

inside:

spring home  
and yard fix-up



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LET'S  
PICK IT UP,  
Salt Spring!

**20** Island-wide  
clean-up campaign  
winds down



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blooms at ArtSpring

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#### INSERTS:

- Country Grocer
- Thrifty Foods
- Home Hardware
- The Local Liquor St.
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Wednesday,  
Apr. 27, 2022

62nd year  
Issue 17  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING SNEAKERS

**COMMUNITY-MINDED RUNNERS:** Salt Spring Sneakers running club members with a haul of trash from cleaning up part of Walker's Hook Road on Saturday are, Eric Ellis, Julie van Soeren, Anna Ford, Karen Clark, Janine Fernandes-Hayden, Sabine Georgy, Renee Hayden and Pasley Hayden. For more on the Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign, see page 20.

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

# Trust proposes housing change

Trustees want feedback on accessory dwelling unit bylaw

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) has given first reading to a bylaw meant to help ease the rental housing shortage on the island.

A bylaw change allowing homeowners to set up secondary suites in all zones, including in accessory buildings, was one of the Housing Action Program Task Force's recommendations made in the summer of 2021. Trustee Laura Patrick characterized the bylaw presented to the LTC on April 19 as a work in progress and she is eager to hear from would-be landlords and all residents of the island about what they want to see included in the final product.

The intent of the bylaw, Patrick said, is to allow would-be landlords to provide rental accommodation to tenants in nearly all zones

on the island. Bylaw 530 "does not represent the finished product, at all," she stressed. It will now go out to agencies, groups, First Nations and the public for feedback.

"A first reading purely signals that we want to talk to the community."

An accessory dwelling unit (ADU), according to the bylaw, is a unit that is accessory to a single-family dwelling and intended to be independent and separate. An ADU could be contained within a house or as an accessory structure, including "tiny homes, garden suites, seasonal cottages or full-time rental cottages." An ADU could also be a mobile or manufactured home, the bylaw stated. The proposal does not include RVs or detached dwelling units on wheels as ADUs.

Patrick said wording about tiny homes should be removed from the bylaw, as they are generally smaller than a building permit allows, aren't allowed under provincial build-

ing codes and should be dealt with separately. Yet as an important "rung on the ladder" of home ownership, Patrick feels they should be dealt with.

The bylaw lists requirements of accessory dwelling units detached from a home, including that the floor area is a maximum of 90 square metres, on a lot 1.2 hectares or larger, is not located in a portion of a lot identified as a community well capture zone and is not on a lot with a duplex or multi-family dwelling.

Property owners would be allowed only one detached ADU per lot.

If located in a community water system, water for any ADU has to come from alternative potable water supply or have written confirmation from the community water system operator that the site has sufficient capacity to supply the unit.

**ACCESSORY DWELLINGS** continued on 2

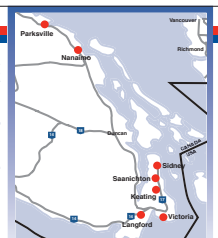
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**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT  
NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT  
WILL BE IN  
STAGE 2 WATERING RESTRICTIONS  
AS OF MAY 1, 2022  
PER BYLAW 301**

**Stage 2 Watering Restrictions:**

**SPRINKLING**

- Even/odd numbered addresses can sprinkle on even/odd dates between 7 pm and 7 am up to a maximum of 2 hours per day on permitted days.
- New lawns can be sprinkled during the hours stated above for 2 hours per day on permitted days or outside those times with a special permit.

**MICRO OR DRIP IRRIGATION OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS**

- Even/odd numbered addresses can water trees, shrubs, and gardens with micro or drip irrigation on even/odd dates before 10 am or after 5 pm up to a maximum of 4 hours per day.

**HAND WATERING OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS  
(with a bucket or hose with spring-loaded nozzle only)**

Even/odd numbered addresses can hand water trees, shrubs, and gardens on even/odd dates between 7 pm and 7 am up to a maximum of 3 hours per day.

**WASHING OF VEHICLES & BOATS**

- Vehicles and boats can be washed anytime using a hose or pressure washer with a spring-loaded nozzle.

**FILLING POOLS, HOT TUBS, FOUNTAINS, & GARDEN FEATURES**

- Anytime.

**WATERING OF PUBLIC PARKS & PLAYING FIELDS**

- Between 5 am and 10 am or 5 pm and 10 pm or outside those times with a special permit.

Visit the Water section for conservation tips or the Documents section to view the entire Bylaw or its overview.

**www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca**  
**(250) 537-9902**

**Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.**  
**Every Drop Counts!**



PHOTO COURTESY PHIL GRANGE

**SAFE CROSSING:** Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club members who worked on replacing a bridge washed out during last winter's storms on the Chris Hatfield Trail in the north end of Ruckle Provincial Park with a stronger, improved version are, from left, Pat Peron, Murray Coates, Philip Grange and Kees Ruurs. The volunteers also had help from BC Parks staff.

## 'Wide net' being cast

### ACCESSORY DWELLINGS

continued from 1

Patrick clarified that the bylaw does not create new density, which detractors may claim.

"It's simple math. We're saying a primary residence plus one ADU, whichever you choose to use, equals one single family unit."

She referenced existing properties that have a primary residence and a cottage, noting that the cottage does not change the density.

"[When] planning, we always have to assume that a large family is going to live there. So when you do your original zoning or planning . . . [a lot could represent] a household of six, seven, eight, 12," she said. "Just because I live in a house, and I now have somebody living in my cottage, that doesn't change the density of my lot."

The staff report presented to trustees April 19 mentioned numerous issues that need further analysis in order to support ADUs in all zones. These include reviews of how the bylaw aligns with the official community plan and the Islands Trust policy statement, which is undergoing an amendment, as well as potential effects on the island's infrastructure, water districts' concerns about limited water capacity and building code restrictions.

In a written report to the LTC, housing task force chair Rhonan Heitzmann stated that the bylaw falls short of the principle that the task force hopes to see established.

"In order to find the willing landlords and make use of all available buildings, the permission needs to be extended as broadly as possible, and a way should be found to cap the total numbers to limit the overall impact on population growth."

Heitzmann said with some tweaks before it is adopted the bylaw is "close to the best we are going to get at this time, given the constraints of the official community plan and limited resources to explore more innovative solutions."

How many ADUs will be allowed under Bylaw 530, and how these would be counted or monitored, is still to be determined. Regional planning manager Stefan Cernak said this is "one of the biggest questions we have. Because the building footprint is allowed, logic says 'What's the difference?', but the legal interpretation could be different. And we just don't have that."

Patrick said the LTC wants to hear from the public, including would-be landlords. Specifically, she wants to hear about what kind of controls they would want to see on establishment of ADUs. These could include voluntary covenants like Central Saanich has

established, use of a registry, limiting lot sizes or other mechanisms.

Rather than putting some parts of the island off limits, which makes a narrow pool narrower and might prevent an appropriate lot within a certain zone from pursuing an ADU, Patrick wants the bylaw to be more specific about what a good lot is.

"This bylaw doesn't authorize thousands of units. We're casting a wide net, but we only want hundreds of units to come out of this," she said at the April 19 meeting.

From potential landlords, Patrick wants to hear how the Islands Trust can make it a fair, equitable and not overly burdensome process for them.

"There's already enough hurdles" for establishing this kind of housing on rural properties, Patrick said, including building permits and acquiring water and sewer services.

A 2020 Capital Regional District (CRD) housing needs assessment estimated that an additional 601 households would form on the island between 2016 and 2025.

In his written report, Heitzmann related an anecdote about a local carpenter and their family who are losing their rental in June. Despite a significant household income, well above the median on the island, the family did not qualify for a mortgage large enough to

buy a home on Salt Spring. They applied for a \$3,000-a-month rental home along with 30 applicants, and were outbid.

"I fear that we have reached a point where even if all our best recommendations are implemented it will be too little [too] late," he wrote in his written report to the LTC.

Patrick characterized the workforce housing crisis on the island as "horrific" with over 30 vacant positions at the hospital and people living in their vehicles or in the 80-odd live-aboard boats in Ganges Harbour alone.

"When you've got single moms rowing out to these boats with a baby, and it's because this is her community and she lost her housing . . . people who are putting themselves into more and more marginal situations that are becoming dangerous . . . That breaks my heart."

"We need to do a thousand things to fix the housing problem. All this is doing is trying to make it easier for people who want to be landlords on this island. And there aren't very many of them," Patrick said. "We're trying to control housing and we need to be equitable about it and we need to be realistic. And we're going to have to solve this problem. No action is not acceptable."

To review a copy of Bylaw 530 and the associated staff report, see the link to our story on [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com).

**"We need to do a  
thousand things to fix  
the housing problem."**

**LAURA PATRICK**  
*Salt Spring trustee*





PHOTOS COURTESY HELP UKRAINE SSI

**PICK ME!** Three of numerous items generously donated for the Help Ukraine fundraiser, which is set for Fulford Hall this Saturday, April 30 from 2 to 7 p.m. The event features a silent auction, items for outright purchase, music and food. Entry by donation. People who still have items to donate or have questions can email [helpukrainesss@gmail.com](mailto:helpukrainesss@gmail.com).

## FOOD SECURITY

# Local food programs fertilized



PHOTO COURTESY GROW LOCAL

Polly Orr and Nick Jones, co-leads for the Grow Local initiative.

## Grow Local project kicks off on Salt Spring

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Agricultural Alliance and the Salt Spring Community Economic Sustainability Commission (CESC) are set to launch an eight-month pilot project called Grow Local.

According to a press release issued Monday, the project seeks to expand local food production and enhance the economic viability of farming.

"This new initiative will turn key recommendations from the Salt Spring Island Area Farm Plan into action," states the release. "The main goals of the project are to build collaborative opportunities and test innovative marketing strategies that strengthen the regional food economy."

Local producers and food justice advocates Nick Jones and Polly Orr are co-leading the Grow Local initiative. The Grow Local team will be responsible for testing food systems

that develop and strengthen short supply chains for the food we eat, and making connections and building relationships across the region to increase the viability of island businesses while also reducing our carbon footprint.

"A robust local food network not only provides more nutritious food for our tables but increases community resilience in the face of the climate emergency," states the CESC and agricultural alliance.

Grow Local says it is looking to build a strong network of participants who want to help expand the island's local food system. Local growers, producers, distributors and consumers who are interested in scaling up their productivity within the Salt Spring network are invited to contact Jones and Orr at [growlocalssi@gmail.com](mailto:growlocalssi@gmail.com) for more information or to become involved.

Grow Local's core funding was secured from the Island Coastal Economic Trust, with additional funding from the CESC, which is a Capital Regional District commission.

