be leading the BOTR concert titled A Tale of Two Prodigies at Fulford Hall on Saturday, March 19 at 7 p.m. and has chosen repertoire by Mozart and Mendelssohn, some of which illustrates how they were musical prodigies. One of the pieces — Mozart's Missa brevis in d minor, K. 65 — was written when he was

only 12 years old.

"Even if it is not as elaborate as some of his later works, this mass already shows an incredible mastery of composition," said Lévesque.

The concert will also include Mozart's Violin Concerto #5, K. 219, featuring soloist Victor Fournelle-Blain of the Montreal Symphony, who is Lévesque's longtime friend and colleague.

"Victor has this ability to focus and this passion about music that seems to never fail to get everyone involved in the music with him," Lévesque said.

Mendelssohn pieces in the concert are The Hebrides Overture, Op. 26, and the Psalm 42 cantata, which the composer considered his most accomplished sacred work. BOTR welcomes guest soprano soloist Gwen Jamieson from Victoria for the cantata.

Lévesque has enjoyed working with BOTR members and looks forward to sharing the magic of a live concert with a Salt Spring audience.

"An acoustic concert is something that we're not used to anymore, with sounds created not by a digital recording but by actual voices of actual people, by bow hairs grinding on a string, by someone blowing into a wind instrument," he said. "It's also an experience that we share with the person seated next to us; something that is subject to the very moment, to the possibility of a power outage. That's not a connection that we can experience through a TikTok video. That's not something that we can experience even with the best sound system."

Tickets for the concert are available on the [bachontherock.com](http://bachontherock.com) website or at the door.

Vaccine passports must be shown at the door and masks worn during the concert.

## THE COMIC STRIPPERS PRESENT THE IMPROVISERS.



### THE IMPROVISERS.

## A Touring Improv Comedy Show

March 26 • Tickets \$30-\$35  
Available in advance at [ArtSpring.ca](http://ArtSpring.ca)  
Box Office 250-537-2102





# ISLAND LIFE

**Legion**  
Sign up online: [www.legion.ca/join-us](http://www.legion.ca/join-us)

**Become a member & enjoy the perks including discounted food, bar and free door for entertainment.**  
Any Canadian citizen or citizen of an allied nation who is 18 years of age or older is welcome to become a member of the Legion!

## HEALTH CARE

# Many hands help in Pender birth of baby Leo

Surprise delivery on Pender highlights system of care on Southern Gulf Islands

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's not every day a baby is birthed on Pender Island. But on the rare occasion it does happen, many people come together to bring a new life into the world.

Shannon Brayford, a former paramedic on Pender Island, recounted an unexpected birth that occurred recently and described how she and her ambulance partner, Scott Elliott, worked to bring many hands together to safely deliver baby Leo.

When Danielle Yole and Josh Dargan came for a holiday on Pender, their due date wasn't for another three weeks.

"It was supposed to be a quick getaway but this kid had other ideas," Yole stated.

It was the afternoon of Jan. 22 when Brayford and Scott were paged to respond to an "imminent birth." This message could mean anything from "somebody is in early labour and they're going to give birth the next day, or it could be that by the time we arrived, the baby's already been born," Brayford said.

As Elliott drove, Brayford began making calls to the rest of the BC Emergency Health Services (BCEHS) team, as well as the local healthcare team.

Upon arrival, volunteers from Pender Island Fire Rescue were already at the South Pender resort where Yole and Dargan were staying.

"We know that when somebody is in labour, we really like them to be in an urban centre where there are more resources available," Brayford explained, noting that the last baby born at the Pender Island Health Centre was seven years ago.

"Being on an island it's a matter of, 'Well,



PHOTO COURTESY OF BC EMERGENCY HEALTH SERVICES  
Danielle Yole, Josh Dargan and baby Leo, who arrived three weeks early as his parents vacationed on Pender.

can we get them there so that they're not giving birth along the way?' The least optimal option would be a birth en route, so careful planning and decision making goes into deciding how to proceed.

At first, they decided that Yole would be a good candidate to travel by water ambulance to Victoria, so she was loaded into the ambulance for the 15-minute drive to the dock.

"As we started to drive, the situation changed," Brayford said. "It became really clear to my partner and I that the quality of her labour was changing and things were going much faster than we had initially thought."

