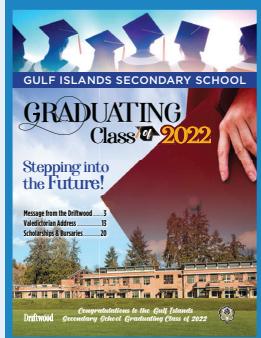


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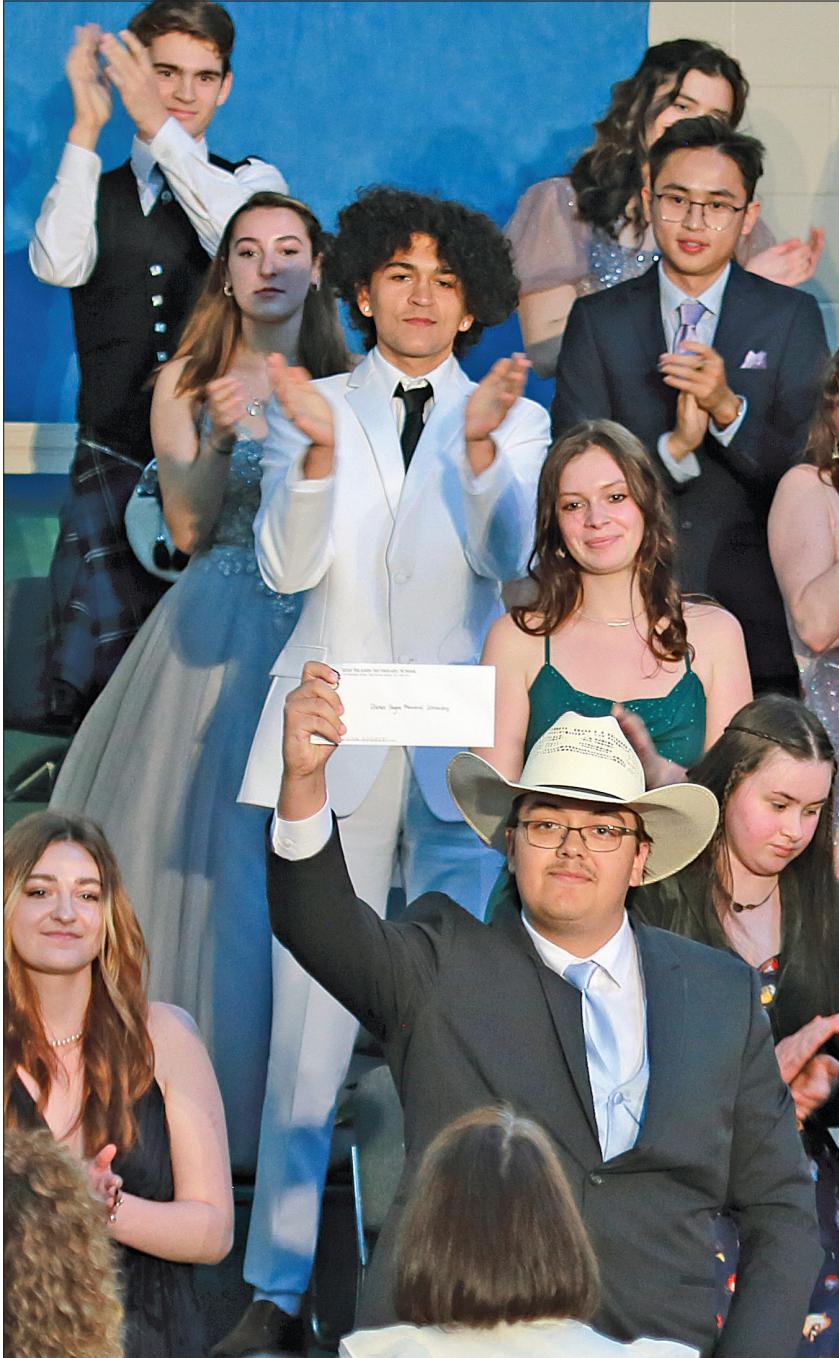
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Issue 25
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PROUD MOMENT: Gulf Islands Secondary School grad James Dawson is applauded by his peers as he holds up the envelope containing the Alastair Hayne Memorial Scholarship during the graduation ceremony on Saturday. The award was created in honour of Alastair Hayne, the GISS student who died tragically in September of 2017. More grad ceremony photos on page 6.

PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Rogers proceeds with cell tower

Federal agency overrules Trust and residents' concerns

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

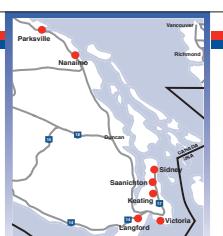
With Rogers Communications Inc. planning to start building a tower on Channel Ridge this month, the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) is still trying to get the company to meet with residents who remain opposed to the tower plans.

After the LTC voted to rescind a letter of concurrence they had initially given to the cell tower project, Rogers sought clarification from the federal regulator of telecommunications infrastructure — Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED) — according to a June 7 email from Michael Krenz of Rogers to the Islands Trust. In the email, Rogers confirmed they have met requirements of ISED's land use authority and public consultation processes, Krenz stated.

"As a result, we are commencing construction of the proposed site later this month . . . We want to deliver a reliable, consistent wireless experience to provide more seamless coverage for residents, visitors and emergency responders on Salt Spring Island and we value the input of Islands Trust LTC and community members," Krenz wrote. "We look forward to working with LTC, staff and the local community on any future proposed wireless installations."

"Should Islands Trust wish to review their antenna tower consultation process in the future, Rogers would welcome the opportunity to provide input."

CELL TOWER continued on 2



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FOOD SECURITY

Food programs shift after special funds end

Other programs pick up some slack; Farmers' Market coupons now available

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Pandemic funding that allowed Salt Spring Island Community Services to run a six-day-a-week community meal program has come to an end.

Farmers' Market manager Cora Platz said when the pandemic began, meals that had been offered to emergency shelter residents were expanded to the community. The daily meals were made possible by extra COVID-19 funding which came to an end recently.

Community Services is still offering three

meals a day for shelter residents, and some people who live at the Seabreeze Inn who were receiving the meals are still being offered the meal thanks to BC Housing funding. Platz estimated around 20 people from the community were accessing the meals, over and above the shelter and Seabreeze residents.

Platz said she is connecting to churches and organizations on the island to possibly collaborate on a community meal in some form going forward. In the meantime, Platz said, "We've tried to capture as many people as we can with some of our other programs."

The Harvest Home Meals program delivers cooked meals to seniors at home, with two meals delivered every Thursday on a six week basis.

The food bank is open on Tuesdays between 9:30 a.m. and 3:45 p.m. People can submit orders to the food bank in advance, through www.harvestsaltspring.ca/.

This summer, the food bank is also running the After the Bell program where children are provided healthy food packs during the time they don't have access to food in school. The program will be available for families picking up food bank hampers.

The BC Farmers' Market Nutrition Coupon Program is also starting up again for the season, Platz said, with applications open at www.harvestsaltspring.ca/. The program is organized by the BC Farmers' Markets, with Community Services being the local coupon distributor. Seniors and low income families are provided \$27 worth of coupons each week, which they can spend at the Tuesday Farmers' Market.

The program is a win-win, Platz explained, as "it's a huge influx into our local economy supporting our local growers."

This year, just under \$65,000 will be going into the local food economy because of the program.

"So we're trying to reach people through other methods but we have had to stop that nightly meal for the community," Platz said. "It's very difficult to retract a program but when funding ends the funding ends."

With increasing inflation and fuel prices, Platz said she is seeing an increase in demand for food security programs on Salt Spring. The rising costs also affect Community Services' costs of purchasing food for their programs.

For anyone who would like to support their programming, Platz said cash donations are best.

"We can use our bulk purchasing power to stretch those dollars further and . . . we like to try to keep our food choices healthy. Sometimes the cheapest things to provide are also the most highly processed and have the most sugar and we try to avoid that and offer a healthier option."

Program details: www.harvestsaltspring.ca/.

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JUNE 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
22	0648	1.5	4.9	26	0110	3.0	9.8
	1252	2.2	7.2		0911	0.6	2.0
WE	1705	1.9	6.2	SU	1745	3.2	10.5
ME				DI	2203	2.8	9.2
23	0003	3.2	10.5	27	0137	3.0	9.8
	0733	1.1	3.6		0944	0.5	1.6
TH	1446	2.5	8.2	MO	1826	3.3	10.8
JE	1814	2.3	7.5	LU	2308	2.9	9.5
24	0026	3.1	10.2	28	0207	3.0	9.8
	0807	0.9	3.0		1017	0.4	1.3
FR	1604	2.8	9.2	TU	1904	3.3	10.8
VE	1930	2.6	8.5	MA	2359	2.9	9.5
25	0048	3.1	10.2	29	0240	3.0	9.8
	0839	0.7	2.3		1051	0.4	1.3
SA	1659	3.0	9.8	WE	1939	3.3	10.8
SA	2048	2.7	8.9	ME			

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Residents decry approval process

CELL TOWER

continued from 1

A May 17 email to the Islands Trust from Ken Pungente, regional director at ISED, stated that "our office does not support your decision to rescind the concurrence."

The only change between the LTC issuing the concurrence and rescinding it, Pungente explained, is that the LTC adopted a new antenna siting protocol on Nov. 9.

"Given the date of the policy adoption, it is not to be retroactively applied," he stated. "Our review of the conduct of the consultation process also found that Rogers was in compliance with [ISED's] default process." And the LTC's July 27 decision to offer a letter of concurrence for the project "also implied its satisfaction with how the process was conducted and its conclusion," he added. "In addition, SS LTC did not provide any other valid rationale to support the rescindment."

In March, the LTC voted to rescind a letter of concurrence it had previously voted to provide, with trustee Laura Patrick opposed to the original issuing of the letter. Support from the LTC came after a joint effort by Rogers and the Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) group to build a 40-metre tower behind Canvasback Place on Channel Ridge. The effort was the second by CREST to put up telecommunications infrastructure on the island, after a proposal for a monopole at the Salt Spring Legion Branch #92 failed.

People residing close to the tower have organized as the Concerned Residents of Canvasback, some of whom live within 50 metres of the proposed tower site, and assert that Rogers failed to adequately inform and consult them and followed a flawed process to get the tower approved. They have since last summer taken their concerns to the Islands Trust, the B.C. Ombudsman and the municipal affairs ministry, and have hired legal counsel.

