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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

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Wednesday,
Apr. 6, 2022

62nd year
Issue 14
\$1.50



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

INTO NEW HANDS: Ceramic artist Kathleen Raven lets a customer check out one of her new porcelain mugs at the first Saturday market of the year in Centennial Park on Saturday. Raven is bundled up for the usual chilly April market season weather.

WATERWORKS

Housing site gets water

Drake Road project given temporary NSSWD access

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) trustees have agreed to provide temporary potable water service to a Drake Road supportive housing development to avoid a delay in opening doors for its future residents.

Two BC Housing reps addressed the

March 31 NSSWD meeting asking for access to NSSWD water even though a moratorium on new service hook-ups is still in place.

As Kirsten Baillie, the regional development manager for BC Housing explained in a presentation to the board, NSSWD will provide a water hook-up for fire suppression purposes, but drinking water for the supportive housing development's 28 units will come from groundwater.

DRAKE ROAD continued on 5



PROPERTY RESTORATION

- Asbestos Removal & Testing
- Flood, Fire, Emergency Services
- Pre-Demolition Hazmat Surveys

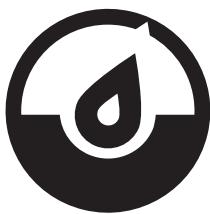


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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

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, virtually through Microsoft Teams, and if Covid-19 restrictions allow for it, at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. The link to the meeting can be found in the top right-hand corner of our website.

NOMINEES FOR 2 TRUSTEE POSITIONS ARE:

(Both positions are for a 3-year term)

David Wardlaw
Leigh Large
Michael McAllister
Richard Swann
Sandra Ungerson

AGM Voter Eligibility and Process

Due to COVID-19, the Trustee election will use an exclusively mail-in ballot process. Voting packages will be mailed on March 30, 2022, and ballots must be received at the district office by April 27, 2022, at 4:30 p.m.

Per the *Election Act* and the District's Letters Patent, an eligible elector for the purpose of a Trustee election is a North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayer who meets the following criteria:

- Is a Canadian Citizen 18 years of age or older, who has been a resident of British Columbia for at least the prior 6 months;
- Is a registered owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area, or the authorized agent of any board or corporation that is an owner of such land, or the legal representative of any owner of such land who has died, become insolvent or insane (written proof must be provided by the representative);
- Has been a registered owner of a property within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area for at least 30 days;
- Has an account in good standing;
- Is entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Election Act* and is not disqualified from voting by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment; and Spouses or partners who are not registered on title per BC Assessment are not entitled to vote.

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

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

MV Quinsam on its way



PHOTO BY JOHN WIZNICK

Mayne Queen, which was supposed to be retired this year and replaced by the brand new Salish Heron, docks at Village Bay on Mayne Island. However, the larger Heron vessel will not be brought on the Southern Gulf Islands route this summer as anticipated due to crewing shortages.

FERRIES

continued from 1

BC Ferries has filled 600 positions ahead of summer, with another 200 staff needed, including a chief officer, third engineer and seven casual customer service attendants on Salt Spring.

The professional mariner shortage is a global, and long running, issue that McNeely calls a "demographic time bomb." Around 1,000 of the union's 4,000 members are over 55, with the oldest relative demographic being engineers.

The ferry corporation is seeing "higher than expected retirements in key shipboard positions," which McNeely said are "likely a symptom of fatigue and burnout."

To tackle the shortage, especially of licensed positions aboard vessels, the ferry service noted they are spending \$23 million in internal development and training, as well as recruiting at career fairs and with employment agencies.

What is needed, McNeely said, is a holistic approach by all organizations involved in shipping in B.C. to invest in their crew so "more people will go into the industry, more people stay in the marine industry and even if they move around it'll potentially balance out."

This would require equal access to education funding, which BCF doesn't always have because it receives federal and provincial funding.

The pandemic also exacerbated the already existing shortage. BCF has 150 employees going on leave without pay due to a mandatory vaccination policy. Among the 150 were people in key roles, McNeely said, adding that this number doesn't capture the additional staff who resigned or opted to retire in response. Less than 20 employees have been granted accommodations from the policy.

Other ways BC Ferries has worked to fill the gaps include "staffing pools with crew held in reserve, cross-training employees so they can be redeployed from one location to another as required, and overtime pay for employees who cover gaps." Retired workers are also getting calls to come back in the short term.

McNeely raised concerns about low morale and potential for burnout in January, telling the Driftwood the whole staffing system runs on overtime. Some workers are now not able to have their statutory vacations approved, McNeely said, so BCF needs to hire more staff to allow workers

to take needed time off.

Not included in measures to address this issue is compensation, which McNeely hopes will increase before the collective agreement is up in 2025. In the 1990s, he explained, ferry wages were roughly four times the minimum wage and somewhat made up for the "on call" policy that requires some crew to be on call every day yet guarantees no hours. Faced with inflation and sky high housing costs, the on call life and wages that rise between zero and two per cent per year are no longer attracting workers like it used to.

In other ferry news, *bye, bye Quinnsa. Hello Quinsam!*

The Crofton-Vesuvius Bay route will see a vessel change April 13 with the Quinsam replacing the Quinitsa and adding space for 19 more vehicles and 100 more passengers per sailing. The change will make loading and unloading easier, BCF stated, and "the increased capacity will help meet the recent and strong growth in traffic demand on this route."

A change.org petition, with 1,991 signatures, is calling for a two-ferry service to ease traffic congestion in both communities and sailing waits on the route. The petition was tabled at the legislative assembly, yet did not fit the specific requirements of an "official petition," a staff member for MLA for Saanich North and the Islands Adam Olsen stated via email.

"We have met with the minister and BC Ferries on this issue and will continue to be involved in conversations about these services on the Gulf Islands," constituency advocate Jake Rees wrote.

The Skeena Queen will continue serving the Fulford Harbour-Swartz Bay route. Two Salish class vessels will serve the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands route.

On the Swartz Bay-Southern Gulf Islands route, passengers will ride with the Mayne Queen and the Queen of Cumberland. Plans to bring a new Salish Class vessel onto this route are delayed until the fall, due to crewing challenges, unless the company can recruit and train the needed crew. Also off the table for the same reason is the Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee's proposed supplement to Route 4 (Fulford Harbour to Swartz Bay) service using the MV Quinitsa.

BCF reminds travellers to book in advance, travel at less busy times, travel as a foot passenger and arrive at the terminal early, and to visit www.bcferry.com/routes-at-glance or [@bcferries](https://www.bcferry.com) on Twitter for up-to-date sailing information.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

GETTING UP TO SPEED: Citizens and Trust staff discuss proposed Islands Trust Policy Statement amendment details at an Islands 2050 open house event at Mahon Hall on Sunday. The display that encourages public input was also outside the Fulford fire hall on Saturday, and will return to the island this weekend to the Harbour House Hotel and the Saturday market. See the ad on page 5 for more details about the process and other public engagement activities, and for a link to an online survey that will be live until April 17.

COVID-19

Official numbers not reflecting community spread of COVID-19

Greenwoods administrator reports on outcome of March outbreak

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Only five people tested positive for COVID-19 on Salt Spring Island last week, according to B.C. Centre for Disease Control numbers, yet anecdotal evidence indicates the virus is much more widespread in the community at present.

The BC Centre for Disease Control is reporting five test-positive cases on Salt Spring, and one on the other Southern Gulf Islands, between March 25 and 31.

A month since the B.C. government announced masks would no longer be required in all indoor public spaces, Salt Spring Islands Trust trustee Peter Grove is one person encouraging people to keep wearing them in public places on Salt Spring. There are calls off-island to reinstate mask mandates, yet B.C.'s health minister Adrian Dix indicated that while people should be wearing masks indoors there are no near-term plans to bring back a mandate.

About 10 days ago, Grove said six of his closer contacts had COVID-19, and many other residents have reported either having the illness via social media or knowing several people who have tested positive using rapid antigen tests at home.

It is difficult to know how much community spread is occurring with the Omicron variant's rapid spread and shorter incubation period, the switch away from contact tracing and



PHOTO COURTESY GREENWOODS

Sign put up in the window of the Greenwoods complex care facility by an anonymous individual to raise the spirits of staff and residents during the three-week long COVID-19 outbreak that was officially declared over March 17.

the low PRC testing rates.

In other COVID-19 related news, Greenwoods complex care facility is no longer experiencing a COVID-19 outbreak and is now adapting to an opening of its visitor policy in response to relaxed visitor rules by the BCCDC.

Aletha Humphreys is the executive director of the Greenwoods Eldercare Society, which runs the 51-bed residential care facility for elders with complex cognitive and physical challenges. On Feb. 25 she shared publicly that a resident had tested positive after transmission outside of the facility. With 17 confirmed cases among residents and five among staff,

a formal outbreak was declared on Feb. 28. The dining room and common areas were closed, with residents staying in their individual rooms.

"The hardest part was keeping people in the rooms," Aletha explained. "And once we got into that second week people were feeling — especially people who were well — the isolation and that depression that comes from just sitting in a small room."

The facility was still able to let designated family members visit, which was integral for socializing and keeping spirits up. The outbreak was declared over on March 17.

Early in the outbreak cases were initially only mild to moderate, yet when reached on March 29 Humphreys said the Omicron variant had spread among many staff and residents and some experienced more difficult symptoms.

"It hit some people really hard, including staff, it's not a mild disease for everyone. But the morale is quite buoyant and people pulled through, they pulled together," Humphreys said.

There were no deaths at the facility during the outbreak associated with the virus, Andrew Leyne with Island Health confirmed.

The facility is once again open for additional family and friends to visit, opening up from only essential and designated social visitors since late last year. Visitors have to be vaccinated, except for in the case of compassionate care visits, and all visitors 12 and over also undergo rapid antigen testing at the facility. Masks are required in hallways and common areas, they are no longer required in residents' rooms. The changes are in line with the BCCDC's March 18 changes to visitor guidelines.

RCMP

Investigation follows Stewart Road crash

Investigations Office of B.C. called in after vehicle driver injured

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Investigations Office of British Columbia (IIO) is investigating after a driver who fled the scene of a serious accident on Salt Spring was arrested and later treated for serious injuries.

