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SAFE BOATING

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10 Ukraine youth shares experience in series

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May 20, 2022

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Issue 20
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SERVICES



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Andrea LeBorgne, who has worked in the Ganges post office since 2018, at the Fulford Harbour outlet where she will serve as postmaster. LeBorgne aims for a "soft" opening on May 24. The site was closed for more than two years.

Fulford post office ready to reopen

Andrea LeBorgne named postmaster

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

South-end residents will be glad to hear that village postal services are resuming this month after a hiatus of more than two years.

Andrea LeBorgne, a familiar face in the Ganges branch since 2018, has accepted the position of Fulford postmaster, operating in the same location at 101 Morningside Rd. (next to the Rock Salt Restaurant). The target soft opening date is Tuesday, May 24.

In a press release Canada Post confirms that the office will "once again provide shipping and receiving services, philatelic offerings, Express-Post envelopes, flat rate shipping boxes, mailing supplies, lock boxes, general delivery and Canada

Post virtual mailbox services (flex delivery and delivery to post office)."

The post office will be open for 30 hours a week with service from Monday to Friday.

"Many things need to align to reopen the office," said LeBorgne. "During the first week we will be training and reorganizing in preparation for full services beginning May 30."

She thanked customers in advance for their understanding as everything comes together for the reopening.

For example, south-end customers are encouraged to read their delivery notice cards carefully and collect parcels at the correct location through the transition.

POST OFFICE continued on 2

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Island governance change suggested

Local community commission discussion paper released

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Capital Regional District (CRD) director has fulfilled an election promise to investigate using a local community commission (LCC) to help improve governance on the island.

A discussion paper on the subject was released last week by a small group formed to look at how an LCC might function and make recommendations for CRD director Gary Holman, the public and CRD staff to consider.

The paper's authors — Brian Webster, Linda Adams and Richard Kerr — recommend that creation of a seven-member LCC be put to voters through a referendum that would take place with local government elections on Oct. 15, 2022. The CRD director would be elected in October and commissioners in a separate election in the spring of 2023.

An LCC would oversee the four island-wide CRD services of economic development, liquid waste, transportation, and parks and recreation. Administration of specified-area CRD water and sewer services would not change. They also suggest that LCC members would advise the CRD director about matters to be brought to the CRD Board or electoral areas committee, grants in aid and any local CRD services contracted to other agencies. Liaising with provincial government agencies on policing, roads and other matters that remain provincial responsibilities could also be done by the LCC, they suggest.

"In my view the main benefit is broadening of representation," Holman told the Driftwood.

Even though only the CRD director will attend CRD Board meetings, in terms of workload and public input, "in effect you are electing more than one director," he said.

Instead of commissions of volunteers considering issues related to the four island-wide services, the elected LCC members would take on that role and be charged with considering the broader picture.

"It's a completely different perspective [from what occurs now]," said Holman.

While meetings of the economic development, liquid waste, transportation, and parks and recreation commissions are held publicly, Holman feels using an LCC will "bring policy, tax and grant decisions further into the open in regularly scheduled public meetings."

LCC continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"Journey of a thousand mile begin with broken fan belt."

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Draft bylaw expected by July

LCC

continued from 1

One potentially complicated area concerns how much authority an LCC would really have. The paper authors recommend that "the CRD board delegate policy, administrative and operational authority for all island-wide local CRD services on Salt Spring Island to a locally elected LCC, including authority to:

- Plan local CRD services;
- Establish operational priorities, policies and procedures relating to these services;
- Prepare annual budgets for CRD board approval;
- Authorize and oversee expenditures within CRD board-approved budgets;
- Manage land and other property acquired by the CRD for these services;
- Enter into and oversee service contracts.

Holman said the draft bylaw to establish the service should be available for public consumption by July.

That is when more details will be available and specifics like how many commission members will be elected — four or six — or what "delegated authority" from the CRD will really look like will be known.

"It's the bylaw where the rubber hits the road," said Holman.

The possibility of using an LCC was raised following island voters' rejection of municipal incorporation in a 2017 referendum.

The paper's authors note that both Holman and CRD staff reviewed drafts of the paper and offered comments, but that no endorsement was asked for or received from the CRD.

The full LCC discussion paper and a preamble by Holman can be seen on the Driftwood's gulfislandsdriftwood.com website.

In 2022, Salt Spring property owners will pay \$6.2 million for CRD services. Those living within specified CRD water and sewer areas will also pay for those services.

Customers asked to get parcels promptly

POST OFFICE

continued from 1

The Fulford office has been closed to walk-in customers since March 2020, although people with post-office boxes were still able to receive letter mail. When the Fulford office is open, south-enders should be able to pick up their parcels there instead of having to go to the Ganges post office.

LeBorgne commented that since the start of the Covid-19 pandemic Salt Spring has seen a huge increase in parcel volumes.

"It's like Christmas every day!" she said. "It will be interesting to see how things work out in the small space in Fulford."

She noted that all Salt Spring customers can help by collecting their mail and parcels daily.

"If you wait to pick up a parcel or notice card from your community mailbox, it has a ripple effect as the volume builds up."

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PHOTO BY CASI LITTLE

MESMERIZING: Tsunami Circus performers do an aerial silks routine, including Bryn Pyper, centre, during one of three sold-out shows at the Salt Spring Island Middle School gym on the May 13-15 weekend. Approximately 30 students from elementary, middle and high schools on the island participated in the show called Beyond. The future of the program is up in the air as the middle school will transfer to administration by the Capital Regional District when it closes at the end of this school year. See gulfislandsdriftwood.com or the May 4 Driftwood for a story about the program.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

Vessel fire prompts fundraiser

Longtime resident artist Sav Boro lost home, possessions and artwork

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Community members are coming together to help Salt Spring artist Sav Boro after a boat fire left him without his home and much of his artwork.

Boro's houseboat at Burgoyne Bay went up in flames at 3 a.m. on April 23.

"Sav lost everything, including his 30 years' worth of original paintings. Luckily, he was able to save his beloved Maine Coon cat," a GoFundMe online fundraising page stated.

The \$30,000 online fundraising goal is meant to help Boro purchase another boat or home and continue his artistic practice.



SAV
BORO

A naturalist and wildlife as well as landscape artist, Boro has been a part of the community for 20 years.

"Sav started to paint at a young age in Kenya, where he was born and raised," organizers stated. "He started a seven-year painting apprenticeship at the age of 18 and sold his first painting soon after at 20 years old."

Money raised will also fund art supplies and canvases, studio rental, basic supplies and the obligation for clean-up of the boat.

Organizers are also asking anyone with an original Sav Boro painting and a willingness for prints to be made to get in touch.

As of May 16, the fundraiser had raised \$7,505 from 72 donors. Search "Support for Sav Boro after Boat Fire" on GoFundMe.com to find the page.

CHILD CARE

Daycare services hopping again

Tree Frog to open first

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Movement is happening in the world of early learning on Salt Spring Island as one daycare is set to re-open and another is working on opening for the first time.

Tree Frog Daycare, which closed Nov. 30, 2021 due to combined staffing and housing challenges, will re-open part-time on June 1 and is anticipated to return full-time in July. The Little Rainbows Early Learning Centre is working on the final pieces of licensing, staffing and set-up to open at its Rainbow Road centre.

When the decision was made to temporarily shut the doors due to staffing and housing shortages, the Fulford Harbour Child Care Society began focusing on recruitment and retention to staff up Tree Frog Daycare. With staffing shortages solved, the daycare is now looking for community support as they prepare to re-open in a few weeks.

