

inside:

it's all
about
PETS



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Dining is
Best Done
OUTDOORS!

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Wednesday,
July 20, 2022

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Issue 29
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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

TREASURES TO HOLD: Treasure Fair team member Wendy Herbert holds a raku sculpture that sold in the "buy it now" part of the ArtSpring fundraiser, which exceeded its \$55,000 goal by 16 per cent, bringing in \$63,930 when online bidding ended on Sunday evening.

LAND USE

Residents, Trust continue Rogers battle

Trust to seek legal help; residents threaten direct action

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The path for Rogers Communications to build a cell tower at Channel Ridge is not yet clear, with residents threatening to block the access route and the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) referring the issue to legal counsel.

At the July 12 LTC meeting at Community Gospel Chapel, trustees passed two motions. One was to have a lawyer prepare a letter of response to a May 17, 2022 letter from Industry, Science and Economic Development (ISED) that rejected

a March 2022 LTC rescindment of its previous opinion that the site was an appropriate place for the tower. The second was to have LTC chair Peter Luckham contact Rogers representative Michael Krenz to request a suspension of activities at Channel Ridge pending receipt of a letter from Islands Trust legal counsel and the resulting follow-up.

Motions were made after Canvasback Place resident Julian Clark gave an impassioned impromptu presentation to trustees at the meeting.

"The Concerned Residents of Canvasback Place

feel so strongly about this, let me tell you what's going to happen. If Rogers shows up, we're going to picket that access. We're going to picket that access route. They are not going to gain access to that site."

Clark said the application submitted to the LTC in 2021 contained inaccurate and incomplete information related to public consultation, First Nations archaeological features in Channel Ridge and a Channel Ridge master plan Islands Trust covenant.

CELL TOWER continued on 3

FERRIES

Ferry chaos hits Sunday

Cancellations on all three routes

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A spate of ferry sailing cancellations left Salt Spring virtually without ferry service for part of Sunday.

All 12 afternoon/evening Fulford Harbour-Swartz Bay (Route 4) sailings were cancelled, starting with the 1:50 p.m. from Fulford. Four Crofton-Vesuvius Bay (Route 6) evening sailings were also cancelled due to crew availability, except for the 10 p.m. final sailing from Crofton, which ran on schedule. The final two evening sailings between Tsawwassen and Long Harbour also did not run.

Water taxis were brought in on routes 4 and 6 to transport foot passengers, with the Crofton-Vesuvius route serviced by a 10-person vessel and Fulford-Swartz Bay by a 45-person vessel. BC Ferries executive director of public affairs Deborah Marshall stated via email that as per her understanding, the water taxis were sufficient to move those who wanted to use this option to travel.

"Yesterday could have been a lot worse, it was bad enough as it was," said Salt Spring's volunteer ferry advisory committee (FAQ) chair Harold Swierenga, who visited the Fulford terminal Sunday afternoon to observe ferry crew assisting walk-on passengers and cyclists aboard the water taxi. "I think it was fairly well-handled."

BC Ferries stated that the decision to cancel the sailings came after they had exhausted all options to find crew, including looking for replacement workers and offering overtime pay.

Marshall confirmed that the crewing issue aboard one ship was COVID-19-related, yet did not have further details regarding the crew absent from the other two vessels.

FERRIES continued on 3

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ISLANDS TRUST

Draft housing bylaws at Thursday open house

Accessory dwelling units and farm housing debated

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders will be hearing more about two proposed bylaws meant to increase options for rental housing and housing on farmland at an open house this Thursday.

The meeting, to be held virtually from 4 to 6 p.m. on July 21, will delve deeper into a new bylaw on accessory dwelling units and a separate bylaw on farmworker housing.

Allowing accessory dwelling units (ADUs), which includes secondary suites in homes as well as detached units such as cottages or mobile homes, was a recommendation made by the Housing Action Program Task Force in 2021. One of several recommendations made to address the island's rental housing crisis, the Local Trust Committee (LTC) instructed Islands Trust staff to draft a bylaw that would allow would-be landlords to either rent out existing ADUs or construct new ones.

The result was Bylaw 530, which received first reading by the LTC in April and is open for public comment, which has so far come in the form of delegations to LTC meetings as well as 22 letters.

To make the bylaw more impactful, the housing task force recommended allowing ADUs in all zones and scrapping minimum lot size restrictions for detached ADUs.

"That's based on the idea that there's

already protection for water and for waste management, it's already built into the process," said task force chair Rhonan Heitzmann at a July 12 LTC meeting. Planner and Salt Spring Solutions board member Elizabeth FitzZaland agreed, telling the LTC at a June 14 meeting that having a minimum requirement for lot size would make the bylaw "largely ineffective."

The first draft of Bylaw 530 included a minimum lot size for detached ADUs of 1.2 hectares. The current draft of the bylaw allows for detached ADUs in lots under 1.2 hectares, provided they have a floor area of 56 square metres or smaller.

Some residents opposed to the proposed bylaw urged, in letters to the LTC, the focus to remain on protecting the natural environment.

"The mandate of the Islands Trust is to [preserve] and protect!" wrote Eddy and Jan Jang. "It would seem that this has been forgotten. Having lived on Salt Spring Island . . . we can see and feel the erosion of our way of life."

Others urged the LTC to focus their efforts elsewhere, including enforcing the island's short-term vacation rental bylaw and developing mixed use rental buildings in Ganges.

A number of residents questioned whether the ADU bylaw was in alignment with the island's official community plan. "To have such a bylaw on the books in

perpetuity, in contravention of the official community plan (OCP) requirements for 'few and minor' exceptions, will threaten the future of this island. This island has a carrying capacity and it needs to be recognized," wrote Mavis MacMillan.

Heitzmann addressed the fears of some islanders about this bylaw contributing to more density. Referencing a 2003 Trust report on affordable housing, he said that accessory dwelling units are secondary infill.

"It's not adding urbanization, it's adding a layer of flexibility to an already existing development that's already happened," he said. "It's saying, 'It's okay for you to build a single family house for a family of eight. Why can't we have some flexibility so you have two people in the house and two people in some other dwelling?'"