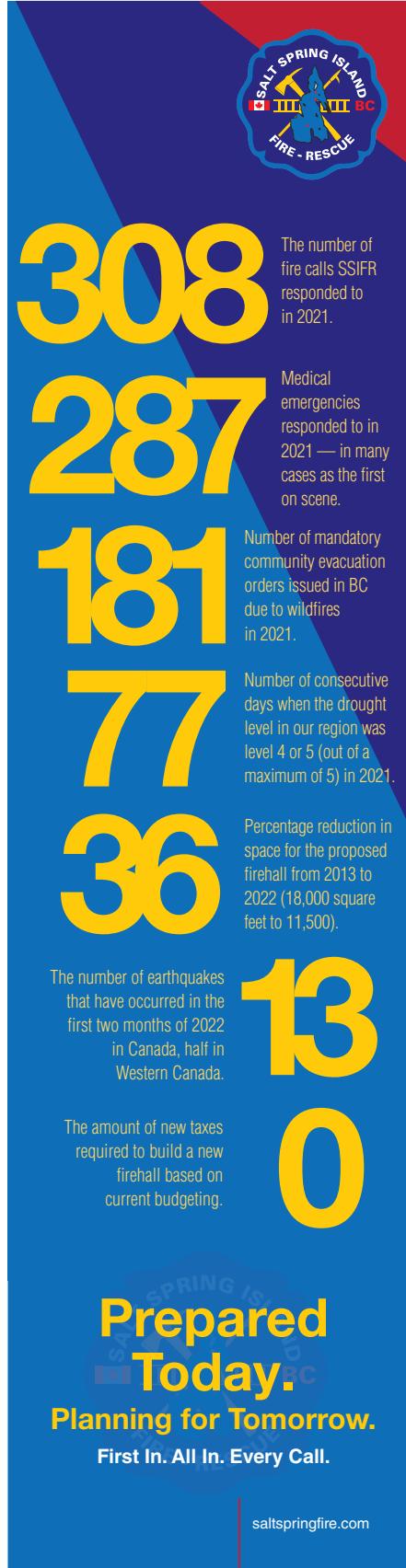
Salt Spring RCMP were called to the scene of what the RCMP stated was a "serious, single-vehicle collision" in the 200-block of Stewart Road just after 3:30 p.m. April 3. Police received word that everyone in the car at the time of the crash had been injured and that the driver had fled the scene on foot.

Officers located the driver a short distance away, in the 400-block of Cusheon Lake Rd. Officers noted that he was injured and detained him, during which time the man "allegedly resisted officer's attempts to take him into custody," the RCMP stated. "BC ambulance personnel attended to assess the man at the scene, however, he was subsequently transported to a local area hospital by police," the RCMP stated.

The man was later transferred to another hospital to treat serious injuries.

The IIO "will be investigating the incident in an effort to determine whether injuries sustained were as a result of police actions or the collision."

The IIO, a civilian-led police oversight body, is tasked with investigating incidents involving death or serious harm, to determine whether these resulted from "actions or inactions of a police officer."



NSSWD

Waterworks board candidates share information

Property owners eligible to vote in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be receiving ballots and detailed directions for a trustees' election in the mail this week. Five candidates are running for two vacant seats. They have answered some Driftwood questions in the space below.

Leigh Large

Q. Tell us a bit about yourself.

A. My involvement on Salt Spring Island goes back 50 years to when our family purchased Ben's Lucky Dollar, which over the years has morphed into Country Grocer. My career has been oriented around our family business — primarily grocery, liquor, and real estate. People and community have always been our focus. I have a son and daughter who are involved in our businesses and three grandchildren.

Q. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the NSSWD in the next five years?

A. We face some big challenges on Salt Spring in terms of building more affordable housing, for the homeless as well as the workforce. Lack of access to water is at the root of that problem. I've seen firsthand the challenges of finding homes for our workers at Country Grocer.

In my view the main challenges for the NSSWD board over the next five years start with listening. We need to gain the understanding and support of staff and ratepayers. We have to settle long-outstanding litigation issues and resolve the water moratorium. Saying no is not the long-term answer. In the years ahead, we need to lay out a go-forward platform that is viable, cost effective and responsive to the needs of ratepayers.

Q. How will your experience and perspective benefit the NSSWD and its ratepayers if you are elected to the board?

A. I approach things with a business perspective and a "yes" mentality. With that in mind I look forward to working with my fellow trustees and the community, so together we can build on the many achievements of staff and trustees, past and present. Drawing on my business and people skills I want to address NSSWD challenges in a cooperative, pragmatic, transparent and realistic manner, to plan for the uncertain future we all face.

The first thing I would do is listen to all the points of view. People are tired of inaction and water moratoriums. By listening and understanding the pros and cons, we will be in a good position to develop a workable plan that can be supported by the whole community. Most importantly, I know a deal can be structured that can be paid for without raising the rates of ratepayers. It can be done, and if elected, I will focus on that.



LEIGH
LARGE

Michael McAllister

Q. Tell us a bit about yourself.

A. I am a lawyer, specializing in local government law. I have been a trustee at NSSWD for the past five years and chair of the board of trustees the last three years. I have lived on Salt Spring since 1993.

Q. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the NSSWD in the next five years?

A. There are many challenges that NSSWD is currently facing, but in my opinion, the biggest three challenges we will face over the next five years are: (1) governance (decisions about Salt Spring should be made on Salt Spring); (2) water availability/water shortage/ moratorium on new water connections; and (3) the settlement of various pending legal actions.

These three key challenges are refinements on the answers I gave three years ago during the election campaign. Over the last three years, significant progress has been made on the first two challenges. As to the pending litigation all I can say is that it is never far from our minds.

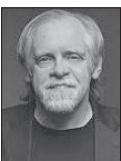
Q. How will your experience and perspective benefit the NSSWD and its ratepayers if you are elected to the board?

A. My experience as a municipal lawyer for the past 34 years has been and will continue to be a benefit to NSSWD and our ratepayers as I understand the ins and outs of local governments and its interactions with the provincial government and its various ministries.

I am proud of being given the opportunity by my colleagues to be elected as the chair of the board of trustees at NSSWD for each of the last three years. I say this because the board is comprised of very different personalities and also because of what we have managed to accomplish, generally with all board members being in agreement.

Finally, as to my perspective, I believe in finishing any job that I start. While I had not originally planned to run for a third term, I was asked by members of our community to reconsider and run again. In deciding to run for a third term, I am hopeful that we, as a board, will be focused on delivering tangible results on these three challenges for the benefit of our ratepayers.

We still have much work to do on all three challenges over the coming years.



MICHAEL
MCALLISTER

Richard Swann

Q. Tell us a bit about yourself.

A. I am a retired technology CEO with a masters degree in business administration and a technology diploma. I have successfully lead engineering teams working on complex, multidisciplinary projects for government and the private sector, including the software for the Canadarm 2 on the International Space Station.

I volunteer with the Salt Spring Literacy Society, am on the executive of the local chapter of Rotary International and a board member of the Salt Spring Island Public Library Association.

My wife and I have lived on Salt Spring for just under two years.

Q. What do you see as the biggest challenges facing the NSSWD in the next five years?

A. There are two main challenges and they are related.

As this year has so vividly demonstrated, climate change presents a serious risk to infrastructure that was designed for different weather. NSSWD needs to make an assessment of the probable impact and develop an action plan to mitigate the risks of not being able to meet the needs of their customers.

In conjunction with the CRD, NSSWD needs to be aware of trends impacting water availability on Salt Spring in general. How will climate change likely affect residents on wells and catchment systems? While the primary responsibility is to existing customers, as a good corporate citizen in control of a resource necessary for life there needs to be some thought given to what assistance can be provided to other island residents should it be required.

Q. How will your experience and perspective benefit the NSSWD and its ratepayers if you are elected to the board?

A. I have been successful empowering engineering teams to find innovative solutions to complex problems and delivering projects on time and on budget. I believe these skills will be of use to NSSWD.

Many of the projects I have worked on have involved government agencies so I understand the complexities that brings.



RICHARD
SWANN

opment — all impacting the quality and quantity of water our utility is able to provide.

The biggest challenges facing NSSWD in the next five years are, in no particular order:

- Facing the Channel Ridge litigation issue;
- developing a plan to increase our opportunities for funding in innovative ways, not controlled by the Province;
- working on the restoration of the Maxwell watershed in cooperation with our land partners;
- having a specific plan for dealing with climate emergencies related to water supply delivery, and;
- reducing the energy footprint of how we contribute to the island's greenhouse gas emissions. One example of this that is currently being put together is a centrate recovery pilot, so we don't have to pay shipping fees for our St. Mary Lake dissolved air flotation plant effluent.

David Wardlaw

Q. Tell us a bit about yourself.

A. I am a professional geophysicist with an honours degree in geophysics from the University of Calgary (1988). I have been living with my family on Salt Spring since September 2020, however, we have been vacationing here for over 20 years. We fell in love with the island and decided to make the move during Covid. I have a daughter attending the dance program at GISPA and another daughter enrolled at UVic. My wife is a part-time bookkeeper and offers qigong classes and women's circles through Zoom.



DAVID
WARDLAW

In conjunction with the CRD, NSSWD needs to be aware of trends impacting water availability on Salt Spring in general. How will climate change likely affect residents on wells and catchment systems? While the primary responsibility is to existing customers, as a good corporate citizen in control of a resource necessary for life there needs to be some thought given to what assistance can be provided to other island residents should it be required.

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Many of the projects I have worked on have involved government agencies so I understand the complexities that brings.

Sandra Ungerson

Q. Tell us a bit about yourself.

A. It has been an honour to represent the ratepayers of the NSSWD for the past three years. As a water scientist with a master of science degree from the University of Calgary, researcher and integrated water specialist I've been involved in many aspects of water collection, treatment, delivery, and research on Salt Spring Island. I have directly cooperated with and/or contributed research and information to the Community Alliance, Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance, other small water systems and licence holders on Salt Spring, Transition Salt Spring and the CRD Liquid Waste Commission. I am the NSSWD board vice chair.



SANDRA
UNGERSON

There are many divergent interests and opinions on the use of water and whether the supply should be rationed or increased to allow for more housing on Salt Spring. I will listen to the ratepayers from both sides of this complex problem.

Q. How will your experience and perspective benefit the NSSWD and its ratepayers if you are elected to the board?

A. I have an extensive background and understanding of surface and subsurface geological processes and their relationship to water reservoirs. I have worked in private business where a combination of data analysis, communication and decision-making skills are vital.

I am data driven and will use my science background to gain a better understanding of all the variables affecting the water supply for Salt Spring residents. Having a supply of potable water is the most essential resource for living here.

I believe we need to look at creative ways to capture more of the water that is in the ecosystem during the wet season so that we can be better prepared for the dry season.

Delivering a stable and cost-effective supply of water to current and future Salt Spring residents should be the goal.

Salt Spring Residents In-PERSON Public Engagement

ISLANDS TRUST NEW DRAFT POLICY STATEMENT 2050
Make your thoughts, ideas, and input count
Salt Spring Island in-person events

- Saturday, April 9, 9:00 to 4:00**
Event booth, Salt Spring Saturday Market
- Sunday, April 10, 5:30 to 8:00**
Drop-in event at Harbour House

To learn more visit:
islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050

islands 2050
THE FUTURE OF THE TRUST AREA

Supportive housing project on tight timeline

DRAKE ROAD

continued from I

The water source is on the neighbouring School District 64 property and will require a licence from the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development, and Island Health construction operating approvals are needed as well.

While the process of getting those approvals is underway, "We are concerned that this will delay the project and delay our ability to deliver the housing that's needed in time," she said.

The hope is that people can move into the units by September. Residents will include people currently housed at the Seabreeze Inne, which has been purchased by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation for hospital/health-care staff housing, and others at risk of homelessness.

"It's incredibly important to complete the project as soon as possible to avoid the potential of individuals entering into homelessness or not getting the supports that they need," said John McEown, director of regional development with BC Housing.