## SOLID WASTE

# Community grants offered

Up to \$3,000 for local projects tackling waste headed to Hartland Road landfill

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is giving out grants of up to \$3,000 to community projects that help reduce waste headed for the landfill.

The Rethink Waste Community Grant program is a chance for residents in the CRD region to bring ideas to life that "reduce our collective waste and promote a circular economy in the community," CRD environmental services committee chair Barb Desjardins stated in an April 21 news release.

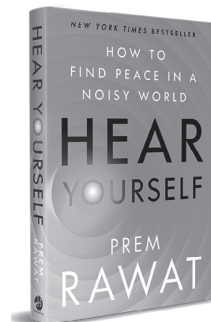
The grant is part of efforts to reduce waste generation from 390 to 250 kilograms per person per year within 10 years, as outlined in the CRD's solid waste management plan approved in May 2021.

In their announcement of the grant, the CRD gave some examples of community projects that could get funding, such as pop-up free stores, three-stream (compost, recycling, garbage) waste removal at community events, repair workshops or special events.

Anyone in the capital region can apply, including "individuals, non-profit organizations, post-secondary clubs, K-12 schools and parent advisory councils."

Funding is available now and applications are reviewed on a first-come, first-served basis. For details, visit [crd.bc.ca/rethink-waste](http://crd.bc.ca/rethink-waste).

## A GOOD BOOK DESERVES DISCUSSION



Discussion hosted by Salt Spring Books  
Book Presentation & Discussion  
**SATURDAY, April 30, 11am - 12 noon**  
In Person at the Library  
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**NOW on Zoom via**  
[ssi.booktalks@gmail.com](mailto:ssi.booktalks@gmail.com)

Book excerpts provided to all participants



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# 308

The number of fire calls SSIFR responded to in 2021.

# 287

Medical emergencies responded to in 2021 — in many cases as the first on scene.

# 181

Number of mandatory community evacuation orders issued in BC due to wildfires in 2021.

# 98

Percentage of BC communities that have comparable International Association of Firefighters wages, including Salt Spring Island.

# 36

Percentage reduction in space for the proposed firehall from 2013 to 2022 (18,000 square feet to 11,500).

# 13

The number of earthquakes that have occurred in the first two months of 2022 in Canada, half in Western Canada.

# 0

The amount of new taxes required to build a new firehall based on current budgeting.

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## LOCAL NEWS MATTERS

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# OPINION

2019 CCNA Awards  
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjoberg)  
Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

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



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### EDITORIAL

## A step, at least

**W**ay back in 2005, alarms were heard about Salt Spring becoming just like Martha's Vineyard.

Some parts of the comparison to the Massachusetts tourist haven might be considered desirable, but then, as now, the concerns were about gentrification of the community and a lack of affordable housing for resident workers to keep the public services and businesses running, and how to maintain a diverse and authentic community.

The economic crash of 2008 tempered the rush and real estate prices for a number of years, but here we are again in a panic and without the means to quickly create the housing needed today.

We know that the same thing is happening in many parts of B.C., and last year the province saw net migration of 100,797 people, the highest number since 1961. But that doesn't make it any easier to accept the impact on our own community.

**THE ISSUE:**  
Lack of island housing

**WE SAY:**  
Draft Bylaw 530 worth the effort

Last week the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee gave first reading to Bylaw 530, which would allow creation of rental housing using accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in all zones on the island. Trust staff caution that several issues need to be explored further both technically and legally before the draft bylaw gets too far. Even if those things are resolved, the bylaw does not eliminate other persistent hurdles such as water and sewer services and building permits. Turning one's lot into a mini trailer park of recreational vehicles is not envisioned — at all. One ADU per lot (and RVs don't qualify to be an ADU) would be allowed.

It takes a motivated property owner to even consider adding a rental unit to their home or property and to become a landlord as a result. And a balance needs to be struck between not making it so expensive and inconvenient for property owners to take this action and for units to be truly affordable and/or suitable. A land-use bylaw may not be equipped to help achieve such a balance.

Still, despite the obvious challenges that this bylaw faces in even being finalized and passed in a useful form, it is something that must be done to at least put a tiny Band-aid on the blood loss of the working members of this community.

As trustee Laura Patrick said last week, "We're going to have to solve this problem. No action is not acceptable." We agree.

PARKER



THE GOOD NEWS IS THAT THE SUMMER IS STILL COMING.  
THE BAD NEWS IS THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE UNTIL NEXT YEAR

## Rec land purchase urged

### VIEWPOINT

The following was submitted to the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) in advance of its April 26 meeting, and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY ELIZABETH FITZZALAND  
I am writing in anticipation of PARC's review of the Seymour Heights purchase agreement.

The community collective of stakeholders, who were convened by Salt Spring Solutions and approached PARC in the fall of 2020 and again in the spring of 2021, wish to make it clear that all of us — hikers, disc golfers, trail runners, outdoor education groups, equestrians, non-motorized mountain bikers and ecologists — remain very engaged and are eager to see PARC purchase this land for community recreation and forest protection.

It is our hope that PARC will take all necessary remaining steps to purchase the 75 acres on behalf of the Salt Spring community and the multitude of interested user groups who have advocated for this acquisition for the past 2 years. As we outlined in previous delegations and communications, PARC's acquisition of this land is the only viable option for ensuring public

recreational access to the trails and long-term forest protection.

As a grassroots collective of volunteers, we have spent thousands of hours getting to know and mapping the land, networking among various interest groups, relationship building with potential partners and the landowners, supporting the

**The groups in our collective are keen to stay involved and work directly with PARC.**

PARC acquisition review and obtaining pledged donations. We have reconfirmed that most of the original pledged donors are still committed to this effort at a scaled amount (relative to the reduced land size) totalling \$300,000 if PARC contributes matching acquisition funds. Combined with the land donation of \$900,000, our group has helped attract \$1,200,000 to this effort and are now looking to PARC to help us

fill the remaining \$550,000 funding gap. This will lock-in the pledged community contributions and lessen the remaining fundraising burden on our volunteer team.

With \$1.2 million on the table, an engaged landowner and committed user groups, this is a tremendous opportunity for our entire community and the natural environment on Hwumet'utsum. During the course of this effort, we have witnessed the value of forested land increase by over 300 per cent on Salt Spring Island. We know that opportunities for our community to acquire large tracks of land for recreation and forest protection will become less and less attainable. Let's not miss this chance!

The groups in our collective are keen to stay involved and work directly with PARC. This could include participating in fundraising and planning activities as well as entering into long-term use agreements. We are grateful for the good communication and collaboration we have experienced so far with the commission and CRD staff. We look forward to continuing this partnership to achieve a huge win for our community.

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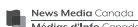
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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you concerned about  
the rise of extremism in  
Canadian society? ☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should Salt Spring's  
emergency shelter  
be maintained?



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



# ISLAND VOICES

## FROM THE BACK ISSUES

*Selected items published in past issues of the Driftwood during the same week of the year noted.*

1962

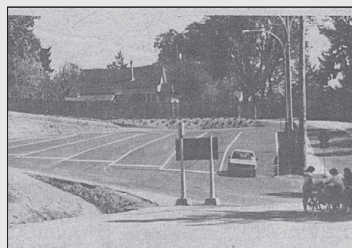
A visitor to Salt Spring wrote to the Driftwood praising his experience after a three-week vacation. Don Thompson wrote, "I came to SSI having actually no idea where I was going, and wasn't sure whether I'd meet friendly people or hostile cannibals. Well, of course, I met friendly people, so friendly in fact that I found it hard to believe that honest, down-to-earth, sincere people such as you still existed in the world of today's racketeers and big phonies."

1972

Capital Regional District executive director Dennis Young said that up to 10,000 people could be living in the north part of Galiano Island if the 1,000 acres owned by forestry company MacMillan Bloedel were developed. Young was reporting on a discussion held with lumber company representatives, which indicated a desire for the lands to be subdivided into three lots per acre. The figure of 10,000 would be unlikely, although possible, he said.

(Galiano Island's population in 2021 was 1,396.)

1982



Vesuvius was sporting some wide open spaces with the opening of a new car park area at the ferry terminal.

2002

The Coalition for Concerned Citizens of Salt Spring was launching a sticker campaign to protest B.C. Liberal government legislation that allowed businesses to drop the minimum wage from \$8 to a \$6-per-hour "training wage" for the first 500 hours of a new worker's employment.

2012



Faevan Barstead, left, and Joely Welsh carry bunnies on their heads as part of the 4-H display at Ruckle Heritage Farm Day. (Annual festivities return this Sunday, May 1 and mark the farm's 150th anniversary.)

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. For details about deadlines, and word limits for the Viewpoint and other longer opinion pieces, contact the editor at the email address below, or phone 250-537-9933. All submissions may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are asked to provide a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign letters with their full name. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., its staff or advertisers. Send letters to: [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

## LETTERS to the editor

### Water shortage

Fulford village gets its water from Weston Lake. Last year, Weston Lake's water levels were at historic lows, and for the first time Fulford village residents were subjected to water use restrictions similar to those in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. With climate change, the situation is going to get worse. And it will get even worse if Merchant House Capital proceeds with its Vortex development according to plan.

Merchant House Capital's plans for the Vortex are on the Islands Trust website and in simplified form at [merchanthousecapital.com](http://merchanthousecapital.com).

They include three two-bedroom, two-bathroom STVR houses with kitchens and laundry facilities, as well as six two-storey duplex units with kitchens and laundry facilities, plus eight studio units in two more two-storey buildings. Adjacent to the studio buildings are buildings called "Restaurant and Reception" and "Restaurant and Retail Sales for Commercial Guest Accommodation."

Merchant House Capital's representative has repeatedly said that Merchant House Capital intends to take water for all of this from the Fulford village community water system. The Vortex development is well outside the

boundaries of the system, but Merchant House Capital seems confident that it has the ability to cause the CRD to expand the system to include its development.

The Fulford village water system is a little 95-user system which was built many years ago by the village residents, but operation and control were transferred to the CRD about 15 years ago.

It will be unfortunate if this results in the people of the village suffering further water shortages and restrictions for the benefit of Merchant House Capital and its off-island clients.

**DON THOMPSON,**  
FULFORD HARBOUR

### Mindless

I was appalled to find mindless vandalism in Drummond Park on the weekend.

I and a couple of others were walking dogs, an old man sat on a bench enjoying the sun, some parents had brought kids down to play in the little playground, and then we were faced with spray-painted swear words on benches and other structures.

If anyone knows who did this, call Crimestoppers.