The real impact on the environment, Heitzmann said, is the rural sprawl resulting from land being carved up for single family dwellings and the driveways, roads and other associated infrastructure that go in. This kind of future build-out will be unaffordable for working-class people, and anyone in the younger generation, he added.

"Some opponents suggest that allowing ADUs will create some sort of rush on development, doubling or tripling the density and population of our island, devastating our water resources. This simply isn't fact based," said FitzZaland.

She noted that the uptake of these dwellings is "very gradual and not widely embraced by most property owners."

According to research commissioned by BC Housing, communities the size of Salt Spring see an uptake of under 10 per cent.

The cost and difficulty of building housing and the fact that not everyone wants to be a landlord are some reasons why many won't opt to build new ADUs, Heitzmann explained, yet many people are already housed in these kinds of dwellings on Salt Spring.

"A new ADU bylaw isn't going to double our population and it also isn't going to

solve our housing supply issue. But it will provide a legal avenue for the existing non-conforming ADUs to be legalized, which would empower tenants and landlords to come out of the shadows," said FitzZaland.

Bylaw 526 was drafted to allow farmworker units on properties zoned Agriculture 1 and 2 on Salt Spring, complying with new provincial regulations for Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands.

The bylaw's definition of a farmworker's dwelling unit as an accommodation for "farmworkers employed in that farm business or for immediate family" is too restrictive, said president of the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute Marguerite Lee at a July 7 special LTC meeting. The definition also isn't clear on whether the housing can be used for agri-tourism, she said, an activity which could include housing participants in a farm workshop, for example.

A letter from the Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance requested the bylaw change be extended to all lots on the island where commercial farm businesses are operating, rather than as currently written restricted to ALR lands. This is problematic, said co-owner of Salt Spring Apple Company/Ciderworks Brian Webster, as half of the island's farmland gets excluded.

In a letter to the Trust, Matt Cecill noted Bylaw 526 is more restrictive than provincial Agricultural Land Commission regulations. In a July 2021 announcement about the proposed changes, the agriculture ministry stated the additional residence could be used for "housing extended family, agri-tourism accommodation, housing for farm labour or a rental property for supplemental income. There is no longer a requirement that additional residences must be used by the landowner or immediate family members."

To join Thursday's virtual open house, visit <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/event/ssi-ltc-open-house-526-530/> and click on the "join meeting" button.

The Trust added that should residents want to meet with a planner, they are available by phone or Zoom on Thursdays from 10 to 11 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m. Reserve a meeting time by emailing ssi-info@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Understanding and improving marine vessel traffic management

Learn more and share your ideas



The Vancouver Fraser Port Authority is working to improve marine vessel traffic and anchorage management for vessels calling at the Port of Vancouver. We're developing a new marine vessel traffic management system that will help reduce the impact of trade activity on local communities and the environment.

How to participate and stay informed

This summer, we invite you to register for an information session in July and share your ideas at portvancouver.com/avtmengagement. Opportunities to provide input on the proposed program will be held in fall 2022.

Join us at our upcoming online information sessions on July 21 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. or July 27 from 6:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., to:

- Learn about marine vessel traffic management and anchorages
- Share your ideas on what's important for us to consider as we work together to plan the new system
- Find out about our next phase of engagement this fall

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How do I apply?

Here is a link to our online fillable form. We look forward to hearing from you!

<https://form.jotform.com/221847547872266>

HOUSING

Seabreeze transition continues

Temporary use and development variance permits granted for motel renovation

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A temporary residential site for Seabreeze Inne residents displaced by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) purchase of the motel earlier this year is shaping up at 154 Kings Lane.

"BC Housing is still awaiting sign-off from Technical Safety BC," said LMHF executive director Roberta Martell on Monday, so the units are not yet ready to house people.

BC Housing stated that the trailers are from the Black Diamond Group, which will also provide all material services and meals for residents.

But according to one Seabreeze Inne resident, not everyone is on board to move as soon as the Kings Lane site is ready.

Rich Bahry has lived at the Seabreeze Inne since before the pandemic. He is physically disabled but does not receive support from BC Housing and was paying \$1,500 per month to the motel owner for his room.

On Friday, he reported that some residents have retained a lawyer "who has advised us that we should have a cut-

and-dried Residential Tenancy Branch case and to stay where you are. Wait for the notice."

Because the LMHF leased the entire building to BC Housing and the agreement stated the Residential Tenancy Act does not apply, Martell has said her organization is not obligated to provide eviction notices to individuals due to renovations. The LMHF's only relationship is with BC Housing, she said.

"We are just moving along with the process as we understand it," she said, adding that LMHF has also received legal advice.

Other Seabreeze residents are interested in moving to the Kings Lane site, said Bahry, and BC Housing staff have been meeting with them to help facilitate the move.

"Personally it's not at all suitable for me by dint of the fact there are stairs involved," said Bahry. "I just can't get around. I can't have a shower. It just doesn't work."

The Kings Lane parcel belongs to the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association (GISRA), which owns Meadowbrook on Atkins Road and has plans for a similar seniors housing project at the Kings Lane site. BC Housing expressed gratitude to GISRA for agreeing to lease its property to facilitate creation of temporary housing for the Seabreeze individuals, who were supposed to move to a new BC Housing facility on land owned by the Capital Regional District at 161 Drake Road.

In March the LMHF took possession of the Seabreeze Inne, which had been for sale since May of 2021. It then entered an agreement to lease the building to BC Housing until the end of June. That agreement was extended until July 15 when it became apparent the Drake Road site was nowhere near being completed and another location for temporary housing needed to be secured.

Martell said the LMHF has a deconstruction permit to begin readying the Seabreeze building for a renovation that will see its current 28 rooms converted to 17 units of housing for Lady Minto Hospital staff.

Last Tuesday the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee granted a temporary use permit and development variance permit that is needed for the Seabreeze renovation to be done.