HUMANITARIAN AID

Ukraine fundraiser in the works at Fulford Hall

Donated items needed

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A big fundraiser for humanitarian aid in Ukraine due to the Russian invasion is being organized on Salt Spring Island.

A number of people are involved in the Help Ukraine Silent Auction at Fulford Hall on Saturday, April 30 from 2 to 7 p.m.

Victoria Olchowicki is one of the people coordinating the event, which will also have various musical performers, and perogies and borscht available for purchase.

What is needed now is donations of quality items for the silent auction and other goods for outright purchase on grab 'n' go tables.

A few of the items donated so far are paintings by Michael Hames, Susan Benson and Olga Szkabarnicki, silk-embroidered Vietnamese artwork, a veterinary visit from local mobile vet Lex Bardyeyev and cross-country skis.

A special donation day has been set for Wednesday, April 20 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Fulford Hall seniors annex (on the south side of the building).

People wanting to contribute or needing more information can call Olchowicki at 250-537-1528 or Olga Szkabarnicki at 1-613-276-4155 or ursaminor45@gmail.com.

Olchowicki said the specific beneficiary of the funds has not yet been determined.

She said some funds raised locally so far have reached refugees directly through a relative of her late husband, and supplies have been purchased for two soldiers from that community.

Salt Spring Island's 1st Supportive Housing Project

- Operated by Salt Spring and Gulf Island Community Services
- Staff will support residents and link them to additional support/health services and programs
- Provide permanent homes for many residents currently living at the Seabreeze Inne
- Provincially funded through the Rapid Housing Initiative

Screen shot of a slide used by BC Housing staff to educate North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustees and staff about the nature of Salt Spring's first supportive housing project that will be located at 161 Drake Rd. and provide 28 units of stable housing.

NSSWD trustees agreed to provide access to potable water from September until the end of May 2023, conditional on receiving a satisfactory hydrology report and legal agreements from BC Housing. A hydrology report is only needed so the NSSWD has assurance that the switch to groundwater is feasible.

Some trustees expressed concerns about supplying water to the development if drought conditions arose next year and water supplies were scarce for NSSWD rate-payers.

"I want to make sure the [Drake Road residents] don't get water when we're in

Stage three and four restrictions," said trustee Sandra Ungerson. "We just can't do it."

But the motion to provide potable water through the coming fall, winter and spring was passed unanimously.

Baillie detailed the plan for part of the property at 161 Drake Rd., which BC Housing is leasing from land-owner Capital Regional District on a long-term basis. In addition to 28 purpose-built self-contained living spaces, the two-storey building will have a communal kitchen, staff support and an outdoor area for gardens. Salt Spring Community Services will be

the site operator.

"BC Housing actually has the modular units all ready in storage in Langley," she said.

Baillie has met with neighbours, Catholic church reps, Phoenix school administration and parent advisory council members to inform them about the project and hear their concerns.

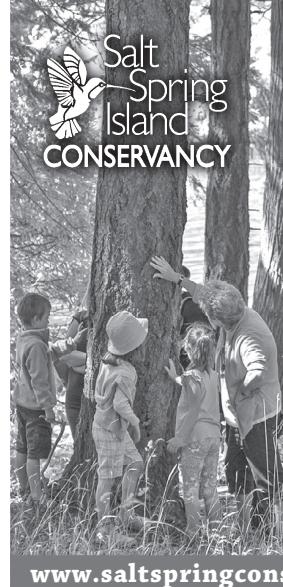
The Drake Road project is being fast-tracked as a B.C. government Rapid Housing Initiative program. Section 14(2) of the Interpretation Act, which is being used by the province to bypass some local government approval processes in order to get affordable housing completed more quickly, is also being enacted.

Help kids connect with nature!

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy is running environmental education programs for the island's elementary students this spring and fall and is looking for volunteers.

The Stewards in Training program is the perfect opportunity to explore the island and share your love of nature with youth.

For more information, email reed@saltspingconservancy.ca



www.saltspingconservancy.ca

welcome



SOPHIA VOM BAUER JACKSON
OFFICE MANAGER

TO THE
Driftwood
family,
Sophia!

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Islands 2050

Policy Statement Amendment Project

Join the Conversation on Salt Spring Island!

Event Booths:

Saturday, April 2, 2022 12:00 to 4:00 p.m.
outside Salt Spring Fire Hall #2
(South Island)

Saturday, April 9, 2022 9:00 a.m. to 4:00
p.m. at Salt Spring Saturday Market

Drop-in Events:

Sunday, April 3, 2022 1:00 to
3:00 p.m. at Mahon Hall

Sunday, April 10, 2022 5:30 to
8:00 p.m. at Harbour House

Visit our webpage to learn more and complete the online survey:
islandstrust.bc.ca/programs/islands-2050/

Or pick-up a copy of our Community Discussion Guide at:

Islands Trust - Salt Spring
500 Lower Ganges Rd #1, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2N8

Salt Spring Island Public Library
129 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T5



OPINION

Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Political cure

The idea that "doctors don't make enough money" may be somewhat of a head scratcher for some.

A common understanding in society is that if you go to medical school and graduate, you're set for life. While this may be true for some, for doctors running a family practice in B.C. this isn't really true.

A useful shift is to think of family doctors as small-business owners. Doctors who run a family practice work under the fee for service (FFS) model, collecting a standard fee of around \$30 per patient visit. They then pay overhead of up to around 35 per cent of their income, which goes to rent, support staff, medical equipment, software systems, and so on. It's costly, stressful and unsustainable in a reality of inflation and rampantly escalating housing costs.

THE ISSUE: Family doctor shortage

WE SAY: Up to province to solve

It's causing many newly minted medical school grads to eschew the profession for better paid and less stressful alternatives, and is a factor that has led to half of Salt Spring's population being without a family doctor.

While advocates warn of the wholesale collapse of the primary care system in B.C., doctors

on the islands say there are clear solutions to bringing doctors back to family medicine. Reform the FFS model and bring in flexible contracts, support doctors in their work, and then make opportunities on the islands even more competitive than urban centres to attract the limited pool of doctors who want to practise in the unique way they do here.

While family doctors have been doing their utmost to tempt new docs to come and practise here, they acknowledge that the solution is at this point a political one at the provincial level.

Residents the Driftwood spoke to for our doctor shortage series have also been doing their utmost to manage their own care, including using telemedicine, walk-in clinics on the island and keeping family doctors from other towns and even other provinces.

Yet as most of those avenues narrow with the closure of walk-in clinics and Vancouver Island family doctors with full patient loads, one of the only avenues left open is the political one.

With a petition garnering over 13,000 signatures and a citizens group planning to be at the B.C. legislature for BC Family Doctor Day, the people are speaking louder and louder on this topic and they need to be heard by the province now.

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Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)



Experts' advice conflicts

BY FRANTS ATTORP

As the Vortex debate heats up, trustees have a decision to make: rely on information provided by the developer and his consultants, or listen to their own staff and other experts who are warning the proposed resort may cause irreparable damage to the Fulford Harbour ecosystem.

In 2019, Salt Spring trustees sided with the applicant's consultants, even as their own staff advised that reports submitted may lack sufficient detail. In a stunning display of over-the-top professional reliance, they heaped praise on consultants while barely discussing issues raised by the Trust's senior freshwater specialist William Shulba, a watershed geoscientist with impressive credentials in wetland hydrology, climatology, groundwater flow dynamics and contaminant risk assessments.

The local Trust committee (LTC) issued a variance permit allowing the septic to be located just 10 metres from Soule Creek and 26 metres from Fulford Harbour as opposed to the required 30 metres. But work did not begin within the two-year time period and the permit expired.

This year, the developer submitted a new applica-

VIEWPOINT

tion for the same basic septic system. Again, Trust staff questioned the completeness of consultants' reports and recommended the septic variance be denied. As before, they defended the 30-metre setback and called for more detailed hydrology and biology studies. But once again, their call went unanswered.

The deep concern staff have about water pollution is evident in the fact that their recommendation for more information is in bold at the top of a report where it is impossible to ignore. Additionally, staff have now included the option of downzoning the two adjoining properties (one where the former Fulford Inn was located, the other higher up, closer to the Fulford Hall) to reduce their development potential.

At the Feb. 15 LTC meeting, the applicant's septic engineer claimed that moving the septic field off the lower lot to respect the 30-metre setback would require a more complex system, have archaeological impacts, and leave the risk to water bodies "unchanged." His explana-

tion was that key contaminants, particularly nitrogen species, "are quite mobile once they reach the shallow groundwater." This seems to negate the rationale for the setback requirement.

Meanwhile, a 2020 hydrology study, commissioned by the Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society, basically questions any development on the lower lot which "must be considered as coastal flood hazard land" and has "only a small portion" higher than two metres above sea level. Hydrologist Dave Gooding sets "the safe Flood Construction Level at 5.0 metres above current sea level," and suggests locating the septic system higher up "where it is less likely to impact stream or estuary quality." Not a word was said about Gooding's report at the February LTC meeting.

Trustees now have three different messages to consider: a green light from the developer's consultants, a yellow light from Trust staff, and a red light from a hydrologist engaged by a local environmental group. Whose expert advice should they heed? Given that they are sworn to apply the precautionary principle, there should be very little discussion.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Have you or a family member had COVID-19?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you have a family doctor on the Gulf Islands?

50
55
NO
YES

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

ISLAND VOICES

FROM THE BACK ISSUES

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

1962

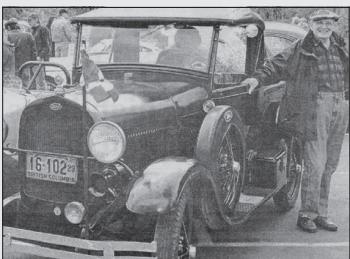
Bea Hamilton reported on the 9th annual Beaver Point Community Hall Bean Supper. "How they can cram about 300 people into a small hall, seat them all happily and in rotation, feed them beans, buns, salads and pie, top it all off with hot coffee, without spilling the beans or a drop of coffee, and send them all home again contented is one of the marvels of our rural life. But that's what they did on Saturday night, at the Bean Supper in the Beaver Point Community Hall."

1982



Gulf Islands hydro workers receive an award for working 40,173 consecutive hours without lost time due to an accident.

2002



John Woodward and his '29 Ford were among the many classic cars and their drivers parading around Salt Spring on Easter Sunday. The event was organized by Salt Spring's Antique and Classic Car Club.

A cyclist from Vancouver was knocked to the ground after being struck by a flying deer in a freak accident that saw the deer hit by a vehicle on Long Harbour Road on Easter Sunday. The deer did not survive.

"I've heard of cyclists getting hit by bugs," RCMP Cpl. Dave Voller said, "but never a hundred pounds with hooves."

2012

Some of the cycling lanes called for in the North Ganges Transportation Plan were expected to become a reality by the end of this year thanks to a \$1.45-million funding agreement between the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and the Capital Regional District. The ministry and the CRD promised to each contribute \$450,000 for bike lane construction on both sides of Lower Ganges Road between Atkins Road and Kingfisher Cove.