**GREG MIDDLETON,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 6

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"We're going to have to solve this problem. No action is not acceptable."**

LAURA PATRICK, SALT SPRING TRUSTEE, ON THE HOUSING CRISIS

## You're never alone with 100 spiders in the house

My wife and I may think that we are the only ones inhabiting our house, but we are sorely mistaken. Evidence of this fact was exhibited to us a few days ago when a visiting guest held up a glass of water he was using to rinse his mouth after brushing his teeth and asked us if we could identify the little black spot floating on the surface.

There was no doubt about it. That little critter doing the backstroke in the glass was one of our resident spiders. If you live on Salt Spring, you know there's no way to eliminate the much maligned spider from your home or life. They are ubiquitous, so you might as well accept the fact that they are part of your family and you are sharing accommodation in a fairly fragile codependent relationship.

How do they end up in the house when there is so much natural space in the outdoors? It's really a mystery to me. I suppose that many of them hang out in the woodshed and take the opportunity to hitchhike a ride into the house with the firewood. Inevitably, whenever we have visitors from the city staying over, I feel responsible to protect them from our spidery menace. After all, for those not used to sidestepping these little creatures on a daily basis, they can be considered right up there on a deadly threat level with great white sharks, grizzly bears and rattlesnakes. The indelible image from cheap Japanese B grade horror movies of giant, furry spiders climbing up the sides of Tokyo skyscrapers while terrified mobs of thousands panic below cannot be easily turned off.

In my more caveman days, I used to squish them every chance I had. Later, as I became more civilized and aware that they were actually nature's way of controlling the home invasion of ants, flies and other annoying insects, I switched over to some "tough love" tactics. I would fish an empty yogurt tub and lid out of the recycling blue box, herd the offending spider into the container, and escort it out into the shrubbery. There I would give it a little lecture about free-loading and couch surfing before sending it on an arcing trajectory with the flick of a wrist.

If you don't know already, you might as



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

well accept the fact that spiders are everywhere. There are an estimated 40,000 species of the revoltingly cute little critters around the globe and probably a whole lot more if wildlife scientists really wanted to get close enough to identify them. In just B.C. alone, there are approximately 700 distinct known species setting up shop in the supernatural environment. It is said that you can wander anywhere in the province and you will never be more than one large step away from a spider. Another way of looking at it is that every hectare of land in B.C. has a density of hundreds of thousands of the wee fellers daring you to step in their direction.

A spider may look like just another bug to you, but you're asking for trouble if you insult it by calling it an insect. An insect has three main body parts: the head, the thorax and the abdomen. In addition, insects all have six legs. The bodies of spiders, on the other hand, are made up of just two parts, the cephalothorax and the abdomen. To make up for the missing body part, spiders are equipped with an extra pair of legs, which brings the total number of appendages to eight. Eight also happens to be the number of eyes that most spiders possess. You would think that would give them incredible vision, but if truth be known, spiders have notoriously terrible eyesight and don't usually have a clue what's about to happen when you approach their webs with broom in hand. Understandably, with eight eyes to consider, corrective lenses would be prohibitively costly.

Surprisingly, spiders do not communicate through the usual social media platforms, such as Facebook and Twitter, even though

they invented the world wide web millions of years before the internet was even a twinkle in the eye of humankind. There are, however, unsubstantiated claims that certain high-functioning members of the Arachnid class are close to modifying the TikTok app into something called SpikSpok, where they can spend endless hours watching funny videos of web weaving gone wrong.

In actuality, spiders communicate mainly through smell, percussion, gossamer spinning and dancing. Some of the more highly evolved ones can do all these at the same time and can be found mainly in late night jazz clubs.

When it comes to dancing alone, no spider can bust a move better than the species known as the jumping spider. It is easily identified due to the huge size of its eyes when compared to the rest of its body. Although its dance is performed primarily to impress its mate, it has the amazing ability to jump up to 50 times the length of its body, which would make it the betting favourite at the Spider Olympics but not so popular if the direction it was travelling was towards your face.

Of course, the spider that instills fear in the heart is the western black widow. What easily identifies it is the red hourglass icon on the underside of the female's abdomen (males can have smaller red dot markings on the same area of the abdomen). Although its venom is neurotoxic, this spider is quite shy and non-aggressive. When threatened, it gets into a defensive stance, tilts its abdomen at whatever is the perceived danger, and shoots silk at it. Now that's scary!

The other interesting tidbit of information is that the female, which can live more than 10 times longer than the male, may eat the male after mating. The male obviously wants to make a good impression on the first date.

Nobody asked me, but I don't really mind having to share my abode with spiders. In fact, I don't think I would mind much if I was the daddy long-legs lurking up in the far corner near the ceiling of our bathroom. After all, it's a living. Better that, than being the male mate of a black widow.

expert **ADVICE**

## Transport ship issues addressed

## Real Estate

## What Should Buyers Do BEFORE Viewing Homes?

**Set Your Priorities** – BEFORE you view homes and while you are thinking intellectually and not responding emotionally.

**Determine Your Price Range** – Speak with a mortgage broker or lender and have yourself “prequalified” so that your mortgage limit is predetermined. Establish what your down payment is (who is assisting you, or when the down payment will be “liquid” if it is locked into a term deposit or other financial instrument.)

**Find A Realtor To Represent You** – Most buyers just “happen” to connect with a realtor who has a house listed that they are inquiring about. Savvy buyers will seek the opinion of their lawyer, mortgage broker or others and determine whom they would like to represent them in obtaining what is likely the largest asset in their lives. Experience and strategic negotiation skills are great attributes. This is the person who will provide *guidance as to offer price and subject conditions to protect...*

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JAN  
MACPHERSON

Adam Olsen

MLA'S  
**REPORT**

For years, my constituents living on the Southern Gulf Islands have dealt with the environmental and social impacts created by large transport ships anchored throughout the Salish Sea.

Increased consumer demand for goods from around the globe has stretched supply chains and combined with inefficient operations at the port in Vancouver has meant more vessels anchored for longer.

These vessels are disruptive, creating excessive noise and light pollution, sometimes for weeks at a time, and their generators constantly pump out greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful particulates. They regularly drag their anchors destroying the ocean floor and threatening each other. And ships anchored outside the port waters are unregulated.

For more than a decade the voices of community advocates have been ignored by the federal government.

On March 14, 2022, I hosted a half-day meeting of the Southern Gulf Islands Forum, including First Nations leaders, elected officials from the Gulf Islands and industry representatives, to discuss the issue of anchorages and to learn about the federal government's Active Vessel Traffic Management (AVTM) program.

We received presentations from public servants and industry leads from Transport Canada, the Vancouver-Fraser Port Authority, and

the BC Chamber of Shipping. They explained that an increase in international trade and disorganized operations precipitated the increase in anchorages in the Southern Gulf Islands.

For context, the Vancouver port handles one third of Canada's trading goods outside of North America. When ports are full, due to increased volumes or delays tied to supply chain disruptions — such as production, weather, labour and inefficient port operations — large transport vessels are forced to anchor at sites in the surrounding areas.

As a result of the complaints from residents, in 2018, the federal government created an Interim Protocol to try to balance the use of the anchorage sites until a longer-term solution could be found.

The federal government then shifted their responsibility to industry, turning to the Vancouver-Fraser Port Authority to lead the work to find a long-term solution now called the Active Vessel Traffic Management program.

Their goal is to strengthen marine safety and manage marine traffic, improve efficiency and reliability of the flow of goods, reduce environmental impacts including noise near southern resident killer whale habitat, and reduce negative social impacts like ambient noise and light pollution.

The port created a new advisory panel of

experts populated entirely by industry. None of the groups most impacted by the anchorages, such as First Nations or community members, are represented on the panel.

Anchorages tear up the sea floor, causing significant harm and disturbance. First Nations along the coast rely on the vibrant marine life for food harvest and cultural practices. Considering the damage caused by anchorages and our commitment to government-to-government relations, First Nations must be included on any panel advising on this issue. First Nations are often engaged after the decisions have been made and have no resources to ensure their technical experts can inform the work. This is completely unacceptable.

Residents of the Gulf Islands and leaders of coastal communities must have a voice at the table. They have been advocating for their interests for decades and now they continue to be overlooked while industry experts develop recommendations that work for industry. This is completely unacceptable.

So now we have outlined the issues, what is the Southern Gulf Islands Forum doing?

Following the industry presentations, the members of the forum created a subcommittee to continue this work. I am a member of that group, and the primary focus of our work will be to bring all interested parties together to advocate with one voice on behalf of the interests currently being ignored by the federal government and industry.

In the meantime, please continue writing to your Member of the Legislative Assembly and Member of Parliament, write letters to the editor and post on social media with your stories of how these anchorages are affecting you and your community. You can contact me at Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca or 250-655-5600.

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Islands Trust

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SAY**

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at 11:00 a.m.South Pender Island  
Fire Hall  
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South Pender Island, BCWho should attend?  
Anyone affected by  
the proposed bylaw.Enquiries?  
Kim Stockdill  
Island Planner  
Islands Trust  
kstockdill@islandstrust.bc.ca  
250-405-5157

## Proposed Bylaw No. 122

## Land Use Bylaw Amendments

COMMUNITY INFORMATION  
MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

SOUTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 122 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 122 will amend the South Pender Land Use Bylaw to include new agricultural regulations to align with the Agricultural Land Commission, reduce maximum floor areas for dwellings in the rural residential zones, reduce setbacks for dwellings and cottages in the rural residential zones, increase the setback from the natural boundary of the sea, include clauses for those buildings or structures that maybe be deemed legal non-conforming due to the new regulations, and other minor amendments.

How do I get more information?

A copy of the proposed bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available on the [South Pender Current Project webpage](#) and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after April 19, 2022.

A Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendments.

## Submissions

Written submissions are welcome up until the conclusion of the Public Hearing and can be emailed to [vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca), mailed or dropped off at the Islands Trust office by Thursday, May 5, 2022. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

New quilts  
crafted

The beautiful, comforting quilts made by Island Comfort Quilts are ready to be given again to people with a life-threatening illness.

On Sunday, April 10, about 75 people gathered at the Farmers' Institute in morning or afternoon shifts completed 21 quilts. Some had been started before, and sat waiting for two years until Covid allowed the quilters to take up their work again. Normally, about 150 volunteers work one Sunday in spring to create designs, cut fabric, sew the designs, pin and sew on backing, and do final hemming. Every person who has worked on a quilt signs their name on a card so that the recipient knows who helped make it. That's usually some 15 to 18 people.

Boss lady Marguerite Lee and her team have been organizing the quilt makers for more than 20 years, except for the aforementioned Covid interregnum. This year, proof of double vaccination was required, so that sewers could be assured they ran no risk of contacting Covid from an unvaccinated person at the next table. The caution was appreciated.

Instead of the normal full house at the institute, this year saw volunteers do either a morning or an afternoon shift, which meant the hall was about half full. Wondering what the buzzing noise was, those in the main hall finally realized they could hear the sewing machines over the sound of people talking! And we missed the usual great lunch too.