Together with the two staff members remaining at the time of closure, the daycare will also have on board a previous staff member, another local early childhood educator (ECE) and an ECE from Vancouver who is being housed with the help of a family whose child is an alumnus of the daycare.

"From the moment we went public about closing, we have felt the outpouring of support from our community, especially our alumni families," chairperson Danielle Taylor and coordinator of the daycare Lisa Bleskie stated via email.

The daycare is licensed for 20 children, including four infant and toddler spaces, which are some of the most needed on the island. Staff and the board are now

busy filling spaces with the families who had their children at the centre when it closed. The board stated they will not be accepting any new registration requests or visits to the daycare until they have completed this process.

"Without the dedication and hard work of our parent board of directors, who remained committed and optimistic throughout this process and all the ups and downs, we would not have been able to do this, and as the last of the original staff of Tree Frog, I am so grateful they fought with me to reopen this place I love so dearly," Bleskie stated.

Tree Frog families, staff and community were also given a big thanks by the board in their re-opening announcement.

Both Tree Frog and Little Rainbows have appealed to the community to support their efforts to provide early learning and care to Salt Spring's youngest citizens.

A GoFundMe campaign is running for Tree Frog's reopening, with \$4,535 raised of a \$25,000 goal as of May 16. The society is also raising funds through people allocating their bottle returns at the Island Return-it depot, through personal donations and through Country Grocer's Save-a-Tape program.

"Tree Frog has a solid business model and has not needed to rely on community donations in the past few years," the GoFundMe page stated.

The daycare did, however, incur a financial loss during the time it was closed and needs help with re-opening costs that include maintenance and repairs, supplies, furniture, payroll, utilities and other fees.

Community members have already stepped in to help, including daycare parent Sean Hart and his Salty Builders crew

spending a day sprucing up the building. A work party is also planned for Sunday, May 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the daycare.

"Anyone who would like to help is welcome to show up that day with gardening supplies, shovels, wheelbarrows," Taylor and Bleskie wrote.

Soil and plants have been donated by Country Grocer, and Forsyth Farms Gravel Mart has contributed sand to refresh the playground.

The daycare is also in need of a paint job inside and out, a new or used washer and dryer, and a new office desk. Email the daycare at treefrogdaycare@shaw.ca for questions around how to support reopening efforts.

With capacity for 12 children up to age 36 months, the Little Rainbows centre is in the process of opening, said executive director Janice Shields. The centre is continuing to actively recruit up to four ECEs, one to two with infant toddler certification on top of their ECE credentials, as well as an ECE assistant. Shields said there are some promising leads, and the centre has done outreach to nearby colleges, yet some experienced ECEs will also be needed.

Little Rainbows has appealed for monetary donations as well as resources, books and playground equipment in March. These needs still exist, Shields said, and with a playground being installed they are also appealing for donations of a shed and a gazebo for the outdoor space.

"We have quite a few families on our list, we're not surprised, [it's] great. It's just that waiting for it all to come together," she said.

To reach the Little Rainbows team, email littlerainbows@gisls.org.



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.

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).

Number of BC building code regulations required for post-disaster structures like the proposed new firehall.

21

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

13

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

0

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LOCAL NEWS MATTERS

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OPINION

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

2022 BCYNA Awards
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)
Bronze - Community Service Award



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EDITORIAL

Change on the table

Unlike many similar-sized communities, local governance is often on a Salt Spring Island "hot topics" list.

Trying to understand who is responsible for what in our rural unincorporated system in the Islands Trust Area and Capital Regional District is not for the faint of heart. A proposal to consolidate some current CRD commissions on the island and elect four or six individuals to oversee those as a "local community commission" (LCC) might not make it any easier to understand, but it is an idea worth discussing, at least.

The LCC idea has been floated by current Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman. Looking into it was an election promise he made back in 2018. A discussion paper on the subject written by a handful of knowledgeable individuals (but not Holman) was released last week.

THE ISSUE: Local community commission idea

WE SAY: Worth a look, at least

for example, LCC members can consider overlapping parks and transportation issues at the same time. Members of the public might be more likely to attend a bi-monthly meeting of elected officials where more than one commission topic was on the agenda.

But how much power an LCC is ultimately granted will be an important consideration, and one that won't be apparent until an establishment bylaw is created and made public by the CRD.

If LCC commissioners don't end up having any power to effect change, then it hardly matters if they are elected to an LCC with a stipend or appointed to the existing four commissions as volunteers. The "accountability factor" that goes with an elected position will be much reduced. It would be interesting to know why community members in at least two other places in B.C. that used the LCC model — Olalla and Bear Lake — apparently did not want to serve as commissioners there.

It is much too soon to either embrace or dismiss the LCC concept. Everyone will have to look carefully at the establishment bylaw produced by the CRD and try to get from it a realistic sense of how effective a change it would be in practice, and then decide whether it's worth the effort and cost.



LTC gets lost in the weeds

BY FRANTS ATTORP

Proposed Bylaw 530 to blanket rezone the island for a multitude of additional suites and cottages across the island raises a crucial question: Is it sustainable? Here is what key documents say:

The policy statement states: "Trust Council believes that to achieve the Islands Trust object, the rate and scale of growth and development in the Trust Area must be carefully managed and may require limitation."

Salt Spring's official community plan (OCP) emphasizes the importance of "identifying limits to residential, commercial and institutional growth that are tailored to the community's land base and ecological carrying capacity." Accordingly, it has capped the island's population at "a little over 17,000", and specified that zoning changes for affordable housing must be "few and minor."

In 2007, a Trust-funded ecosystem health study warned that development on Salt Spring may already be unsustainable: "If, with the current island population at half the build-out, we are already experiencing problems associated with damaged ecosystems, then we are already at or past build-out for maintaining healthy ecosystems." The study called for "a hold on further development . . . until such ecosystem health issues are addressed and resolved."

The Bylaw 530 staff report suggests the wiggle room in the OCP has already been "applied," and lists many other concerns ranging from a lack of information on "carrying capacity" and "total build-out scenarios," to increased stress on infrastructure such as parking, water, sewage and roads "if usage levels are already close to maximum capacity."

VIEWPOINT

Staff concerns mirror the findings of this year's Islands Trust governance review: "There is no comprehensive

analysis of the Trust Area's capacity to sustain current population and activity, or its ability to accommodate more growth and development, especially in light of climate change and other considerations. The absence of an overarching vision for the Trust Area as a whole, setting out limits to growth, measures for protection of the environment, and sustainable strategies for development must be addressed."

In 2019, the State of the Islands report showed Salt Spring has not yet breached the "accepted threshold for ecosystem health." However, had it factored in thousands of yet-to-be developed densities (i.e. build-out), it is clear Salt Spring is already well into the red zone.

Claiming that Bylaw 530 will result in only a small number of "accessory dwelling units" is flawed, short-term thinking. When new densities are created, trustees must assume most or all will eventually be developed. Just as we live today with zoning decisions made decades ago, those living decades hence will have to deal with decisions made today.

Bylaw 530 highlights how we are getting lost in the weeds rather than first discussing the big issues such as community needs, limits to growth (and human compassion), settlement patterns and precedents being set for other islands.

Can the unique Gulf Islands character be saved or is an urban-style landscape with pockets of green inevitable? Only a comprehensive review of our community plan can air these questions and chart a course for the future.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you interested in the local community commission idea?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you looking forward to a busy Gulf Islands visitor season?