Speaking at the town hall portion of the June 14 meeting, resident Julian Clark said there is something "ter-



A Telus telecommunications tower and a North Salt Spring Waterworks holding tank stand at the site where a second tower, by Rogers and CREST, has been given the green light to be placed.

ribly wrong" about ISED giving the go ahead for the cell tower. At the

meeting and in an email to the LTC, he urged them to inform ISED, Rogers and Onni Group, the owners of the land, that "development without the LTC and First Nations concurrence is illegal."

"Their approach shows a blatant disregard for the proper process and for the LTC itself."

DIANA PATTISON
Canvasback Place resident

Rogers to meet with residents before construction begins.

William Steiner, who lives next to the tower site, said he has been amazed at the way Rogers has acted with a "heavy hand" towards residents.

"We only received one letter in the spring of 2021 saying this is all going to occur, and we had no chance to ever organize before you guys made your initial decision."

Krenz was scheduled to appear at the June 14 meeting as a delegation, plans which were later withdrawn.

"They came to realize that this wasn't necessarily a good format for them and that they needed to honour our request for that consultation to happen," LTC chair Peter Luckham said.

Luckham reported that he had spoken with Rogers representatives, in a conversation where he drove home the message that the company needs to meet with the concerned residents, address concerns and explain the process the company has gone through.

"They have committed to me to do that, and that will probably happen at the end of June," or early July he said.

Luckham first requested Rogers meet with the residents in a Nov. 29, 2021 letter.

SIMS Farewell



Tsunami Circus member and middle school student Izzi Pugh Aucoin performs on the aerial silks.



Above, drama students, from left, Finlay McMaster, Ocea McClean and Silas Nowell in a scene from the history of SIMS play the students created. At right is Tsunami Circus member Maya Rosborough.

BC FERRIES

Crofton dock damage prompts temporary island gas shortage

Dangerous goods sailings disrupted

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island was temporarily out of all grades of gasoline at both of its gas stations Monday mid-day, with Mid-Island Co-op receiving a refill on a special BC Ferries sailing Monday afternoon.

Co-op general manager Joel Shaver said their expected delivery of gas from Vancouver Island last Thursday did not arrive, due to the cancellation of a dangerous goods sailing from Crofton to Vesuvius Bay.

"Without trucks on Thursday, we would never make it all the way to Monday," he explained, as storage capacity is limited.

The cancellation was a result of weight restrictions imposed on that route Thursday for safety reasons. A planned inspection at the Crofton ferry terminal on Thursday found two to three dock pilings showing signs of deterioration. Contractors drove new pilings on Saturday and Monday nights to correct the ramp damage.

As a result, commercial vehicles with single axles over 9,100 kilograms and tandem axles over 7,500 kilograms were told to take the

alternate Swartz Bay to Fulford Harbour route and the dangerous goods sailings on the route last Thursday and this Monday were cancelled.

Noor Sidhu at Ganges Gas said that their gas station received their Wednesday shipment as planned, before the issue with the Crofton dock was discovered. Yet with Co-op running out of gas over the weekend, Ganges Gas ended up with non-stop line ups during the busy weekend with visitors and locals attending the Gulf Islands Secondary School graduation and other events.

It was not possible to sustain the fuel needs of islanders and visitors with one station's supply alone, and by Monday mid-day both stations were completely out of all grades of gasoline, except for diesel.

The Salt Spring Island Emergency Program urged islanders to limit travel to conserve fuel, and reminded residents to "always maintain a half full tank to be ready for emergencies."

As of Monday at 4 p.m., Co-op was once again supplying gasoline to the community thanks to a special dangerous goods sailing BC Ferries provided from Swartz Bay to Long Harbour. Ganges Gas is expected to begin pumping gas by Wednesday mid-day, when they receive their regular shipment.



Long-ago SIMS music student Simon Millerd does a jazz trumpet solo in the band's rendition of Tequila – a SIMS band tradition – while some current and past band members look on. The community bid farewell to Salt Spring Island Middle School (SIMS) at a special event on Thursday. The middle school is closing after 28 years due to reconfiguration in the school district. It has been leased to the Capital Regional District for a variety of community uses.



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG
Signs at Ganges Gas (top) and Mid Island Co-op gas stations on Monday afternoon.



Voting Yes for a Safer, More Resilient Salt Spring

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"This is not the time to take our eye off the ball, abandoning the years of effort that have got us to the point of having a good, solid, affordable proposal to vote on. We encourage you to support your community and its fire department by voting 'yes' in the firehall referendum."

Editorial
Gulf Islands Driftwood

"Transition Salt Spring encourages islanders to take steps towards climate change resilience by voting in favour of the new firehall in June."

Bryan Young, Chair, Transition Salt Spring

"Now is the time to move forward with the plan presented by the fire department. It is a good plan that will improve our ability to respond to emergencies, and it can be done affordably if we vote 'yes' now."

Gary Holman, CRD Director

Planning for Tomorrow.

saltspringfire.com



PHOTOS BY EMELIE PEACOCK
Signs at Ganges Gas (top) and Mid Island Co-op gas stations on Monday afternoon.



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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Time to prepare

When it comes to the weather in B.C., it's been a tale of two Junes between 2021 and 2022.

Late June of 2021 will always be remembered for record-breaking temperatures and the destruction of the town of Lytton. This June's near-incessant grey skies and rainy days could also go down in history.

But just because we're not contending with high heat and drought at this point of the year, it doesn't mean wildfire preparation and climate action should be taking a back seat.

On the large-impact front, an important project to help reduce wildfire risk in the Maxwell Lake watershed and improve its ecological health is currently underway and provides inspiration for what can be done to safeguard freshwater supplies. With federal government EcoAction Fund support, the watershed resiliency project is a partnership between Transition Salt Spring, Salt Spring Water Preservation Society, Salt Spring Fire Rescue, North Salt Spring Waterworks District and the Salt Spring Conservancy.

But individuals can also take steps to reduce the chances of wildfire spreading through their properties and neighbourhoods. The Salt Spring Fire Rescue website has links to plenty of online guides and resource materials. As well, the fire department has personnel who can offer presentations to groups and wildfire risk assessments for islanders' properties. After a visit or presentation, people will be sure to know what actions to take, from cleaning up wood debris to removing broom to clearing trees from a certain radius around a home, and planting native or fire-resistant vegetation. Rebates are also available in some cases to offset some of the labour costs required to FireSmart one's property.

If anyone needs a reminder about last summer's situation, a community event set for Centennial Park on Saturday, July 2 will provide that for all attendees. End Climate Delay: Anniversary of the Heat Dome will be an opportunity to share stories about the 2021 heat dome event and educate the public on the risks of extreme heat to health and safety. Speakers will include Helen Boyd, the B.C. representative for the Canadian Association of Nurses for the Environment. The event will also encourage climate action connections and push politicians to deliver just transition legislation.

Now is the time to take action; not after the next catastrophic climate event.

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

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Bronze - Community Service Award



PARKER



Trust Act needs a review

The following is a letter sent by Salt Spring resident Mairi Welman to Islands Trust Council trustees and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

I am writing to ask you to support the Request For Decision item 9.1 in your June Trust Council agenda.

The Islands Trust is almost 50 years old, and any organization reaching that age needs some kind of tune-up to stay in step with the times.

As you are aware, the way things are being run right now was decided back in 1974, when issues such as the climate emergency, Indigenous reconciliation and housing equity weren't even on the horizon. The Trust was not designed back then with the tools it needs to achieve its stated objectives in this day and age. I believe this was amply demonstrated in your own governance review when the trustees themselves were revealed to be unable to agree on the meaning of the Trust's own mandate. This lack of clarity and resulting paralysis has been having increasingly damaging results on the Trust islands.

Decisions being made by the Trust today within its outdated and incomplete governance paradigm have neither preserved nor protected the islands or its communities, and instead this has led to many unintended, negative consequences such as:

- increasing environmental degradation and fragmentation of ecosystems;

VIEWPOINT

This lack of clarity and resulting paralysis has been having increasingly damaging results on the Trust islands.

- the disappearance of the unique amenities and rural character the Trust was tasked with preserving;

- accelerated non-resident real estate speculation, luxury home development and rural sprawl;

- island economies and essential services shrinking due to the severe lack of workforce housing and thus a lack of available employees;

- vibrant island arts and farming cultures are failing to renew because island artists and farmers are all becoming elders; younger generations cannot afford to live here;

- working families are leaving the islands because of the scarcity of housing options and the lack of viable economic opportunities.

The dysfunction and lack of cohesion between the Trust and other governance structures with jurisdiction on the islands is the one thing that can be agreed upon by a wide spectrum of people who have differing views on everything from the environment to agriculture to economic development. This is important.

Because the governance mechanism and toolkit is in no way up to handling today's complex issues we should indeed be asking the provincial government — which established and owns the Trust Act, and which has reviewed other out-of-date acts recently (such as the Mental Health Act and Police Act) — to review how our islands are governed to see what improvements can be made.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the Islands Trust Act be reviewed by the province? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does Salt Spring need paved bike lanes?



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

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED GRADS: *What will you do after you graduate?*

SS Says contributed by Pasley Hayden

SAMANTHA GODDARD



My plan is to go to UBC to do a first year general science course, then try to do forensic science. I don't know what I am going to do after that.

CHRISTOPHER ELWELL



I will be attending UBC engineering school with hope to work in aerospace engineering. I hope to also pursue piano playing in residence.

JAIDALYN PINNEY



I am going to take a gap year to travel and cook all over the world then go to culinary school to get my Red Seal.

AIDEN OTSUBO-PAPP



I am going to take a gap year and then go to flight school at BCIT or Mount Allison University.

JANE ANDREWS



I am going to take a gap year so I can move to Vancouver to do some volunteer work, then the next year go to UBC.

LETTERS to the editor

Safe, sensible

We are very lucky on Salt Spring to have a fire-and-rescue department the size and quality of ours. People may only see the members when they rush off to an emergency, but in between calls, they all work constantly to upgrade their skills — with weekly practices and frequent off-island courses — and spend hours helping residents understand the fire risks to our homes. Unlike firefighters on Vancouver Island or the mainland, they can't call on neighbouring departments to bolster their forces in a crisis, and they know it.

Why, then, do some people think it's okay for these men and women, who are crucial to the safety of our community, to work in a cramped, mouldy, unsafe, poorly sited building? Would you expect our other essential supports — doctors, police, nurses — to work in

similarly lousy conditions?

Our firefighters deserve a safe and sensible workplace; they deserve a "yes" vote in the current referendum on a replacement fire hall.