If you know someone on Salt Spring Island or elsewhere who has a life-threatening illness and would like to give them the comfort of a quilt to hopefully aid their recovery, contact Marguerite Lee at Island Comfort Quilts to ask whether there might be a quilt available for your friend or family member. And put your Country Grocer receipts in our box.

JANE HORSBURGH,  
SALT SPRINGGP payment  
option

I wholeheartedly agree with Curt Firestone's appraisal of the lack of GPs on the island (and in virtually every community throughout B.C.), but I'm not certain his suggested remedies would make a difference (April 20 "Action for GPs needed now" Viewpoint).

Unfortunately, the real solution is to pay doctors

handsomely enough that general practice becomes an attractive proposition — and the solution to that is anathema to any liberal democracy: patient pay-as-you-go consultations.

I know that I owe my relatively healthy old age to the free health services of Canada, Australia and the U.K. but have never quite understood the reluctance to impose a small fee for a visit to the doctor. Suppose a GP could charge, say, \$50 a visit above the pittance the government pays them per patient. Fifty patients a week, \$2,500 extra a week, \$130,000 a year on top of their salary, which would go a long way to providing an incentive to stay on the island.

Of course, it would be vital to maintain a health service based on clinical need and not the ability to pay, and would require strict monitoring and be capped, but in most other professions, if you want the best, you pay for it.

Sweden has one of the finest health services in the world and its doctors charge a nominal amount per consultation — about \$15 to see a GP or maybe \$40 to see a specialist. It works there, why not here?

PAUL MCELROY,  
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 7



## MORE LETTERS

continued from 6

## Dispossession anniversary marked

The following is from the introduction of *As if They Were the Enemy: The Dispossession of Japanese Canadians on Salt Spring Island* by Brian Smallshaw.

"On April 22, 1942, the Canadian Pacific Railway (CPR) ship the SS Princess Mary was docked at the wharf in Ganges on Salt Spring Island. It was not a regular ferry run.

"The ship was chartered by the Canadian government to take all Japanese Canadian residents off the island to Vancouver where

they would be held at Hastings Park, a temporary detention centre, before being shipped off to ghost towns in the interior of British Columbia and other points further east. It was the traumatic beginning to years of struggle in exile from their idyllic island home.

"They left behind thriving farms and businesses, many of which were built up over a number of decades. For them and about 22,000 other Japanese Canadians on the West Coast, 1942 was the beginning of many hard years that did not end with the Second World War. The racist politicians who drove them from the coast after Pearl Harbor would find ways to keep them away until four years after the end of the war. Even after they were allowed to return, painful

and bitter memories of being uprooted and exiled meant that few Japanese Canadians would ever move back to the places from which they had been forcibly removed.

"Only the Murakami family would ever return to live on Salt Spring Island. In 1954, they returned to the island with the intention of buying back the land that had been taken from them. They were unsuccessful. Despite the systemic and social racism they faced, they decided to start over. They purchased land and with relentless drive and hard work managed to once again flourish."

Today, 80 years after their uprooting as children, Richard and Rose Murakami are well cared for in seniors' residences across the water in Tsawwassen,

visited often by their sister, Mary Kitagawa and her husband Tosh. They touched many lives in our community, and the legacy of their family on the island will not be forgotten.

**PHIL VERNON AND BRIAN SMALLSHAW,**  
SALT SPRING

## Hall history recalled

About 20 years ago Mahon Hall was in disrepair and in danger of being closed down. I was president of the Salt Spring Arts Council at the time.

With support from then MLA Murray Coell, I was able to obtain a provincial grant to help the Salt Spring Arts Council of the

day earthquake-proof the building with tons of steel; rebuild the bathrooms and install hot water for the first time; rebuild the front entrance and landscape the front of the building; refurbish the main floor; install new electrical panels and some new lighting. The most difficult job for the arts council was to decide which colour to paint the building. They were deadlocked 50/50 and left me to make the decision!

I'd like to say thank you to those members of the arts council for all the work they accomplished for the centennial of the building in 2004. It's really wonderful to see that the building is still a focal point of our community.

**JOHN NEVILLE,**  
SALT SPRING

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# HELLO Spring!

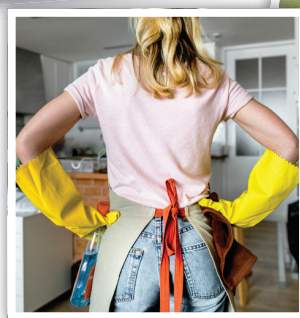
## HOME & PROPERTY MAINTENANCE

# Spring cleaning and yard chores beckon

As the weather starts to warm up, it's time to take care of your spring cleaning and yard work and to plan for more substantial improvements that will likely need some help from local contractors and businesses to be fully completed.

Our Hello Spring! pages contain some suggestions for upgrades to consider as well as advertisers that can help you get the jobs done.

In the meantime, the following is a list of tasks to complete both inside and outside your home.



**Don't delay —  
it's time to  
get to work!**

### INSIDE

1. Sort through your belongings and throw away, sell and donate what you no longer need.
2. Air out each room.
3. Dust and clean the walls, ceilings, floors and carpets.
4. Wash the windows, curtains and blinds, and reinstall your window screens.
5. Clean out the pantry, refrigerator, freezer, cupboards, drawers and medicine cabinets.
6. Wipe down the inside and outside of your small and large appliances.
7. Disinfect your garbage cans.
8. Dust all fan blades, baseboard heaters and light fixtures.
9. Vacuum your chair cushions and mattresses and turn them inside out.
10. Check the attic to ensure there's no water or pest damage.
11. Test your air conditioning unit.



### OUTSIDE

12. Examine your home's roof, skylights and chimney, and schedule any necessary repairs.
13. Inspect your home's foundation and seal any visible cracks.
14. Clean your gutters and make sure they're in good condition so water drains away from your home.
15. Check all your door and window seals and make any necessary repairs.
16. Check your home's siding, faucets, light fixtures and electrical outlets.
17. Wash your home's windows and siding.
18. Wash your deck, and sand and paint it if needed.
19. Hook up your water outlets and reinstall your garden hoses.
20. Open up your pool by removing the liner and turning on the water treatment system.
21. Inspect and repair your garden accessories, barbecue and tools.
22. Trim back any tree branches or shrubs that are too close to your home.
23. Pull weeds, and rake and fertilize your yard.
24. Clean up your flower beds, remove any winter coverings and prune perennials, roses, evergreens and spring-flowering shrubs.

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# IT'S HOME & YARD FIX-UP TIME!

## FIXTURES

### Faucet fashion changes

Decor trend sees switch to matte white

For years, black has occupied a prominent place in interior decor. However, white is now carving out a choice spot, particularly in the bathroom. You may want to consider installing matte white faucets to update your bathroom.

#### WHY MATTE WHITE?

White is a timeless colour that's elegant yet contemporary. It adds charm and character to the bathroom. The soft matte finish also complements minimalist decor.

#### HOW TO ARRANGE IT?

You can integrate white faucets with simple lines and unique, delicate ceramic tiles into a vanity unit. Additionally, opt for a glazed or open shower stall to make the best use of light.

Moreover, you can coordinate white faucets with a pop of colour. For example, play with contrast by combining white taps with black accents to create a chic, retro atmosphere. Gold accents create a refined lustre appearance, while all-white finishes create a harmonious look. If you

think all-white finishes will make your bathroom feel cold, warm up the space with wood or rattan accessories and furniture.



## FLOORING

### Easy flooring updates possible

Four ideas offered

Restoring or replacing flooring is a great way to refresh your home's look. Here are four ways you can update your floors.

#### 1. REFINISH IT

If your floor looks a little worse for wear, refinishing it is an affordable solution. Depending on its condition, you may need to sand, varnish, stain or repair cracks to make the floor look new again.

#### 2. PAINT IT

You can paint over most types of flooring. For example, wood flooring is particularly easy to paint. Just make sure you choose a suitable product for the type of surface and level of traffic in the room.

#### 3. REPLACE IT

If your floor is beyond repair, replacing it may be your only option. However, make sure you choose a suitable floor type. For example, if you need to update your bathroom floor, choose a waterproof material like ceramic. Additionally, if you have pets, you may want to opt for a scratch-resistant flooring material like vinyl.

#### 4. DECORATE IT

If your floor is in good condition, simply adding a rug or two can instantly transform your space. Choose a rug that's the right size, style and colour for the room.



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# spring home and yard fix-up

## INTERIOR DECORATING

# Exploring paint finishes and colour choices

Good idea to seek expert advice

Do you want to repaint one or more rooms in your home? When choosing paint, the finish is just as important as the colour. Here are some things to consider when choosing a matte, satin, velvet or semi-gloss finish.

### WHAT ARE PAINT FINISHES?

The term finish indicates how the paint will look on the painted surface and how much light it'll reflect. Finish designations like velvet, platinum, satin and pearl vary from one paint manufacturer to another. It's therefore essential to ask about the sheen of the product before making your choice.

Here are the most suitable finishes for the different rooms and surfaces in your home:

- Ceilings. Matte finish is most suitable for ceilings. If applied evenly, it can hide imperfections.

- Living room and bedrooms. Consider matte and satin finishes for consistent and elegant results. Keep in mind that matte finishes aren't as easy to clean. For easy cleaning, pearl and semi-gloss finishes are more suitable options.

- Bathrooms and kitchens. Shiny and glossy finishes are best for high-maintenance rooms that require moisture resistance. For areas that need occasional polishing, choose a semi-gloss finish.

- Woodwork. Velvet, satin, semi-gloss and gloss finishes are suitable for woodwork and mouldings. The same goes for doors. However, it's best to choose a finish that's easy to clean.

### THINKING ABOUT COLOUR

Do you want to repaint or decorate a room or two in your home? In 2022, warm colours are all the rage. Here are some tips to help you choose the right colour and achieve the desired results.



### BALANCE WARM SHADES WITH COOL TONES

Combine warm colours with cool elements to create a sense of balance. For example, yellow or orange walls go perfectly with a polished concrete floor or wrought iron furniture.

### USE THEM IN THE APPROPRIATE PLACES

Yellow is a particularly stimulating colour that has been shown to improve concentration and productivity. Therefore, it's ideal for your home office or the bedroom. Moreover, red has a restorative, soothing effect, while orange evokes friendliness and creativity.

### WHAT MOOD DO YOU WANT?

Do you want to create an intimate or energizing space? Answering this question will help you determine the intensity of the colours to choose. Canary and mustard yellow, for example, evoke two very different moods.

### CONSIDER THE EFFECT OF LIGHTING

Both natural and artificial lighting can impact colour. Before you start painting, make sure to try the colours in your space. Apply a few samples to the wall to see how your lighting affects the finished result.