21 77
YES NO

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

ISLAND VOICES

FROM THE BACK ISSUES

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

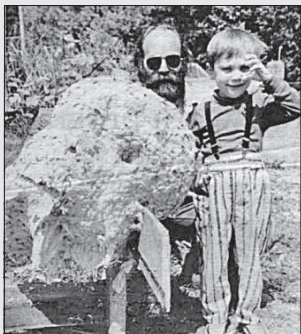
1972

Salt Spring Islanders were excited to hear that "SAM" the car crusher operated by the provincial government was set to come to the island in the summer. So far more than 200 old cars, with another 100 or more to be lined up, were set to be squashed by SAM. The Salt Spring Island Planning Association had made the arrangements in an effort to clean up island roadsides.

1982

The Queen of Sidney plied the waters between Tsawwassen and the Gulf Islands displaying a "Go Canucks Go" sign. A BC Ferries worker at Long Harbour terminal said no one knew who put the sign on the boat. The Vancouver hockey team ended up being swept by the New York Islanders in four games in the Stanley Cup finals.

1992



A wasp nest found in the attic of Slegg Lumber measured 19 inches wide, 23 inches deep and 16 and a half inches in height. Store manager Lane Gromme said he had to use a chainsaw to cut a hole in the attic to get the nest out.

2012

Vancouver Island Health Authority officials were recommending people not swim in St. Mary Lake as a result of elevated microcystin levels. "Because of the algal bloom it may be unsafe to swim [in the lake]," said Craig Nowakowski, a senior environmental health officer.



Fuel tanks were removed from the Ganges Shell station that had closed in March of 2011. Shell said it had no timeline for site remediation.

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

LETTERS to the editor

Thousands? Really?

On Salt Spring we have approximately 11,000 full-time residents, but Riley Donovan suggests in his May 11 letter that a bylaw supporting property owners to put a mini house or other secondary dwelling in place to help alleviate the acute shortage of housing for working folks here will add thousands of secondary residences!

Let's be real here.

A few dozen small homes, or maybe a hundred, would be a miracle!

Seriously, folks, there are lots of people looking for affordable housing on our island, it's been spoken about from many different angles, but the upshot is that distributing housing to private property owners is one of the best ways to add dozens of dwellings that would help keep our local businesses staffed and

help folks who've lived here for years stay on the island.

This will not result in a sudden influx of thousands of new residents, but might actually quell the very real tide of folks being forced to leave this island, because they are unable to find housing.

Make sure these additional dwellings are code compliant, hooked up to septic and water and not a burden on the environment — no argument. But encourage them with every available resource.

Bravo Laura Patrick for trying to get policy in place to support private property owners who would happily do their part.

Currently a small property can have a 10,000-square-foot mansion with untold numbers of residents totally legally, but if the same property has a modest home of 1,500 or 1,800 square feet with two people in it, and the owner wants to have a second dwelling to add to the avail-

able rentals on this island for another couple of people, it's non-compliant.

Let's make this change, make it well thought out and inclusive, but make it so!

STEVEN BARER,
SALT SPRING

Bylaw would cause sprawl

Maxine Leichter (May 4 Viewpoint) rightly predicts Bylaw 530 would degrade the island's environment and rural character without generating below-market rentals. Even if many owners add rental units, skyrocketing property prices and escalating construction costs will provide more-of-the-same expensive rentals in far-flung locations.

Global financial giants and the short-term vacation rental industry have trumped long-term rental housing. We need

more multi-unit buildings, built in-town and perhaps other core areas, walkable for school, shopping, work, appointments, construction sites, etc.

Bylaw 530 would encourage rural sprawl that will doom the Islands Trust "preserve and protect" mandate. If our federal and provincial governments can afford to prop up petroleum, mining, logging and fish-farming industries, they can afford to increase grants for local, long-term, affordable multi-unit rental housing.

The most realistic way to add below-market housing is also the most environmentally responsible. There are hurdles, but in the haste to enact Bylaw 530, our trustees make a risky gamble and a stab-in-the-dark that will fail, with regrettable side effects.

DENNIS LUCARELLI,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It's the bylaw where the rubber hits the road."

GARY HOLMAN, SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR, ON THE LCC PROPOSAL

Straight talk on desalination, docks and seawalls

BY BOWIE KEEFER

The Islands Trust is currently contemplating a draft "policy statement" bylaw that includes draconian prohibitions on how islanders may relate to surrounding ocean waters.

The draft bylaw proposes to ban water supply by desalination, additional private docks and shoreline protection by seawalls. To justify these envisaged policies, the Trust has distributed a "Fact Sheet" claiming that seawater desalination is overly energy-intensive and has environmentally harmful discharges, while new docks and seawalls should also be outlawed as environmentally detrimental.

As an engineering physicist and sustainable technology researcher with wide experience in the relevant fields of seawater desalination technology, ocean engineering and physical oceanography, I was amazed by the disconnect between the Trust's "Fact Sheet" and reality. In the desalination field, I had a leading role 40 years ago in developing energy-efficient reverse osmosis equipment for survival, shipboard and land-based water supply. Some breakthrough results included development of the first practicable manually powered seawater desalinators, and successful operation of household-sized desalination units on photovoltaic solar power.

Energy consumption of modern reverse osmosis systems is only 4 kWh per cubic meter of high quality fresh water extracted from the ocean. Good design practice for small-scale desalination is to operate at about 20 per cent recovery of purified water from the feed seawater, so the salt concentration of the

GUEST COLUMN

wastewater is enriched by the same ratio, with no chemicals added or released in operation. The wastewater from a small desalination unit will rapidly mix into surrounding seawater so that the salinity enrichment will be insignificant beyond a few meters of the discharge point.

Because of heavy seasonal rainfall, large freshwater discharges from the Fraser and other rivers, and strong tidal mixing, marine biota of the Salish Sea are acclimatized to highly variable salinities that are significantly less than the salinity of the open Pacific Ocean west of Vancouver Island. The environmental effects of small-scale reverse osmosis desalination in our region would be essentially undetectable.

There would be no role for large-scale desalination in the Trust area, as surface water and groundwater production from drilled wells will always be significantly less expensive than seawater desalination for village supply because of the more demanding maintenance requirements of reverse osmosis equipment.

With many islanders and the Trust itself expressing chronic anxiety about water scarcity, it seems bizarre that our local government would want to outlaw harmless extraction of high quality potable water from the surrounding waters. While other water supply options will typically be less expensive than desalination, including maintenance costs, the established practicability and reasonable affordability of seawater

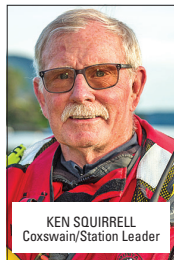
desalination absolutely guarantees overall self-sufficiency of our islands in water supply if suitable investments are made.

Private docks can provide ideally convenient intake and outfall points for household desalination units. Docks have important roles for connecting islands to the water and to each other, as well as providing emergency evacuation points. Sensitive design and careful installation are needed to minimize ecological and aesthetic impacts.

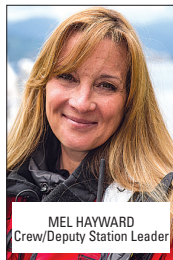
Sea level rise in the Trust area from present mean sea level is expected to be about 20 cm until 2050, accelerating to about 1 m by 2100 with worst case predictions a factor of two higher. Many waterfront owners will become concerned about shoreline erosion. Where feasible, soft protection would be preferable to hard seawall armouring that will be necessary in some situations. Qualified professional advice will be needed to advise on minimally disruptive solutions, with careful attention to effects on neighbouring shoreline areas. While the Trust should be advocating necessary education and responsibly sensitive approaches, it can be expected that senior governments will take the lead role.