**MARLYN HORSDAL,
SALT SPRING**

Water limits

In defence of proposed Bylaw 530, Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick has written: "We plan for the future, seeking integrated solutions to healthy people, healthy society, and healthy environment, that one of these things cannot exist without the other."

(I believe that a healthy environment can certainly exist without people, as it did before homo sapiens came into evolution.)

With specific regard to Salt Spring's unaffordable housing situation she states, "We have

sprawling development, large lot sizes, anathema to the culture of these islands, to their impact on the environment and sensitive ecosystems, on increased traffic and accompanying air pollution, contributing to global climate change; and that Salt Spring is entering an era of water insecurity and we recognize the status quo for governing water which must change to reflect these new realities."

I agree. If people and society do not manage to achieve a balanced integration with the environment, our co-existence crumbles. The environment will change, making continued life on Earth unsupportable for society as we have known it. Mass migrations of people searching for a more sustainable place to live will increase, until there is no such place, and humanity discovers its own demise.

Since water is a prerequisite for life (human and other), and

since it is a finite, renewable supply, it comes as no surprise that global climate change is reflecting the above. It behoves people and society to demand the political will to respect the natural limits of supply. Humanity, us, ourselves, must discover our own environmental limits. We do NOT arbitrarily determine what those limits will be.

How much water is available to each of us on Salt Spring into a climate changing future? Until we understand what the natural limits of potable water supply are on Salt Spring, both surface and ground water, and the nature and priority of demand, we must live softly and with courage within best known practices to define our limits of sustainable supply, and the priority and per capita limits of demand.

**RON HAWKINS,
SALT SPRING**

MORE OPINION continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It was incredible to see these athletes from our small community rise to the challenge and be some of the best rowers in Canada at the secondary level."

STACY MITCHELL, GISS ROWING TEAM COACH

BC Nature wants Fulford Estuary lands restored

INDEPTH

SUBMITTED BY: ANNE PARKINSON, COLIN COE, DAVID DENNING, DENNIS LUCARELLI, ELISSA POOLE, FRANTS ATTORP, JEAN WILKINSON, JOHN FITZGIBBON, KATHLEEN MASER, MARIAN PORTER, MARLYN HORSDAL, MAUREEN MILBURN, PAT MILLER, MAXINE LEICHTER, PETER MCALLISTER

Opposition to the proposed Vortex resort at the site of the former Fulford Inn has grown from a rumble to a roar as the public becomes more informed about the details of the project. Most recently, BC Nature, a highly respected and influential group representing 6,000 naturalists throughout British Columbia, came out firmly against the project. An official letter to the Trust has called for the estuary to be restored to its natural state:

"BC Nature, a federation of more than 50 naturalists' clubs with 6,000 members throughout B.C., believes that the natural health and wealth of B.C. is essential to a sustainable future. BC Nature writes in support of our member club, Nature Salt Spring, to express our shared concerns about the proposed Vortex development in the Fulford Estuary on Salt Spring Island.

"The Vortex project, as proposed, threatens the biodiversity of Fulford Estuary and the ecologically sensitive, significant fish-bearing Fulford Creek. Vulnerable populations of salmonids as well as winter seabirds would be at risk. Much local effort over the last four decades that has restored habitat in this watershed could be negated. Negative effects could significantly and adversely affect the entire ecosystem, from fishes to birds to invertebrates to eelgrass beds.

"We are also concerned about the potential for sewage pollution from the develop-

ment. This area requires protection, not only for its aquatic biodiversity, but also for all the terrestrial life with which it interacts. Furthermore, it provides ecosystem services such as serving as a carbon sink and mitigating erosive effects of high-water levels.

"BC Nature wonders if the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan would be violated by this development since it does not 'preserve and protect' either the ecological values of the estuary or the rural nature and natural beauty of the island. Neither does it meet the expressed commitment of the Islands Trust to establish and maintain mutually respectful relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples.

"BC Nature requests that tourist accommodations be located away from ecologically sensitive areas such as Fulford Estuary, which should be restored to optimal ecosystem function."

In 2019, the investment firm Merchant House Capital successfully obtained a variance permit from the Islands Trust for a septic system to service 17 motel units, a restaurant, retail space and related facilities. The permit allowed for reduced setbacks from Soule Creek and Fulford Harbour. However, the permit lapsed and a new application was submitted last February.

Since that time, scores of letters from local residents, First Nations and others have poured in expressing concerns ranging from climate change and environmental impacts, to the disturbance of a regis-

tered archaeological site, the large scale of the project, and the absence of reports recommended by Trust staff.

Consideration of the new application was put on hold on Feb. 15 after trustees received a same-day letter from Lyackson First Nation objecting to the narrow focus on variances. The letter recalled the Grace Islet controversy, and advised "there are indeed broader, more relevant social, political and environmental issues to consider . . . which merit greater time to engage, meaningfully consult, and make efforts to reconcile with Coast Salish First Nations."

Numerous hurdles remain for the project such as winning the support of First Nations and gaining permission to hook up to the Fulford community water system. Additionally, trustees have been informed they have the authority to unilaterally downzone the two lots to reduce their development potential.

The results of a capacity study on Weston Lake are expected to be released soon. The water issue will be decided by the CRD and by the Fulford Water Commission, which would have to agree to a major extension of its infrastructure.

Federal funds are currently available for estuary restoration, and Fulford Creek is known to be the most significant fish-bearing stream in the Southern Gulf Islands. We call on trustees to reject the Vortex development proposal and actively pursue the opportunity to restore this important estuary to its natural state and function.

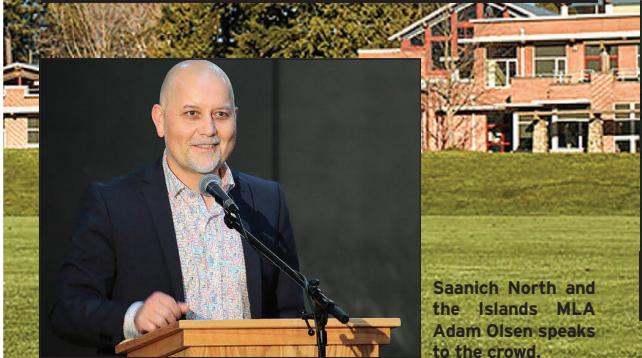
The Vortex application may come before the LTC for a decision on Aug. 9. Comments can be sent to trustees at ssiinfo@island-strust.bc.ca.

Grad 2022

Some photos from the June 18 GISS graduation ceremony by Jen MacLellan



Grads Molly Akerman, left, and Kalla Terpenning give the territorial land acknowledgement at Saturday's ceremony.



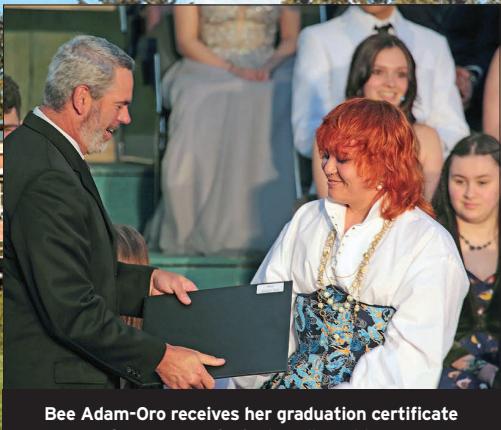
Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen speaks to the crowd.



Valedictorian Lauren Ohnona.



Kenta Kikuchi after receiving his certificate.



Bee Adam-Oro receives her graduation certificate from GISS principal Lyall Ruehlen.



Ben Adelson as his grad bio is read.

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'Emperor' parable applies

BY DARLENE STEELE

The parable of The Emperor Has No Clothes can be applied to the situation we find ourselves in here on Salt Spring with regard to our elected officers and their minions all pushing one "group think" about our need for a new fire hall.

In the parable, all the followers were placed in the position that they would be deemed "stupid" and "unfit" if they did not agree with and see the same vision as the "Emperor" and the "swindlers."

The Driftwood has articles and letters from our politicians and their minions telling the community that their vision is the right one and that other viewpoints are just, dare I say, "stupid or unfit." There is also a huge and might I say expensive advertisement telling us how to vote; paid for by the very benefactors of this vote!

Granted they all have their points of view but so do the other taxpayers of this community; it is after all their money that is at stake here. Most taxpayers are not here to empire build, nor are they here to gild the lily with a \$13.7-million fire hall.

Here are some things to ponder as you vote on this latest referendum that nobody but the fire department and politicians wanted.

In 2018 the Salt Spring fire property tax payment for my address was \$447.29. It was \$482.99 in 2019; \$511.87 in 2020; \$559.17 in 2021; \$679.07 in 2022. Notice the fire department tax creep upwards and onwards. This makes me wonder if this is what I am paying now, what will I need to pay for the new desired \$13.7-million building. Presumably a hell of a lot more! If you believe the emperor's tale that this will not cost us more, I have a bridge you may be interested in buying.

I do know that part of the increasing

IN RESPONSE

tax hike for our fire taxes was because the fire department decided on their own bat to charge us more and divert the money into a capital building fund. That is where the \$3 million they are currently holding came from. It was not from the fairy godmother or savings from their other budget items. That is why the current projection for cost to build is \$9.7 million. You have already paid the first \$3 million.

It is quite a conundrum to decide what to do with the current old fire hall when the new one is built and I notice that it is clearly unsafe for the firefighters but perfectly okay for use by the farm community and general public. Then the comment is made that no decision regarding use or fitness needs to be made for four years; then CRD can decide what upgrading might be required. Interesting the building is good enough for four years and then we throw more tax money at it... to upgrade.

My final point relates to building a "Tajma fire hall." I believe that yet again the proposal the fire department is going for is ridiculously expensive, overbuilt, oversized and inappropriate for our rural community of taxpayers. We have no corporate taxes to bail us out. This tax money comes from homeowners, many of whom are retirees and a handful of mom and pop businesses, plus a few larger ones such as our grocery and liquor stores. We cannot afford this.

So back to the parable. What lesson does this story teach us?

Here it is: "When a leader surrounds himself with 'yes' men, it often leads to absurd and embarrassing results. It is far better to surround oneself with honest people who are unafraid to ask questions or to point out our deficiencies as they see them." Hans Christian Andersen, 1837.

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Horrific history must be collectively reconciled

June is National Indigenous History Month, and it is with a heavy heart that we acknowledge all the children who lost their lives in the residential schools that were a pivotal part of the federal government policy to assimilate Indigenous people starting in the late 19th century and running until the 1990s.