"I'm glad we were able to find the temporary use permit process to move forward," said trustee Laura Patrick when speaking in favour of the motion. "I do understand the concerns and conversations being made in the community, but [the Trust] processing forward on this building is a separate matter. BC Housing and other parties are doing what they're doing."

Architect's drawings of the project and related material is in the agenda package for the July 12 meeting on the island-trust.bc.ca website.

A CRD building permit is still required for the renovation to proceed.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JULY 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
20	0509	1.5	4.9	24	0804	0.7	2.3
	1100	2.3	7.5		1654	3.1	10.2
WE	1525	1.9	6.2	SU	2119	2.9	9.5
ME	2224	3.2	10.5	DI			
21	0558	1.2	3.9	25	0011	3.0	9.8
	1317	2.4	7.9		0842	0.6	2.0
TH	1622	2.3	7.5	MO	1733	3.2	10.5
JE	2247	3.1	10.2	LU	2224	2.9	9.5
22	0642	1.0	3.3	26	0055	3.0	9.8
	1504	2.7	8.9		0920	0.6	2.0
FR	1745	2.6	8.5	TU	1808	3.3	10.8
VE	2311	3.1	10.2	MA	2303	2.9	9.5
23	0724	0.8	2.6	27	0141	3.0	9.8
	1608	3.0	9.8		0957	0.5	1.6
SA	1935	2.8	9.2	WE	1839	3.3	10.8
SA	2337	3.0	9.8	ME	2333	2.9	9.5

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'Perfect storm' descended

FERRIES

continued from 1

The crewing shortage "wasn't centralized to just captains, there was deck, engineering issues as well, and that exacerbated a problem of short staff already," said BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union president Eric McNeely.

There is little flexibility when it comes to how many crew a vessel needs to sail with. Compared to ferry corporations in Washington State, for example, which are governed by local coast guard regulations that tend to be "a little bit more elastic," Swierenga explained BC Ferries is governed by tight rules set by Transport Canada.

"We certainly apologize to our customers for the inconvenience that was caused by these unforeseen cancellations yesterday," Marshall stated, adding that less than one per cent of all BC Ferries' sailings are cancelled due to crewing issues.

While Sunday was characterized by Swierenga as a "perfect storm for Salt Spring" and by McNeely as "part Swiss cheese lining up," both agree that the ferry staffing issue goes much deeper.

On Salt Spring, all three ships that service the three terminals are home-ported on the island, where the labour pool is not huge. But Swierenga and McNeely both added that

cancellations have been seen across the Gulf Islands as well as major mainland to Vancouver Island routes.

Swierenga explained that staff hired during major ferry expansions in the late 1970s and early 1980s are now going into retirement. The ferry union estimates 900 people could retire in the next five years.

Marshall noted BC Ferries has hired hundreds of new staff, as well as seeing around 100 of the employees on leave due to the now-scrapped COVID-19 staff vaccination policy coming back to active duty. McNeely noted over 1,000 people have been hired or re-hired since January.

"We're hopeful that will provide some additional relief or capacity... so our members can even just take their time off of, their vacation, and not just work on overtime to keep the vessels running and get their neighbours and friends back and forth," McNeely said.

With crewing shortages set to continue, he asked for travellers to have patience with frontline staff.

"The people that the public interact with, they're the ones making the boats go back and forth, they're the ones queuing up traffic and whatnot, not the ones setting the rates or causing the disruption."

Information accuracy key to issue

CELL TOWER

continued from 1

Clark suggested those three things meant the LTC had every right in March to rescind the approval previously granted last July. He quoted from an Oct. 13, 2021 ISED email to the Trust that stated while rescindment of a decision is not typical, "If you believe the LTC based its decision on inaccurate or incomplete information, then you may be able to consider this action."

Clark said there were some 50 or 60 homes within 500 metres of the proposed tower site, which is the normal distance from cell towers. The closest home is 42 metres from the site.

The Rogers proposal would not only improve its company's cell service on the island but also emergency services communication — managed by a Capital Regional District entity known as the Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications — in the north end.



Islands Trust

**HAVE
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SAY**

Public Hearing
Monday, July 25, 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
Islands Trust
nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca
250-405-5189

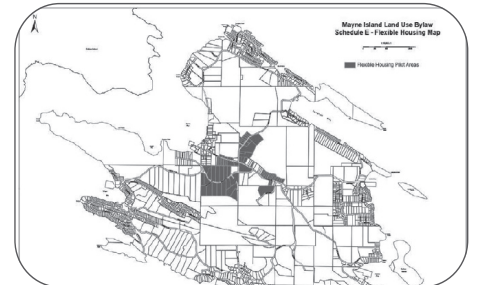
Proposed Bylaws 184 and 189 Flexible Housing

PUBLIC HEARING

MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What are Proposed Bylaws 184 and 189 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 184 will amend the Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw and proposed Bylaw No. 189 will amend the Mayne Island Official Community Plan to enable the introduction of what has been termed by the Local Trust Committee as "flexible housing". Flexible Housing zoning allows for the development of dwelling units additional to what is permitted in existing zoning within a combined maximum floor area for all dwellings. Flexible zoning is proposed to be implemented in a pilot area identified in the proposed Bylaw No. 184. A number of Community Information Meetings were held over the course of the last year to gather information and input from the public.



How do I get more information?

A copy of the proposed bylaws, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available on the Mayne Island Project webpage and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after July 8, 2022.

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, July 22, 2022. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Unsmooth sailing

It was a terrible weekend to be a traveller to and from Salt Spring Island.

Things started to fall apart when Saturday morning sailings between Long Harbour and Tsawwassen were cancelled due to a crewing shortage. Sailings returned to normal there, but then on Sunday, it was announced that all sailings from 2 p.m. on were cancelled between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay for the same reason. That news sent people scurrying to Vesuvius Bay to try to leave Salt Spring Island that way. Then came news that the last two evening sailings from Vesuvius were also cancelled. Service between Long Harbour and Tsawwassen then went down.

Except for a 10 p.m. sailing from Crofton to Vesuvius, and water taxi services between Crofton and Vesuvius, and Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay, there was no way to leave or access Salt Spring Island by ferry for a short time.