LETTERS to the editor

What cost?

The CRD Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) is inviting feedback on three conceptual design options for additional facilities at the Rainbow Road Recreation Centre. There is a survey on the CRD PARC website under "Projects."

What really bothers me is that they do not provide the cost of building or maintaining these projected new facilities. Most of us wouldn't buy something without knowing the cost. Our taxes will pay for these facilities.

When I did the survey, instead of providing a preferred option, I noted in the

space provided that first I needed to know the cost of construction and maintenance of these additional facilities.

MAXINE LEICHTER,
SALT SPRING

A way out

Regarding Trust Council's approval of a \$9.1-million budget, on the heels of a truly contentious and divisive attempt at updating the Trust Policy Statement and a dismal round of surveys comes a scathing review of the Trust by consultants Great Northern Management.

The Trust spends our local

tax dollars on survey after survey, task forces, local Trust projects, most of them outside its purview, which is land use planning. You know, when you want to build something and they stamp it or not — in a timely fashion — not five years later with a few "oops we changed the rules" or by using First Nations in a most settler-centric manner.

After hearing our local Trust committee (LTC) chair Peter Luckham say that support for the Vortex project in Fulford was waning based on the letters he read I was shocked because if he is basing his opinions and judgements on "hearing from community members," then why

is the LTC's Coastal Douglas-Fir LTC project still running? Some 775 islanders signed a petition to say "no, don't do this, don't spend our tax dollars in this fashion." I think those in favour are about 50 people in groups, writing the same letter over and over.

There is a way out: a governance restructuring from the province for the Islands Trust. We can no longer accept this dysfunctional substitute for local government. If the province wants the Trust, then they should pay for it and make it work, because we are done. We need our tax dollars for services.

SHELLEY MAHONEY,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We need a less paternalistic [health] ministry, frankly. We need a ministry that looks at community-driven solutions and rewards them."

SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS MLA ADAM OLSEN

Trying to wake up to those complicated acronyms

I've recently been giving some thought to becoming woke. Everybody's either for it or against it, and since it's no longer simply a past participle of "wake," I suppose it's time I decided whether I am woke or sleeping through it and hoping it will all go away.

I'm leaning towards perpetual social dinosaur because, as a miserable old pedant, I detest the misuse of a past participle as an adjective. I woke, I am waking. Listen, I don't want to get all Mr. Smarty Pants on you, but there is not a single circumstance in which "I am woke" has any place in the grammar of the English language. The future perfect is "I will have woken" and I'm perfectly happy to admit that I'm working towards my own awakening, but it's uphill.

I have seven decades of prejudices under my belt and letting go of them is going to be a struggle. Mrs. Mc would likely tell you that I live in a world of endless annoyances and indignation, mostly levelled at what I like to think of as the stupidity of just about everybody else, and anyone who is as permanently irritated as I am doesn't have the time or predisposition for bigotry. When everything annoys you it's hard to be annoyed by specifics, but I wish we could make our minds up!

For the past five years, I've been rendered virtually mute for fear of putting my foot in it after a lifetime of ping-ponging through the various social niceties of more decades than I care to count. I have absolutely no opinion on other people's sex lives and if they want to share it with a man, a woman or a cauliflower, it's entirely their own business. I also perfectly understand that there are boys who would prefer to be girls and vice versa and have no concerns about whom I stand next to at the gentleman's easements, but there are a few occasions for consideration.



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

For instance, the young swimmer in the U.S. who was at best a mediocre male athlete is now a female champion and frankly, the only thing that distinguishes her from her former male competitors is the cut of her swimsuit. It is a simple irony of nature that most men are invariably built to fare better in the more muscular pursuits and this young swimmer, who has shoulders you could park a bus on, quite obviously claims an unfair advantage. There, I've said it, which I suppose disqualifies me from any immediate awakening.

When I was a boy, "queer" was just a common or garden adjective. The car was making a queer noise (which ours most often did because my dad was reluctant to use any gear above second). Uncle Dave's business was in Queer Street and heading for bankruptcy. "There's nowt so queer as folk" as my old mum never once said. Somewhere along the line it was co-opted by boneheads and became a pejorative, a spiteful insult of people who were still being locked up for their life choices. Then it was rehabilitated and now it's de rigueur, but for the life of me, I've yet to understand the distinction between "gay" and "queer." And don't think I haven't done my due diligence ... I consulted Pink News and came away none the wiser.

So, queer has become what it is, a modified descriptor, a nouveau adjective, as has "gay," which was never a

word that got a great deal of mileage after the 19th century before it was co-opted. And it's ever so slightly baffling since some of my gay friends deport themselves with as much gaiety as any other grumpy pensioner. Or my queer friends are so utterly unqueer they don't even own a pair of colourful socks.

But the whole lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning, intersex, asexual and two-spirit thing (and I only have the vaguest inkling of what at least half of them get up to or indeed why we even need to know) is all jolly interesting for about five minutes from an anthropological perspective but isn't anything I'm overly taxed by, although I am a bit miffed that it doesn't also include Tubby, Elderly and Inclined to Have Food Stains on His Shirt. *LGBTQIA++TEITHFSOHs*.

Thankfully, society has changed – or at least, our corner of society has, and the right to love whoever the hell you want, to be whatever you want, is accepted and enshrined, which makes an even greater nonsense of the gormless anti-vax "freedom" drives that are now better left to the darker recesses of history.

But in the same way that Canadians have the freedom to lead their lives pretty much as they choose within the bounds of common sense and good neighbourliness, there should also be the freedom to at least smile sardonically at the overzealous woke folk. If you MUST label everything, at least keep it simple for those of us struggling to be woke but mostly don't have the faintest idea what you're talking about. Questioning? Who, me? Intersex? An English county between Middlesex and Essex? Asexual? Just about any man in his 70s with a problematic prostate.

While I'm trying hard to take it all seriously, the truth is I think I'm probably just too bewildered to be woke ... woken.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

TIDYING UP: Telus crews deal with downed lines and the fallen tree that caused them on Monday morning following a windstorm that struck the Gulf Islands overnight and into the morning. Salt Spring Fire Rescue personnel were also called to reports of a tree on fire at Central Avenue and Quebec Drive, and wires down on South Ridge Drive in short order on Monday morning. BC Hydro attended to power outages in various spots as well.

Building a 'culture of care'

BY LINDA UNDERWOOD

How does a community build a culture of care? This question has been a focus of the virtual summits offered by the Salt Spring Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI) whose mission includes "bringing people together . . . to mobilize cooperatively around issues and needs of/for mental wellness, co-creating a community in which everyone belongs . . ."

The MWI, an initiative of the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network, has welcomed the Salt Spring community to come together over Zoom and learn and share ideas around local mental wellness support. The topics of previous summits held in January and February were peer support, which sees support between people who share a common life experience; and volunteer counselling, where a trained volunteer provides support in a formal environment.

The summits have welcomed over 70 diverse voices, with local service providers, people who access services, people who are marginalized and interested community members bringing their perspectives to the events. Attendees shared their thoughts in breakout sessions, polls and evaluations. They talked about the significant need for mental wellness support in our community — a need only partially met by current services from our mental health professionals. They described the current picture of mental health services on Salt Spring and the need to have a clear understanding of resources available. They also expressed how peer support and volunteer counselling might strengthen existing services and nurture a culture of care in our community.

Both volunteer counselling and peer support build on the effective efforts already occurring through the work of professional providers and community organizations making support more available. Both make effective use of skilled community members who, for example, have been certified in mental health first aid

and contribute to social justice by involving peers that understand the issues of those marginalized people seeking support.

Perhaps most importantly, peer support and volunteer counselling help reduce stigma and the "us vs. them" mentality while encouraging community resilience — the more the community gets involved the deeper the caring and positive momentum of mental wellness for our whole community. Showing up and giving compassion to each other, even if someone isn't doing that for themselves is one way to build trust and co-create a culture of care.

The Mental Wellness Initiative plans to test install "thought" boxes at various locations throughout the island. Look out for them soon and share your thoughts on how we can co-create a culture of care on Salt Spring Island.

In April, the MWI has two community mobilization summits planned. These summits will take the information from the previous summits and shift the focus to actions we can take to support peer support and volunteer counselling in our community. They will be held on April 19 (2 to 5 p.m.) where the focus will be on peer support, and on April 27 (2 to 5 p.m.) where the focus will be on volunteer counselling.

The summits are free! You can register for one or both of the April summits by contacting William MacPherson, summit project coordinator (willieonsaltspring@gmail.com), or Charleen Rolston at Charleen.Rolston@islandhealth.ca.

If you have any questions about the Mental Wellness Initiative, would like to find out more, or volunteer with the MWI please feel free to contact David Norget, MWI coordinator davidnorget@gmail.com.

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

Every action counts and the policy statement matters

BY ANGELA DANYLUK

Growing up, my family boated and gunkholed our way through the Gulf Islands. Mom and Dad preferred to sleep on a boat rather

than in a soggy tent. With two kids, a cat, a dog, and sometimes, a bird, this was a wise choice.

My sister and I had grand adventures! To climb an arbutus tree or

chase a sunflower sea star was a marvel. Mom and Dad taught us about the tides, how to conserve water and how to be in good relation with each other. In the 1990s Mom and Dad bought a place in the islands. Becoming landlocked was Dad's worst nightmare.

Fast forward half a life later, I'm happy to say that my dad counts his island friends as his best friends and he still gets out on the boat. Growing up half in the Lower Mainland and half in the Gulf Islands inspired me to become a marine biologist. Today, I work at the interface of land use, climate action and biodiversity. I work with Indigenous knowledge keepers, academics, developers, biologists, youth, citizens, artists, engineers and worn-out bureaucrats coast to coast. We are working in response to the climate crisis that is unfolding around all of us. It is exhilarating and exhausting work. But all of our skills, ideas and efforts are needed.

Climate change is impacting the Gulf Islands and the way we live on these lands. Droughts and rising temperatures are exacerbating fungal disease amongst arbutus trees. I've witnessed the increase in windfall and damage to forests and buildings due to their dying off. Sunflower sea stars have been decimated by warming water temperatures. They are now globally listed as critically endangered and the kelp forests they help to tend are dramatically declining. The last time I saw a sunflower sea star was 2011. Habitats are shrinking and species are shifting patterns or in various stages of decline.

When we consider the

INDEPTH

impacts of the climate crisis on people, climate change goes for the most vulnerable. In 2021, the heat dome killed 802 people in six days — mostly senior citizens. The event is Canada's deadliest weather event yet. Demand for children's asthma medication goes up significantly during poor air quality events brought on by wildfires. Sea level rise will erode and undermine waterfront homes while shrinking the intertidal zone. Millennia of Indigenous ecological and cultural relationships will be catastrophically disrupted by the increasing rate and rippling of climate change.

Despite all of this, in the face of all of this knowledge, I have hope. And I'm definitely not alone in taking action. There is still a chance to make a change. To slow and mitigate the pace and impacts of climate change. Every action counts.