There is no justification for the suggested blanket prohibitions of desalination, docks and seawalls. As a Galiano Islander who strongly supports the principles of the Trust object, I would like the Islands Trust to be advocating for good education of islanders and their contractors for best possible results rather than devising new regulatory functions beyond its own competence.

SAFE BOATING AW



KEN SQUIRRELL
Coxswain/Station Leader



MEL HAYWARD
Crew/Deputy Station Leader



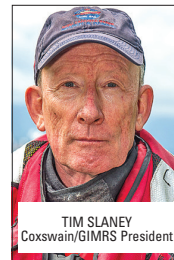
NIC FUTTER
Coxswain/Safety Officer



PAUL FITZZALAND
Coxswain/Jrs. Program Coordinator



ANDREW ROSS COLLINS
Coxswain/Liaison Officer



TIM SLANEY
Coxswain/GIMRS President

RCMSAR v

Friendly, potentially life-saving boat inspections offered

BY EMLIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A simple task as removing the plastic packaging on flares can be a life-saving action for boaters who may one day find themselves in an emergency situation.

"They were brand new and they were in that rigid plastic that is almost impossible to cut with scissors," said Tom McKeachie, a coxswain with the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) Station 25 on Salt Spring Island, of a recent inspection done on a couple's new boat. "I said, 'Let's pretend that right now, you just hit a log and you're thinking what are you gonna do? ... Let's open that package now and put it in a Ziploc and then you'll be able get to it if you needed to.'"

"They were so thankful for that particular gem," remarked McKeachie, who is also a 16-year volunteer with RCMSAR and lead organizer for the safety check days. "We just come away feeling so good because not only do we go through the mechanics of the inspection but we'll often get an expression of appreciation for having contributed specifically to the safety of that vessel. So it's fulfilling to do."

McKeachie's anecdote comes from one of the vessel inspections RCMSAR, a Canadian Coast Guard volunteer auxiliary organization, does each spring. Ahead of Safe Boating Awareness Week from May 21 to 27, the Driftwood asked

(PHOTOS BY STEPHEN HINDLEY, HIVE PHOTOGRAPHY)

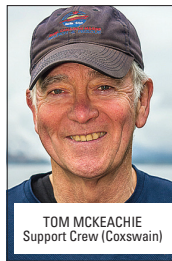
Thank you, Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue Station 25 and Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society volunteers, for your community service!



DUNCAN ELSEY
Coxswain



DAVID CASSIDY
GIMRS Vice President



TOM MCKEACHIE
Support Crew (Coxswain)



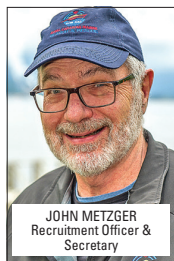
BRAD GRINDLER
Advanced Crew/GIMRS Director



MARY BEALL
Crew/First Aid Officer



JERRY FITZPATRICK
Advanced Crew/Training Officer



JOHN METZGER
Recruitment Officer & Secretary



MURRAY KIRZINGER
Crew/Maintenance Officer



NICK OGILVIE
Crew/Maintenance Officer, GIMRS Director



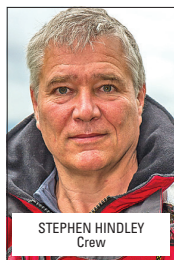
WARE HARTWELL
Crew/Quartermaster, Apparel Officer



ELLEN VESTERDAL
Crew/Media Officer



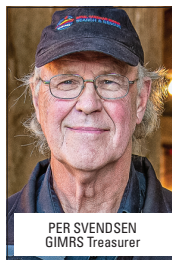
CHRIS LEVAN
Crew, GIMRS Director, Social Director



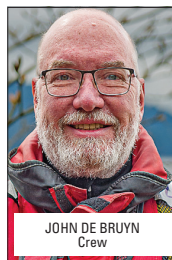
STEPHEN HINDLEY
Crew



BRAD HEFFERON
Crew, GIMRS Director



PER SVENDSEN
GIMRS Treasurer



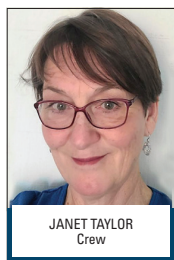
JOHN DE BRUYN
Crew



STEVEN WHALLEY
Crew



NICK BEYER
Crew



JANET TAYLOR
Crew



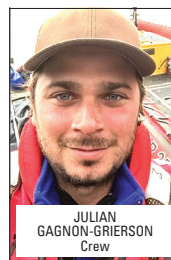
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SKY LOSIER
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SAFETY AWARENESS WEEK

May 21-27, 2022

Volunteers help people stay safe on the water

McKeachie to talk through this aspect of Station 25's work.

The inspections involve going through checklists and conducting education with boaters. Often the learning comes in the form of confirming exactly where much-needed safety items, such as a waterproof flashlight or an axe, are located onboard.

"Having them go through the steps of finding where the particular things are — 'Where is the shutoff to your fuel tank in case there was something happening on your boat? Do you know how to get to it?' — Those kinds of things are always appreciated."

The volunteers also review safe boating procedures, such as the need to leave a sail plan and to communicate with contacts should the plan change. This helps the boaters as well as RCMSAR's volunteers as they are the ones who venture out in blowing gales to look for people who are delayed returning home.

"We go out and look for them and find that they're nested cozily in some cove or they're at a marina or they're in the pub, and they just never thought of telling the contact that they've extended their trip," he explained. "We're putting ourselves at some risk and also committing ourselves to being at a particular place at a particular time when we might be needed elsewhere."

Other concerns reviewed include the importance of avoiding alcohol while boating, the effect of which is amplified in the wind and sun, and especially for people with less experience. Volunteers also educate people around the growing understanding that a major cause of immediate drownings are the cold water gasp reflex and not only hypothermia that was previously thought to be the main cause of death in cold water.

Volunteers go over a detailed checklist of both federally required and optional items depending on the size of boat, then boat owners either pass the inspection and get an

approval sticker or a list of deficiencies to be addressed. Most often the people having inspections done are repeats who take part year after year.

At the height of the COVID-19 pandemic volunteers weren't able to board vessels, yet McKeachie said they are back at it now with masking and physical distancing.

Station 25 has completed inspections this spring at Salt Spring Island Sailing Club and Maple Bay Yacht Club. RCMSAR's volunteers also cruise local docks throughout the summer, offering inspections to boaters. If any boat owners would like to arrange one, they can reach McKeachie at tymckeachie@gmail.com.

Vessel inspections are just one of the activities the organization does to promote marine safety in the area they serve, which stretches from Nanaimo to Sidney. Volunteers meet with local school groups to review safe activities on the water, including Girl Guides and Scouts. A weekly program is also offered over several months to a small group of high school students, with trainees becoming certified in first aid, radio operation, navigation and search and rescue.

McKeachie added that Station 25 also installs and maintains several Kids Don't Float kiosks on Salt Spring and Galiano with free life jackets for children to borrow.

Supporters of RCMSAR, and any boaters looking for deals, should mark their calendars for their annual marine garage sale May 28. The garage sale supplements Station 25's funding, the majority of which comes from a \$30,000 British Columbia Lottery Corporation grant, and other grants and donations from community organizations and individuals.

There are circa 30 members at the Vesuvius-based RCMSAR station, which serves 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.

Anyone interested in joining Station 25 or making a contribution can contact John Metzger at jfmetzger@gmail.com.



PHOTO BY ELLEN VESTERDAL

Stuart Reid, owner of Yukon Ranger, shows his vessel's tow line during an RCMSAR boat safety check at the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club.