THE ISSUE:

Cancelled ferry sailings

WE SAY:

COVID one too many a factor for the system

BC Ferries employees participating in Facebook discussions indicated that a number of crew members have been stricken with COVID-19 lately. BC Ferries confirmed that was the case with one vessel this weekend but did not know about the others.

Ferries told the Driftwood that absenteeism historically sits at around six per cent. In the current pandemic recovery period, the number has jumped to 11 per cent or around 400 to 500 full-time employees across the system. The federally mandated requirement for all transportation sector employees to have two doses of COVID vaccine were lifted a month ago, so that can no longer be blamed for the problem. The exception is if that mandate led to some BC Ferries employees quitting permanently and finding employment elsewhere.

While sailing cancellations necessarily come with little warning, BC Ferries has provided advance and detailed notice about the general problem of crew shortages. The corporation was proactive in communicating the issue in January and BC Ferries executives attending a Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee meeting in May spelled out a number of actions the corporation has taken to reduce the crew shortage impacts. But BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union president Eric McNeely told the Driftwood this week that BC Ferries could do more to invest in their crews, whether through wages or training.

But until COVID and its impacts recede, it's fair to assume smooth sailing won't be the norm when it comes to BC Ferries travel.

BC Ferries employees participating in Facebook discussions indicated that a number of crew members have been stricken with COVID-19 lately. BC Ferries confirmed that was the case with one vessel this weekend but did not know about the others.

Ferries told the Driftwood that absenteeism historically sits at around six per cent. In the current pandemic recovery period, the number has jumped to 11 per cent or around 400 to 500 full-time employees across the system.



Bylaw should be rejected

BY RON HAWKINS

The following are eight reasons why draft Bylaw 530 will ultimately fail, as addressed to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSILTC).

VIEWPOINT

1. You (the SSILTC) espouse the need for water security and hire a hydrologist (William Shulba) to help you achieve that by improving the standard method for providing water, which you reject.

2. Do you espouse the principle that a healthy natural environment trumps a healthy human environment? It would appear not, judging by this draft Bylaw 530. Without a sustainable water supply into the indefinite future, human and other life is not possible.

3. The bylaw requires proof of water. It does not stipulate for whom proof of water applies. New tenants living on an established "parent" property must have proof that their incremental need for water is a separate proof requirement. This will not happen, making a mockery of what you espouse.

4. No one, short of a deep pocket philanthropist, will build a facility to house tenants who cannot afford the cost of such a facility, unless there is no cost because there is no standard, no management.

5. Another form of lack of accountability lies in the fact that the bylaw encourages people to rent structures illegally. They are unlikely to take out a building permit, put a covenant on their land, make ordered improvements. If they are comfortable renting illegally now, why would they do all that? Your staff report to this bylaw says landlords will have to

register with BC Housing/Consumer Services. That won't happen, any more than CRD and Islands Trust standard procedures will be followed. The bylaw states that if an owner serves more than one household, they have to become a water utility. That won't happen. The "black market" doesn't need political advice on how to circumvent the law.

6. How big is the demand for subsidized housing? No one knows. It is a seemingly endless, unmeasured flow which tends to gravitate toward milder winter climates.

Where does it come from? How big is the need? If the right hand is not talking to the left, in terms of national data on sources, movement and root causes, how can affordable housing be understood or managed?

7. Groundwater is scarce on many eligible properties allowed under the bylaw. There are no provisions in the bylaw for "affordable" housing or rental to island workers, which weakens the whole point of the bylaw's purpose.

8. History tells us that when greater densities are allowed, over time they do get used. Bylaw 530 over time is likely to expand Salt Spring's population beyond the 17,000 limit of our official community plan, driven by the unfolding climate crisis. At such point the screeching and roaring will elevate, as nature speaks a lesson (see #2 above) to politicians and humanity.

The writer is a longtime Salt Spring Island resident.

History tells us that when greater densities are allowed, over time they do get used.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the speculation and vacancy tax apply to the Gulf Islands?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you being more social this summer than you were last summer?

37 48
NO YES

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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Diverse opinions important

As one of the Galiano Island participants in a protest at Saanich Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May's Sidney office last Tuesday, I appreciated the fair coverage our action received from Victoria media about the event.

It was also fair that the housing society proposing the development we oppose on Galiano Island and on whose board May sits, was given space to present their case. It is only regrettable that there is much effort expended by both sides on a site that is unsuitable and consequently unlikely to receive public funding.

Also regrettable is that Gulf Islands Galisle Affordable Rental Housing Society has fostered, by example, a community ethos that does not permit or provide a place for any constructive criticism or even questioning of their proposal. That is why we felt we had to leave the island to make our concerns known and why we are so appreciative of the even-handed media treatment there.

No doubt letters will be written saying that we are the outliers; that most of the community supports this project. In fact, there are more letters to our

local Trust committee against the project than in favour. However, we have no freedom of the press on Galiano, unlike on Salt Spring where your paper publishes a wide spectrum of opinion.

I find it a complete contradiction that a community fond of stating it wants a diverse population and believes more housing will support that reality cannot tolerate diverse opinions.

In spite of that we have continued to research the issues and to speak up. Many on our island are afraid to do so. Just as this housing proposal has a "dark" side that merits objective analysis, so sadly does this small community.

JENNIFER MARGISON,
GALIANO ISLAND

Delve into the facts on bylaws

Last week's "Worth a close look" editorial about the Capital Regional District's local community commission bylaws is exactly the reason we have such poor governance on Salt Spring Island.

Media should delve into the facts. There have been no comments from our trustees, no mention of the requested review of the Islands Trust, which factors into governance solutions.

No mention of the rush rush rush to get the bylaws read three times before they were released in an agenda two days prior to the CRD Board voting on them.

SHELLEY MAHONEY,
SALT SPRING

Vaccine mandate for health workers should be lifted

The following was sent to Green Party of B.C. leader Sonia Furstenu, Health Ministry Adrian Dix and B.C. Chief Public Health Officer Bonnie Henry and forwarded to the Driftwood for publication.