How do we respond? Collective action. We need to take action at the community level to effectively respond to climate change. What does that look like? We need to build better homes that are energy efficient. These homes are healthier for us and cooler. We need to set aside lands and watery areas to support ecosystems and species so they can soak up rain, carbon and provide homes for fish. We need to make space along the shoreline so that it can adjust as the ocean rises and we are not in harm's way. Doing all this, and more, in collaboration with Indigenous peoples will be good for people, the land

and the climate.

The Islands 2050 Policy Statement Amendment Project contains policies like these that will help us to identify climate risk, create plans to adapt to the changes that are coming, and reduce our community's contribution to climate change. These policies are now standard in most communities. They are also policies that insurance companies and financial institutions are now requiring as climate change disrupts the risk management and financial sectors. To rely on planning standards from the 1990s that are based on climate information from the '70s and '80s is no longer acceptable in many courts and insurance agreements.

Taking climate action and planning for nature-based solutions will deliver a range of benefits to many people and critters. It won't always be easy, but together, we can do this. I hope that you take the time to read through Islands 2050 and vocalize your support. We need to hear from you. I need your help to create a future where my nephew can climb an arbutus tree and maybe, just maybe, chase a sunflower sea star. Cool fact: sunflower sea stars are the largest and fastest sea stars in all of the oceans! Some call them the "cheetah of the sea"!

The writer is a registered professional biologist who specializes in coastal ecological restoration and governance. Working in government, she collaborates across disciplines on projects and programs related to adaptation, sea level rise, resilience, and ecology.

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HEALTH CARE

Islands explore ways to make GPS want to stay

New systems needed to attract and retain Gulf Islands doctors

Third in a three-part series

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

To make the Southern Gulf Islands places where family doctors want to practice, changes are needed to the way doctors are paid and supported and to the unique way medicine is practised here.

Across B.C., advocates are warning of a collapse of the primary care system as doctors are voting with their feet and choosing not to open their own family practices. There are only 3,000 active practising family doctors in B.C., which leaves almost 18 per cent of B.C. residents and up to 50 per cent of Salt Spring residents without a family doctor.

The heart of the problem, says MLA for Saanich North and the Islands Adam Olsen, is remuneration. Family doctors work under what is called a fee for service (FFS) model, where they are paid around \$30 per patient visit. While this may sound like a good salary, family doctors then turn around and pay out up to 35 per cent of their gross earnings on overhead. Essentially operating as small business owners, their overhead can range from medical equipment, rent, insurance, staff support and more. Only patient care time is compensated under FFS, leaving family doctors with unpaid time doing paperwork, charting and other administrative tasks.

"We work really hard here and that's fine. People know that medicine is hard work," said Salt Spring family doctor Christopher Applewhaite, who is also the physician lead for the Southern Gulf Islands chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice. "But one of the things that has happened is the work has stayed hard and the pay hasn't gone up with inflation or overhead costs and real estate costs."

The Ministry of Health points to numbers that show the provincial complement of family practitioners growing faster than the population, with 10.2 per cent growth between 2016 and 2021 compared to the population growth of 5.9 per cent. While it might be true that many GPs are graduating, they are eschewing full-time family practice in favour of working part-time, doing telemedicine, working in hospitals, walk-in clinics or at urgent and primary care centres (UPCCs), or leaving the province.

UPCCs are part of the province's push to implement "team-based primary care," with 26 opened as of 2022. Doctors at these centres do not pay overhead costs and have a team to support their work.

Dr. Erin Carlson, a family doctor on Galiano Island, said the competitive wages and working conditions at UPCCs have even been a factor in the island not being able to attract temporary "locum" physicians.

Flexibility is needed, Carlson said, including adding time and complexity modifiers to the FFS model as other provinces have done. B.C. also needs to make contracts flexible and collaborate with family doctors to figure out contract specifics, she added.

And on the Southern Gulf Islands, where medicine is practised in a different way than urban centres and where incoming doctors face other challenges such as housing, contracts need to be competitive to bring them here.

On Salt Spring, doctors work in the emergency room, with long term and inpatient care, as well as family medicine in the community where they practise under the FFS model.

Doctors on the other Southern Gulf islands

work under an alternative payment contract model, explained Jane Worton, who coordinates the local chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice. They are hired through Island Health and even though their contract comes with some payment for overhead, this isn't always sufficient to cover their costs. What ends up happening, Carlson explained, is these costs are subsidized either by the doctor, the organization involved in running the community's clinic or both. On Galiano, Carlson said she pays a monthly overhead on par with what a doctor running a FFS clinic would pay.

Whether working on a contract or FFS, doctors on the islands are concerned about overhead, Worton said.

"Those conversations are coming up in terms of their concern about their ability to recruit more doctors . . . they are worried about their patients and the patients that are not able to attach."

On the other Southern Gulf Islands, doctors and nurse practitioners do all of the primary care for both their patient panel as well as urgent care for visitors and part-time residents. Caring for a patient on the islands involves doing all of the work a doctor would do, Carlson explained, as well as the work typically done by nurses, practical nurses, technicians and care aides. The positions are unique, Carlson explained, which makes the pot of potential candidates much smaller.

"They get no breaks too . . . doctors don't get time off unless we can replace them," said Worton. Other GPs can't give each other time off as they are busy with their own patients, so locums are the only option. All of the Southern Gulf Islands save for Salt Spring are part of the Rural GP Locum Program, where locums get reimbursed for housing and transportation but still need to find their own housing arrangements. Salt Spring is not considered rural enough, yet efforts are ongoing to include the community in this program.

Another issue reaching crisis proportions on the islands is the cost of housing, a deterrent especially for new graduates, who may be carrying a large debt load from medical training. Housing has also been a factor in the turnover seen on Galiano with four different nurse practitioners, who also do primary care, in the eight and a half years Carlson has been practising there.

A lot is being done locally to recruit and retain doctors, Applewhaite explained, including outreach to residency programs and bringing in residents to on-island clinics. A locum package is being worked on for the community, and doctors are being given flexibility for what facets of medicine they want to practise on the island.

"We are working hard on recruiting, but the reason it's hard to recruit has to do with the remuneration and care model that we have here and that's under the government's control," Applewhaite said. To reform the system, Carlson said, politicians need to bring doctors to the table who have answers as to how reform can happen quickly and effectively.

An ongoing campaign by BC Family Doctors is calling on the government to modernize the "outdated and inequitable" payment schedule, introduce new payment models as well as support the rising infrastructure costs of running family practices. The organization is also calling for resources and support to reduce the hours physicians spend charting, completing forms and managing referrals.

A new physician master agreement is currently being negotiated between the province and B.C.'s doctors, yet what will come out of this process is not clear yet.

Looking ahead, doctors on the islands are working on ways to make their practices more supportive for their work. On Salt Spring Island, Applewhaite said work is ongoing to

the same sort of physician pay level without the need to pay overhead.

"I do think that would make it an easier job to recruit for, if you didn't have to do all the RN work, all the care aide work, all the LPN work, all the social work . . . [if] you had some supports there," Carlson explained.

These community-led solutions need to be supported by the province and so far they have not been, Olsen said.

"We need a less paternalistic ministry, frankly. We need a ministry that looks at community-driven solutions and rewards them," he said.

The ministry also needs to shift focus from where it has been, providing episodic care through UPCCs, and refocus their commitment on primary care networks which are at the heart of longitudinal care. If the focus remains on episodic care, people who would normally access preventative care and early intervention through family medicine will be presenting with advanced stages of disease "that will become more expensive" for the healthcare system and "it will become more tragic for families and for people."

Under their new team-based primary care strategy launched in 2018, the province has launched 53 primary care networks (PCNs) across B.C. and are working with local partners on the islands to develop one or more PCN's here.

May 19 is Family Doctor Day, Carlson said, with a day at the legislature planned including representation from a grassroots patient-led group. A petition calling for government action on this issue, started by a Victoria family, has recently reached 13,891 signatures.



PHOTO BY EMELIE PEACOCK

Medical office assistants and family doctors at the Salt Spring Island Health Centre work hard to serve many of the 50 per cent of Salt Spring Islanders who have a family doctor.

create a primary care network by 2023 or 2024. While more of a concept than an actual entity, this network would likely revolve around a community health centre where doctors would get support in paying overhead, staffing including registered nurses as well as being a location where other allied professionals like physiotherapists can practice.

The Galiano Health Care Centre is applying to become a community health centre-UPCC hybrid, a shift which would bring in more resources in terms of staff, clinic hours and at

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS

MEET WITH ELIZABETH MAY

Join Elizabeth May M.P. at an in-person community meeting! Discuss the issues important to residents of Saanich-Gulf Islands and learn about Elizabeth's parliamentary work in Ottawa.

*Masks are encouraged
and if you're feeling unwell,
we ask that you stay home
to keep our community safe.*



SALT SPRING ISLAND
Fulford Hall
5:30 - 7pm



PENDER ISLAND
Pender Island
Community Hall
4:30 - 6pm



MAYNE ISLAND
Mayne Island
Community Centre
7 - 8:30pm



SATURNA ISLAND
Saturna Recreation
and Culture Centre
6:30 - 8pm



GALIANO ISLAND
Galiano Community Hall
6:30 - 8pm



**Elizabeth
May**
M.P.

If you have any questions, please call
or email Elizabeth.May.C1@parl.gc.ca

25657-2000
elizabethmaymp.ca

Equitable health-care service threatened

An estimated 15,000 residents of Saanich North and the Islands are without primary health care.

Without a family doctor, or a primary care network, you will find yourself sitting in walk-in clinics or emergency rooms addressing each issue, not your overall health, with a doctor who doesn't know you. That is called episodic care. It means no prevention, early intervention, or continuity of care. It means a diminished quality of life.

Currently most family doctors run small businesses. They operate in a fee-for-service model where they bill the provincial government about \$30 for each patient visit. With that they cover their salary, costs of running an office and their staffing.

However, in the last few years primary health care in British Columbia



Adam Olsen
MLA'S
REPORT

changed. The family doctor system that was created decades ago isn't feasible for most doctors now, and it doesn't encourage diversity in family doctors. I've heard clearly that doctors want a shift to team-based care — think doctor, nurse-practitioner, registered nurse — working together for our health and well-being.

Rather than entirely changing this model, the BC NDP's approach is to sort of change it. Some doctors stay

in the fee-for-service system while others are contracted by the local health authority to work in urgent and primary care centres (UPCCs).

It's no wonder that fewer and fewer family doctors are running their own practices. These UPCC contracts pay more money, they give a better work-life balance, and they make it easier to provide care by working within a team. But these clinics see fewer patients, they're open at reduced hours, and they're not easy to get into.

An even larger threat to equitable, universal health care in B.C. is looming: corporatism, and with it, fees for better service. Loblaw and Telus provide two different virtual care services, where you can access a virtual walk-in clinic and professionals like dietitians and registered

nurses. These corporations charge the government for these services and deliver them as an extension of our primary health care system. But they don't stop there. As you might expect with for-profit companies, their real business is in making money from our healthcare needs.

Remember I said you can pay for better service. Well as it turns out the "better service" is the same service we used to get as part of our universal primary care from our family doctor.