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Rants + ROSES

Roses

Roses galore to all the beautiful people who work at the Salt Spring Laundr-O-Mat. Thank you, thank you for your good humour, grace and friendly professionalism when you and the Laundr-O-Mat helped us get through the four months we were between "permanent" homes on Salt Spring. Cheryl and David

I just wanted to send roses to the Salt Spring Island fire department for their recent donation of a specialized fire extinguisher to the library, for use in our new FabLab. The addition of this equipment will allow laser-cutting and engraving creativity to flourish — safely — and we just can't thank them enough for the thought and generosity of this addition to our space!

Thank you to Country Grocer for donating the money to buy a Mustang survival floater suit for RCMSAR 25. The marine rescue unit is very grateful for donations such as these and it is especially meaningful when they come from within our own community.

I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to everyone who purchased



PHOTO BY STEPHEN HINDLEY/HIVE PHOTOGRAPHY

From left are RCMSAR Station 25 deputy station leader Melissa Hayward, Gulf Islands Marine Rescue Society president Tim Slaney, Robert Steinbach of Country Grocer community relations and RCMSAR crew member Janet Taylor as RCMSAR and GIMRS members express appreciation to Country Grocer for donating a Mustang survival floater suit (modelled by Taylor in the photo).

one of my hand-knit sunflowers or flags in aid of Ukrainian refugees. I have managed to raise \$800 to support incoming refugees! A special thanks to Jen and Jason of Barb's Bakery for so generously providing space to sell them on my behalf. Aldyth Levy

Thank you to the high school student who found my paycheque on the street and turned it in to the school office, and then the office

person who called Choices to inform them my cheque was at the school. Thanks, Sam

A bright yellow rose and a bucket full of sunflowers from Ukraine to whomever paid the bid we made on the painting of a sunflower at the April 30 Fulford Hall fundraiser. It looks fabulous where it hangs! So thank you and we hope you get to see it one day! Love from Jewel and Cherie

Capital Regional District



Call for New Members

CRD Arts Advisory Council

Support decision-making on arts funding.

The CRD seeks new members for its Arts Advisory Council, a volunteer group that adjudicates arts funding programs and provides advice to the CRD Arts Commission. 2022 initiatives include the continuing implementation of an Equity, Diversity and Inclusion lens on CRD Arts & Culture Support Service programs.

We encourage applicants of all abilities, gender identities/expressions, racialized identities and other lived experiences reflecting the diversity of the region.

Learn more: www.crd.bc.ca/arts

Apply by May 31, 2022 at 4:30pm

We encourage those with disabilities who anticipate needing accommodations to apply or participate to contact us.

CRD Arts & Culture Support Service
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC, V8W 1R7
250.360.3215 | artsdevelopment@crd.bc.ca

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

LCC is ill-conceived idea

CRD director Gary Holman and his group have finally released a discussion paper on why the island needs a local community commission (LCC). It's a 34-page tome, part textbook and part technical manual. It's an updated version of an earlier document published three years ago that largely went unread and stirred little interest.

One might think after wading through the paper how marvellous it will be to have a municipal-like structure costing next to nothing with CRD senior management reporting to the LCC rather than their own employer. Needless to say, this is far-fetched and hardly likely.

At least with incorporation, a consultant produced a balanced study that served as a basis for community discussion. I recommended we do the same regarding an LCC, but the CRD director dismissed the idea and instead turned to like-minded friends to produce the paper.

By any measure, LCCs have been a legislative failure over the past 30 years. Even the few, tiny communities that have an LCC want it repealed and there's been no appetite by other jurisdictions to introduce one.

If residents read the paper, they should know that it's purely hypothetical and has little connection with reality, or the handful of LLCs in existence. Regardless of what's in the paper, an LCC will be largely advisory, with no resources, no staff, no revenue and no legal authority. It's a committee of the CRD and will not enjoy the imagined powers the authors expect.

I supported incorporation and still do. However, I understand that incorporation has drawbacks and complexities that may be addressed at another time. However, instead of wasting time and resources on this ill-conceived idea, we should revisit our current structure. Improvements can be made without incurring costs or creating a fourth layer of government with marginal utility and another head office in Victoria.

BOB MOFFATT,
SALT SPRING

Repair current fire hall

Most of the articles being written in the Driftwood and all material issued by the fire services concerning another upcoming referendum for the approval of financing of the new fire hall imply that Salt Spring residents have no option but to accept it.

At no time has it been shown how this new facility will make the fire service more efficient and reduce response times in any way.

As a resident of Salt Spring I can appreciate that the existing Ganges fire hall, which is old and never designed for modern requirements, is inadequate and needs major renovation.

Salt Spring residents have shown great support for our fire service. Salt Spring firefighters' pay grade is equal to 98 per cent of comparable fire services, and from all reports the equipment is up to the job. We are putting funds aside each year for new equipment should it be needed.

I believe the fire service must now respect and support the residents of Salt Spring and be fiscally responsible. A \$500,000 per year building fund was created after previous referendums advised against a large financial project. Let's use this building reserve fund in hand to extensively renovate the current Ganges fire hall. Such a renovation will not make the building seismically sound but as perfect a world we live in, not everything can be perfect.

With current rates of inflation, rising interest rates and soaring construction costs, is this the time to propose a \$13.7-million project that is doomed for cost overruns which Salt Spring residents will be required to carry for years?

We are now going to a mail-in ballot and we are yet to see the question or statement we will be asked to make a decision on. Wouldn't ample advance awareness of the referendum statement be fair and responsible so that residents would have enough time to review and discuss it thoroughly before voting?

Further spending by the fire services on Salt Spring should be tied to efficiencies and a new fire hall is not proportionally increasing our fire service efficiency.

HARRY KIRWIN,
SALT SPRING

Use face-to-face services

It is time to wake up and go into the three banks in Ganges and talk to the people who work there and "transact" in person, or soon there will be no one there!

Any place that you can interact with other is only for the greater good. We cannot lose touch each other.

In person is best!

JEWEL ELDSTROM,
CHERIE GEAUVREAU,
SALT SPRING

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

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
18	0004	2.9	9.5	22	0607	2.5	8.2
	0420	3.3	10.8		0746	2.5	8.2
WE	1213	-0.1	-0.3	SU	1548	0.7	2.3
ME	2047	3.5	11.5	DI			
19	0119	3.0	9.8	23	0006	3.4	11.2
	0457	3.2	10.5		0702	2.1	6.9
TH	1302	0.0	0.0	MO	0955	2.2	7.2
JE	2142	3.5	11.5	LU	1649	1.1	3.6
20	0254	2.9	9.5	24	0043	3.3	10.8
	0539	3.0	9.8		0741	1.8	5.9
FR	1355	0.1	0.3	TU	1219	2.2	7.2
VE	2235	3.5	11.5	MA	1752	1.4	4.6
21	0440	2.7	8.9	25	0114	3.3	10.8
	0629	2.8	9.2		0815	1.5	4.9
SA	1450	0.4	1.3	WE	1413	2.3	7.5
SA	2323	3.5	11.5	ME	1855	1.8	5.9

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PERFORMING ARTS

Dancer Baker presents 'unmoored'

Opportunity to see a great artist and participate in workshop

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

Long considered one of Canada's most influential contemporary dancers, Peggy Baker performs her deeply personal "dancestory," unmoored, on Thursday, May 26 at 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring.