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# spring home and yard fix-up

## SHEDS

### Outdoor storage options



Prefabricated garden shed can take care of storage needs.

#### Garden shed considerations

Do you need storage space for your barbecue, patio set and gardening accessories? If so, it's time to get a shed.

There are many prefabricated models made of synthetic materials, metal and wood. Here are a few tips for making the right choice.

#### Synthetic materials

Plastic, vinyl and PVC sheds are resistant to water and insect damage. Moreover, they require very little maintenance. Although available in a wide variety of designs, they tend to have a commercial look that may not suit everyone.

#### Metal

Metal sheds are lightweight, affordable and easy to assemble. If made from aluminum, the shed won't rust. However, metal sheds are easy to dent and come in fewer designs than those made of synthetic materials.

#### Wood

Wooden sheds are sturdy and can complement the outside of your home. However, they require considerable maintenance and are more vulnerable to insects and rot than metal and synthetic sheds.

If you're handy, you can design and build your own shed. This way, you can choose its size and appearance. Furthermore, you can insulate the walls to create a workshop. But keep a close eye on your budget. This type of project can easily cost several thousand dollars.

## LANDSCAPING

### Pruning needs vary with species

#### Yearly timetable to observe

Occasional pruning helps promote optimal health of trees and shrubs.

Shrubs like rhododendrons and lilacs bloom from last year's stems, whereas others, like roses and hydrangeas, bloom from new growth. It's best to prune shrubs that flower from old wood immediately after blooming. However, shrubs that bloom on new growth should be trimmed in the spring.

Furthermore, mid-summer is ideal for

pruning trees that produce a lot of sap in the spring, like maple, birch and willow.

In general, shrubs and trees go dormant in the spring before their buds open. This is the best time for pruning because the plants heal faster. Late fall is also appropriate. However, pruning in the winter should be avoided.

Lastly, pruning large trees and fruit trees should be left to the experts. For the best results, contact a professional tree pruner in your area.

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# spring home and yard fix-up

## DEVELOPMENT

# Trust charts activity

Building and other development activity jumps up in 2021

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Development has continued its upward trend on Salt Spring Island in the last year.

A Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee report released last week covering the fiscal year from April 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022 detailed activity involving the Islands Trust.

In its land-use role, the LTC considered new applications, including one bylaw amendment, 13 development permits and 26 development variance permits.

"During the same time, staff reviewed 181 building permit referrals, three liquor and cannabis board referrals, two crown lease referrals, four subdivision referrals, and one soil deposit permit," the report states.

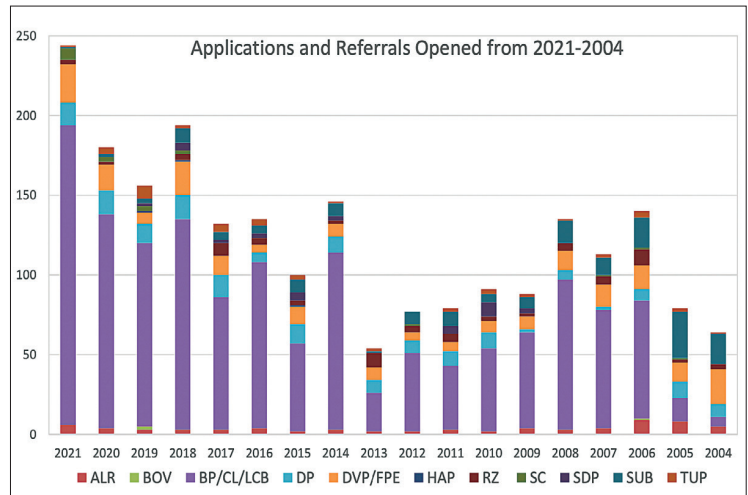
"Since about 2016-17 when we started climbing the hill it just seems like there's no end to where that's going," said Salt Spring

Islands Trust planning manager Stefan Cermak, who drafted the report. "I know building permits themselves apparently have plateaued a bit, but not the referrals to us. They are higher than they've ever been."

Cermak referred back to a memorandum presented to the LTC in January, which found the number of applications and referrals in 2021 "far exceeded other years" and continued a trend of increasing development since 2014. The Salt Spring team opened 244 applications or referrals in 2021, amounting to 38 per cent of the overall 642 Islands Trust application files opened.

The January memorandum noted the applications and referrals received on Salt Spring in 2021 decreased during the first three quarters of the year and levelled out in the final quarter, from 77 to 62 to 51 and finally 54.

"The plateau (54) is more typical of building season numbers seen over spring, summer and fall thus it is anticipated that the numbers will increase again for 2022," the memorandum stated. "Staff do not foresee numbers declining significantly until interest rates rise and cool development financing."



Graph shows 2021 outpacing previous years in development applications and referrals to the Islands Trust on Salt Spring, with the largest segment being building permit referrals.

The acronyms in the bar graph are, in full:  
ALR = Agricultural land reserve  
BOV = Board of variance  
BP/CL/LCB = building permit referrals/

crown lease referrals/liquor control board  
DP = Development permit  
DVP/FPE = development variance permits/  
flood plain exemptions  
HAP = Heritage alteration permit  
RZ = Rezoning  
SC = Strata conversion  
SDP = Soil deposit permit  
SUB = Subdivision  
TUP = Temporary use permit

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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## ART BOOKS

# Salt Spring metalworkers shine in new book

Launch event at Steffich Fine Art on April 29

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People who enjoyed Pirjo Raits' 2018 book called *Out of the Woods - Woodworkers Along the Salish Sea* will be excited to know she has followed that successful format to put the spotlight on the region's artists working in metal.

*Out of the Fire - Metalworkers Along the Salish Sea* has just been published by Heritage House and includes several Salt Spring Island metal artists: Seth Burton, Jacob Burton, Peter McFarlane, Carl Sean McMahon, Nycki Samuels, Alvaro Sanchez, and Alison and Jeri Sparshu. The others reside between Sooke and Qualicum Bay on Vancouver Island, and the Vancouver area and Roberts Creek on the mainland.

A book launch event is set for Friday, April 29 at 7 p.m. at Steffich Fine Art in Grace Point Square, where work by some of the metalworkers can be found.

As with the woodworkers book, Raits teamed up with photographers Dale Roth



PHOTO COURTESY HERITAGE HOUSE PUBLISHING

Pirjo Raits, author of *Out of the Fire - Metalworkers Along the Salish Sea*. The Victoria-based writer will be on Salt Spring this Friday for a book launch event at Steffich Fine Art.

and Michele Ramberg to capture stunning images of the artists, their creations and work spaces to illustrate the author's text derived from visiting each one.

The 24 artists work in fields ranging from sculpture to blacksmithing to jewellery making, showing the diversity that results when

metal meets fire through skilled hands.

"Everyone approaches it so differently," Raits observed, which was one of the interesting facets for her as a writer.

"What I tried to do is get as many different types of makers in there," she said, adding that "flame is the common denominator."

Otherwise the criteria for inclusion was simply that the individual was making a living at their chosen craft and they were passionate about it.

"Most of the people interviewed for *Out of the Fire* are the ultimate recyclers," Raits writes in the book's introduction. "They are dumpster divers, scavengers, thrift-store and garage-sale devotees. Someone's trash is their raw material. Piles of scrap metal, cutlery, car parts, bicycle wheels, tire rims, and brass candlesticks are stashed in hidden corners or lie in plain sight around their shops and forges, all of it grist for the flame and the imagination."

She said Salt Spring resident Peter McFarlane epitomized the book's subjects. Not only is he a "total recycler" but he also went to art school, is intensely creative and makes statements about society through his work.

Then there is Alison and Jeri Sparshu of Thistle Rock Forge. They are certified jour-

neymen farriers with a mobile unit to provide their services, blacksmiths and metalworkers.

"We had a great afternoon shoeing a horse," Raits said about her visit to their south-end property.

"Horseshoeing is an art, a science, and labour," Jeri Sparshu is quoted as saying in the book.

Raits is an award-winning editor, journalist and freelance writer, whose own artistic background, especially in fabric arts, informs her writing about the work of artists. She was the editor of the *Sooke News Mirror* for 10 years before retiring in 2015. Earlier in her career she was the editor of the *Barnacle Island Journal* on Salt Spring and worked at the Driftwood as well.

Raits praised publisher Heritage House and everyone who contributed to *Out of the Fire*.

"The book designer did her part, the photographers did their part and I did my part," she said in describing the successful team effort that went into the process. "You just have to let creative people be creative."

Raits also acknowledged assistance with the project from the BC Arts Council and Saskatchewan Arts Board.

## LIVE THEATRE

# Lovin' Shakespeare hits the stage



PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

Christine Penhale and Jeffrey Renn in preparation for the ArtSpring show running May 6 and 7.

part of a group dedicated to Queen Elizabeth," Renn said, "so the play is an imagined encounter between Elizabeth and Shakespeare at a wedding, where they go off together and have a conversation. What is that conversation?"

Weaving in at least 22 iconic Shakespeare scenes, including *Much Ado About Nothing*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, and *Romeo and Juliet*, Renn has also drawn on Elizabeth's speeches to parliament, sections of the Bible, philosophy and the Baha'i faith, along with his original writing.

"The show is about the transcendence of humanity, and our coming to consciousness," Penhale said. "We're celebrating our own love story and bringing some of what we feel we need right now, which is love and understanding, into the conversation."

ArtSpring Presents: Christina Penhale and Jeffrey Renn - *Lovin' Shakespeare* on Friday, May 6 and Saturday, May 7 at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets through artspring.ca or 250-537-2102.

Audience members should not that face masks must be worn at all times while at ArtSpring for those aged five and up.

## Part of ArtSpring Presents season

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

The last time we saw Christina Penhale and Jeffrey Renn on stage together at ArtSpring we were looking at them through our computer screens while they played to an empty house.

Lockdown in December 2020 meant their Jeff and Chrissy Show had to move online. They're both excited to see those seats full again.

"It'll be really nice to be in a room again with people," Renn said. "We know that when we're in the live witness, there are physiological responses that happen for

us when we're sharing the same space."

The show they're bringing back to the stage is *Lovin' Shakespeare*, a commission for the ArtSpring Presents season.

"We started thinking about exploring a couple's love story through Shakespeare, using his most iconic love scenes and characters, and coming back to the love that we all need," explained Penhale.

As a play with a narrative thread, rather than a presentation of standalone scenes, the sections of Shakespeare plays are spoken through the voices of two characters.