We understand that Sonia Furstenu, our elected MLA, has asked for voters' input about the staffing shortage in B.C. health care.

We have also heard that to address crippling staffing shortages, the B.C. government recently announced it would spend \$12 million to fast-track the registration and licensing process for foreign-trained nurses. This funding includes \$9 million in bursaries to help around 1,600 foreign-trained nurses with the costs of assessment fees.

Would not a simpler, more fiscally financial solution be to hire back all the health care workers/professionals that have been fired under provincial mandates?

Those who were considered the heroes of the health care system, with hearts displayed in every window, suddenly got fired because they refused to be part of a medical experimental injection. This was after they had worked during the pandemic since March 2020 for well over a year, until they got fired? In addition to firing, they were further penalized with no severance pay, no benefits, no access to employment insurance, no alternatives.

We ask you to respectfully consider that all those fired were already trained and certified for their position, rather than the \$12 million expenditure that is not only unnecessary, but unwarranted if you reverse the bad decisions and mandates previously made.

Would this not be wiser, more expedient, better for B.C. economy and overall health than trying to find foreign workers who need training and sometimes English lessons?

Would this not be better than spending millions on consultations or public forums to discuss a solution?

LORENE BENOIT,
BENOIT AND ASSOCIATES HEALTH EDUCATION,
DUNCAN

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"If Rogers shows up, we're going to picket that access. We're going to picket that access route. They are not going to gain access to that site."

JULIAN CLARK, CONCERNED RESIDENTS OF CANVASBACK PLACE

Director provides local community commission history and timeline

The local community commission (LCC) concept has been debated for years on Salt Spring Island, as part of governance and incorporation studies in 2002 and 2017, and in 2010 when the province recommended consideration of an LCC to locally elected officials here, as a "stepping stone" to incorporation.

LCCs were more thoroughly reviewed after the second decisive rejection of incorporation in 2017, by two community groups formed to examine possible governance improvements – Positively Forward and the Community Alliance Governance Working Group (CAGWG).

The most extensive of these reports by the CAGWG resulted from two years of meetings attended by various community members and leaders with an interest in the governance question, including past and present CRD commissioners, former local government staff, and elected officials, including Islands Trust trustee Peter Grove and myself.

In part due to criticism by incorporation supporters that an LCC had often been raised as a governance option but never pursued, I included establishment of an LCC in my 2018 election platform. I also made a number of other governance commitments such as regular town halls, public budget presentations, and better cooperation with other agencies and community groups, which I've done my best to honour.

I delayed the LCC initiative to avoid confusion with governance discussions among North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD), the province and CRD. These discussions, which eventually failed despite the prospect of millions of dollars in infrastructure funding, were also delayed by a so-called "Water Optimization Report" which required several iterations of revisions to address agency concerns. This study actually recommended a variant of an LCC — an elected, island-wide water board overseeing a number of area-specific water utilities. However, this would have placed decision-making in the hands of non-residents of small water districts, which is why the current LCC proposal only applies to island-wide services.

Once discussions with NSSWD ended, I publicly affirmed in a Jan. 5 Director Report my intent to establish an LCC, "comprised of four, elected at large members, who with the director, would broaden oversight of all CRD services . . . and could also consolidate some services" and "which would require voter approval at the next local government election in October 2022." I also reported that the process leading to a referendum would begin in the spring.



Gary Holman
CRD DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

In a Feb. 23 Director's Report, I provided a more detailed description of the LCC proposal and announced that "at my request, [some members] of the CAGWG are preparing a more detailed discussion paper with options and recommendations" regarding the proposal. I also announced the establishment of an advisory committee with "representation from CRD commissions, other key local government agencies, and some members of the public" to make recommendations to CRD based on a review of the discussion paper and public input.

The discussion paper was released online by the Driftwood and Salt Spring Exchange by mid-May, with hard copies made available at the local CRD administration office and the library. The LCC Advisory Committee (LCCAC) held two pre-advertised Zoom meetings on May 27 and June 6 (evening meeting), and then two in-camera meetings to provide recommendations to CRD staff on the LCC bylaws. Since Jan. 5, I have attended about a dozen Islands Trust and ASK town halls in which I discussed and was available for questions about the LCC proposal. I submitted five Director Reports and columns to the Driftwood, which also wrote seven editorials and articles on the LCC pro-

posal. There have also been a number of letters to the editor, pro and con, about the LCC. Many of these reports, articles, and letters have been posted on local social media discussion forums where there has been a lively debate.

The LCC bylaws, which include several key recommendations by the advisory committee, were given three readings at the July 13 CRD Board meeting, and are now subject to voter approval in a referendum to be run in conjunction with the local government elections to reduce costs. Voters will have three months to review these bylaws, which are posted on the CRD website. Additional information will be provided on the website, and the merits of an LCC will undoubtedly be part of our election debates.

I will be urging voters to support the proposal. An LCC for Salt Spring will broaden local CRD elected representation for our community of 11,000; make decision-making more transparent and easier for citizens to track; and consolidate service delivery now overseen by four appointed commissions. An LCC would provide some of the governance benefits of incorporation without its downsides — the huge liabilities of our 265-km road network and potential weakening of the Trust. An LCC has been much discussed on Salt Spring, but never put to voters. On Oct. 15, it should come as no surprise that voters will finally be offered this choice.

Tennis Ukraine fundraiser support appreciated

BY SVETLANA MILLER

Bubbles and doubles! A uniquely creative charity gesture from the Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) brightened our rainy June at the indoor tennis courts last month.

Tennis Canada and the SSTA came together to raise funds for displaced tennis families from war-torn Ukraine. Hoping to take refuge in Canada, these young families face staggering travel and settlement costs, having escaped the conflict with little more than their children and hand baggage.

Echoing the Ukrainian flag hoisted outside, the SSTA tennis community saluted Ukraine by wearing the familiar sky-over-sunflowers coloured uniforms for the day. Selling like proverbial hotcakes was a deliciously convincing borscht, ratcheting up the total funds raised by hundreds of dollars.