In May, Tk'emplúps te Secwépemc Kukpi7 (Chief) Rosanne Casimir announced the preliminary findings of the bodies of 215 children on the grounds of the Kamloops Indian Residential School. There were 18 such schools in British Columbia and many of the survivors, who have courageously shared their experiences in those schools, warn us to expect more stories of unmarked graves.

The federal and provincial government policy can be summed up in the statements of Duncan Campbell Scott, who was the Deputy Superintendent of Indian Affairs



Adam Olsen

MLA'S

COLUMN

from 1913-1932. He said, "Our objective is to continue until there is not a single Indian in Canada that has not been absorbed into the body politic and there is no Indian question, and no Indian Department."

As we unpack the colonial history of British Columbia, our eyes are opening to the deplorable treatment of Indigenous people by European settlers.

Those Europeans claimed the land in North America was empty, that there were no humans living here. This is called the doctrine of terra nullius, meaning "nobody's

land." Paired with the Doctrine of Discovery, going back to the 1494 Treaty of Tordesillas, which resolved non-Christian lands could be colonized, it resulted in Europeans asserting sovereignty to the land.

We now see these doctrines as racist. However, what many British Columbians do not know is that they are the foundation of our province, and they are still at the heart of the laws, policies and practices of our government today.

On Oct. 7, 1763, King George issued the royal proclamation, which was the first legal recognition of aboriginal rights and title and is recognized in the Canadian Constitution. Now, 258 years later, the question about rights and title over the land remains at the centre of the protests and disputes that have occurred over the past decades.

To be clear, the conflict does not come from honouring human

rights, it comes from denying and violating them.

It is important to acknowledge positive change. In recent years there has been an important evolution in Canadian society, following Idle No More (2012), the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (2015) and the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (2019).

In November 2019, the provincial government unanimously passed the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act. This law ensures the entrenchment of the declaration, developed by the United Nations, over the next decade through a democratic process.

British Columbia was the first jurisdiction in North America to pass such a law and included the commitment of government to develop an action plan and annual report.

These are critical accountability

measures that allow us to understand the objectives of government and track their achievements. On June 11 the consultation draft of the action plan was released. It is the result of a collaborative process with Indigenous leadership organizations and represents the bare minimum of what government commits to accomplishing over the next five years.

We all have an individual and collective responsibility to reconcile the horrific history of how our Crown governments treated and continue to treat Indigenous people and nations.

I am thankful for all the people in Saanich North and the Islands who have reached out with love and compassion. I encourage you to continue to learn about our history and to demand that all orders of government do everything possible in advancing our commitments to a more just society.

Natural treasure of wild fish stocks should be enhanced

BY NANCY WIGEN

When I was a child growing up on Salt Spring, fresh caught fish were an important part of our diet.

Even with a rowboat and cotton hand lines we were able to catch the fish we needed. Now most of our waters are closed. The opening this year for coho is Oct. 1. A licence is needed and there are catch limits, and much more sophisticated gear than a hand line is needed.

What happened? Many things have impacted our wild fish, from overfishing to Atlantic salmon farms, but one of the biggest problems is habitat loss. This has caused extinction of many coastal salmon runs, including the chinook that spawned in Fulford Creek. As recently as 60 years

ago the last 42-pound female chinook was gaffed out of Fulford Creek.

Fulford Harbour used to have five spawning streams. We are now down to two, and those two are seriously threatened by the proposed development on what should be an estuary. Nature provides this most important habitat where freshwater enters the sea to give time for the bodies of fish returning to spawn to adapt to freshwater, and even more important, for the bodies of juvenile fish born in the stream to adapt to living in salt water. Estuaries also provide essential food and a protective environment for the young fish.

A series of inns and restaurants on this site have gradually destroyed the estuary

by filling, paving and building on what was once salt marsh, pools and channels needed by fish and wildlife. Juvenile salmon and trout now have to go directly from the streams out into the sea, across a very dangerous beach where blue herons and other predators are waiting to eat them.

The proposed variance allowing Vortex to put the biggest yet development on this most sensitive habitat is completely indefensible. The danger of sewage pollution into Fulford Harbour which would damage much more marine life is very real.

The estuary should be restored to its original, natural state, with removed fill, restored pools and channels, native

plants and restored wetland that would be beautiful to see.

Our local Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society has worked hard for many decades to protect our wild fish, making streams clean and navigable, working with the schools with incubation and releasing of chum fry in local streams, monitoring the return of spawners, both chum and coho.

We would be more than happy to be able to restore this essential habitat of the Fulford estuary to meet the needs of fish from both Fulford Creek and Soule Creek. Surely it's our responsibility to protect and preserve the natural treasure of our wild fish. Doing so will benefit everyone.

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Rants + ROSES

Roses

Roses to the Salt Spring Island Foundation and donors for funding the design of the new teen space in the Salt Spring Island Public Library. Thank you for this already well-loved gift to Salt Spring Island youth! *Salt Spring Island Public Library*

A sweet-smelling bouquet of thanks to manager Mike Boizard and the deli crew at Thrifty Foods for their generous support of our Ukrainian fundraiser on Saturday. You helped make it a big success. *Salt Spring Tennis Association*

The Royal Canadian Legion would like to thank Gulf Coast Materials for supplying concrete for a ramp to our new outdoor handicapped washroom. That was not expected but greatly appreciated. Hat's off to those folks, another community-minded business. *Tom Woods, RCL Branch 92 president*

A spectacular bouquet of multi-coloured roses to our amazing community for supporting and celebrating the GISS Grads of 2022. Thank you to all who donated time, gifts, money and goods for the Grad Day and for the many many times you supported these students over the years.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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LIVE THEATRE

Island author's play hits the stage

An *UnDutiful Daughter*
 by Wendy Judith Cutler

BY GAIL SJUBERG
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A play derived from a memoir of tumultuous times is making its debut at Beaver Point Hall next weekend.

Written by Wendy Judith Cutler — an author, teacher and facilitator who has lived on Salt Spring full-time since 2006 — press material describes *An UnDutiful Daughter* as portraying “conflicts and estrangements within an upper-middle-class Jewish family in Los Angeles as a daughter comes into political, feminist and lesbian feminist consciousness during the 1970s and ‘80s.”

The July 1-2 shows begin at 8 p.m. and the July 3 matinee is at 2 p.m.

Cutler's one-act play came together in the past few years through a variety of processes.

The first was a weekend play development workshop at ArtSpring in 2018 where she created a scene in which she interrogates her deceased lawyer brother about their fraught relationship. Since then the play has transformed into five scenes with a prologue, and five staged reading events have been held in the past few years.

Director Sue Newman says the play has continued to be tweaked and she's been impressed by how Cutler is amenable to that process.

“We've had somewhat of a luxury to take the time that we've taken to do the digging-deep stuff that can't help but make the end product — the show itself — much more real and tangible and heartfelt.”

Primary source material has been the playwright's journals and letters from the period in question, with fictional elements added.

While the subject is the author's experience of coming out to her family



Playwright Wendy Judith Cutler and cast members of *An UnDutiful Daughter* before a rehearsal at Beaver Point Hall. From left behind are Vera Algoet, Wendy Beatty, Rowan Algoet and Lisa Dahling. From left in front are Kevin Wilkie, Barbara Slater and Cutler.

PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

as a lesbian in the 1970s and '80s, the themes of family conflict and struggles with self-acceptance and reconciliation are truly universal, said director Sue Newman.

Although *An UnDutiful Daughter* is basically telling the playwright's story, she said, “It has enough elements in it that many people will identify with. It has a universal quality about it.”

“There are just so many different levels of interactions and relationships that are part of everyone's story,” Newman explained. “So it's got a lot of tenderness, it's got a lot of anger and it's got a lot of acceptance, ultimately.”

The other main theme of the play is the historical period itself, when social activism and a push for social justice had so much impact on personal and political levels. An audio-visual compilation of the times sets the stage in the play's prologue.

Cutler reflects on how positive change has occurred in the area of gay rights, but that more work must still be done.

“Right now being gay or being queer doesn't seem like much of anything, which is really progression — it's progressive that these attitudes have really changed in a lot of ways . . . yet it all still exists. There's still rejection, there's still stereotyping . . . and still murders and people being kicked out of their homes.”

Cast members in *An UnDutiful Daughter* are Barbara Slater, Kevin Wilkie, Lisa Dahling, Rowan Algoet, Vera Algoet and Wendy Beatty. Therin Gower is the assistant director, Mackenzie Williamson is stage manager and Susannah Devitt is handling props.

Cutler is grateful to everyone who has joined the team and been supportive along the way.

“I don't know what this experience would be like with a different director, or people that I didn't really know in other ways. People are really bringing their all to it.”

Tickets are available in advance at Salt Spring Books or at the door.



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Viva Chorale! presents an
EAST COAST Kitchen PARTY!

BEAVER POINT HALL

Saturday June 25, 7:00 p.m.

Sunday June 26, 2:00 p.m.

Tickets at Apple Photo

CONCERT PREVIEW

East Coast Kitchen Party on tap

Viva Chorale concert this weekend

Beaver Point Hall is the place to be this weekend as Viva Chorale presents an East Coast Kitchen Party concert.

“The Maritimes are known for their hospitality, their energetic spirit and their love of music,” the community choir states in press material about the June 25-26 shows. “Join us as we create this atmosphere at the iconic Beaver Point Hall.”

The concert will feature songs by well-known Nova Scotian musicians Rita MacNeil, Allister MacGillivray, Susan Crowe and the Rankin Family, and there will be plenty of traditional Celtic folk songs, sea shanties and a dash of Acadian folk music.

The Kitchen Party concert will also feature a premiere performance of a new choral work with lyrics by Salt Spring's own Clark Saunders. Working in partnership with friend and composer Craig Cassills, Saunders has been writing lyrics for a series of brand-new choral works. *Song of the Earth* discusses climate

change and imagines what the earth might say to us if it could. The piece also features Peter Ney on cello.

Viva Chorale will also perform a new work by long-time islanders Lloyd and Diana English. Diana was the accompanist for Viva Chorale for six years before moving east, and she created a beautiful choral arrangement of *Take Me Back*, composed by Lloyd English with Elaine Lakeman. The evocative lyrics deal with the themes of nature and love, and returning to a beautiful memory.

“Both of these new choral pieces incorporate nature as an important theme and show that we are all connected when it comes to our need to work together to help the planet,” states the choir.

Viva Chorale! is directed by Caroni Young and accompanied by pianist Shirley Bunyan. Guest musicians are cellist Ney and Bo Curtis on flute.

The Saturday show begins at 7 p.m. and the Sunday one at 2 p.m.