It was decided Yole would remain on Pender, and the paramedics called in their local doctor. A midwife, who practices in Vancouver but lives on Pender, was also recruited, from her garden, to join the birth team.

Yole's situation was also being closely watched by BCEHS.

"The paramedic is like the tip of the iceberg," Brayford explained. Underneath the water is a very large team, including paramedic specialists and emergency physicians who are connected to paramedics via a dispatcher. These specialists monitor an online patient record, into which paramedics input details as they are providing care.

For this situation, Brayford did not need to call on the Infant Transport Team, a paramedic group that specializes in providing emergency medical care to "pediatric, neo-natal and high-risk obstetrics patients" en route to hospitals. The team reaches its patients via helicopter and airplane, and did attend the birth seven years ago on Pender.

The patient transfer network, another branch of the ambulance service, decided an obstetrician would be sent over by water taxi along with a third-year medical student. Morgan Kelly, a Pender volunteer firefighter who is also a registered nurse in Victoria, also took part.

"So it was quite an elaborate birth team that was all put together," Brayford said.

Leo was born six hours after Yole first

began experiencing labour pain.

"Everybody was so stoked and so happy. Shannon and Scott were absolutely epic. Shannon kept me laughing and staying positive all the way through," Yole said.

Josh added, "I was really appreciative of Scott, who really knew how to console a stressed expectant dad."

Each of the Southern Gulf Islands—except Salt Spring—has one ambulance station with one ambulance and two paramedics. Staff work either in the station or on-call, covering 24 hours a day. On Salt Spring, there are two ambulances and a different staffing model, as well as the on-island hospital.

"Being a rural paramedic is always really exciting; you're always facing these challenges of every call [being] unique and you're always having to work with your broader team to get the resources that you need," said Brayford, describing the broader on-island healthcare team and the larger BCEHS team.

Recounting this experience is somewhat bittersweet, Brayford added, as she has recently become a manager for the Southern Gulf Islands and Saanich.

"I really loved being a rural paramedic and I do miss being out in the field."



Islands Trust

**HAVE  
YOUR  
SAY**

Community  
Information  
Session

Thurs. March 17, 2022 @  
4:00-4:30 p.m. Via Zoom:  
<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/67791071062>

Public Hearing  
Tues. March 22,  
2022 at 9:30 a.m.

Community  
Gospel Church  
147 Vesuvius Bay Road, SSI

Who should attend?  
Anyone affected by  
the proposed bylaw.

Enquiries?  
Kristine Mayes  
Planner 1  
Islands Trust  
[ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
250-537-9144

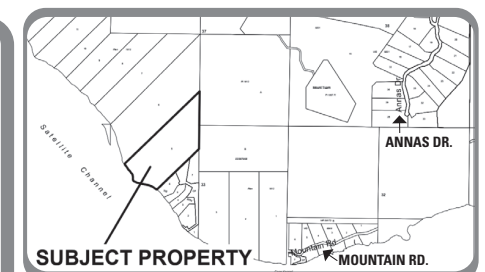
## Proposed Bylaw No. 525 Rezoning to Permit an Oversized Boathouse and Establish a Setback

Subject Property Address: 1351 Mountain Road, SSI  
Parcel Identifier Number: 004-053-761  
Application: SS-RZ-2020.1

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION SESSION & PUBLIC HEARING

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 525 about?  
Proposed Bylaw No. 525 will amend Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355 to make lawful an oversized boathouse and to establish a 15-metre setback to the natural boundary of the sea.



### How do I get more information?

A copy of the proposed bylaw and other information are available on the Current Application webpage: [tinyurl.com/SS1Applications](http://tinyurl.com/SS1Applications) and, at the Islands Trust office at #1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after March 7, 2022.

A Community Information Session (CIS) will take place via Zoom to answer any questions about the proposed bylaw amendment. The Public Hearing will occur in person per the details on this notice.

### Submissions

Written submissions are welcome up until the conclusion of the Public Hearing and can be emailed to [ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca), mailed or dropped off at the Islands Trust office by Monday, March 21, 2022. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

## ANTIQUES

# Treasure hunting island style

Antiques roadshow returns to Steffich art gallery for 17th time

As part of a "Salt Spring Island style" antique roadshow event, John Newman said he and his colleagues have found some really exciting things here over the years.