The piece was co-created with dance artist Sarah Chase, a collaborator of Baker's since 2003, who'd encouraged her to write two stories for every year of her life to develop into dance works. The subject of unmoored is an aspect of Baker's life she'd insisted she wouldn't share at that time – events during her 20-year marriage to the musician, composer and disability rights activist Ahmed Hassan. By 2017 she was ready to do so, and worked with Chase to distill 30 pages of writing into what she calls the dancestory genre. Reviewing unmoored, critic Paula Citron called the work, "one of total perfection as the heartbreaking text and Baker's eloquent movement swing back and forth between darkness and light." It won Baker the 2018 Dora Mavor

Moore Award for Outstanding Performance (female).

Baker's career began in Toronto in 1973, having studied theatre at the University of Alberta and dance in New York at the Martha Graham School and the Herbert Berghof Studio. After co-founding the Dancemakers company, she went on to tour internationally with some of the most prominent names in dance, including Lar Lubovitch, Mikhail Baryshnikov and Mark Morris.

Baryshnikov has said, "Peggy is a true dance bohemian: she knows how to play up against contemporary orthodoxy and turn it on its head. It's why she is a great artist."

She established her own company, Peggy Baker Dance Projects, in 1990, seeing further collaboration with leading choreographers, composers and designers, and touring productions all over world.

Baker is winding down her company after a final performance in late 2022 — her 50th year as an extraordinary dance artist.

Baker is also offering a workshop on Wednesday, May 25 at 5 p.m. FluxDelux is an all-abilities spontaneous choreography class, suitable for anyone from age nine to 90-plus.

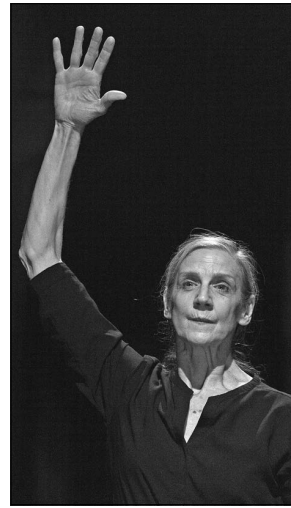
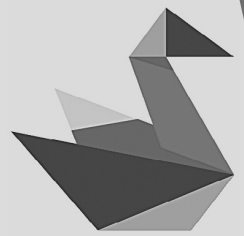


PHOTO BY ALEKSANDAR ANTONIJEVIC

Contemporary dancer Peggy Baker.

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news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

what's on



Wed. May 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John Herbert. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Thur. May 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Hownd. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Mike & Margo. At Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.

Fri. May 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vixx. On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

Ange Hehr Band. Inside at Moby's Pub. 8:30 to midnight.

Balkan Schmalkan. Live at Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

Everyday People. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Auntie Kate. At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Family Literacy Festival. For week two of a four-week festival, enjoy environmental educator Reed Osler at the Mouat Park entrance field. 1 p.m. A Salt Spring Literacy, School District 64 and Salt Spring Public Library event.

VIA ZOOM

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are MLA Adam Olsen, CRD director Gary Holman and Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Email ask@asksaltspring.com for the link.

Sat. May 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Foothills Brass Quintet. Brass ensemble plays music from all genres at All Saints. 7:30 p.m.

Kurai Mubaiwa. Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.

Ange Hehr. On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

The Coalition. Inside at Moby's Pub. 8:30 p.m. midnight.

Everyday People. At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Buck Dodgers. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Forum: Covid-19 – Two Years On. Dr. Kevin Patterson and Aletha Humphreys, executive director of Greenwood's Eldercare Society, will revisit their onstage discussion of two years ago. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Masks and vaccine cards are required for this event.

Sun. May 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Phoenix Lazare. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Jake and Cables. On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

Simone & Mike. Inside at Moby's Pub. 8:30 p.m. to midnight.

Rough & Tumble. At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Hike With SS Trail & Nature Club. Meet at ArtSpring every Sunday at 1 p.m. to join a 3-4-hour hike in various parts of Salt Spring. Non-members may attend up to three hikes per year. More info: saltspring-tnc.ca/index.php/events/

StoryWalk. See Friday's listing.

Mon. May 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Alan Moberg. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk. See Friday's listing.

Tue. May 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sue Newman & Tom Bowler. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Hike With SS Trail & Nature Club. See Sunday listing except the time is at 9:45 a.m. to join a hike or at 10 a.m. for a more relaxed walk.

Wed. May 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mike & Margo. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Peggy Baker FluxDelux Dance Workshop. Workshop for people of all abilities. ArtSpring. 5 p.m.

Central Community Hall Society. Board of directors meeting in the lower hall. Public welcome. 7 p.m.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

Fantastic Beasts: The Secrets of Dumbledore shows on Friday, May 20 through Tuesday, May 24 at 7 p.m., plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. www.thefritz.ca

EXHIBITIONS

- Broken Open – Abstracts By Kelly Kiss & Nathalie St-Amant is the Salt Spring Gallery exhibit until June 1 during gallery hours of Tuesday to Saturday, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.

- SSI Printmakers are showing new original prints in the ArtSpring Lobby to May 30. ArtSpring is open from Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and during ArtSpring performances.

- Sheya Jordan presents an exhibit called Heartivism in the library program room until May 28.

- Avril Kirby shows her maritime images at Fernwood Road Cafe through May.

- John de Bruyn has photographs on display at Country Grocer Cafe this month.

- Three pieces from Sabrina Lloyd's Blue Collection are on display at Dragonfly Art Supplies throughout the month of May.

- Sheri Standen's art show at Harvest Moon in the Country Grocer complex has been extended through May with new paintings.

Salt Spring Challenge Cup

Annual soccer tourney runs Sat.-Sun., May 21-22 at GISS and Fernwood school fields, and finals at the GISS field on Mon., May 23

See Salt Spring Island Challenge Cup page on Facebook for more details.

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&
SUNDAY June 5, 2022 2:30 PM

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Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, May 23 - Victoria Day statutory holiday - and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Tuesday, May 24.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood
Wednesday May 25 edition will be Wednesday, May 18, noon

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CULTURAL DIVERSITY

Ukraine youth thrives

Second in series of articles by The Circle Education

What is it like to grow up within different cultures? In honour of World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development on May 21, The Circle Education talks with young people to celebrate different backgrounds. Through our youth, we hope to offer a look at the world from different perspectives. In this way, we begin to open up horizons, providing our societies with connection and making them more inclusive.



PHOTO COURTESY THE CIRCLE

Salt Spring resident Ivanna Darmokhid.

BY MARCIA JANSEN
THE CIRCLE EDUCATION

Ivanna Darmokhid was 13 when she moved from Ukraine to Salt Spring Island. The teenage years can be a difficult time to leave your friends and family, but Ivanna was excited for this new adventure in her life. She's grateful that her parents took the leap to start a new life in Canada, especially now that Russia has invaded her home country.

Ivanna, now 16, was born in Lviv, the largest city in western Ukraine, close to the Polish border. Most of her relatives are from Lviv, although she has family members in other parts of Ukraine as well.

"My friends and family in Lviv are relatively safe," she says. "The Russians come from the north through Belarus, and the east, so it will take longer to get to Lviv, but there were some missile attacks though. I try not to worry too much about my friends and family, but it is hard."

Ivanna and her dad, Igor, moved to Salt Spring in the winter of 2018 to join her mother, Oksana, who arrived a few months earlier. "I was quite excited to move," says Ivanna, who is now in Grade 11 at Gulf Islands Secondary School. "I didn't travel a lot when I was younger and I'd never been outside Ukraine. Canada was new, it was an adventure. I was definitely sad that I had to leave my friends, but I was also hoping that I could visit them, which I haven't because of the pandemic. Luckily there is this awesome thing called the internet, which helped me to stay in touch with my friends in Ukraine."