Please note that masks are required, and food will be consumed outdoors.



An UnDutiful Daughter

BEAVER POINT HALL

July 1, 2 - 8:00 pm
July 3 - 2:00 pm

TICKETS \$25 at Salt Spring Books
and at the door

Written by Wendy Judith Cutler
Directed by Sue Newman

LIVE MUSIC

Outdoor concert series returns

10 weeks of Thursday
night music

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders and visitors can once again enjoy live music in Centennial Park this summer with a 10-week concert series presented by Salt Spring Arts.

The Summer Outdoor Concert Series (SOCS) begins Thursday, June 30 with the feel-good soul-pop/R&B duo 'maya & ben,' aka cousins Maya Rae and Benjamin Millman, with opener Georgia Lee Johnson. The following week's concert features another musical duo: Big Little Lions are Helen Austin and Paul Otten, whose infectious pop songs and tight harmonies won them a Juno in 2014.



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING ARTS

Maya Rae and Benjamin Millman perform as maya & ben in Centennial Park on Thursday, June 30.

Phoenix Lazare will open.

"We've curated an exciting and diverse lineup that's going to appeal to both islanders and visitors," said Salt Spring Arts executive director Yael Wand

in a press release. Full details for the Thursday concerts that begin at 6 p.m. are at saltspringarts.com.

"We are delighted with the support shown by our community and local businesses for the series," she said. "Music has a way of bringing people together, and SOCS really demonstrates that."

Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union, is supporting the season as a "marquee presenter." Island Savings will have a tent at the events, where audiences have the chance to support their community further through donations.

"We couldn't be happier to see people get back together to enjoy culture on our lovely island. We're thrilled to be able to support these concerts this summer," said Dan Adair, Salt Spring Island branch manager.



Proposed Bylaws 186 and 187 Official Community Plan & Land Use Bylaw Minor Amendments COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Community Information
Meeting and Public Hearing
Mayne Island Agricultural Hall
Monday, June 27, 2022 at
1:00 p.m.

Mayne Island Agricultural Hall
430 Fernhill Road
Mayne Island, BC

Who should attend?
Anyone affected by the
proposed bylaws.

Enquiries?
Narissa Chadwick
Island Planner
nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca
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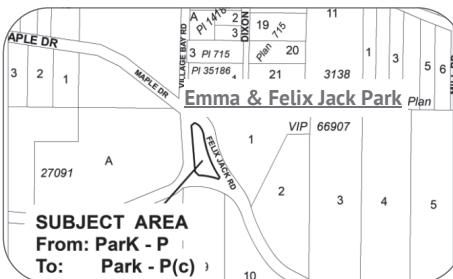
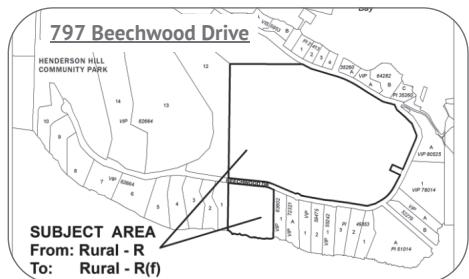
What is Proposed Bylaw 186 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 186 will amend the Mayne Island Official Community Plan by removing the Parks Master Plan (as requested by the Mayne Island Parks and Recreation Commission) and changing the land use designation on 437 Fernhill Road to conform with the zoning change proposed in Bylaw No. 187.

What is Proposed Bylaw 187 about?

Bylaw No. 187 proposes amendments to the Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw that: support land uses currently existing under Temporary Use Permit and address other concerns and community interests. Amendments to zoning are proposed for the following properties: 490 Fernhill Road, 437 Fernhill Road, 594 Fernhill Road, 797 Beechwood Drive and Emma and Felix Jack Park.

Proposed Bylaw No. 187 also includes a new definition of patio allowing patios in setbacks, and places limits on election sign posting.



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 [Mayne Island Current Project webpage](http://MayneIslandCurrentProject) 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 June 13, 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, mailed or dropped off at the Islands Trust office by 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 24, 2022. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

ARTS EVENTS

Cross-border arts collaboration set for 2023

Archipelago sees sharing between Gulf and San Juan islands

MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

A unique and important cultural exchange between two of North America's most feted arts communities — the Southern Gulf Islands and the San Juan Islands — has been announced to take place in 2023.

Called Archipelago, the celebration of artistic life in the Salish Sea will move between the islands, exploring the differences and similarities within these creative communities. Three major exhibitions will feature work from some of the finest visual artists living and working in the islands.

Artists from the Southern Gulf Islands will show at the Salt Spring Arts Spring Art Show at Mahon Hall from April 14 to 23, 2023, and at the San Juan Islands Museum of Art, San Juan Island from Sept. 22 to Dec. 1, 2023. Artists from the San Juan Islands will show at ArtSpring from April 21 to May 24, 2023.

Barbara Cox, exhibition committee member from the San Juan Islands Museum of Art, said the impetus behind Archipelago was a desire to encourage cross-border collaboration.

"Archipelago strives to forge human and artistic connections with multifaceted projects now and into the future."

Six artists from diverse backgrounds have been selected to represent the Southern Gulf Islands and the San Juan Islands, each working in a different fine art medium. The Gulf Islands artists are Anna Gustafson (installation); Chazz Elliott (carving, printmaking, sculpture); Jane Kidd (textile, tapestry); Joanna Rogers (textile, found object); John MacDonald (oil painting); Sam Montalbetti (photography).

Their San Juan Islands counterparts are Danielle Dean (photography); Glenn Hendrick (printmaking, painting); Joe Miller (oil painting, watercolour); Ravae Luckhart (oil painting, mixed media); Raven Skyriver (glass); Tom Small (stone, sculpture).

Exhibitions will also include a series of artist talks, poetry readings and film screenings. Further details of all events and opening receptions will be announced closer to the exhibition dates.

Howard Jang, ArtSpring's executive and artistic director, said ArtSpring welcomes the opportunity to present its first international visual art exhibition.

"To be able to expand on what we offer, collaborate creatively with such close neighbours, and help facilitate conversations between these diverse artists is a thrilling prospect for us and our islanders. This exhibition shines a light on the natural connection and inspiration of our shared geography."



ISLAND LIFE

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CULTURAL DIVERSITY SERIES

Student explores Gwich'in roots

Summers up north keep family connections

BY MARCIA JANSEN

THE CIRCLE EDUCATION

Rikilyn Traer's summers used to revolve around visits with family and friends in Aklavik in the Northwest Territories. The recent residential school findings were a turning point for her. It made her realize she wants to be more part of the Gwich'in heritage and culture.

Every year Rikilyn, her mom Wanda and her little sister Malorye visit their family up North. First, they fly from Vancouver to Whitehorse in the Yukon, from there they take a smaller plane to Inuvik in the Northwest Territories and then a boat to the small hamlet of Aklavik. Or in winter, when the lakes and rivers are frozen and new roads appear, they drive the 117-kilometre plowed ice highway.

Aklavik is the place where Rikilyn's mom grew up with her 12 older brothers and sisters. Her grandmother, several aunts and uncles, and lots of cousins, still live in the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit communities of Aklavik, Inuvik, Tsigehtchic, Fort McPherson and Tuktoyaktuk (also called Tuk).

"With 600 residents, Aklavik is pretty small. Everyone knows each other," says Rikilyn. "There are only two stores and there is a small health centre, but no hospital. It gets very cold in winter, and in summer it doesn't get dark for a few months. I love to be out on those nights, spending time with my friends, riding quads."

Rikilyn's parents met in Inuvik. Her mom is part of the Gwich'in Nation, which just celebrated the 30th anniversary of the signing of the land agreement. In 2000 they moved with Rikilyn's older brother Matthew, 24, to the West Coast. Both Rikilyn, 15, and her little sister Malorye (5) were born on Salt Spring Island.

"I have been going up back North with my mom since I was five. I don't remember a lot of the first years, but I can remember it was in winter and that I loved the snow. I went to school there for quite some time and I met a lot of kids that I still see when I go back to Aklavik, including my cousins and my best friend, who also turned out to be related to me."

Now that she's in high school, Rikilyn only spends the summers in Aklavik.

"My mom doesn't want me to miss too much of school, but I would love to go back again in winter and spend a semester at school there. I really liked it when I was younger. We wear mukluks in class, soft boots made of moose hide, muskrat, rabbit, beaver or sealskin, and I also remember a school trip when we learned how to hunt geese and snare rabbits. It was really fun."

This past year, Rikilyn's interest in her Indigenous roots grew after the news aired of the countless unnamed graves found at residential schools.

"I heard stories from my mom about the residential schools before. My grandmother, who is 93 years old, my mom, and all her brothers and sisters went to residential school. My mom went to school in Aklavik,



PHOTO BY MARCIA JANSEN

Rikilyn Traer in Ganges.

and then had to leave home to attend Grade 11 and 12 at the residential school in Inuvik. My grandmother had a very tough childhood and can't talk about her experiences at school, or the fact that her kids were taken away from her when they were five years old. It is too painful, too traumatic."

The stories about the residential schools that came pouring out made her sad for all the years her family was not together.

"It is just awful to think about what happened to so many people I know. That they were not allowed to live with their family, speak their language, and were cut off from their culture and traditions. And this happened not even that long ago. My mom was in residential school until 1994 and the last residential school closed in 1996. When these stories were all over the news, it triggered me. I wanted to be more involved, be more part of my culture and traditions."

Since then, Rikilyn tried to pick up bits and pieces of the language her family used to speak.

"My grandmother spoke Gwich'in when she was young but lost the language in residential school. My mom learned to speak Gwich'in in elementary school, and when I went to school in Aklavik I attended Gwich'in classes as well. Both my sister and I have a Gwich'in language app on our phone that we use to pronounce Gwich'in words. We know some basic words like good morning, good afternoon and thank you. It is not an easy language," Rikilyn says with a smile.

Her favourite cultural traditions when visiting her family in Aklavik are the spring carnivals where everyone gathers together and celebrates that winter is over. The communities share traditional food, play traditional games and there is singing, drum dancing, jigging and square dancing.

"I haven't been involved in a lot of traditional activities in Aklavik so far because a lot of people are travelling in the summer. That is why I want to spend more time there in winter and spring."

Rikilyn and her family celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 on Salt Spring Island. Gwich'in art, dreamcatchers, and a bowhead whale baleen are displayed on the walls of their home in Ganges. Each time her mom returns back from the North, she would bring home rabbit, goose, caribou,

moose and beluga meat to prepare traditional meals at home. When Rikilyn is in the Northwest Territories, she lives a more traditional lifestyle than when she's on Salt Spring Island.