Newman, a Salt Spring resident and owner of Britannia Antiques & Estates, said the team will be back in late March and are offering to appraise and purchase items from locals.

What they will find is "always a surprise, at every show," Newman said.

A few years ago, he said, an islander brought in what looked like a close copy of the 1857 oil painting by Jean-François Millet "The Gleaners." "So we did the research on that for the people and it did come in at tens of thousands of dollars, so that was a pretty interesting one," he said, adding that the copy was likely a high-grade commission done for a major family home somewhere in Europe.

The buying and appraisal event is the 17th Newman and his team are holding on the island, and they're offering to look at a wide variety of items for people. Locals are welcome to bring in books, bank notes, coins, fine art, gold and silver items, jewelry, manuscripts, musical instruments, stamps and other estate items, even photos of furniture they think might be valuable.

"There's usually three of us there. Sadly, our good friend Matt [Steffich] is no longer with us. He was our fine art consultant at the gallery; he would look at people's fine art pieces and paintings and sculptures," Newman said. Bill Matthews will be looking at fine art at the upcoming event.

While organizers usually donate a portion of proceeds to the hospital auxiliary, this year funds will go to the Red Cross Ukraine Relief Fund.

The event takes place March 25, 26 and 27 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Steffich Fine Art Gallery. The team also does house calls that can be arranged by calling the gallery.

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By post to Driftwood, 328 Lower Ganges Rd.,  
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3

## Payment

By cash, debit, Mastercard or Visa. Classifieds are prepaid.

## DEADLINES

Class display deadline: Monday 4pm  
Word ad deadline: Tuesday 9:30am  
Too Late To Classify: Tuesday 1pm



## WHAT IT COSTS

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3 line rate \$16.50 - additional lines \$1.00 ea

DISPLAY ADS: \$14.00 per col. inch

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Auto ads also listed on line at

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## Obituaries

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## In Memoriam Gifts

### Kathleen Sandra Kibble

Born 1943, died peacefully  
February 28th, 2022 at Lady Minto  
Hospital.

Kathleen was a beloved daughter,  
wife, and mother. Devoted to her  
family, she provided them with  
a lifetime of love, support, and  
inspiration. Kathie was endlessly  
creative. She was a theatre designer,  
children's theatre director, fine  
artist, dressmaker, dollmaker,  
miniature maker, genealogist and gardener. She was  
warm, open, and disarming and made remarkable  
connections and friendships wherever she went.

Daughter of Wayne and Marguerite Pearce, she is  
survived by her husband Roger; sister Patricia (Tom);  
children Jeffrey (Angel), Steven (Leah), Aimee and  
Wendy (Russell); beloved cousins, extended family,  
and deeply cherished friends. Kathie adored being a  
grandmother; first to Kate and Andrew, then blessed by  
Alysha, Cameron, and Tyler, and lastly to Adelaide and  
Marguerite.

In lieu of flowers, consider donations in Kathleen's  
memory to a performing arts group in your community.  
A memorial celebration will be held later in the Spring.  
See tribute at [Haywardsfuneral.ca](http://Haywardsfuneral.ca)



### Janis Estelle Hudson



Janis Estelle Hudson  
will be fondly remem-  
bered by her children  
Lori (Bob), Kim,  
Tamara and Patrick, and  
her grandchildren, Jesse  
(Dan), Jamie (Ignat),  
Jordan, Liam and Maya.  
She died peacefully at  
home on Salt Spring  
Island, BC on March  
3rd, 2022. The family

would like to thank Dr. Applewaite, Mike Hubbard,  
Chris Griffiths and mom's 'ladies', Carol, Barb, Angela,  
Lisa, Adele, Chris B., Salt Spring Embrace and Marjie,  
for the loving care they gave mom, making it possible for  
her to remain in the home she loved.

In the 1960s, she was an active organizer for the  
Yukon Sourdough Rendezvous Society, Whitehorse  
Toastmistress Club, and Whitehorse Tennis Club.  
In 1983 Jan and Buzz became hobby farmers on  
Salt Spring Island and learned to raise chickens,  
turkeys, sheep and vegetables. Jan's blackberry pie was  
legendary. Jan will be remembered for how she loved  
being a wife, mother, and grandmother, and filled  
these roles with community, joy and adventure.