Ivanna started Grade 8 at Salt Spring Island Middle School after the winter break.

"Thirteen is a difficult age to move to another country. It would definitely have been easier if I had been younger, but everybody is a bit weird at that age, and it would have been a strange stage of life for me anyway," she says with a smile.

With the already politically unstable situation in Ukraine before Russia invaded the country, her parents wanted to come to Canada to give Ivanna a better future.

"They really wanted to move to Canada for a while and when they had the opportunity, they took it... when it finally happened, my first thought was 'this could be fun.' I am the type of person that will do well pretty much anywhere. No matter where I am, I will be fine, I can make friends."

And she did.

"I felt welcome in my new class. Everyone was friendly and helpful. Friendships here are a bit different though, compared to Ukraine. Everyone is more open. You can talk about more personal things."

Her mother introduced her to the English

language in kindergarten.

"English is mandatory in school. I was taught the basics and knew how to read and write in English, but I didn't have a lot of experience in speaking the language. For the first couple of months on Salt Spring Island, I felt like an outsider. A bit lost, honestly, because of the language barrier, but I caught up pretty quickly."

She loves living on Salt Spring Island, close to the sea.

"Lviv has a population of more than 700,000 people. It was a huge change coming from a big city to a small island, but I like it. I have different points of view now I have lived both in a city and in a rural community. I would have been a completely different person if I had stayed in Ukraine. And

because the community is so small and everyone knows each other here, it helped me and my family to make connections more easily."

Ivanna and her parents try to keep Ukraine traditions alive.

"But it is different," she says. "A lot of holidays and traditions in Ukraine are connected to the church and celebrated with family. For Christmas, for example, family members cook a Christmas dinner consisting of 12 dishes that symbolize the 12 apostles. And with Easter, you bring your Easter baskets with sausages, eggs, horseradish and sweet bread called paska to the church where the priest blesses the food with holy water. Now we are just with the three of us, we still celebrate those holidays but just smaller."

And although she doesn't miss going to church every week, she does miss her family, the traditions and Ukrainian food.

"Ukraine culture is so rich and has so many layers. Ivana Kupala is a fun example. It is a holiday that originated during pagan times and marks the summer solstice. That day you jump over a fire wearing a white dress and the girls make wildflower wreaths that you throw in the river. The boy who catches it a little bit further down the river, you've got to hang out with that evening. I have fond memories of that."

Now she is used to Halloween, Thanksgiving and Canada Day, and feels that Salt Spring is her home.

"I have Ukraine roots and I treasure the fact that I am being raised within two cultures. It gives me different perspectives and outlooks on life and it made my life richer."

Ivanna's family does not yet have permanent residency, but hope they can stay in Canada, and not only because of the war.

"I have more options in Canada. I feel free, away from the expectations people might have for me in Ukraine."

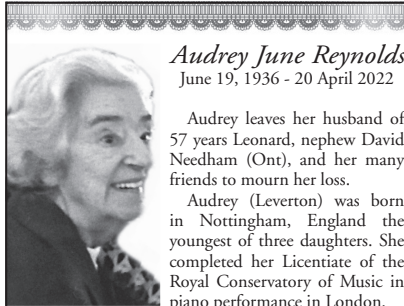


Obituaries

Obituaries



Just tell them, "I never got caught."
BUD WILLIAMS - 1930-2022



Audrey June Reynolds
June 19, 1936 - 20 April 2022

Audrey leaves her husband of 57 years Leonard, nephew David Needham (Ont), and her many friends to mourn her loss.

Audrey (Leverson) was born in Nottingham, England the youngest of three daughters. She completed her Licensate of the Royal Conservatory of Music in piano performance in London.

After emigrating to Canada in the early 60's Audrey found employment at Toronto General Hospital in administration.

Audrey married Leonard on 4 December 1965 residing in Brampton, Ont.

It was during these years that she taught piano to many children, some of whom stay in contact with her to this day.

Audrey and Leonard enjoyed travelling and took road trips and cruises up to and including their retirement on Salt Spring Island in 1990.

Audrey was a member of the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society where she volunteered playing the piano for the residents of Extended Care Unit for over 25 years.

Many thanks to the Nursing and Care staff at Lady Minto Hospital for their loving care given to Audrey during her stay.



DOUGLAS SMITH

With sadness we announce the death of Douglas Smith (70 years) on April 8, 2022 at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island. He died of complications from Covid, contracted at his Greenwood's Eldercare home where he has resided since 2010.

Doug is predeceased by his mother and father, Helen and Alex Smith of Galiano. He leaves behind his sister Anne Marshall (Salt Spring Island), brother Alex (Bundaberg, Australia), and brother Randy (Vancouver).

Doug was born in Vancouver, where he attended Kerrisdale Elementary and Prince of Wales Secondary Schools. After graduating from High School and a welding course at Malaspina, Doug spent a brief stint in the North. He then returned to Galiano Island where he lived in a cottage at his parents' home. There he worked for twenty-five years as a custodian at Galiano School.

Doug was a gentle soul who loved solitude. He chose to work at the school at night when it was quiet. A shy man, he was more comfortable with animals than with most people.

He cared for his mother (who was blind) and father (who had Alzheimer's and Parkinson's diseases) at home until they passed away.

Doug never married and never had children, however time spent on the water with his five nieces and nephews instilled in them a lifelong love for fishing and the sea. Unfortunately, his youngest nephew never had the opportunity to know Uncle Doug.

The family would like to extend their gratitude to the staff at Greenwood's for the kind, understanding care shown to Doug over the thirteen years he lived there.

Also a huge thanks to the doctors and nurses at Lady Minto Hospital for the extraordinary compassion offered to Doug and his family in his final days.

There will be no service. The family will gather on Galiano next month to remember Doug and to scatter his ashes near his Mom and Dad at the home they all loved.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Coming Events

Information

Brenda Thomas

February 3, 1949 - April 26, 2022

With great sadness the family of Brenda Thomas, of Salt Spring Island, announces her recent passing. Brenda was born in Colombia, South America on February 3, 1949. Her parents moved back to Canada in 1951 with Brenda in tow, speaking mostly Spanish at the time.

She carried the name "Chica" into her early adulthood. We cannot say for sure how she eventually dropped that moniker, but it may have had something to do with the passing of her father in 1973.

In the late 1960's she was briefly married and moved to Vancouver where she harboured many draft dodgers. She enjoyed a long career as a para-legal until moving to Salt Spring in the 1990's. During her Vancouver years Brenda took time to visit many far off destinations, travelling throughout Europe, then trips to India, Malaysia, Indonesia, Burma, Morocco, South America and more.

Upon her arrival on Salt Spring she owned and operated the Vesuvius Store for several years, before selling it in 2006. The long hours at the store had a dampening effect on her world travels but Brenda had developed a love for Airedale Terriers and had one constantly at her side for several decades. She was a voracious reader and more-so, a researcher of current world and political events. This despite the protests of her brother who advised against watching the news for more than 10 minutes a day. She bestowed many a scolding on him with her impressive vocabulary for his contrary advice.

Brenda campaigned a brave and determined fight against cancer for over 4 years with a large degree of success, but passed quietly and rather unexpectedly in her sleep on April 26. Although she was not planning on leaving us just yet, as evidenced by the purchase of paint for her house the day before, she spoke of her preference for such a passing over a drawn out decline with cancer. We take some comfort in that. She leaves behind "Roxie the Dog" to mourn with her brother Wayne Thomas, sister-in-law Louise, niece Emily and nephew Matthew. Her many friends on Salt Spring are also missing her. She was pre-deceased by her parents Brenda and Cy Thomas.