"I don't speak a lot about my background on Salt Spring Island," she says. "The topic came up when the residential schools were in the news, and the findings of unmarked graves of children were acknowledged in whole school meetings, but a lot of people don't even know that I am Indigenous."

Rikilyn, who wants to be a fashion designer, plans to keep going to the Northwest Territories on a regular basis but sees her future on the West Coast.

"Visiting my family is the highlight for me every time I return to Aklavik, but my life is here. There are more educational and future opportunities to choose from. Everyone strives to be successful, and I hope to make an impact on my family and especially my community."

**HAPPY
Canada
DAY**

Please note that the
Gulf Islands Driftwood office
will be closed on
Friday, July 1 - Canada Day
statutory holiday - and will reopen
9am - 4pm on Monday, July 4.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood
Wednesday July 6 edition
will be Wednesday, June 29, noon



Send us your PET PHOTOS!

Send your favourite pet photo* along with their name, to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com by July 14th for publication in a special feature on pets! We'll choose the best ones for publication in **All About Pets coming in July**.

*Photos must be minimum of 200 dpi.

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*Photos must be minimum of 200 dpi.

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SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS

Tax-supported SGI transportation proposed

Bus service, walking and cycling routes and more on ballot

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Voters on the Southern Gulf Islands will be asked in a fall referendum if they agree to a property tax requisition to form a new transportation service for the islands.

The question on the ballot during the October elections will be whether voters in the electoral area, which includes Galiano,

Mayne, Pender, Saturna, Piers and other islands, support the creation of a new transportation service. The service would raise a maximum annual requisition of \$675,000, or \$14.10 per \$100,000 of assessed property value to fund the service's operating costs, the Capital Regional District (CRD) stated in a June 13 news release.

If successful, the referendum would allow the CRD to create a service to fund public transportation, support the creation of walking and cycling routes, and help coordinate transportation between the islands.

Alternate director Paul Brent,

who recently took on the role of electoral area director after David Howe resigned June 8, praised residents for their incredible work in addressing transportation through volunteerism and non-profits.

"Now these community organizations need reliable and predictable support to meet the islands' needs for sustainable options that reduce our car dependency, give vulnerable islanders like seniors and kids ways to travel safely and independently, and connect our communities," he stated.

If created, the primary objective of the service would be to provide support in the form of funds

and coordination to the existing organizations that work on public transportation as well as cycling and walking infrastructure on the islands. The CRD support would include grants, "holding tenure as required by the Ministry of Transportation in the road right of way, acting as the sponsoring local government when required for transportation infrastructure investment and funding applications to higher levels of government" and coordinating an inter-island transportation network.

The service would be guided by a commission with local representatives from each island.

The CRD board endorsed the business case for establishing this service by giving three readings to Bylaw 4485, a bylaw to establish the service. This followed a year of public engagement, where the theme repeated by many involved was the "need to improve transportation options on the Southern Gulf Islands, particularly due to a lack of safety for users of the hilly, winding and narrow road network."

Details about the referendum, and the wording of the referendum question, can be found at getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/sgi-transportation.

what's on this week



What's On - *the go!*
Scan this barcode with
your smartphone to download
instructions below.

Wed.	June 22	Fri.	June 24	Sun.	June 26	Wed.	June 29
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	
Tea a Tempo. Suzanne Gay, Deb Smith and John Moore — members of Sunny Siders jazz band — perform at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m., followed by tea and goodies.		Hounds of Cuchulain. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.		East Coast Kitchen Party Ceilidh. See Saturday's listing, except the time is 2 p.m.		Tea a Tempo. Doug's Buds Trio performs at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m., followed by tea and goodies.	
K-Tones. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.		Marianne Grittani. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.		JAZZJAM! Salt Spring Jazz and Blues Society hosts jazz jam at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.		Vargo. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.	
ACTIVITIES		ACTIVITIES		Morien Jones. On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.		ACTIVITIES	
Salt Spring Museum. Open in Bittancourt House on the Farmers' Institute grounds on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.		FabLab Open House. See what the Salt Spring Public Library's FabLab and maker space is all about. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., with ribbon cutting at 10:15 a.m.		29 East. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.		Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.	
SSI Garden Club. With guest speaker Milo Stuart from Rainwalk Design on the topic of "Resilient landscapes... where to begin." Meaden Hall. 6:45 to 9 p.m.		Tour Des Iles. Three-day inter-island festival with Aqualink vessels connecting the five Southern Gulf Islands. Info and schedules at tourdesiles.ca or aqualink.ca .		ACTIVITIES		THE FRITZ CINEMA	
Salt Spring Seals 20th Anniversary Documentary Film. At The Fritz. 7:30 p.m.		Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.		Tour Des Iles. See Friday listing.		• Jurassic World Dominion shows from Friday, June 24 through Tuesday, June 28 at 7 p.m. nightly plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See www.thefritz.ca for more movie info.	
Thur.	June 23	Sat.	June 25	Mon.	June 27	EXHIBITIONS	
						• Painters Guild 50th Anniversary Summer Show runs at ArtSpring daily from Saturday, June 25 to Tuesday, July 5, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a reception on Saturday, June 25 from 1 to 4 p.m.	
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		• Fiona Duthie's Chromatic Navigation is the Artcraft Showcase exhibition at Mahon Hall through July 4.	
Bobo Czarnowski. Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.		East Coast Kitchen Party Ceilidh. Join Viva Chorale! choir for a concert of Maritime and traditional Celtic music plus yummy treats at Beaver Point Hall. 7 p.m.		Tom Hooper. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.		• Today, June 22, is the last day to see Julianna Slomka's It's About Time exhibit at Salt Spring Gallery, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.	
Daryl Chonka. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.		Tour des Iles Festival Day 2. Kaizenjammers, The K-Tones, David Carl Duo, Ashton Bachman. Mateada Lounge. 12 to 4 p.m.		ACTIVITIES		• Throughout the month of June, Jeanne Lyons presents Explorations: paintings, mixed media, prints and carvings in the ArtSpring lobby, which is open from Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., and during ArtSpring performances.	
Open Mic. Royal Canadian Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.		DJ Matsya. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.		Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission. Discussion of 2023 budget. Salt Spring Public Library Program room. 1 p.m.		• Brian Purcell shows photographs in the library program room until June 27.	
ACTIVITIES		Morien Jones. On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.		Tues.	June 28	• Bernadette Mertens-McAllister presents a photography exhibit called A Child's World at Country Grocer's Roasters Cafe through June.	
Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.		Monik Nordine Trio Live. At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		• Artcraft show and sale of work by more than 100 Gulf Islands artisans runs daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the summer.	
NSSWD Ratepayers Public Forum. Public meeting on hydrology peer study review results and public survey. Community Gospel Chapel. 6 to 8 p.m.		Everyday People. Inside at Moby's Pub. 8:30 p.m. to midnight.		Nicky MacKenzie. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.			
Fri.	June 24	Rough and Tumble		ACTIVITIES			
		Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.		Tuesday Farmers' Market. Weekly market in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.			
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		ACTIVITIES					
Jake n Cables. On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.		Tour Des Iles. See Friday listing.					
Parahyba Ska Jazz Foundation. Inside at Moby's Pub. 8:30 p.m.		Saturday Market in the Park. In Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.					
Karaoke Night. At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.							
Tour des Iles Festival Day 1. Mike & Margo, Sue & Tom, Ghostly Hounds and Alan Moberg. Mateada Lounge. 12 to 4 p.m.							

FabLab Open House

Launch of new makerspace at the
Salt Spring Public Library.
Friday, June 24, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries



TED HARRISON

January 2, 1940 - June 10, 2022

In His Own Words ...

"I have always been an active, independent, caring individual and have lived a full, privileged, purposeful life blessed by family, friends and opportunities to pursue ever-arising interests. Tennis, squash, sailing, kayaking, long distance cycling, gardening and farming have been major pursuits in my life in addition to my rewarding career in the civil service. As my health challenges grew over the past decade, I continued to enjoy community volunteering, bridge, reading, crossword puzzles and an active social life. My beloved wife, Susan (Evans), and my two wonderful children, Marybeth and Mark, are the most valued relationships I have ever enjoyed. I love them dearly. They have given my life purpose and meaning. Friends and other family have played important roles as well. In recent years my health has continued to decline and my experience has become one of chronic pain, diminishing physical and mental capacity, and loss of independence. As a result, the time has come to leave relationships behind and enter the final stage of life. I do not fear death nor regard it as an enemy. Rather, I see it as a normal part of existence and in my case, a friend."

Thank you to our community of family and friends for your kindness and support, and thank you to MAID for giving Ted the opportunity to die on his own terms, surrounded by loved ones.

If you wish to commemorate Ted, donations in his name to the fledgling Nature Salt Spring <https://www.naturesaltspring.org/> or Dying With Dignity Canada www.dyingwithdignity.ca/ would be welcome.

Perhaps they are not stars in the sky, but rather openings where our loved ones shine down to let us know they are happy.

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Bev Byron

On Sunday, June 12, 2022, Beverly Ruby Byron, a long-time resident of Salt Spring Island, passed away on the farm with her family very close. She was 85 years old. Bev was loved by her daughters, sons-in-law, grandchildren and great-grandchildren. She was predeceased by her husband, Mike Byron.

Beverly Ruby Hicks was born in Slocan City, BC, in 1937. Her parents, William Edmund Hicks and Frances Mary Hicks (n. Nye) were also born in the Kootenays. From a young age, Bev enjoyed dinner parties and music nights in Slocan, which planted the seed for huge family gatherings later in life. She attended the UBC Normal School to earn her teaching certificate in 1959, but stayed longer at university to get her full Bachelor of Education degree. Her first teaching position was in Surrey, B.C. at Prince Charles Elementary school and it was there she met a very charismatic young principal, Mike Byron.

Bev and Mike were married in 1961 and moved to the farm at the south end of Salt Spring overlooking Stowell Lake. Their daughter, Frances Elizabeth, was born in 1963 and they welcomed another daughter, Jacqueline Beverly, two years later. After their third daughter, Nadaene Louise arrived, the farm soon grew to include cattle, sheep, pigs, and horses, as well as free range chickens, ducks and geese.

Bev was a substitute teacher for many years and would tackle any position from kindergarten to grade 12. She is fondly remembered by many students as a non-nonsense teacher, who taught the basics, creating a solid foundation for future learning. Bev eventually went back to teaching full time at Salt Spring Elementary, Fernwood Elementary, and finally Fulford Elementary where she taught grades 4 and 5.