## Legal Notice

## Legal Notice

### Canadian Navigable Waters Act

Sage Hayward Vineyards hereby gives notice that an  
application has been made to the Minister of Transport,  
pursuant to the Canadian Navigable Waters Act for  
approval of the work described herein and its site and  
plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, Sage Hayward  
Vineyards has deposited with the Minister of Transport, on the  
on-line Navigable Waters Registry (<http://cps.canada.ca/>)  
under Registry number 4803, and under the NPP File  
Number 2022-506024 a description of the following work, its  
site and plans:

Application for Approval under the Canadian Navigable  
Waters Act (CNWA) for placing 5 mooring buoys

in, on, over, under, through or across Breezy Bay,  
approximately at 48° 46' 39.71" N, 123° 12' 06.88" W,  
located on unsurveyed foreshore or land covered by water  
being part of the bed of Plummer Sound, Strata Lot 32,  
Section 5, Strata Plan VIS3488, Saturna Island, Cowichan  
District, containing 0.3260 hectares, more or less, PID 019-  
029-861, in Saturna Island (Southern Gulf Islands), in the  
Province of British Columbia.

Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine  
navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search  
site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by  
the above referenced numbers) or if you do not have access  
to the internet, by sending your comments directly to:

Transport Canada Navigation Protection Program (THN),  
6th Floor, 800 Burrard Street,  
Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2J8.

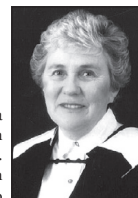
Comments will be considered only if they are in writing  
(electronic means preferable) and are received not  
later than 30 days after the publication of the last notice.  
Although all comments conforming to the above will be  
considered, no individual response will be sent.

Posted at Saturna, Southern Gulf Islands this 16th day of  
March, 2022

Feral Goat Winery Ltd.  
(full name of owner)

### Donna Patricia Flannery (Née Cloutier)

March 17, 1928 -  
January 9, 2022



FLANNERY, Donna Patricia  
passed away peacefully in  
Ottawa on January 9, 2022.  
Born in Wiseton, Saskatchewan  
in 1928, Donna moved to  
Montréal, Québec in 1938. Attending school and  
college in Montréal, she was working at Bell Canada  
when she met Gerald Alexander Flannery (B 1927, D  
2005). Gerald and Donna were married in Montréal  
in 1950 and proceeded to have eight children. Robert  
(Valerie), Suzanne (John), Steven (Diane), Mary  
(Marc), Julie (B 1957, D 1979), Patrick (Brenda),  
John (Marian), Lorraine (Guy). Married for 55 years,  
they raised their children in both Ottawa, Ontario  
and Thompson, Manitoba, and then moved to Salt  
Spring Island, British Columbia for their retirement  
years. They were blessed with 17 grandchildren and  
many wonderful nieces and nephews. And following  
Gerald's passing, "Granny" had the pleasure of  
knowing and being loved by an additional 17 great-  
grandchildren.

Donna was predeceased by her parents Julien and  
Roberta Cloutier and her brother Hubert (Barbara).

While raising her children, Donna was always active  
in her community, especially in Thompson where she  
was central to all the goings on and volunteer activities  
on Elk Bay, at the home that Gerald built. On her  
return to Ottawa, the Flannery residence was the  
go-to home for numerous celebrations and countless  
Sunday dinners.

She was proud to bring her bilingual heritage to her  
work on Parliament Hill, which was followed by a long  
career in the Federal Government. Donna remained a  
dedicated member of her favourite organizations,  
including La Clouterie - Les Cloutier d'Amérique, the  
Catholic Women's League, and her beloved Girl Guide  
troop, attending annual meetings and reunions well  
into her eighties. She was an avid pianist, giving lessons  
all her life and often playing the organ at church.  
Donna was also a life-long learner. She graduated from  
the University of Ottawa in 1990 with a degree in  
History, and in her 70s, she embraced the arts scene on  
Salt Spring Island and learned the craft of painting with  
watercolors. Many of her original works hang proudly  
in her children's homes today, and Donna was patient  
and extraordinarily generous, often opening her home  
to relatives from every part of the country. And she  
did not like to miss out on anything, especially if it  
involved outdoor skating or a swim in frigid oceans  
or lakes. She travelled miles to attend concerts, plays,  
and piano and singing recitals, performed by her many  
cherished grandchildren and great-grandchildren. In  
2018, Donna hosted a party to mark her 90th year,  
bringing almost 100 family members to Ottawa from  
across the country. In her later years, Donna was well  
cared for by the staff at Chapel Hill Residence in  
Ottawa. Hers was a life well-lived. She steadied on to  
the end, with her faculties intact, "all her marbles" and  
her eternal sense of humour.