"I'd always had this contention in the back of my mind that Shakespeare was

## Proposed Bylaw No. 123

### Minor Official Community Plan Amendments

## COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

SOUTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 123 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 123 will amend the South Pender Official Community Plan (OCP) to include a First Nation introductory/acknowledgement statement and building design and siting guidelines. The building design and siting guidelines are intended to be used, where feasible, when the South Pender Island Local Trust Committee considers Development Variance Permit applications to vary the maximum floor area of residential buildings.

How do I get more information?

A copy of the proposed bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available on the [South Pender Current Project webpage](#) and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after April 19, 2022.

A Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendments.

### Submissions

Written submissions are welcome up until the conclusion of the Public Hearing and can be emailed to [vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca), mailed or dropped off at the Islands Trust office by Thursday, May 5, 2022. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.



Islands Trust

**HAVE  
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Community  
Information  
Meeting and  
Public Hearing

Friday, May 6, 2022  
at 11:00 a.m.

South Pender Island  
Fire Hall  
8961 Gowlan Point Road,  
South Pender Island, BC

Who should attend?  
Anyone affected by  
the proposed bylaw.

Enquiries?  
Kim Stockdill  
Island Planner  
Islands Trust  
[kstockdill@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:kstockdill@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
250-405-5157



## PUBLIC ART

## Murals wanted

Info session this Saturday

BY EMELIE PEACOCK  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Later this year murals will grace the walls of Salt Spring Coffee, Glad's Ice Cream and Lam's Lane in Ganges village.

A call is now open to "Canadian professional artists, individual artists or artist teams/collectives" with experience working on murals to create murals on these three walls. The mural project is a joint Salt Spring Arts and Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce effort that received up to \$50,000 in funding in March.

The Salt Spring Coffee and Lam's Lane murals each have a budget of \$15,000 and murals on these walls have a broad theme of "sustainability, reciprocity and creativity." The Glad's Ice Cream wall mural has a \$5,000 budget and a theme of "navigating climate grief and action."

The arts council has hired a coordinator to move the project along and an online mural making 101 workshop is planned for April 30. The workshop with mural artist and project manager Rob Matejka will be held from 12:30 to 3 p.m. Workshop cost is \$25 and registration is required.

The deadline for round one of the artist call is May 16, with shortlisted artists to go through a second round with a deadline of June 17. The successful artists will be announced July 8 and murals will be installed from July to September. For details on the artist call, see saltspringarts.com/.

Dr. James Buchan  
Medical School Awards

A trust was created under the will of Dr. James Buchan, providing annual awards to former students of Gulf Islands Secondary School who are attending an accredited medical school on a full time basis. The trustee may review a variety of criteria including:

- Academic excellence
- Financial need or
- Leadership qualities and school/ community involvement.

This award may be renewable in subsequent years, should the student wish to re-apply. The value of the awards may vary. Final deadline for applications (letter, resume, transcripts of marks, letters of reference and income information) is **June 10, 2022** to the Counselling Office at GISS or electronically to: [mallison@sd64.org](mailto:mallison@sd64.org)



## Notice to the Public

## PUBLIC DROP-IN SESSION &amp; FERRY ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The BC Ferries team will be on hand to chat with you during a 75 minute drop-in session ahead of the Ferry Advisory Committee meeting.

Date: Tuesday, May 3rd, 2022

Time: 2:45pm - 4:00pm (Drop-in session)  
4:30pm - 7:00pm (FAC meeting)Location: Meaden Hall  
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92  
120 Blain Rd.

These meetings are open to the public

For more information please contact:

Harold Swierenga, Chair, Salt Spring Island FAC  
[haroldswierenga@gmail.com](mailto:haroldswierenga@gmail.com)

or

Darin Guenette, Strategy & Community Engagement, BC Ferries  
[darin.guenette@bcferries.com](mailto:darin.guenette@bcferries.com)

## what's on this week



Wed.

Apr 27

## ACTIVITIES

**Scott Point Waterworks District AGM.** Annual general meeting at the RVYC Pavilion. 7 p.m.  
**Town Hall Meeting With Amita Kuttner.** Bring questions and solutions to Green Party of Canada interim leader. Why is Canada still investing in fossil fuel infrastructure? Mahon Hall. 5 to 7 p.m. Info: Tom Mitchell, 250-653-4353.  
**Music Bingo.** Every Wednesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

## VIA ZOOM

**Mental Fitness for Business Resiliency.** A Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce workshop. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

Thur.

Apr 28

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Mic.** Royal Canadian Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.  
**Raincity.** Live at Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

**Fire Hall Referendum Open House.** Learn about the proposal for a new fire hall at the current Ganges fire hall. 6 to 9 p.m.

## VIA ZOOM

**North Salt Spring Waterworks District Trustees Meeting.** Via Microsoft Teams. Link on the NSSWD website. 10 a.m.

Fri.

Apr 29

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Clanna Morna.** Live at Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.  
**Karaoke.** At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Fri.

Apr 29

## ACTIVITIES

**Book Launch: Out of the Fire – Metalworkers Along the Salish Sea.** Join author Pirjo Raits and some of the local metalworkers featured in her new book at Steffich Fine Art. 7 p.m.  
**StoryWalk.** Follow the trail of laminated signs from a children's book beginning from the Salt Spring Public Library through Mouat Park and toward the Rainbow Road pool. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

## VIA ZOOM

**ASK Salt Spring.** This week's guests are Darlene Gage, Ellie Parks and Bruce Cameron speaking on "How do we express differing opinions in respectful conversations?" 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email [ask@asksaltspring.com](mailto:ask@asksaltspring.com) for the link.

Sat.

Apr 30

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Sharon Bailey Band.** Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.  
**Sugarbeat.** Live at the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.  
**Diemm, and DJ Skywater.** Diemm from 8 to 10 p.m., followed by DJ Skywater. Live at Mateada Lounge.

## ACTIVITIES

**Hear Yourself Book Presentation and Discussion.** Learn about the tour de force book by Prem Rawat from 11 a.m. to 12 noon In person at the salt Spring Public Library or online via [booktalks@gmail.com](mailto:booktalks@gmail.com).  
**Help Ukraine Fundraiser.** Silent auction and grab 'n' go table goods; perogies and borscht; musical entertainment at Fulford Hall to raise money for humanitarian aid in Ukraine. 2 to 7 p.m.  
**StoryWalk.** See Friday's listing.

Sun.

May 1

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Salt Spring Jazz Jam.** First Jazz and Blues Society jazz jam at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.  
**Don't Wear Black! Readings and Songs on Death, MAID and Eternal Love.** With Christopher Levan, author; Ellen Vesterdal, mezzo soprano; and David Smith, piano. All Saints By-the-Sea. 4 p.m. Entrance by donation. Refreshments and book signing afterwards.  
**Mike & Margo.** On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

**Ruckle Heritage Farm Day.** Family-friendly activities and demonstrations at Ruckle Park, celebrating 150 years of farming. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**StoryWalk.** See Friday's listing.

Tues.

May 3

## ACTIVITIES

**BC Ferries Public Drop-in Session & Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting.** At Meaden Hall. Chat with BC Ferries team members from 2:45 to 4 p.m. Ferry advisory committee meeting from 4:30 to 7 p.m.  
**Trivia Tuesday.** Every Tuesday at Mob's Pub. 7:30 p.m.



Wed.

May 4

## ACTIVITIES

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

## VIA ZOOM

**Mental Fitness for Business Resiliency.** A Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce workshop. 12:30 to 1:30 p.m.

## THE FRITZ CINEMA

See [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca) for this week's movie, showing on Friday, April 29 through Tuesday, May 3 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

## EXHIBITIONS

- **Symbolically 8** celebrates the 13th anniversary of **Gallery 8** with work by all gallery artists in Grace Point Square daily until May 11.
- Today (April 27) is the last day to see **Tossed & Found**, an exhibition of artwork by 13 island artists using found objects and recycled materials at **Salt Spring Gallery**.
- **Salt Spring Painters Guild** members exhibit work in the lobby of **ArtSpring** through April.
- **Rolando Lampitoc** shows prints, paintings and drawings in the **Salt Spring library program room** through April.
- **Sheya Jordan** presents an exhibit called **Heartivism** in the **library program room** from May 2 to 28.
- **Peter Levitt** has a poetry and art display in the **Salt Spring library lobby display case** until April 30.
- **The Salt Spring Island Printmakers** hold their spring show in the **ArtSpring lobby** through May.
- **Carole James** is hanging her abstract impressionistic artwork at **Dragonfly Art Supplies** throughout the month of April.
- **Colton Prevost** shows his photographs at the **Laund-O-Mat** until May 15.
- **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.

## Help Ukraine fundraiser

Silent auction, goods sale, music and food

Saturday, April 30, 2 to 7 p.m. • Fulford Hall  
Entrance by donation.

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

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## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

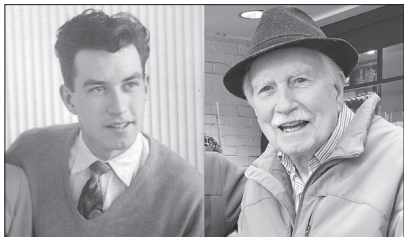
## Obituaries

## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam

## GORDON ALAN ROBERTSON

July 10, 1928 –  
April 15, 2022



Alan Robertson was born on July 10, 1928 at Grace Hospital in Vancouver. Along with his older brother Donald and younger sisters Margaret and Joan, he grew up in Vancouver, West Vancouver, Vernon, and Nanaimo.

Alan was involved in Boy Scouts Canada for decades, starting out as a young Cub in the mid-1930s and finishing in his early forties as District Commissioner for West Vancouver in the late 1960s. He was well-suited for this organization as he loved learning, teaching, comradeship, and always the outdoors. Plus, he looked great in short pants. After graduating from Nanaimo's John Shaw High School in 1946, Alan studied commerce at UBC but ultimately realized this was not his calling. By way of response, he and a buddy set off to explore western Canada. They worked construction, hitchhiked around BC, rode the freight rails to Calgary, and caught a rough flight to Yellowknife where they dug sewer and water lines to finance their way back to Vancouver.

In 1949, Alan was offered a position in the engineering department of F. Drexel Co., an industrial supply firm. Here is where his young life took a dramatic turn. One day in 1951 he observed at the front desk a pretty young woman who had arrived to interview for a secretarial job. He quickly phoned down to his office manager and said, "Hire this one, Dunc." And Dunc did. An office romance followed, and at Christmas—much to the delight of the office staff—the engagement of Alan Robertson and Rita Wheeler was proudly announced.

Alan and Rita were married at St. Mark's Anglican Church in Kitsilano in May of 1952. Alan's work took them north to Prince George, and there they began their new life together. They returned to Vancouver in 1954 with their firstborn, Christine, and subsequently had two more children, Gordon and Kathleen. In 1962 the family moved to West Vancouver. In his professional life, Alan worked as a draughtsman at Columbia Engineering (1955–1957), and draughtsman/project manager at PermaSteel Engineering (1957–1985) and McGuire Engineering (1985–1990).