As a Ukrainian-Canadian myself, I have been deeply touched by the sincerity and generosity of Canadian responses to the war, whether political, diplomatic, individual or — as in this instance — community generated. I know from

my own parents and family still trapped behind battle lines that the heroic spirit so evident in Ukraine today is strengthened by every kindness we extend.

A special thanks to the SSTA's Marjorie Blackwood, Kim Ballantyne and Dianne Hayward, whose incredible efforts brought this event to a successful conclusion, raising a contribution of \$2,500 toward the national effort.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident Ukrainian-Canadian immigrant, tennis enthusiast and mother of two junior tennis players.



PHOTO BY CHRIS MARSHALL

Salt Spring Tennis Association players during a fundraising event for Ukraine held last month at Centre Court.

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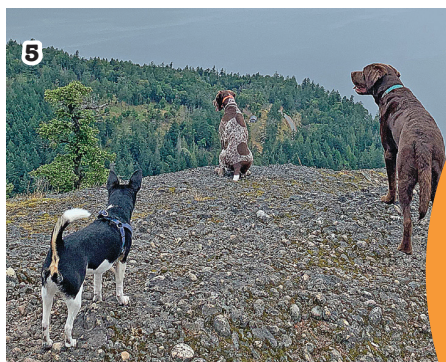
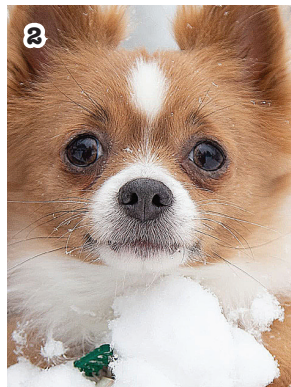
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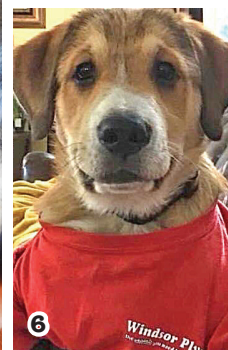
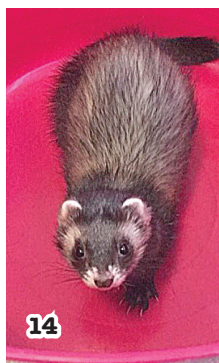
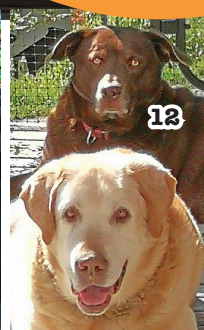
it's all about PETS



Island Pets in the Spotlight

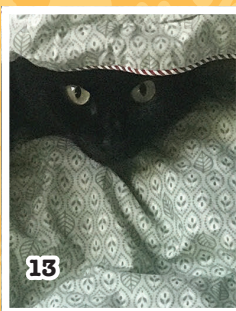
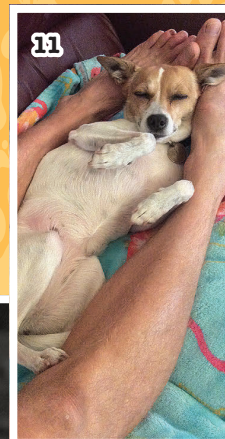
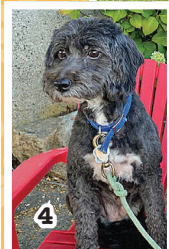
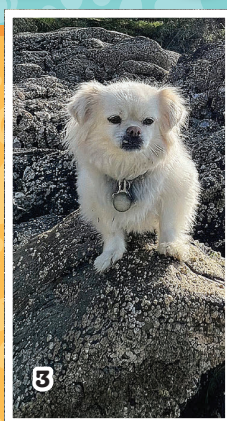
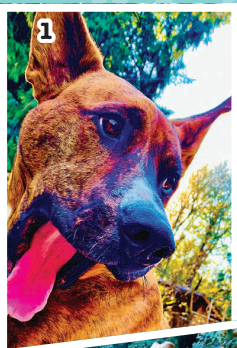
We at the Driftwood love putting together the annual It's All About Pets pages! This year's submitted photos include dogs and cats who joined their families in the past year, as well as those who have been beloved companions to their owners for many years. Thank you to everyone who shared photos of their furry and scaly loved ones this year.

We hope this section gives you, our readers, lots to smile about, and that the advertisements help connect pet owners with the services they need to keep their pets happy and healthy too.



- 1. Orla & Pedro** - submitted by Doveene Steele.
- 2. Alice** - submitted by Jen MacLellan.
- 3. The Reiss family's new kitty Dorje** - submitted by Murray Reiss.
- 4. Rasputin the Colombian boa with Steve** - submitted by Callum O'Neill.
- 5. Three friends enjoying the view from the top of Mt. Erskine:** Hallie (Hayden) the German short-haired pointer, Bowie (DeRoo) the rat terrier, and Georgie (Kerrigan) the chocolate lab - submitted by Janine Fernandes-Hayden. Photo by Marcia Jansen.
- 6. Floppy** - submitted by Mike Stefancsik.
- 7. Maya Papaya Machiya Rose** - submitted by Wendy Judith Cutler and Corrie Hope Furst.
- 8. Abby & Stella** - submitted by Mati Messenger.
- 9. Crummet in the dryer** - submitted by Lara Coelho.
- 10. Nilla the dog and Lako the cat** - submitted by Ann Vriak.
- 11. Oscar** - submitted by Brenda Bensen.
- 12. Ramsay (in the foreground) and Brew** - submitted by Ron and Laurie Patterson.
- 13. The Mighty Fraser** (named after the river) - submitted by Carolyn Blizard.
- 14. Noodle the ferret** - submitted by Ruby R.
- 15. Maverick**, the 12-year-old pitty lab cross who will only go outside in the rain in a raincoat, on a school field trip with her owner and her students - submitted by Charlotte Mitchell.
- 16. Gomer the horse rolling out of bed in the morning** - submitted by Judy Goodman.
- 17. Eddie the English bulldog and Panky** - submitted by Barb Elliott. Panky's original name was "Pancake," says his owner, "but he is hard of hearing, so when calling to him I don't feel as foolish yelling 'Panky' instead of 'Pancake!'"
- 18. Jazz & Licorice** - submitted by Jenny Meyer.