It's astonishing that the BC NDP is supporting mega-corporations taking over our primary health care system. It's a threat to one of the most fundamental Canadian values: equitable, freely accessible health care.

We know an unwell population has a lower quality of life and

increases the burden on our taxpayer-funded healthcare system. We know regular screenings can find a small problem threatening to become a big one, but caught early, a health care team can intervene and keep us in better health.

I have heard from my constituents that they want a consistent and reliable relationship with a health and well-being advocate, who can help answer their most personal questions and help navigate their most challenging times.

Life-long health care is better for people and a more efficient health care system. But British Columbians aren't getting it — instead, they're getting fewer family doctors and a growing divide in health between those who can pay, and those who can't.

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SPORTS & REC

RUNNING

Sneakers make up for lost road racing time



PHOTO COURTESY VIRA SERIES 2022

Salt Spring Sneakers club member Marion Young finishes the Hatley Castle 8K.

Salt Spring club in good shape after winter series

BY SUSAN GORDON
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The Vancouver Island Race Series, a staple of local running enthusiasts, got off to a rocky start in January, but as the series winds down this month, the local running club expects several top age group overall awards.

The Salt Spring Sneakers running club team, captained by Eric Ellis, is currently in third place among the smaller teams, and eighth place out of the entire roster of entered teams.

Snow on the course led to rescheduling the first race, the B.C. 8K Championships, until Feb. 27. Reduced to a six-race series from the original eight and pared down to manage around pandemic health orders and restrictions, the popular early-season events continued to attract a bevy of talented athletes, including a number from

Salt Spring Island.

On Jan. 23, the series kicked off with the Cobble Hill 10K in frigid weather. First across the finish line for the Salt Spring Sneakers was Andre Gerard in a time of 47:42, which earned him fourth place in the M65-69 age group. Eric Ellis completed the course in 48:37, his second fastest of six times he has run the race. Marion Young and Doreen Peron finished fifth and seventh in their age groups.

Feb. 13 was a sunny but cold day for the notorious Hatley Castle 8K. The course rolls up and downhill around Royal Roads University and the famous castle, finishing on a section of trail that challenges runners for its terrain.

Gerard was the first Sneaker to cross the finish mat in a time of 38:22, earning fourth in the M65-69 category. Newcomer Mira Byron finished in 39:41, second in the F20-24 age group. Ellis ran 42:23, earning the gold medal. Anna Ford's flying finish landed her in third place in F65-

69. Sixth and ninth respectively in their age groups were Young and Peron.

Running conditions were better than they would have been in January as the Pioneer Inn Harriers 8K got underway in North Saanich on Feb. 27. The deferred race was also the B.C. Athletics Provincial 8K Championships for those athletes who are members of the province's athletic organization. The race was fast and populated with seasoned elites, including the female division winner, two-time Olympian Genevieve Lalonde.

Gerard led the field of Salt Springers, finishing in 37:04 for fourth in the M65-69 class. Ellis' 39:34 earned him third M75-79. Ford won another bronze medal in F65-69, while Young and Peron were in the ribbons for ninth and eighth placings in F60-64 and F65-69.

Peron's husband, Pat Peron, served as the official cyclist for the lead female runner, earning praise from the illustrious winner for motivating Doreen

to pass a group of male runners in her bid for the course record.

The Comox Valley RV Half Marathon race was held on March 13, with Sneakers results as follows:

The first Sneaker across the finish line was Gerard for his inaugural effort on this course. His finish time was 1:43:26, which earned him fourth place out of the 10 men in the 65-69 age group. Ellis' time of 1:51:38 earned him a first-place among three finishers in the M 75-79 age group.

Young finished seventh place in her age group and Doreen Peron was 10th in her age group.

The Westcoast Sooke 10K event was held on March 27, with five Sneakers competing: Pat Peron, Gerard, Ellis, Ford and Doreen Peron, who ran a personal best time in 58:49.

The final race of the VIRS will be the Synergy Management Ltd. Bazan Bay 5K on April 10.

Learn more on the Sneakers website: runssi.teampages.com.

SOCER

Plenty of soccer action to come

Spring league and more

Although SS United players and teams have finished their league and cup play, the soccer program is not done as we have many programs to still offer.



Malcolm Legg
SOCER
ROUND-UP

Referees Course

SS United and BC Soccer are offering a small-sided referees course to all youth (boys and girls) 12 years and older, as well as any adults interested in becoming referees.

The course will teach entrants the laws of the game, how to referee at the small-sided level and become assistant referees on older games as well.

The course is in three parts: April 14 from 7 to 9 p.m. (webinar on computer); April 2, 7-9 p.m. (webinar on computer) and then Thursday, April 28, 4:15 to 6:15 p.m. at the Portlock portable and field.

If interested please contact me at mallegg@shaw.ca to get on the list and I can give you the details to register for the course.

Showcase of Stars Tourney

On Saturday, April 23 at Portlock Park, Salt Spring United will close out its season with the annual Showcase of Stars Tourney. This is a chance to see all our youth and their teams play in small-sided games or exhibition matches throughout the day. There will be skills testing, fun games, lots of food and some surprises to still be announced.

Registration for 2022-23 Season

Yes, now is the best time to register for the 2022-23 soccer season as we have an early bird special until the end of April. On May 1 the fees are at normal rates for all players. If you register now it helps us know what we have for teams next season.

For questions about registration issues, contact Maggie at ssi.register@gmail.com.

Tots and House Programs

Our popular programs for youth aged

eight and younger will continue playing into

April, finishing with our tourney on April 23.

SS United Academy

Another popular program has been our fall and spring academies, which allow youth to work on skill development and team play with our technical staff, led by Josip Bratavon, technical director, and Ciaran Ayton.

This program runs on Fridays at Portlock Park. You can register on our website — www.saltsspringsoccer.com — under the Spring Academy tab.

Windsor Plywood Spring League

Of course one of SS United's big programs in the spring is our Spring League sponsored by Windsor Plywood.

The five-a-side leagues starts Wednesday, April 13 at Portlock Park and continues for 10 Wednesdays until June 15. Tentative age groups are under 10, 10-13 year olds, 14-16 year olds, for both boys and girls. This year we are offering the adult division, which would include ladies, men and youth 16 and older.

Registration can be done on our website www.saltsspringsoccer.com.



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LITERARY EVENTS

Poetry night and book launch on tap

Danielle Blackwood and
Lorraine Gane in focus

Islanders can take in two literary events hosted by the library in coming weeks: the Poetry Open Mic on Thursday, April 7 and Danielle Blackwood's launch of her new book *A Lantern in the Dark* on Wednesday, April 20.

This month's Poetry Open Mic featured poet is Lorraine Gane of Salt Spring.

Gane is currently completing her fourth full-length poetry collection, as well as a book about writing. She mentors writers around the world through online courses, consultations, workshops and manuscript editing.

The poetry night starts at 7 p.m. on Thursday, April 7. People wanting to read a poem can sign up at 6:45 p.m. Gane will read at 7:30 p.m.

Gane was born in Niagara Falls, Ont. and

grew up in Toronto. Selections from her first poetry book, *Even the Slightest Touch Thunders on My Skin* (Black Moss Press, 2002), were shortlisted for the Canadian Literary Awards in 1997 and the League of Canadian Poets chapbook contest. Among her publications since moving to Salt Spring are *Arc of Light* (Raven Chapbooks, 2020), *The Way the Light Enters* (Black Moss Press, 2014), and *The Blue Halo* (Leaf Press, 2014).

The Salt Spring Public Library, which organized the monthly poetry evenings, expressed thanks to the Writers Union of Canada for its generous funding of the event.

Register via programs@saltspringlibrary.com.

In Blackwood's book, she uses sacred astrology to show people when to expect crossroad



LORRAINE
GANE



DANIELLE
BLACKWOOD

times throughout their lives, including the Saturn return and the Midlife Transits. She also reveals how myth and folklore can be unexpected sources of guidance.

"Discover the keys to self-realization, create a self-care tool kit, and learn how to support loved ones going through difficult times," states a library press release. "As you uncover the archetypal dimensions of your own story, you'll make peace with the past, navigate the present, and move toward your unique purpose."

Blackwood is a Salt Spring resident with more than 30 years' experience as a professional astrologer, and is a registered counselling therapist in private practice. She is also the author of the bestselling book, *The Twelve Faces of The Goddess* (Llewellyn, 2018).

EXHIBITION PREVIEW

Art shows spring forth in new season

Action at Salt Spring
Gallery, ArtSpring,
Gallery 8 and Mahon Hall

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Doors are wide open for spring art exhibitions this year after pandemic-forced slowdowns in the past two years.

First up this Friday, April 8 is the Tossed & Found show at Salt Spring Gallery. It's the fifth annual exhibition that features work made from found objects and recycled materials, but the venture missed two years due to Covid-19.

"I am so excited to have another Tossed & Found after a two-year break," said its creator Shirley Command. "I've had so many artists and patrons ask when we'll have another one! Several of the artists return every year and I cannot wait to see what wonderful things they've created. We also have a number of new artists who reached out to join us this year. The range of materials and styles is diverse and it'll make the viewer see found objects in a whole new way."

This year's participants are Command, Peter Allen, Marianne Campbell, Jeri Sparshu, Chris Clarke, Alison Sparshu, Matthew Scaglione, Nycki Samuels, Braven Rayne, Doreen Palme, Paula Smith, Jorge Izaza, John Reid, Tai Whelan and GISS student Peter Ney.

The opening event is on Friday from 5 to 7 p.m. with wine and finger food available. No vaccine passports are required to attend. The show will be up until April 27.

Then next Thursday, April 14, the Guilds of Salt Spring show and sale opens at ArtSpring at 1 p.m. It consists of work by members of four island guilds — the potters, weavers and spinners, painters and basket makers — as well as the Salt Spring Photography Club.

The potters guild was first formed in 1969 and the painters and spinners and weavers are marking their 50th anniversary.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Crowd enjoys the Tossed & Found show at Salt Spring Gallery back in 2019. Work by 13 artists is featured in this year's version, which opens on Friday, April 8.

ries this year. All of the groups continue to grow and evolve, and the pandemic did not stop the creative output of members, only the sharing of it with a wider public.

"In spite of pandemic restrictions our guild has continued to welcome new members and to provide lessons for beginners in weaving and spinning," said spinners and weavers guild president Sandra Hodgins.

"We sense another revival of interest in the fibre arts, even starting from freshly sheared local wool through all the manual processing steps to making yarn from which to weave or knit. A daunting journey, ideally suited to travel-restricted circumstances."

The guilds show continues over the Easter long weekend: until 4 p.m. on the opening day, and then 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Easter Monday, April 18.

On Friday, April 15, Razali May and his team at Gallery 8 begin the celebration of the business' 13th anniversary with the annual Symbolically 8 exhibition, featuring all of the gallery's artists. May said he is excited about the new work and looks forward to seeing everyone at the open-

ing next Friday from 5 to 8 p.m. The show continues through May 11.

Salt Spring Arts' spring art show of work by more than 20 visual artists also opens on April 15.