Considerations are underway for a gathering to remember her life and personality in the upcoming days, which we hope can take place when Covid 19 concerns have decreased somewhat. Announcements to come at a later date in that regard.



THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

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Take notice if you are the owner of any vehicles, watercraft or recreational vehicles presently located at 208 Eagleridge Dr., SaltSpring Island, BC.

Be aware you have until May 31, 2022 to remove above mentioned property at which point if not removed they will be considered abandoned and the owner will proceed to dispose of them.

All inquiries contact
deanread32@gmail.com

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Personals

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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) The Sun entering Gemini will increase your curiosity factor. No sooner does it do so as Mercury in retrograde motion crosses paths with the Sun and re-enters Taurus. This could either have the effect of increasing your capacity to focus or will activate a stubborn streak. Positively, your focus and resolve will support you to pack in more in your days ahead.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) Gemini time will prove to be extra busy for you. This will also amount to a heightened focus and could, therefore, prove to be a very productive time and on a variety of fronts. Much of your focus could be behind the scenes, however, so don't expect a lot of fanfare. The emphasis is upon doing what you do for you specifically, which could include your family.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) A strong sense of your own individuality will fuel an assertion of self-expression, and the opposite is also true. A strong Aries factor behind the Sun in your sign is the main cause of this ignition. Ironically, you may discover that your ability to focus will steadily decrease for a bit. If this occurs, take it slow and know that this influence will not last long and you will be extra focused soon.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) New beginnings in your public and professional life should be keeping you busy. A creative building process or project is indicated and will require a good deal of concentration and effort. Yet, it may prove wise to question the practical reality of your efforts before you put in too much time. Run a check to make sure you aren't building a fantasy.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23) You are beginning to see a bigger picture. This includes alternative thinking and approaches. Doing so will require confidence so focus to increase it and focus to make sure you are not sabotaging your efforts with negative thoughts or apathetic attitudes. Rather, take a strategic, logical and step by step approach.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22) The time has come to shine publicly and professionally. This can include getting the attention you feel you have earned and deserve. This can prove to be an excellent time to go for that promotion. All those planets in Aries indicate a transformational process and opportunity to shed old skins and to reveal aspects of yourself that only you know are there.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) A powerful process of change and transformation activated by the Solar Eclipse a few weeks ago continues. By now, it is manifesting as various changes on relationship fronts. Positively, this is an expansive time. However, be aware that as Mars enters Aries this week, the tone of exchanges with others could get extra edgy.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) Building on a new foundation in your relationship specifically, but also in your life-style generally is the new spring in your step. Certain people may be exiting the stage while others are stepping on to it. These changes may evoke strong emotional reactions in you. This dynamic will likely continue for several weeks.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) The recent Lunar Eclipse may have activated some rather deep emotions. You could suddenly feel able to tap into what others are feeling like never before. The challenge is that you could feel overwhelmed and depleted due to the accumulation of both your own and their emotional states. This too will pass so see the bigger picture.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) A strong creative impulse continues to reverberate in you. This is accompanied by an activation of your thoughts and perceptions regarding how to proceed with your plans. With your confidence levels steadily rising, you may feel inspired to make some bold and assertive moves. This includes getting to the bottom of things.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19) Some powerful shifts and moves close to home find you in new territory. Whether this is literally or figuratively true is less important than the fact that you are eager to explore the possibilities. Yet, you are more in the mood to see than be seen. Gathering knowledge and facts is part of the plot as you familiarize yourself with the possibilities.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) Exploring new horizons is giving rise to new perspectives, approaches and perhaps even new self-concepts. This may also be inspiring fresh ambitions to pursue new paths and approaches. A sense of freedom from the past may come as a bittersweet sense of mixed emotions as you move even further away from both people and prior interests and orientations.

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ENVIRONMENT

Weed drop-off days set up

May 28 at Community Gospel;
June 4 at Fulford Hall

BY JANE PETCH
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It's springtime and Scotch broom is in bloom along our roads and fields. Now is the time to make Salt Spring fire-safer by removing this invasive flammable weed as well as its prickly fire-loving cousin gorse.

Dispose of broom, gorse, Himalayan blackberry, holly, spurge laurel, ivy and more at this year's first Invasive Weed Drop-off on Saturday, May 28 at the Community Gospel Chapel from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 4 at the Fulford Community Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. will see a second drop-off event for these invasive introduced plants that are spreading across the island. Volunteers will be on hand to help unload and to collect donations to cover disposal costs.

It's no surprise that Salt Spring firefighters are welcome volunteers for the drop-offs. Broom and gorse, covered in volatile oils, are fire threats. A patch of broom can turn into a racing fire, almost impossible to extinguish, especially in hot dry summers. Remove

ing these plants is one way to make the island safer in times of climate change. Native plants benefit as well with the introduced competition gone.

The effort to remove broom on this island has been highly successful. It is a common sight now to see residents removing this invasive plant as it goes into bloom. Last year, over eight tons of invasive plants, mostly broom, were collected. Half of these were chipped and the others were composted or used for energy generation.

Community partners have grown to include local media outlets, the Community Gospel Chapel, Salt Spring Conservancy, Transition Salt Spring, Fulford Hall, Emcon Services, Fisher Road Recycling, DL's Bins and the many community volunteers who cut invasive plants every spring.

For excellent tips on how to remove broom by cutting plants at the base, not pulling, visit the Broombusters.org website. Remove all rocks and dirt to save the chipper blades. And no giant hogweed, please.

For more information about the drop-offs and the Native Plant Stewardship Group that organizes them, call 250-537-0880, or check out the Transition Salt Spring website.

AWARDS

Heritage efforts recognized

Ruckle Farm in focus

Three Salt Spring Islanders have been recognized by Heritage BC for their work related to Ruckle Park heritage.

Friends of Ruckle Park Heritage Society (FORPHS) president Brenda Guiled last week received a Distinguished Service Award for her efforts to preserve the Ruckle family legacy. Mike and Marjorie Lane, who are contracted by BC Parks to run Ruckle Heritage Farm, received a Lifetime Service Award in the heritage professional category.

Guiled's leadership led to a number of improvements to the Henry Ruckle House and made the family's history on island more accessible. FORPHS treasurer Margaret O'Hara describes Guiled's work as "relentless and comprehensive," and adds that "there is none more deserving than her."

Heritage BC program coordinator Nathalie Lim Picard notes that in a period of less than five years, "Brenda Guiled established a foundation of facts, a cohort of dedicated helpers, tangible solutions to real problems and a

circle of partnerships. Simply put, Brenda has forged and wielded tools that let, help and make heritage real and relevant on Salt Spring Island."

Heritage BC says that Mike Lane has been with Ruckle Heritage Farm since 1990 and Marjorie since 1999.

"They maintain the heritage homes and the farm itself . . . They keep information about the farm history: family, farming and plants. Their achievements have done so much for Salt Spring Island's farming community and keeping the heritage farm a reality."

Heritage BC chair Britney Dack added that the farm is a well-known heritage asset on the island.

"The success of the farm is certainly in large measure because of the exceptional dedication and contributions of Mike and Marjorie Lane. Regenerative agriculture, family history and historic livestock practices are only a few of the achievements resulting from their special kind of commitment that never seems to be limited by their contract scope."



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Your Gulf Islands Driftwood has been honoured with a Gold Award for General Excellence and Bronze Award for Community Service in this year's Ma Murray Awards celebrating the best in community journalism in BC & the Yukon.

A heartfelt thank you to our readers, contributors and advertisers for supporting us in so many ways!

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