it's all about PETS



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MONDAY - SATURDAY 9-6 | SUNDAY 10-4



1. **Dolly Barkin** - submitted by Michael Ranftal.
2. **Eris Sherwood**, named after the Greek goddess of Chaos, Eris - submitted by Sherman I. Sherwood, who says Eris is "the greatest Dogess of Chaos ever."
3. **Lulu** - submitted by Tracie Whitelaw.
4. **Oscar** - submitted by Sam Sydneysmith.
5. **Willow Shadow** in the Burgoyne Valley - submitted by Kristine Mayes.
6. **Nimbus, left, & Sirius** - submitted by Elizabeth Zook.
7. **Caxi**, a Brazilian by birth, Canadacat by choice, resident near Long Harbour is wondering if there will be cat trails in the new park - submitted by Eric Scott.
8. **Fish** - submitted by Tracie Whitelaw.
9. **Harrison Fuured** surveying his kingdom - submitted by Carolyn Blizzard.
10. **Four-year-old Mae** - submitted by Jen MacLellan.
11. **Rosalie Beaudoin's rat terrier Sitka** enjoying a nap - submitted by Marie Beaudoin.
12. **Nuu-Chah**, an American Staffordshire bull terrier, with her litter of 8 pups - submitted by Dr. Martin Randle and Dr. Anja Luther-Randle.
13. **Zani** - submitted by Bodhi Sturrey.
14. **Moose at the beach** - submitted by Jackie Suzanne.
15. **Ripple** - submitted by Maureen Phelan.
16. **Delphi**, a four-and-a-half-year-old Bernese Mountain dog - submitted by Tina Spalding.
17. **Jedi with his chicken friends** - submitted by Hiroe Rowthorn.
18. **Charlotte the rescue cat** - submitted by Kelly Waters and Dave French.
19. **Maya the black English lab** - submitted by Mairi Welman.
20. **Tiramisu the rescue cat** - submitted by Kelly Waters and Dave French.
21. **Rocky on Mount Erskine** - submitted by Hiroe Rowthorn.
22. **Finnegan**, a four-year-old whoodle, gets used to **Pippa**, a two-month-old poodle - submitted by John FitzGibbon.
23. **Odetta the two-year-old tabby** - submitted by Emma Thomas.
24. **Molly**, an eight and a half year old Havanese, whose full name is Magnificent Molly - submitted by Ann Earl.
25. **Kitsa** - submitted by Danielle Finnigan.
26. **Princess Annabelle** - submitted by Andy Hildebrand.
27. **Mars** - submitted by Valerie Taylor. (Photo by Eden Upton)
28. **Mei Mei** the golden doodle - submitted by Jim Sexton.
29. **Seven-month-old Tika** - submitted by Julia Gilbert.
30. **Bruce Springsteen** - submitted by Laura Jean Kreissl.



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Bylaw 530 threatens island with development

BY RON WRIGHT

The lack of affordable housing for long-term renters is a serious problem.

Online booking sites such as Airbnb have plundered Salt Spring's rental stock. It was also a big mistake for the BC government to exclude these islands from its empty home and speculation taxes. The 2021 census shows that nearly a thousand Salt Spring homes — or one in six — are either vacant or used only part-time. Houses owned by off-island investors are standing empty while working islanders can't find anywhere to live.

Unfortunately, our trustees Laura Patrick and Peter Grove, whose term of office runs out in just 12 weeks, have cobbled together a hasty and dangerous new bylaw that not only won't fix the problem but threatens to unleash a host of new ones. Bylaw 530 would allow thousands of new "secondary dwellings" to be built by most landowners on the island, including most properties currently restricted to one dwelling for water and sewage reasons. This is not mere

tinkering. When built out, this new zoning would almost double Salt Spring's population and density. We are already growing at twice the national average. The bylaw makes no mention at all of affordability, even as it tears up key parts of the Official Community Plan. And the covenant provision that might have ensured new dwellings are for long-term renters only has been axed.

The likely result is not housing for locals but a surge of unlawful holiday rentals and haphazard construction that will further overwhelm the island's services, environment and rural character. We can expect ever more land clearing, suburban sprawl, clogged roads and ferries, water shortage and septic pollution. Our best efforts in fighting climate change will be for naught. In short, Bylaw 530 grossly contravenes the Islands Trust founding mandate to "preserve and protect in perpetuity." Many rightly fear that its main effect will be an end-run around the Trust Act's core mission to save these

INDEPTH

lovely islands from overdevelopment.

I and many others have raised these concerns with our trustees by phone and email. When asked why they're in such a hurry to pass this far-reaching law in the last days of their term, both told me: because we have to do something. Amazingly, both also told me not to worry because few people will act on it anyway. It seems that the appearance of a solution, not a true one, is their top priority. So why do it?

Bylaw 530 has already run through two readings, and could get its third and final stamp on Sept. 6, a month and a half from now. Despite the sweep of new zoning that would change the island forever, most islanders have barely heard of it. Before third reading, B.C. law requires a full public hearing. People were expecting one to occur on Thursday, July 21 at Meaden Hall, but according to the Trust website, we are instead being offered merely an "open house" by Zoom on that day. Now, just hours before this Drift-

wood went to press, there's word that a real public hearing will be held after all, on Thursday, Aug. 18. All concerned islanders should mark this on their calendars and be sure to attend in person bringing questions and objections. It is likely the last chance. Meanwhile, they can email their trustees, copying in staff and Trust chair Peter Luckham.

There are much better ways to free up rental housing. Why not crack down effectively on illegal Airbnbs, of which there are already hundreds on the island? Why not bring Salt Spring within the empty home and speculation taxes? Why not use proceeds from those taxes to build homes in places where services, shops and public transport are in place? These are all proven ways with far less risk of wrecking the island for future generations and visitors alike.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident and author of A Short History of Progress and several other books on history, travel and of fiction.