### Salt Spring Hospice

## Looking for GRIEF SUPPORT?

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advertise or 1-866-669-9222.

## PROTECT OUR PLANET...



## RECYCLE THIS NEWS PAPER.

### ROBIN (RUTH ANN) IRVING

1939 - 2022



Robin was born on June  
19, 1939 in Moncton New  
Brunswick to Maud and Vern  
Irving, (deceased) of Shediac  
Cape, New Brunswick.

Robin achieved a BA (Hon) in  
Philosophy, an MA in medieval  
French, a teaching certificate  
from the Ontario College of  
Education and a D. Juris from  
Osgood Hall Law School. She was an ESL teacher both  
in Toronto and in Vancouver where she also practised  
as a lawyer, specializing in Urban Law. She helped save  
Vancouver's Chinatown from urban development and  
wrote the Strata Titles Act for the NDP government.

In 1973 she bought a house on Salt Spring and  
quickly became a full time resident enjoying boating,  
camping, gardening and eventually kayaking. In 1980  
she and Anne (Zeller) became lifelong partners, and  
they were able to marry in 2006. During that quarter  
century she travelled to 6 continents with Anne as  
valuable support to Anne's primatological research. She  
also became a real estate agent and property developer  
during the months, each year, she spent in Ontario.

Robin was very fond of all animals and often took  
the dog kayaking on weeks long trips in a specially  
designed spray deck. She kayaked in the Florida  
everglades, the Baja Peninsula, the Broken group and  
in local coastal waters. She loved to sail her racing  
catamaran as well as taking the small motor boat up  
the inside passage to Kingcome, Toba, Princess Louisa  
Inlet and many other places. Her last 4 years were  
spent in Lady Minto Extended Care where she was  
very well cared for. Thanks to the staff there and to Dr.  
Gummeson for all their support and kindness to her.

She was an adventurous soul, kind, generous,  
humorous, enthusiastic and will be missed by her  
many friends and her partner of 42 years.

If you wish to commemorate her, a donation to  
Lady Minto or to the SPCA would be very welcome.



SEE WEEKLY  
HOROSCOPE ON  
PAGE 15



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## 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
16	0458	3.2	10.5	20	0608	3.2	10.5
	1034	2.3	7.5		1230	1.2	3.9
WE	1504	2.8	9.2	SU	1907	2.9	9.5
ME	2154	0.9	3.0	DI			
17	0517	3.1	10.2	21	0020	1.9	6.2
	1054	2.1	6.9		0626	3.2	10.5
TH	1603	2.8	9.2	MO	1312	0.9	3.0
JE	2231	1.1	3.6	LU	2020	2.9	9.5
18	0534	3.1	10.2	22	0103	2.2	7.2
	1120	1.8	5.9		0647	3.2	10.5
FR	1701	2.8	9.2	TU	1358	0.7	2.3
VE	2306	1.3	4.3	MA	2143	2.9	9.5
19	0551	3.2	10.5	23	0155	2.5	8.2
	1152	1.5	4.9		0709	3.2	10.5
SA	1802	2.9	9.5	WE	1449	0.6	2.0
SA	2342	1.5	4.9	ME	2314	3.1	10.2

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#### Coming Events

#### Coming Events

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#### Salt Spring Hospice

#### Salt Spring Hospice Society Annual General Meeting

Wednesday, April 6, 2022 7pm on Zoom

This meeting is open to the public. Members only will be able to vote (membership fee is \$10).

To receive a Zoom Link for the meeting and to inquire about how to purchase a membership please contact:  
**Salt Spring Hospice Society Office**  
(250) 537-2770 or [office@saltspringhospice.org](mailto:office@saltspringhospice.org)



#### The Annual General Meeting OF THE

#### salt spring arts council

Sunday, March 20, 2022, 11am  
Mahon Hall - 114 Rainbow Road  
Covid protocols will be in place.