Alan's adventurous spirit and curiosity about the world led him and Rita to take many wonderful trips: Britain, Europe, Cuba, the US, and across Canada. Family vacations with their children, however, can be summed up in one word: camping. Throughout the 1960s Alan and family camped extensively in B.C. and twice down the Pacific coast to California. Camping. Always camping. Leave it to Al Robertson to find a campsite in the city of Los Angeles. Now that took some scouting.

Being involved in his church community was a steadfast theme throughout Alan's life. In West Vancouver he dedicated himself to St. Stephen's Anglican Church. He served as People's Warden and sang in the choir for many years. His love of singing and beautiful bass voice is something that his friends and family will always remember about him. Upon retirement in 1990 Alan and Rita moved to Salt Spring Island, where they were warmly welcomed by the parish of All Saints by-the-Sea. Here, Alan's draughting and management skills were invaluable in the major project of moving and reconstructing the church. He cherished this project, and it remained a point of great pride for him.

On Salt Spring Island, in the warmth of their parish family, Alan and Rita found a community they were to love for over thirty years. Here, music continued to be a passion in Alan's life as he joined the Salt Spring Singers, Lost Chords, Salt Spring Quartet, and All Saints' Church Choir. He delighted in the Trail and Nature Club and Scottish Country Dancing, where he not only danced but also regularly sang The Star of Robbie Burns at the annual Robbie Burns banquet. Alan's kindness and big heart led him to years of community service: Meals on Wheels, Soup's On, Choices/Special Olympics, Ometepe Coffee, Greenwood's singalongs, Music and Munch, and more.

A man of many interests and talents, Alan took great pleasure in such activities as gardening (he grew vegetables wherever he had a little land), sketching (his delightful posters and cartoons were legendary), and keeping fit (countless tennis matches on the courts of West Van). He was a great supporter of the arts, especially theatre, and was keenly interested in politics, world affairs, the environment, and soccer.

In the past year, Alan found another community in the loving care of the staff at Greenwood's Eldercare. The care aides, nurses, residents and management fully embraced him as he did them, in mutual love and respect. He found meaningful connections and blessed comfort in the care of those who helped him navigate the last months of his life. The Robertson family would like to express their deepest gratitude to Greenwood's, and to Marjorie and Brock Radford, for bringing joy to Alan time and again this past year.

Our hearts are fuller and our lives are richer for having known and loved Alan Robertson. He was an inspiration to all who knew him. He is predeceased by his mother, Edith Fenton Robertson; his father, Gordon Stuart Struan Robertson; his brother, Donald Robertson; his sister, Margaret Robertson; his grandson, David Edmond Hall; and his great-granddaughter, Mila Kate Russell. This wonderful husband, brother, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather is survived by his wife, Rita; sister Joan McKay; daughter Christine Hall (Ron); son Gordon Robertson; daughter Kathleen Stockner (Todd); grandchildren Alexander Hall (Andria), Kimberley Hall, Stephanie Schollen (Erin), Hannah Stockner, Simon Stockner, Nathalie Robertson (Pat); and great-grandchildren Isla Hall, Miranda Schollen, Noah Hall, John Schollen and Liam Russell.

A memorial service will be held at All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church on Friday, May 6 at 2:30 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Greenwood's Eldercare Society or Salt Spring Island Community Services.

## Patricia Robertson

Patricia "Pat" Robertson, long time Salt Spring resident and employee at Lady Minto, passed away peacefully on April 18th, with her goddaughter Alicia at her side.

Met on the other side by her husband Herb Burnett who preceded her in 2018.

Many thanks to the staff at Greenwood's and her close friends who cared for her in her final years.

A Celebration of Life will be celebrated this summer.



## Celebration OF Life FOR Heather Dawn Lawler



will be held at  
All Saints Anglican Church  
Park Drive, Ganges  
at 2pm  
Saturday, April 30



Friends and family are invited to join us in a Memorial Mass to honour  
**Barbara "Bo" Pbelan**  
(July 22, 1928 - Dec 1, 2021)

on Saturday, May 7th  
at 11:00 a.m. at  
Our Lady of Grace Catholic Church - 135 Drake Rd,  
Salt Spring Island, BC

Her ashes will be interred at  
Mt. Hope Cemetery in Toronto  
on May 17, 2022.

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## MICHAEL GLYN CURTIS

Jan. 28, 1939 – March 21, 2022



Michael passed over gently at Lady Minto Hospital. He is survived by April, his wife of 54 years, his daughter Malindi Curtis and his grandson Gabriel.

Born in Britain during WWII and raised in London, he later followed family tradition and joined the RAF. This started his interest traveling the world as he was sent into the Malayan conflict. After his service, he eventually became a British Steel export sales rep and was sent to Libya, Kenya, Spain, Shanghai, America and finally, Thailand. While he was working in Bangkok, he met April and they married two months later.

They returned to England via Katmandu, Nepal and a year later moved to the Monterey Peninsula in California. Finally, they traveled north to Canada where they found their forever home above Weston Lake on South Salt Spring Island where he lived for 45 years.

He was an author, artist, actor, athlete, artisan, and amigo. Life with Michael was always an adventure. He wrote the following poem about 3 months before his passage into a new form of existence.

*High on Harmony Hill Hummingbirds hover  
Thrusting their beaks into the hearts of heavenly blossoms  
Raccoons roam in search of anything  
As a gentle doe grazes knowingly in the garden*

*While robins eat the last of this season's cherries  
Rats in the attic gnaw on my guitar case  
Waiting for night to plunder the breadbasket*

*In bed, Bella teaches April the secret language of cats  
Oblivious of the mice scavenging the bread crumbs  
left by the rats*

*It's another lovely day on Salt Spring*

Michael was laid to rest with music, songs, and love by a circle of long-time friends in the Natural Cemetery in the heart of the Fulford Valley.



## Looking for GRIEF SUPPORT?

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250-537-2770 • saltspringhospice.org



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## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

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

May days are almost here. Astrologically, this means that the Sun enters the Virgo decan of Taurus. With Mercury newly in Gemini, this will amplify curiosity and intellectual exchange guided by a rigorous critical and analytical process on the social, global stage. With Venus entering Aries on May 2, the focus will also experience additional fire power. Mars in Pisces meanwhile could dampen the flames, yet this placement during Taurus time adds to the revolutionary impulse and resolve, one way or another.

The bigger story, however, is the Solar Eclipse that occurs on April 30 at 10 Taurus 28. Although technically a 'Partial Eclipse', it is still powerful and will have destiny-activating effects for us all, generally, and for those with planets and angles at this degree or within 2-3 degrees on either side, especially. Whether these will produce opportunistic or challenging influences is something that can only truly be determined on a case by case level. What we can be sure about is that its influence will be coloured by 2 very 'ambitious' Fixed Stars: Schedir and Hamal.

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Balancing the inward pull with outward activities reflective of the season continues. In the bigger picture, this eclipse will have a direct impact on your financial affairs. It may prove wise to be extra prudent in this regard. The time is right to lie low, but perhaps also to do your homework. Expect to dig deep to get to the bottom of things.

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Your ambitions will receive a big extra boost consequential to the power of this eclipse. It may even have the effect of spurring actions outside your usual norm and comfort zone, or that of others. Like a tidal wave with a deceptively powerful torque, your actions over the coming weeks and months stand to prove to carry a lot of weight.

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Your imagination is probably running extra strongly of late. The eclipse will have a big impact on you subconsciously, the domain of your imagination. Bringing it to the surface is certainly the theme of creative thinking, yet you will also have to make extra efforts not to be at its mercy. Make friends with your imagination by keeping it in close check.

### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Fertilizing your sense of individuality implies giving it a boost. The extra fire-power of this eclipse will help you to do just that. Meanwhile, a reflective and contemplative mood is the perfect setting to nurture your dreams and visions. As well, deep changes continue to rumble both within and without and can be compared to shedding skins.

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

This eclipse will have a direct and strong impact on your career and social status, in general. It is quite possible that the results of it will be more positive for you than most, or at least could manifest as some good karma. Given the reputation of the fixed stars involved, this more positive theme is the exception.

### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

The double dose of the earth element will inspire you to be outside and to get your hands dirty. Its more indirect influence will occur on relationship fronts and could also prove extra strong. The result could be mixed but generally leans to the positive. The challenging bit implies dealings with unreliable people, so stand ready to adapt proactively.

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Financial realities are playing an extra strong role now. These are or will likely manifest as rather sudden changes of fortune. This process will likely have more than one episode and could flip-flop from positive to negative quite quickly, and the opposite is also true. So, remain grounded, reasonably detached and flexible, avoiding unnecessarily risky ventures.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Sometimes love arrives unexpectedly, or leaves just as quickly. The reasons are many and mysterious as they are; they are all features of the probabilities of destiny. This eclipse certainly has the potential to produce such effects. Especially with the arrival end, take things extra slowly as you can and know better with whom you may become entangled.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Creating beauty, comfort and atmosphere of your liking close to home may be proving to require more effort than imagined. Regardless, doing so is important. With the eclipse influencing your daily rhythm and routine, focusing to include an emphasis on health may prove extra important. Mercury in Gemini says 'let's talk about it.'

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

As likely as is the inspirational influence of this eclipse, it could also be the source of drama in your life. This includes siblings, neighbours and/or children. Yet sometimes, the drama proves enriching and meaningful. Either way, the signs are that the game is afoot and matters will not prove boring. Be ready to lend assistance as necessary.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Adding to the already disruptive influence of Uranus stirring things up close to home these past many months, the eclipse will add its own super-boost. There are some positives indicated in the way of positive returns for good deeds committed in the past. However, it may still produce an unsettling effect and possibly even prompt a major move.

### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The influence of Taurus closely aligns with your overall mode of perception. So, be ready for the results of this eclipse to have a measurable impact on your perspectives. It could well coincide with the pursuit of dreams and their realization. The urge to escape could also prove strong. Aim for the mystic's posture of being in but not of the world, for best results.