Bev loved get-togethers and dinner parties. She could plan, prepare and present a 40-pound turkey dinner to the table, all with a smile on her face and a skip in her step. Many islanders will remember the parties filled with guitars, singing and dancing that carried on long into the night.

After Bev retired from teaching, she was elected to the Island Trust for two terms from 1996 to 2002. After her retirement from the Trust she joined the Salt Spring Island Women's Institute to continue to contribute to the community. Bev was very proud of the WI's fundraising, and found such joy in being part of the "Pie Ladies" at the Salt Spring Fall Fair.

Bev is survived by her daughters Fran (Doug), Jacquie (Brent), Deanie (Charlie); her grandchildren Braden (Kaela), Bailey, Josie (Keri), Jonah, Ella, Michael and Ryan; and her great grandchildren Brooke, Luke and Henry.

A memorial service will be held on Friday, July 8 at 2pm at All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island. We will be gathering in the church hall afterwards. We hope you can join us.

PETER BEAGLEHOLE
1932-2022

Peter passed away with his family by his side in Sidney, British Columbia.

He was born in Buxton, England to Frances and Keith Beaglehole. After a brief period in New Zealand, he returned to England where he lived in Baildon, Yorkshire.

Peter attended Bradford Grammar School, completed his Medical Degree in Edinburgh, Scotland and from there he spent several years in London.

In 1962, Peter was part of a group of Doctors contracted by the Government of Saskatchewan to staff Community Clinics and provide medical services during the Saskatchewan Doctors' Strike. The work had its challenges, but, like Saskatchewan and the people, he made the decision to remain in Regina.

In 1974, Peter and his colleagues, along with their staff, left the Regina Community Clinic and established the Stapleford Medical Clinic where he remained until he retired to Salt Spring with his wife, Judith, in 1998.

Peter loved art, music and books. He was an active supporter of and contributor to the MacKenzie Art Gallery in Regina, serving on the Acquisitions Committee for many years. Peter recognized the talent of Saskatchewan artists and was a great supporter throughout his lifetime.

As a family physician, Peter will be dearly missed by his former staff and his patients, who appreciated his thoughtfulness, kindness and compassion.

To you Peter, we will always be grateful for the love you gave to us, your support and your constant willingness to listen.

Peter is survived by his wife Judith and his children Claire (Mark) and Alastair. He was predeceased by his parents, Frances and Keith and his sister, Betty.

We would like to say thank you to Dr. Butcher, the staff at Lady Minto Hospital, the care givers, community support workers, and Sidney AllCare Residence.

His family would like to say: Thank You Peter, for all that you gave to us over the years.

A Life Well Lived.

Obituaries

Obituaries



S.O. (DENIS) RUSSELL

It is with deep sadness that we announce the passing of our dear Denis on June 16, 2022, at the age of 90.

Born in Belfast on the 18th of May, 1932, Samuel Oliver "Denis" was born to Samuel and Amy Russell. With brothers Frank and Victor, he was raised in Dungannon, where he excelled at academics, football, and rugby at the Royal School Dungannon.

It was at Queen's University Belfast where he met Deirdre O'Connor, the first love of his life. Their sense of adventure and opportunity took them from the Emerald Isle to the soggy coast of Vancouver, where they raised their boys, Michael, James, and Terry. Denis' interest in hydroelectric power projects took him to various locations throughout the province to work, including the Mica and Arrow Lakes Dams. His successes led to a position at the University of British Columbia in 1968 and a prestigious 25-year career. Professor Russell trained a generation of engineers and was highly respected and regarded by those he worked with and taught.

Deirdre passed away following a tragic car accident in the UK in 1987. Denis found incredible support in the church community at West Point Grey United during this difficult time. It was here that Denis met Susan and they eventually married.

Upon retirement from UBC, Denis and Susan, escaped Vancouver and found their Shangri-La on Salt Spring Island, where it was a "rough" life of living on the ocean and having frequent afternoons with friends and family.

Life on Salt Spring was fulfilling and he seamlessly integrated into the community in every way possible. Recreational activities included golf, tennis, and swimming at Vesuvius beach. Whether on the links or on the tennis court, his athleticism and charm made him the perfect sportsman. Denis loved music. He was a skilled pianist, talented guitarist and he spent many years singing with the United Church choir and Salt Spring Singers. Other favourite activities included the Egghheads Club and a lengthy tenure on the SSI Water Board.

Denis was a gentleman whose compassion, patience and intelligence made him the ideal father, partner and dinner party guest. When speaking with him, you knew that he was genuinely interested in the conversation and was always learning from everyone he met.

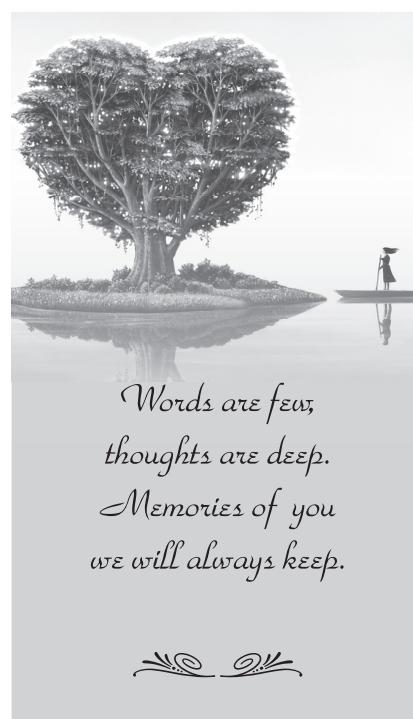
Denis is survived by his wife Susan, his sons Mike (Marcy), Terry (Debbie) stepsons, Jonathan (Mika), Alexander (Marta), and nine grandchildren, Lindsay, David, Skyler, Phoebe, Malina, Midori, Miko, Daniel, and Huxley.

A service of remembrance will be held at the Salt Spring Island United Church, Ganges, Friday July 8th, 2022 at 2:00pm.

In lieu of flowers please consider donating to Greenwoods Foundation, greenwoodsonblain@gmail.com.



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Show us what you see ...

ON FRIDAY JULY 1ST

• We invite people to send us their photos for our 2022 Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island publication.

A DAY IN THE Life
SALT SPRING ISLAND 2022

- Photos must be taken between 6 a.m. on Friday July 1st and 6 a.m. on Saturday July 2nd.**
- Register in advance by sending an email to editor Gail Sjuberg at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com for deadlines and details about how to submit.**

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Career Opportunities

Home Support Needed
English gentleman on Salt Spring Island (88 yrs) needs some evening and weekend home support from a triple vaccinated, caring, responsible person with references and a Covid careful lifestyle. Experience with the elderly is a plus. Living accommodations possible along with a competitive wage.

Contact Deborah Ross
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Venceremos!

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Your mood and focus has shifted to emphasize the importance of home and family. What is important and needed versus simply wanted is on your mind. While only you can answer this question, consider that everything we do, we do to feel good. Focus on feelings and include everyone for best results.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Just when you thought you were about as busy as you could be, you got even busier. This is a call for time management and clear boundaries. You do want to get a lot done and doing the rounds is likely. Keeping up with communications is part of the plot and success depends on your ability to be diplomatic.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Getting clear on what is important includes a reassessment of your 'economic' responsibilities and priorities. While this naturally applies to your finances, economic can refer to your mental and emotional reserves as well. Giving to everyone and everything in right measure is the creative challenge.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

You are of two minds as summer begins. On one hand, you are ready to take new leads and enter new territory. On the other hand, you are happy to listen more and talk less. Paying closer attention to others will allow you to know who needs you most and where to best direct your energy and empathy.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Balancing between outer engagement and inner retreat is also up for you. As happy and willing as you are to be there, you also feel inclined to watch and listen more than to reach out and initiate. This is an invitation to be true to your mood and feelings, which are likely to be noticeably up and down.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

An accelerated pace has become the new norm of late. This trend will continue, so you are challenged to be on top of your game. Returns for past efforts should be noticeable, but these do require your full participation, as well. This includes fixes, repairs and improvements. Fortunately, you are feeling ambitious.

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer
www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

The spotlight is now on your career, your social status and public life, in general. Something new is brewing. As exciting as this may be, it also requires new levels of responsibility and integral response. Chances are you will get a promotion, a new job altogether, or public recognition.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

Your sights are set on the future. Seeing a bigger picture feels extra important. Circumstances have and continue to push you to acknowledge, confront and overcome certain fears. This is a call to action as over-thinking will likely cause more problems yet. Make a push for the changes you know need to happen.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

You have entered a cycle of change and transformation. It could manifest as a purging process of some sort. Whether you are cleaning the garage, clearing the clutter, cleansing your organs or clearing the air with certain people, or perhaps all of the above, the time is right to set things straight.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

Who do you love and how and why? Answering these questions has already begun to take on added importance. A reflective period is indicated as you weigh your feelings and priorities so that you can give where it is most needed. Receiving in return is also important as you aim for fairness.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

A creative cycle continues. Positively, you are enjoying new approaches, tasks and strategies. Taking a constructively critical approach is featured and may prove increasingly necessary. These are all features of a larger theme of paying your dues, which can also be understood as building for the future.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

The Cancer New Moon will activate a whole new round and quality of creative passion. It is supported by an urge to express your aesthetic sensibilities; to feel inspired by beauty. The emphasis is on your home and living environment. With awareness, you will uplift your home for the sake of higher living.

ATHLETICS

GISS rowers make a big splash

National championships in St. Catharines

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A small but mighty Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) rowing team went east to compete in a national championship, coming home with admirable results.

Five GISS rowers competed alongside circa 1,200 participants in the Canadian Secondary Schools Rowing Association (CSSRA) Regatta in St. Catharines, the national championship for high school rowing. The Salt Spring team was one of the smallest school programs to participate, with some of the best results, coach



PHOTO COURTESY GISS ROWERS

GISS rowers at national championships, from left, are Quinn Nickels, Zoë Clarke, Grey Williamson, Maya Wilson and Angelica Allen.

Stacy Mitchell reported.

"It was an incredible success between thunderstorms and lightning with periods of sun," she wrote. "All five rowers successfully qualified for the finals in their events."

Only 150 athletes made it to the finals.

Grey Williamson came fifth in the Junior Men's single event. Quinn Nickels and Zoë Clarke came sixth in the Senior Women's Double. Nickels, Clarke, Angelica Allen and Maya Wilson came fifth in the Senior Women's Quad.