"Mahon (Memorial) Hall: The Nature of Memory — commemorates the hall, or more precisely how we remember it, the stories it holds, conceals and has generated," explains press material from Salt Spring Arts.

The show is curated by artist Stefanie Denz and historian Chris Arnett and acknowledges the hall as "a product of the colonization of an island peopled and stewarded by several Coast Salish groups."

"Artists are diving into stories of the building: the circumstances of its erection, the land it occupies, its many community uses. Personal memories are infused and augmented with a historical reflection, inspiring a recalibrated relationship to the building that is explored in photographs, installations, paintings and drawings."

The exhibit is open daily through April 24. Various artist talks, panels and other programs are also taking place.

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ISLAND LIFE

YOUTH

Hackergal sessions fly

Library hosts program about coding and tech for island girls

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Girls aged 12 to 18 are invited to participate in a virtual girls coding club led by Hackergal ambassador Jessica Young.

Sessions will run via Zoom on Mondays from April 11 through May 9 from 7 to 8 p.m.

Young, who is a nationally trained youth ambassador, will teach attendees how to code fun projects on Lynx,

which is Hackergal's official platform for beginners. No previous coding experience is required.

According to the Hackergal website, the program is designed to encourage learners to achieve their full potential through acquiring "future-ready competencies" of critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication, growth mindset and global citizenship.

"This club also prepares girls for the annual national Hackathon from May 25 to June 1, which brings girls together from all over the country to compete and have fun coding solutions to challenges together," explains information about the group.

"Learning to code and making a difference through technology goes beyond programming knowledge and skills. That's why these core competencies equip girls with the ability to meet the complex demands of diverse contexts and be successful in their everyday lives and in their future."

The sessions are co-hosted by teen programs librarian Amy Trepanier, who said the idea behind the program is to increase the number of young women entering the field of technology.

Girls can register by sending an email to atrepanier@saltspringlibrary.com.

More information is also available through hackergal.org.

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SINCERELY CARING: Staff members from Islanders Working Against Violence receive a cheque for \$10,000 from the planning committee of Salt Spring's 100 Men Who Care group. IWAV was the most recent winning charity of funds from the 100 Men, whose members will hear presentations from and vote to give funds to yet another charity at their next meeting on June 1.



what's on this week

Wed.

Apr 6

Fri.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is CRD director Gary Holman. At the Salt Spring library program room. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sat.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Baroque Presents François Couperin: Leçons de Ténèbres. Concert featuring St. Barnabas Choral Scholars Gwen Jamieson, Anna van der Hooft and Jan van der Hooft. All Saints By-the-Sea. 7 p.m.

Bex & Safiya. Live at Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Islands 2050 Policy Statement Amendment Project. Event booth to learn about the project and provide opinions. Saturday Market. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Ivy Bashing Work Party. Volunteers needed to help remove invasive ivy from Mouat Park so native plants can survive and thrive. Bring loppers, small saws, gloves and big plastic bags if you can. Meet at the main parking lot on Seaview Ave. 1 to 4 p.m.

StoryWalk. See Friday's listing.

Apr 8

Mon.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

See Friday's listing.

CFUW/University Women Meeting. Guest speaker is Ruth Waldick of Transition Salt Spring, who will unravel some of the mysteries of climate change and how it will affect Salt Spring. Lions Hall. 10 a.m.

Tues.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Probus Group Meeting. Guest speaker is Ken Lee, who will examine the background to the current surge in media misinformation, also known as "fake news." Lions Hall. 10 a.m.

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

Apr 11

Wed.

ACTIVITIES

Challenging Injustice: A Zoom Conversation With Human Rights Activists Keiko Mary Murakami-Kitagawa and Tosh Kitagawa.

A Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island presentation. 7 to 8:30 p.m. See saltspringjapanesegarden.com for the link.

Music Bingo.

See last Wednesday's listing.

Apr 13

THE FRITZ CINEMA

Cyrano shows on Friday, April 8 through Tuesday, April 12 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See www.thefritz.ca for more movie info.

EXHIBITIONS

- Today, April 6, from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., is the last day to see **Woman With Conviction**, a multi-artist exhibit of work by the **She Said Collective**, at **Salt Spring Gallery** until April 6. The gallery is open Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- Tossed & Found**, an exhibition of artwork by 13 island artists using found objects and recycled materials, runs at **Salt Spring Gallery** from April 8 to 27 (Wednesdays through Saturdays) with an opening event on Friday, April 8 from 5 to 7 p.m.

- Salt Spring Painters Guild** members show work in the **lobby of ArtSpring** through April.

- Rolando Lampitoc** shows prints, paintings and drawings in the **Salt Spring library program room** through April.

- Peter Levitt** has a poetry and art display in the **Salt Spring library lobby display case** until April 30.

- Salt Spring Painters Guild** member **Hazel Gardner** is exhibiting pastel art work at **Country Grocer Cafe** for the month of April.

- Also through April, **Sheri Standen** is showing her watercolour paintings at **Harvest Moon** - a new business in the **Country Grocer** mall.

Poetry Open Mic

With featured poet Lorraine Gane

Thursday, April 7 at 7 p.m.

A Salt Spring Public Library event via Zoom

Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.

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Thur.

Apr 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Fretless. Progressive Canadian folk music quartet performs at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Open Mic.

Royal Canadian Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Sarah Osbourne & The Magic Buttons. Live at Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

Poetry Open Mic.

Featuring poet Lorraine Gane. 7 p.m. Email programs@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.

Fri.

Apr 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Wannabeatle2 Live! At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

DJ Tetsu.

Live at Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk.

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

Apr 10

ACTIVITIES

Community Meeting With MP Elizabeth May. Hear from Elizabeth May, ask questions and share concerns.

Fulford Hall. 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Islands 2050 Policy Statement

Amendment Project. Event booth to learn about the project and provide opinions at the Harbour House Hotel. 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Central Community Hall Society.

Board of directors meeting at the hall. 1 p.m. Public welcome.

StoryWalk. See Friday's listing.

Apr 12

ACTIVITIES

Spirit of Adventure Dance+Arts Adventure Series.

10-week series begins at Central Hall today. Move and Groove: Creative Movement and Play for ages 5-7 from 3:40 to 4:40 p.m.; Ballet (+Lyrical) for ages 7-10 from 4:50 to 5:50 p.m.; Stage Arts (+Magic!) for ages 7-12 from 6 to 7 p.m.; Adult (+Teen) Creative Dance Series for age 16+ from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Register through www.spiritofadventure.ca/

Apr 13

ACTIVITIES

Spirit of Adventure Dance+Arts Adventure Series.

10-week series begins at Central Hall today. Move and Groove: Creative Movement and Play for ages 5-7 from 3:40 to 4:40 p.m.; Ballet (+Lyrical) for ages 7-10 from 4:50 to 5:50 p.m.; Stage Arts (+Magic!) for ages 7-12 from 6 to 7 p.m.; Adult (+Teen) Creative Dance Series for age 16+ from 7:30 to 8:30 p.m. Register through www.spiritofadventure.ca/

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WE	0628	2.9	9.5	SU	1748	1.1	3.6
ME	1415	0.8	2.6	DI			
ME	2257	3.1	10.2				
7	0358	2.8	9.2	11	0225	3.2	10.5
TH	0626	2.8	9.2	MO	0932	2.3	7.5
TH	1458	0.9	3.0	LU	1055	2.3	7.5
JE				LU	1850	1.1	3.6
8	0005	3.1	10.2	12	0254	3.1	10.2
FR	1547	0.9	3.0	TU	0923	2.2	7.2
VE				MA	1255	2.4	7.9
9	0103	3.2	10.5	MA	1945	1.2	3.9
SA	1644	1.0	3.3	13	0319	3.1	10.2
SA				WE	0933	2.0	6.6
				WE	1419	2.5	8.2
				ME	2033	1.3	4.3

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Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on

Friday, April 15 - Good Friday
statutory holiday - and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Monday, April 18.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday April 20 edition will be Wednesday, April 13, noon

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SOCIAL JUSTICE

Activists in Japanese-Canadian community share experiences

Keiko Mary Murakami-Kitagawa and Tosh Kitagawa in conversation via Zoom on April 13

Islanders are invited to hear a conversation with two human rights activists with Salt Spring ties next Wednesday, April 13.

The Japanese Garden Society of Salt Spring Island is presenting the Challenging Injustice event with Keiko Mary Murakami-Kitagawa and Tosh Kitagawa via Zoom, beginning at 7 p.m.

As garden society press material states, Murakami-Kitagawa and Kitagawa have spent decades as human rights activists in the Japanese-Canadian community and beyond.

"Their Zoom conversation with Rumiko Kanesaka, a long-term volunteer of the Japanese Garden Society, will range through history, their own family stories, and what empowers them to emerge from personal and collective trauma as strong community members."

Murakami-Kitagawa is the older sister of well-known Salt Spring Islanders Rose and Richard Murakami, and with them endured the wartime dispossession and removal of Japanese-Canadians from the island. She and her husband



PHOTO COURTESY JAPANESE GARDEN SOCIETY OF SALT SPRING ISLAND

Keiko Mary Murakami-Kitagawa and Tosh Kitagawa.

continue to devote their lives to challenging injustice.

"The generation which experienced the uprooting of Japanese Canadians from the coast is vanishing and an opportunity to hear their first-hand story is becoming rare."

The link for next Wednesday's event can be accessed on the saltspringjapanesegarden.com website.

CLIMATE ACTION

Rebate program for islanders heats up

Wood stove upgrades lead to benefits and positive change

SUBMITTED BY TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Many of us love a cozy fireplace to warm our home in the cooler months but consider the health impacts of wood smoke — and the efficiency of wood stoves as a heat source. The fact is, wood stoves release a lot of pollutants that create health problems.

Replacing that old clunker with a cleaner-burning wood stove or, even better, a heat pump can save money, and reduce hazardous air pollution for you and your neighbours.

Transition Salt Spring can help you make the switch with a new rebate that's being offered through the Climate Action Coach Program. The Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate provides a variety of incentives to upgrade your home heating. The rebate starts at \$300 and goes up from there. As many as 50 homes could replace their old smoky wood stoves with EPA 2020 certified stoves on Salt Spring, and another 50 on the Southern Gulf Islands. A cleaner option starts at a rebate of \$750 to toss out that old stove to upgrade to a heat pump. This rebate can even be combined with provincial and federal rebates for heat pumps to maximize your rebates.

And here's an added incentive: As of April 1, 2022, heat pumps are exempt from PST. So that can be up to \$6,000 with the additional incentives available from CleanBC and the Greener Homes Canada Program if you switch to a heat pump.

Why should I upgrade my woodstove?

On the Gulf Islands, many of us rely on wood heat when the power goes out. Many of us are also attached to the cozy ambiance of a wood stove. And for many islanders, a wood stove is simply our only source of heating. But, new stoves help us all breathe more



easily. Older uncertified wood stoves, for example, release 15 to 30 grams of smoke per hour (g/h), new EPA-certified stoves produce no more than 2.0 g/h. Burning wood leads to carbon emissions and harmful particulate matter in our neighbourhoods. The good news is we can all take steps to use our wood stoves more efficiently.