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## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

APRIL/MAY 2022 PST (UTC-8h)

When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
27	0250	3.2	10.5	1	0410	3.0	9.8
	0919	1.6	5.2		1114	0.7	2.3
WE	1501	2.5	8.2	SU	1859	3.1	10.2
ME	2027	1.5	4.9	DI	2341	2.5	8.2
28	0314	3.1	10.2	2	0428	3.0	9.8
	0948	1.3	4.3		1145	0.6	2.0
TH	1612	2.7	8.9	MO	1950	3.2	10.5
JE	2115	1.8	5.9	LU			
29	0335	3.1	10.2	3	0036	2.6	8.5
	1016	1.1	3.6		0446	2.9	9.5
FR	1713	2.8	9.2	TU	1217	0.5	1.6
VE	2202	2.0	6.6	MA	2042	3.2	10.5
30	0353	3.0	9.8	4	0140	2.7	8.9
	1045	0.9	3.0		0501	2.9	9.5
SA	1808	3.0	9.8	WE	1252	0.5	1.6
SA	2250	2.3	7.5	ME	2133	3.3	10.8

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## EARTH DAY



PHOTOS COURTESY SD64

Just two of many Earth Day activities held in School District 64 on Friday were, from left, native tree plantings in the Indigenous welcome pole field, and painting of a camas for the NaturePlex mural by Salt Spring Elementary School (SSES) students, along with chicken education, upcycling of old T-shirts into grocery bags and tours of the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) greenhouses. GISS students and grades 5-6 helpers from SSES led the day's events.

Other Earth Day events included a peace walk and gathering in Centennial Park, attended by Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May, and a Come Celebrate the Earth musical evening and candlelight vigil in the United Church Meadow on Saturday.

## COMMUNITY EVENTS

# Ruckle Farm Day on Sunday

150th anniversary of Ruckle Farm to be celebrated

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A popular free event for all ages returns this Sunday, May 1 when Ruckle Farm Day celebrates 150 years of farming at Ruckle Heritage Farm.

Running from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the heritage farm area of Ruckle Park, the event displays traditional farming and crafts side-by-side with nature in the beautiful Ruckle Farm setting.

Planned events include a sheep dog demonstration, face painting, showing of local heritage films, a sheep shearing demonstration, a kids' fish tank and craft table, blacksmithing demonstration, seed saving demonstration, family cow and milking talk, and a log-sawing demonstration. An ox-drawn cart will be on hand, as will the Salt Spring fire department's vintage fire engine.

Baby animals will be on display, and people can learn about churning butter, knitting, spinning and



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTOS

Participants in the last Ruckle Heritage Farm Day held in 2019 were, from top, sheep shearer Pieter Demooy, and musicians Marianne Grittani, left, and Rose Birney. All three are scheduled to be at this Sunday's event.

weaving, basketry and quilting.

Food will be available to purchase from the Salt Spring Lions Club, Al's Gourmet Falafel and Fries, and Salt Spring Fruitsicles, and musical entertainment will be provided by Marianne Grittani and Rose Birney, with special guest Valdy.



Rendering of proposed 11,500 square foot firehall

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## NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK

## Swierenga saluted by BC Ferries

Advisory committee chair  
volunteer work appreciated

SUBMITTED BY BC FERRIES

An interest in anything to do with transportation and logistics is what keeps Harold Swierenga at the helm of Salt Spring's volunteer ferry advisory committee (FAC). Chair since 2008, he says his 15-year run started with a simple conversation borne from curiosity.

"I'm an economist. I retired here from Ontario and got talking to some of the FAC members at that time. I'd done some work in transportation and because I was riding the ferries quite a bit I became a member," he explains.

April 24 to 28 is National Volunteer Week across Canada. The annual event seeks to recognize volunteers, like Swierenga, and celebrate the positive impact of volunteerism in communities.

"I do it because it's a way to contribute and I get a lot out of it," Swierenga said when asked why he gives his time as an FAC chair.

FAC chairs and members work year-round to provide BC Ferries with advice and insight that helps inform day-to-day operations, terminal and vessel improvements, schedule changes and other initiatives. There are no days off for an FAC chair. They answer emails, phone calls and questions from community members 24/7.

Swierenga says satisfaction in the role comes from the fact that people know he cares enough to call him, rather than BC Ferries, with their ferry issues.

"Sometimes I have an answer for them and sometimes they call me just to complain," Swierenga added with a chuckle.

It's that kind of volunteer service which National Volunteer Week is designed to celebrate with this year's theme being 'Empathy in Action.' The theme seeks to draw attention to how volunteers build awareness around the experiences of different community members and build capacity to work collectively together towards common goals.

FAC chairs like Swierenga and his committee members are at the front lines of this work, bringing the perspectives, ideas and concerns of the Salt Spring Island community to the table in conversations with BC Ferries.

For BC Ferries' part, ferry advisory committees are a vital connection to the communities they serve.

"The community insight and understanding that our ferry advisory committees provide us with is invaluable. We rely on them not only for community-centred advice but also to help us get information out to the community, especially when changes are afoot," said Brian Anderson, vice president of strategy and community engagement. "The committees do a phenomenal job and we are grateful for their dedication and the many hours they contribute."

For the Salt Spring Island community, an issue Swierenga hears a lot about from locals is the Fulford terminal redevelopment. Discussions go back 30 years, according to Swierenga, adding that the ongoing delays are frustrating. But he tempers the pace of change on that project with a belief that the future for Salt Spring in terms of ferry service looks pretty good.

"We are getting new terminals at Vesuvius on Route 6 and on the other side at Crofton – that's in the works to be ready for 2028. So it looks good that way, and the two Island Class ferries for that route will hopefully come at the same time. Redevelopment of the Fulford terminal is now scheduled next. We're also getting an interim bigger ferry on Route 6 this month and we have quite an improvement on routes 9 and 9a (service



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Harold Swierenga, volunteer chair of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee. BC Ferries is thanking its volunteer committee members during National Volunteer Week, which runs from April 24 to 28 this year.

between Lower Mainland and the Southern Gulf Islands) since 2017. The gains are incremental; we can use more boats and bigger boats, but so can almost every other route," he said.

Swierenga knows that these major changes will happen after his time as chair but said that's just fine, adding he was never a single-issue FAC member.

"They tend to quit," he points out. "FAC members need to be interested and study the whole ferry system given its interconnectedness."

Away from FAC business you'll find Swierenga digging into his vast marine library at home, working on his antique car collection or having a glass of wine with his wife Sabine at the end of the day. You may even spot him working around his waterfront property, which is visible from the ferry run between Swartz Bay and Metro Vancouver.

"One time, years ago, the ferry captain saw me on the shore and he tooted the ship's whistle," Swierenga quips. "Whenever I see the Spirit I instinctively check my watch to see if it's on time. It's just second nature."

#### FAC Facts:

- There are 13 ferry advisory committees situated in communities up and down the coast of British Columbia.
- Committees are generally made up of eight to 12 members who represent ferry-dependent communities.
- FAC members bring a wide variety of voices and perspectives to the table. A committee's composition depends on the community, and often includes representatives such as: full-time and part-time residents, the tourism industry, commuters, seniors, businesses, commercial goods and service providers, and many more.

This past year, FAC members have helped with:

- Understanding the complex use of ferry service in the Southern Gulf Islands;
- Developing new schedules for two-ship service for Gabriola Island and Quadra Island;
- Adjusting and communicating service and schedule changes during pandemic recovery;
- Providing early input on terminal development plans.

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WHAT'S ON CALENDAR  
ON PAGE 15**

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COVID-19 IN BC



# LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

**Hearty thanks to everyone who participated!**

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Last week's action in the Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign was truly inspiring on a couple of fronts.

Not only did some of the major roads that were still unclaimed get cleaned up by new and returning volunteers, but the island's beaches have or will be getting some much-needed TLC.

A fellow who wanted to remain

anonymous came in to the Driftwood office one day to inquire about the details of garbage disposal being covered by Laurie's next to the Country Grocer complex. He told us he had a pick-up load of debris from cleaning beaches on the south and west side of the island and was going to continue with his mission. No recognition needed, he said.

Then we heard from Claire Sicherman, whose family had cleaned Baker Beach early in April and had

requested help to remove a decaying dock float. Islander Rick Laing stepped up to help with the physical removal, along with Claire's husband Jeremy and neighbour Ethan, and Rick also took care of disposal. Yay, teamwork!

Tangachee Goebel reported that a barge and other large debris has washed up in Fulford Harbour. We're going to hopefully figure out how to deal with that problem too.

Members of the Salt Spring Sneakers running club were back on the campaign after a hiatus last year, and took on part of Walker's Hook Road. They found a ton of alcohol containers on their stretch, and Andrew Haigh also came along and hauled a rusty barbecue up the bank.

Julie van Soeren reported that other Sneakers involved on a different day were Catherine and Richard Bennett and Mary and Peter Freeman, who found large car parts.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to clean up our island this year, and to our amazing partners Laurie's and TJ Beans, and the ad sponsors on this page.

There's still a few days left in the month to get rid of the trash in an area that's dear to your heart as part of our official campaign. Drop by the Driftwood office by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 29 to get your Laurie's and TJ Beans coupons.

PHOTO BY SUSAN GORDON

**THE THINGS YOU FIND:** Salt Spring Sneakers running club member Janine Fernandes-Hayden shows a bag of identical wine bottles retrieved from the side of Walker's Hook Road when group members took time off from running to pick up trash and other debris as part of the Driftwood's 2022 Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign.

## OUR FINAL LIST & AREAS COVERED:

- Kelly-Ann and Hue Haslauer — Baders Beach & Collins Road.
- Jayne and Peter Lloyd-Jones — Long Harbour Road.
- Karen Mouat + Doug Abernethy — Sunset Drive from 775 to Pringle Farm Rd.; and Sir Echo's Way.
- Lavra Mervyn & Kath Webster — Bishops Walk, Cedar View and Mount Baker Crescent
- Blair Carley — Rainbow Road from the Farmers' Institute to town
- Marian Scholtmeijer (and friend) — Centennial Park and downtown area.
- Salt Spring Footprints (Poerschke family) — Upper Ganges Road from Central to Robinson.
- Phil Bysher — Ensilwood and LePage roads.
- Karen Hudson + Lynda Nash — Isle View Drive.
- Rosamund & Patrick Dupuy; and Marriah Gray and Caroline Hickman — Fulford-Ganges Road from Cranberry to Blackburn.
- Ken Jackson — Baker Road.
- Tangachee Goebel — Fulford Harbour and Drummond Park.
- Salt Spring Apple Co — Fulford-Ganges Road Cranberry to Arnell.
- Rick and Juliette Laing — Charlesworth up through Wilkie Way.
- Marie Beaudoin — Cranberry Road from Blackburn to Toynbee.
- Anne Parkinson and Transition Salt Spring Marine Stewardship Group — Fulford estuary.
- Illtyd and Joanne Perkins — Fulford Ganges Road from Garner to Mereside.
- Bill Goddu — North End Road from Stark's Road to Central.
- 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 Southey Point Rd.
- Salt Spring Sneakers — Walker's Hook Road and North Beach Road; plus Stark's Road and North End Road from LePage to Fernwood.
- John Howe — Cusheon Lake Rd. from Fulford-Ganges Road to Stewart Rd.
- 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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