"It was incredible to see these athletes from our small community rise to the challenge and be some of the best rowers in Canada at the secondary level," Mitchell wrote.

It was the first time in three years that the national championships took place, the annual event hampered by the COVID-19 pandemic. Regattas across the country were stopped during the pandemic, yet the GISS rowers continued training both on and off the water in innovative ways to keep safe. Coaches Stacy Mitchell and Heidi Cowan had the rowers practise "in single sculls, with staggered starts and extensive safety protocols, maintaining their four practices a week on St. Mary Lake," GISS Rowing wrote.

The rowers also pulled together to raise the needed funds to get them to St. Catharines, organizing fundraising lunches and raffles.

PHILANTHROPY

Indigenous Priorities Fund grants announced

Inaugural program thrills foundation

SUBMITTED BY SSI FOUNDATION

This spring, the Salt Spring Island Foundation is pleased to announce \$138,400 in Community Grants, awarded to 22 local charities.

The foundation continues to support as many diverse projects as possible for the most wide-reaching benefit to the community. This cycle is no exception with grants made in the key areas of children, youth, and education; heritage infrastructure; environment; sports and recreation; literacy; arts and culture; and capacity building.

People can see the projects funded on the www.saltspingfoundation.ca website.

The foundation is also delighted to award grants from the newly established Indigenous Priorities Fund (IPF). This fund aims to support Indigenous cultural development, education, and belonging on Salt Spring Island. The Salt Spring Island Foundation acknowledges that systemic barriers have prevented equal access to community funding. The IPF aims to acknowledge this and other truths of colonial structures and to support cultural initiatives. The foundation invited Indigenous community members to form a committee to assess the applications for IPF grants, of which six were selected for funding, with a total of \$27,783 being disbursed to the community.

The projects selected include a month-long community arts festival highlighting the climate emergency, while emphasizing Indigenous voices and perspectives. Co-produced

by Graffiti Theatre, Transition Salt Spring, and the Salt Spring Arts Council, the On the Rise Festival will take place in September 2022.

Indigenous knowledge keepers and cultural advisors will be involved in projects at both Fulford and Salt Spring elementary schools. Both schools received funding for native plant gardens. Students will participate in the creation of the gardens and signage while learning about traditional Indigenous plant names. Cultural advisor and artist Quentin Harris will also work with Fulford students on a carving project.

In consultation with Jared Qwustenuxun Williams, the Salt Spring Centre School will be revising the information on the signage on the Woodland Trail on the Salt Spring Centre for Yoga property. The signage will now include plant names in the Hul'qumi'num language.

Two mural projects have received funding for the engagement of Indigenous artists and advisors. Salt Spring Arts Council's Murals on Salt Spring project will benefit from the selection and development of artworks by Indigenous elders, knowledge keepers, or artists.

Indigenous artists will plan and create two murals at the Core Inn in collaboration with local youth. One will be painted on the ground of the basketball court and the other inside the building.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation is thrilled with the response from the community. The creative and inspiring applications we received have given this new fund a bright start, and we thank our committee members and donors. We will welcome applications for the Indigenous Priority Fund Grants again in the fall.

COMMUNITY RESOURCES

FabLab open house Friday

Public use of makerspace equipment welcomed

The Salt Spring Island Public Library is officially launching its makerspace called the FabLab with an open house event on Friday, June 24.

Running from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., the ribbon cutting takes place at 10:15 a.m. Coffee and cookies will be served.

The FabLab has equipment that can help people fix or make a specific part, or invent something specific to a task or purpose using equipment such as a laser-cutting machine,

3D printer, 3D scanner, sewing machines and a computer stocked with design software including Adobe Creative Suite, and Autodesk AutoCAD.

The FabLab is located next to the Info Tech desk, in the glass room right before the children's area of the library.

People are asked to confirm their attendance at the open house by sending an RSVP to jwagner@saltspinglibrary.com.

To use the space or get more information outside of the open house, people can contact emagley@saltspinglibrary.com, or drop by for a quick tour on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays between 10 a.m. and 2 p.m.

FESTIVAL

Tour des Îles runs this weekend

Visiting among Gulf Islands celebrated through festival

After two years of holding virtual events due to COVID-19, Tour des Îles is back.

Set for Friday through Sunday, June 24-26, Tour des Îles is a water transportation initiative and festival connecting the five major Southern Gulf Islands of Galiano, Pender, Mayne, Salt Spring and Saturna.

From Salt Spring Island there are seven trips a day from Fernwood Dock to Moutague Harbour on Galiano Island with con-

necting service to Miners Bay on Mayne. Other connections are set up between Pender and Mayne, Galiano and Mayne, Pender and Saturna, and Mayne and Saturna islands. Volunteers on all the islands will provide on-land shuttle service to attractions and the docks.

Transportation is provided by Gulf Islands Water Taxi vessels through the AquaLink service and must be booked at aqualink.ca/schedules/ or through the tourdesiles.ca site.

Access to the islands can also be augmented through BC Ferries service.



Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District

NOTICE OF REFERENDUM on Construction of a NEW MAIN FIRE HALL

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that voting in a referendum on the construction of a new main fire hall will be held during the month of June 2022.

Voting will be exclusively by mail-in ballot. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters in June 2022. Eligible voters that do not receive a ballot by mail by 15 June 2022 may collect a ballot at the Ganges fire hall, Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm. Any person not on the present list of property owners able to demonstrate they are eligible, may obtain a registration form from the Ganges fire hall, return it to the hall or complete and enclose it along with the mail ballot. Registration forms will be available at the Ganges fire hall.

Ballots must be received by mail or dropped off at the Ganges Fire Hall by 4:00 pm, 30 June 2022.

Those eligible to vote in this referendum will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen eighteen years of age or older.
2. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to this election.
3. Be an owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District for at least 30 days prior to 30 June 2022.
4. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The board or corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf. Place the written designation, separate from the ballot, in the stamped return envelope provided with the ballot package mailed/given to eligible voters.
5. Eligible voters who do not receive a ballot package in the mail by 15 June 2022 may collect one from the Ganges fire hall, Mon.-Thurs. 9:00 am - 4:00 pm.

No persons may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as a designated authorized agent of a land-owning corporation and personally, if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Ganges, BC, this 19th day of May 2022

Anthony A. Kennedy
Returning Officer

WE'RE HIRING

Office Staff

We are on the lookout for a community-loving, well-organized people person at the Driftwood. Part-time options are available. *Come join our team!*

Send your resume to:
njohnson@driftwoodgimmedia.com
 or call 250.537.9933

Driftwood
 COMMUNITY NEWSPAPER
 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island
 250-537-9933 • gulfislandsdriftwood.com



COVID-19 IN BC

VACCINES GIVE US A LIFT.

Vaccines help prevent serious COVID-19 illness in families and in children aged 5 and over. Vaccines are the most effective way to strengthen

immune response - even if you've previously had COVID-19. Canada's pediatric vaccines have been rigorously tested and are safe. Help protect yourself and those you love. **Register your kids for vaccination today.**

gov.bc.ca/vaccineforkids



FILMMAKING

Young talent sought for summer film shoot

Casting call for child between ages four and seven

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Filmmaker Liz Cairns is searching for a special young Salt Spring Islander to play a leading role in her first feature film, which will begin shooting on the island later this summer.

Cairns has spent four years working on the screenplay for INEDIA, a dark drama "loosely based on my own experiences as a young woman having an eating disorder and about my relationship to recovery," she said.

The film is centred on a young woman who experiences "a series of mysterious and quite debilitating reactions to food" that has become a chronic condition, Cairns explained, and "learns about a community of people that claim to live on only light and be sustained by light alone." INEDIA's script has already received accolades, being shortlisted for the Sundance Screenwriters Lab in 2019.

Much of the film will be shot at Stowet Lake Farm, which Cairns said the film crew found after scouting locations on several Gulf Islands. Shooting will take place between Aug. 22 to Sept. 17, mainly at the farm and other places around the island, including a local hair salon and cidery.

The crew is in the process of casting in Los Angeles and also casting on Salt Spring for a child between ages four and seven of any gender and any ethnicity to play a young person who lives in the radical community the lead actress encounters. Acting training is not necessary, a casting call stated, with some scenes to be improvised and the character to be adapted to the young performer chosen for the role.

"We are looking for a natural in front of the camera," the call stated. "A playful, sensitive and expressive young person."

A meet and greet and open casting call will be held on Saturday, July 2 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Central Community Hall. This will be followed by call backs on July 9 from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the same location, with more improvisation, play and a short scene read through. Contact the filmmakers via inediafeaturefilm@gmail.com to arrange a time slot.

Preparing for the production month on the island has involved a lot of intentional goal setting and planning.

"It's really important for us that we make partnerships with people in the community so we can understand how we're impacting the local community," Cairns said, especially as they are coming to a small rural island.

She explained that the production is working on getting Albert certification, an environmental initiative where all consumption and waste is tracked and goals



PHOTO COURTESY LIZ CAIRNS

Filmmaker Liz Cairns, who is shooting her first feature film to be shot at Stowet Lake Farm commencing in late August.

are set around the carbon footprint.

Cairns added that a goal of one bag of garbage to the landfill per week has already been set, and work is ongoing to sort out how to recycle waste locally and how to acquire energy-efficient lighting and an electric generator.

Connecting with the community and learning from locals, such as local organic farmers and people working in food security, is also part of the planning Cairns explained.

"So we're not just going into a place and taking and taking and taking, because film is so much like that, but how can we have our own team understand our relationship to the community and vice versa?"

The production has also taken the Producer Pledge, a Canada-wide initiative that recognizes the under-representation of women and people of colour both in front of and behind the camera.

"So we're pledging to hire at least 35 per cent of cast and crew who are BIPOC [Black, Indigenous and people of colour] and 50 per cent who are women or gender diverse," Cairns explained, as well as setting goals around hiring equity.

So far, Cairns said, everyone on the island has been "so warm and welcoming and helpful, it's really exciting." As the production gets closer to the shooting date, they may be looking locally for more cast and crew.

Cairns' short films have played at multiple film festivals in Canada and internationally. A graduate of the Director's Lab at the Canadian Film Centre, Cairns was in 2017 invited to the Short Film Station at the Berlinale, the Berlin international film festival, one of 10 participants chosen from thousands of applicants.

Her latest short film The Horses is currently on the festival circuit and won Best BC Short Film at the Vancouver International Film Festival. INEDIA is being produced by Experimental Forest Films, Scythia Films and Stellar Citizens. Cairns is based in Vancouver and also spends time at her parents' home on Salt Spring.