Everyone Welcome. Members in good standing are eligible to vote, with memberships available online:  
[ssartscouncil.com/product/membership/](https://ssartscouncil.com/product/membership/).

250-537-0899 • [www.ssartscouncil.com](http://www.ssartscouncil.com)

Salt Spring Island Library,  
129 McPhillips Ave., Ganges, BC

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, March 17, 2022 3:30 pm

Library Members with active library cards are invited to attend and vote using Zoom video conferencing by computer or phone.

To register email:  
[admin@saltspringlibrary.com](mailto:admin@saltspringlibrary.com)  
or call: 250-537-4666 ext. 224



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#### BUILD A CAREER IN FINANCE

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## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

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#### TIP OF THE WEEK:

Spring 2022 begins. Two three-planet stelliums are featured in the Spring Equinox chart. Venus, Mars and Saturn are all huddled closely in revolutionary Aquarius where they have been since March 6. Their respectively different degrees reveal a mixed review. Mars is linked to Mercury in Pisces serving to somewhat diffuse its charge. Venus is linked to the Moon at the critical 29th degree of Libra suggestive of a double influence of themes linked to equality, fairness and justice. Saturn is also linked to Libra as well deepening the emphasis on commitment to justice. Meanwhile, Mercury, Jupiter and Neptune are closely aligned in Pisces. Mercury and Jupiter are within a degree of each other and both are also linked to Libra. Neptune meanwhile at 23 Pisces is connected to Scorpio and Sagittarius and in the overall chart reveals themes of deeply charged emotions associated with themes of ethics and higher principles and of the urge to purge and undergo a process of change transformation.

#### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

The Sun in your sign will activate a charge of heightened drive and determination laced with revolutionary impulse. Yet, some of the energy may prove either subdued and repressed or denied and unacknowledged altogether, thereby manifesting as an urge to escape into dreamland a little longer. Yet, you will be in high gear soon.

#### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

The pace has been charged and busy and you have likely been getting extra attention. Intimate connections with friends, group and other interest groups have and will continue to keep you engaged, if only in your mind. Now, the emphasis shifts back to your career and public life, but much of the work may be done behind the scenes.

#### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Deciphering between dreams and illusions, on one hand, and more sobering realities, on the other, continues. Yet, now things will take an assertive turn. You are ready to push harder to breakthrough obstacles and blocks both within your own mind and literal ones too. Achieving your ideal is extra important now yet includes deciphering clearly what it is.

#### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

A visionary process has encompassed a good deal of your time and attention of late. Positively, new realizations and philosophies have come into your conscious awareness. Either way, not it is time to act upon these. Doing so will include a process of clearing the clutter. Spring is here and this will coincide with the proverbial spring cleaning purge process.

#### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

A concentrated period of inner work was strongly emphasized during Pisces time. In some respects, this process will continue. Yet, the Sun in fiery Aries will activate a visionary and adventurous spirit. You may travel far and/or harness the energy and direct it towards creative achievements. Expect this impulse to grow steadily.

#### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

You have likely been extra busy these past several weeks. Circumstances have pushed you to do what you might not have wanted. Relationship dynamics have been expansive and deep. These themes will continue and will actually take an even deeper plunge. Positively, you will be able to make the most of this complex momentum.

#### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

A strong creative charge has been active for some weeks. It has been and will continue to reveal critical analysis and strategic thinking and maneuvering. In fact, exchanges with others will advance to a whole new level of fiery exchanges and resolve. Having confidence in your choices does not come easily and requires access to deep reserves of faith.

#### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

A creative cycle continues yet shifts to more concentrated work efforts. Your drive to get to even deeper levels will become increasingly apparent. The overall process continues to include the need to confront your fears. Doing so is extra important these days as they pose direct and measurable access to your personal power.

#### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Connecting deeply close to home has practically coincided with mystical revelations, or at least deep sentimentality. Now a more playful and sporting cycle begins. This momentum will grow steadily well into April and even into May. Positively, your energy levels are steadily rising and you feel inspired. Seeing the world anew is foretold.

#### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You are a warrior at your core and this spirit has been awakened by the Sun entering Aries. Your sights are set on the future and a whole new determination to make strategic and creative investments is highlighted. Just be aware that you may still be wearing rose colored glasses emphasized during Pisces time. Focus to get real again.

#### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

The time has come to put your dreams and ideals into action. Phase one, however, may include getting clear on what they are actually. This process will require some measure of critical analysis in which a line is drawn between dreams and realities. Assertive, creative expressions of your personal power will bring you joy.

#### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The past few weeks and perhaps longer has included taking strong new leads and initiatives. While this process will continue, the emphasis shifts to target more specific and specialized projects. It remains that completing projects already started in the past will likely have better results than new ventures, unless you are helping someone else.

# YOUR COMMUNITY Your Classifieds



## 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.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca**

761 Upper Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1  
(250) 537-9902



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

Quên Fernandez, left, John Millson and Katie Brown use a stopwatch, a ruler and some leaves to measure the velocity of Soule Creek. Their weekly data gathering at seven creeks and seven different watersheds around Fulford Harbour, along with the efforts of other volunteers, is added to the Water Preservation Society's Freshwater Catalogue. The citizen-science driven data gathering effort is ongoing, with goals of connecting with, understanding, managing and protecting the island's freshwater resources.

#### NATURE

## Conservancy gives a hoot for endangered screech-owls

Local stewardship project gets underway

BY REN FERGUSON  
PROJECT LEAD, WESTERN SCREECH-OWL  
STEWARDSHIP PROJECT

Hoo hoo! It is the beginning of the owl nesting season, and the Salt Spring Conservancy's Western Screech-Owl Stewardship Project is off and running for its second year.

A group of dedicated volunteers have begun to survey the island to locate this endangered owl. We will also be monitoring territories by installing acoustic recording units, assessing habitat to determine if nest boxes are needed, and monitoring the boxes that were installed last year. Outreach and education with landowners are very important in the conservation of this species.

During the evenings of

winter and early spring, you might be lucky and hear a screech-owl. They don't screech but instead their calls consist of a series of mellow hoots that start slowly and speed up towards the end, like a bouncing ball.

How can you help?

- Take quiet walks through the woods at dusk or dawn and listen for owls calling. Learn your owl calls through [allaboutbirds.org](http://allaboutbirds.org) or the Merlin Bird App and compare this with what you hear. If you think you hear a western screech-owl, record an audio clip on your phone, and let us know by emailing us at [info@saltspringconservancy.ca](mailto:info@saltspringconservancy.ca)

- It is possible that your property is home to this delightful and endangered owl. Step outside at dusk or dawn to listen for the owls, use your phone to record their calls and contact us (see above). Please

retain dead or dying trees on your property. These trees, referred to as wildlife trees, provide essential ecological functions in a healthy forest by providing a home to a variety of wildlife, including screech-owls. Trees that may pose a threat to property or safety can often be partially retained as tall stumps.

- Keep your cat indoors (they could hunt fledgling owls and other birds), and don't allow your dog to chase wildlife.

- Donate to the Western Screech-Owl Stewardship Project. Your donations help the conservancy to continue our work helping this species at risk!

This project is undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through the federal Department of Environment and Climate Change and through private donations.

#### CONSERVATION

## Susan Bloom continues giving

Bloom estate supports Islands Trust Conservancy

Susan Bloom's renowned support of conservation causes is continuing after her death.

The Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) announced Wednesday that it has received \$100,000 through the estate of long-time Salt Spring resident Bloom in support of its continued conservation efforts.

"[Bloom] was genuinely committed to the protection of wildlife, their habitats, and the protection of ancient forests and oceans, and is perhaps most well known for her donation and work to protect Clayoquot Island near Tofino," states an ITC press release.

ITC was selected by Bloom's estate trust-

ees in her memory and in recognition of the conservancy's efforts to preserve the area's natural heritage.

Bloom passed away in December 2021. "I feel sad that Susan Bloom, the epitome of quiet philanthropy, has passed away; and at the same moment, happy to discover that her legacy included Islands Trust Conservancy," said Carla Funk, the ITC's fund development specialist. "Careful consideration will be made to ensure that use of these funds is in keeping with her lifelong passion for conservation on the islands." "Susan believed strongly in grassroots organizing and worked to help small groups of passionate people do extraordinary things," said friend and estate trustee Janet Theunis.