"Changing out one old, dirty, inefficient wood stove is equivalent to the PM2.5 pollution reduction of taking five old diesel buses off the road."

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

Transition Salt Spring recommends upgrading your out-of-date woodstove to one that's EPA 2020 certified. Better yet, consider installing a heat pump as a cleaner alternative that'll save you money in the long run.

"Changing out one old, dirty, inefficient wood stove is equivalent to the PM2.5 pollution reduction of taking five old diesel buses off the road," says the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Residential wood smoke contains PM2.5, carbon monoxide (CO), toxic air pollutants (e.g., benzene and formaldehyde), and climate gases (e.g., meth-

ane and black carbon). Exposure to PM2.5 can cause premature death and harmful effects on the heart and blood vessels. Particulate pollution exposure is also linked to a variety of other public health problems, including respiratory diseases.

The Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate program is made possible by the BC Lung Foundation and the BC Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

A big thanks to our partner retailers offering discounts to Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate applicants. They are:

The Home Design Centre (Salt Spring) and Galiano Trading, and Pender Home Building Centre are each offering a \$50 discount on a new wood stove.

Mouat's Home Hardware (Salt Spring) is offering a 15% discount to verified rebate applicants on the purchase of a wood moisture meter, a log stacker and an EcoFan.

And if you're shopping for a heat pump, Fresco Refrigeration (Salt Spring) is giving verified rebate applicants \$100 off to the first 15 households who submit a completed Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate application.

If the price tag is a stretch for your budget, we are offering a low-interest climate action loan of up to \$5,000 through our partners, the Transition Salt Spring Enterprise Coop. Find out more at our transitionsaltspring.com website. (Search for Enterprise Cooperative.)

Once you've made the decision to part with "old smoky," you can begin upgrading to cleaner wood-burning, or better yet, a heat pump with the Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate Program.

Take the first step towards cleaner, more efficient home heating and fill out our pre-approval form for the upgrade that best suit your home and budget.

Go to <https://form-can.keela.co/pre-approval-wood-stove-upgrade>.

If you have any questions, contact climate action coach Rob Lowrie at climate-coach@transitionsaltspring.com, or get started by going to transitionsaltspring.com/cac-woodstove-exchange/.

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Tender

SCHOOL DISTRICT
No. 64 (Gulf Islands)INVITATION TO TENDER
Student Water Transportation Service

Documents for the tender for "Student Water Transport Service" will be available to contractors April 4, 2022 on BCBid (bcbid.gov.bc.ca) and on the school district website (sd64.bc.ca).

Sealed tenders will be received **no later than May 13th, 2022, 2:00 p.m.** local time, at the School District No. 64 School Board Office for "Student Water Transportation Service", providing student transportation for the Gulf Islands.

The contract may be a one-year contract or a multi-year contract not to exceed three (3) years. The provision of service is expected to commence September 6, 2022.

Tenders will be opened immediately after closing time. The content of tenders will not generally be made public, except at the discretion of the school district.

The school district reserves the right to reject any or all tenders received.

Contact: Jesse Guy, Secretary Treasurer
School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands)
112 Rainbow Road
Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K3
Email: jguy@sd64.org

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Followed by last week's now waxing New Moon in Aries, which arrives at half-mast now, there were a series of other key conjunctions. These include Mercury to the Sun and then to Chiron, the Sun to Chiron and Mars to Saturn all over the course of just a couple of days. These new cycles will prove quite evident as spring 2022 shifts quickly from low to high gear.

These altogether reveal a renewed expression of the spirit of community. This can occur locally over via communities of people from all over the world, thanks to the internet. Themes of awakening, healing, revolution and freedom are all featured in this line-up.

The historic conjunction of Jupiter and Neptune in Pisces is next and occurs on April 12. It hosts all the vision, passion and purpose of the centaur (Chiron) with its mighty bow stretched to full capacity and full feathered arrow aimed at the very centre of the galaxy, the symbolic vortex of truth.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

A bold, energetic, determined and strategic resolve is guiding your actions now. Windows of opportunity have opened and you are determined to take full advantage. Your focus is sharp and pointed, yet your approach may also be described as alternative and maverick. Just be careful that excess will not obscure wisdom.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Some cycles are better for inner work than outer and this is one of them. You may, however, find yourself splitting the difference, attending also to usual, outer routines. The inner work implies clearing doubt, confusion, lack of focus and simply clearing the clutter or attending to unfinished business and strategic planning.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

The added Aries impulse triggered an assertion of your sense of individuality. This will prove especially evident if you find yourself exploring new places. In fact, circumstances of late have been pushing you to explore new frontiers, whether physically, mentally, emotionally or imaginatively. One way or another, you are likely experiencing dissolution of the past.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Fresh starts socially, publicly and/or professionally should be evident by now. These include an expansion of your scope, vision, philosophy and some of your core beliefs. Yet, these new impulses may be leaving you feeling confused and a little lost as you enter new territory. If this is true, keep moving forward but slow down.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Exploring new horizons is a source of excitement and adventure for you now. It comes with a provocative, passionate and edgy tone. As well, it could lead to the fulfillment of long-cherished dreams. Changes in your career, social status and lifestyle in general are also likely and these will become especially evident next month.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

A period of clearing and purging has entered its next effective stage. While a lot of activity may be external and in your environment, a personal transformation process is also highlighted. Life a snake shedding its old skin the process can be somewhat unsightly but the end result is a fresh, gleaming and renewed sense of being.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

New energy in the relationship department should be evident by now. If something new and important begins for you now in this regard, themes of healing will be strongly featured. Yet, you should also be prepared to give more, initially at least, than you might want to. Positively, the changes could prove beneficial financially.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Fresh starts in your overall lifestyle are indicated now. These will prove to be the consequence of both deep changes close to home and significant changes on relationship fronts. Venus entering Pisces includes a good possibility of romance, or at least of quality times shared with people you love. The key is to take the initiative.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Balancing a mood for inner retreat, which has been strong for some months, with the springtime impulse to explore new possibilities is a current theme. Since your sights are set on the future and to making changes in where and how you live, you will be on the search. All the while, you yearn for comfort and a deeper sense of security.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You are feeling the Aries fire at your core, or at least experiencing it close to home. You will recognize it as new and vigorous assertions guided by an exploratory urge. Yet, in some respects you may be in a process of rediscovery of yourself and your place in the world. Change is brewing on many levels but for now it may be largely internal.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Aries time for Aquarius often synchronizes with intellectual assertion. You become more assertive and less likely to idly agree with others. In fact, you tend to push through and beyond popular opinion guided by a spirit of debate and genuine journalistic determination. Other factors indicate a whole new sense of appreciation of beauty.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 19)

The Aries spark tends to activate your ambitions to generate more income somehow. While you may have begun to do so already, this impulse will grow stronger from mid-April. In fact, 'doing the numbers' could well emerge as your main focus for a while. Guided by a weave of practical needs and deep dreams, the results could prove quite enchanting.

LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

Driftwood litter campaign returns during April

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The 2022 Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign is now underway, with community members and groups invited to clear island roads and beaches of trash and other debris through the month of April.

Now in its fourth year — we started in 2018 but skipped 2020 due to Covid-19 — more and more people and groups have joined in each time. You don't need to tackle a huge area to have an impact: every little bit counts! Watch this space in coming weeks to see which roads and beaches people have committed to cleaning up, and we hope you will be inspired to add your name to the list. Just give us a call at the Driftwood office

— 250-537-9933 — email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com, or drop in to see us at 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Once again our campaign sponsor Laurie's Garbage and Recycling is providing bags and covering garbage disposal costs for those who want to use that benefit. And TJ Beans is offering a complimentary coffee, tea or hot chocolate to participants. After registering through the Driftwood office, just drop by to get the required coupons to present to Laurie's and TJ Beans. (People are asked to not include their own household garbage in the bags taken to Laurie's.)

As you can see from the photos on this page, some people have already started and/or finished the area they chose.

Claire Sicherman and her family are passionate about getting various chunks of debris — much of it from broken-up floats — off of Baker Beach. They spent a few hours cleaning up on Saturday.

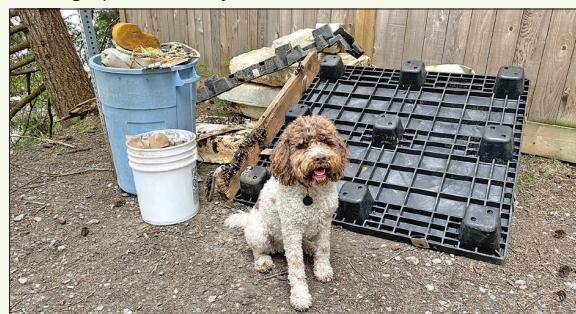


PHOTO COURTESY CLAIRE SICHERMAN



PHOTO COURTESY LINDA DARES & SUSANNAH DEVITT
Linda Dares, left, and Susannah Devitt with their garbage-hauling wagon on Robinson Road over the weekend. Note the gloves: They are a must for the job at hand!

One piece of debris they cannot deal with on their own is an old float or dock that washed up a year or two ago and is slowly deteriorating, with the bits of styrofoam spreading across a wide area.

"I reported it last year to the government but they said apparently nothing can be done about it. So it's still sadly sitting there on the west side of Baker Beach spreading styrofoam everywhere," said Sicherman.

She wonders if anyone on the island would be able and willing to help remove and dispose of it.

Susannah Devitt and Linda Dares volunteered to pick up the trash on Robinson Road again this year and didn't hesitate in getting the job done last weekend.

We encourage people to send us photos of themselves in action and their trash haul for publishing in the paper and on our Instagram page @driftwoodnews. You can post photos on Instagram with a #letspickitupsaltspring22 hashtag (and tag us, please!) or we can post for you on our Instagram page if you email photos to us.



PHOTO COURTESY CLAIRE SICHERMAN

Jeremy Sicherman tries to take apart a piece of an old dock before carrying it up the stairs from Baker Beach on Saturday.

Check out the list at the below to see what areas have been pledged so far. Duplication of areas is not discouraged, since more trash will likely accumulate throughout the month.

Thanks in advance to everyone who participates in the campaign and to the sponsors on this page!

OUR RUNNING LIST AS OF MONDAY IS:

- Sicherman family — Baker Beach.
- Linda Dares & Susannah Devitt — Robinson Road.
- Krista & Brent Lefler — Ross Road, Walker's Hook Road from Ross Road to Grantville Street and lower Grantville Street to the water.
- Elizabeth Nolan — North End Road from Whims Road to North Beach.
- Amanda McLeod — North End Road from North Beach to Southeby Point Road.
- Salt Spring Sneakers — Walker's Hook Road and North Beach Road — exact area TBD.
- John Howe — Cusheon Lake Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to Stewart Road.
- Nancy Johnson — Fulford-Ganges Road from the Driftwood to Charlesworth Road.
- Angie Bailey — Maliview Drive & Whims Road.
- Gail Sjuberg — Cranberry Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to Blackburn Road.

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