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Rants 
+ ROSES

Send your submissions to
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Roses

An acre of yellow roses to our neighbours in the "far north" of Salt Spring who have mysteriously had their roosters on quiet mode. We are sleeping well from 4 to 7 a.m. for the first time in years, and could not appreciate it more. Thank you!

Racquet bags of roses to all supporters of the Ukraine Fundraiser held at the Salt Spring indoor tennis centre. Ladies Doubles and Bubbles raised over \$2,500 through the generosity of participants, donors and silent auction item bids, and sales of borscht and T-shirts. Rafts of roses to Dave Toynbee of Mouat's Hardware, Thrifty Foods, Bohemia Consignment, the Salt Spring Tennis Association and all our super volunteers who made this such a success. All monies have been sent to Tennis Canada's fundraising initiative to assist in the relocation of three Ukrainian families to Canada.

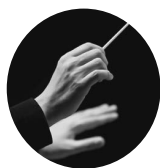
Marjorie Blackwood

The Salt Spring Literacy Society would like to give a heartfelt thank you to the Salt Spring Foundation's Foundation of Youth grant in support of our Computer Access Program! Your support will provide laptops to Salt Spring families in need.

Copper roses to all of you fine folk who support Copper Kettle Community Partnership! You can donate through Box #31 at Country Grocer, Upper Ganges Liquor Store, Return-it centre, supporting our BBQs at Country Grocer, giving cash donations and a little of this and that. The community garden is doing great! Garlic soon. It's been really really busy (price of food and all). So thanks so much.

The weekend ferry cancellations demonstrated how vital our ferry service is to the supply of goods and services and having a proper service year round. A sincere thank you to the BC Ferries crews who were manning the vessels and providing service this past weekend, along with the shore-based management and staff who make it all happen as well.

David Courtney, for Patrons of Route 6 (&4)



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CONCERT PREVIEW

Marianne Grittani Trio performs at All Saints

Grittani joined by
Rose Birney and
Bruce Cobanli

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Long-time Salt Spring residents Marianne Grittani, Rose Birney and Bruce Cobanli are teaming up for an afternoon of music at Tea à Tempo on Wednesday, July 27 at All Saints by-the-Sea in downtown Ganges.

If you were at the lovely Alan Moberg tribute show last month, you got a taste of this newest version of the Marianne Grittani Trio.

Grittani is a West Coast Music Award nominee who exudes musicality. She's been performing in Canada, the U.S. and Europe for over 40 years and that experience shows in her ability to take her audience deep into the story lines of her intriguing songwriting style, with soulful and compelling vocals. Her music is infused with thoughtfully crafted lyrics and catchy rhythms informed by her many and varied musical influences, which range from folk, roots and blues to swing and R&B.

Grittani's well-crafted songs explore common themes like love, loss, home, the road, hopes for humanity and more — all in a way uniquely her own. With a long playlist of wholesome music and a generous heart, Marianne appeals to a wide-ranging audience.

Grittani and Birney were introduced to each other on the dance floor at Moby's back in November 2016. They got together to play music the following Thursday and never looked back.

Cobanli came into the fold more recently, when they met at a garden party in 2021 and played together in an impromptu jam band.



PHOTO COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

From left, Bruce Cobanli, Marianne Grittani and Rose Birney, who will perform in the July 27 Tea à Tempo recital series presented by the Music Makers of the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island.

Cobanli has been playing guitar and writing songs since his early teens. His baritone sax-playing older brother invited him to join the high school jazz band if he could learn to play electric bass and a few weeks later he was the bassist in the band. Always admiring the upright bass, he took it up with a vengeance at the age of 40.

He had the good fortune to learn from some of Canada's jazz greats and now brings his considerable skill to various bands on and off the Island, including his own seven-piece band, Before Night Falls.

Birney has been a fixture of the acoustic music scene in B.C. for decades, performing and recording with numerous bands, mostly in Victoria. She is multi-talented,

playing mandolin, octave mandolin, harmonica and singing harmony. She is a perfect complement to Grittani, who plays guitar and ukulele.

This trio cooks up a delightful musical stew. Their engaging performances range from lively to intimate, always a joy to listen to and a joy to watch.

For more info go to: www.marianne-grittani.com.

Next Wednesday's concert begins at 2:10 p.m.

Donations from patrons provide the honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series.

Optional tea and treats (for \$4) will be served immediately following the concert in the hall on Park Drive that overlooks Ganges Harbour.

HAPPY B.C. Day!

Please note that the
Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed
on **Monday, August 1 - BC Day**,
and will reopen 9am - 4pm
on Tuesday, August 2.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood
Wednesday August 3 edition
will be Wednesday, July 27, noon

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LIVE MUSIC

XL The Band up next in park series

Members of Juno-winning
Swollen Members' side project
visit island

SUBMITTED BY SS ARTS

Next Thursday evening's concert in Centennial Park features a Western Canadian Music Award-nominated hip-hop/jazz/alternative fusion band.

XL The Band is the side project of four-time Juno Award-winning Swollen Members from Vancouver. The members of XL have decades of live experience rocking audiences of tens of thousands on festival main stages, playing in orchestras and winding up jazz clubs.

The group will follow opening act 11 Odd Fox, comprised of Salt Spring natives Ashton

Bachman and Sarah Robinson, who open the evening at 6 p.m.

Bachman is a diverse multi-instrumentalist focused on crafting several genres of music in a variety of projects. He is joined by singer Sarah Robinson as they work to blend west coast roots and folk music with sultry reggae elements.

Bachman and Robinson's dynamic harmonies and resonant arrangements paint a soundscape unique to the island.

Concert-goers are invited to bring a picnic, blanket or lawn chairs to the free/by donation event organized by Salt Spring Arts with community support and sponsorship.

Music runs until approximately 8 p.m.

On July 21, the performers are headliner Veda Hille and opener Marianne Grittani.

The Summer Outdoor Concert Series continues on Thursdays through the summer.

SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

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PHOTO BY JOHN CHALMERS

At left, Daniel Beltran of the Club de Leones Santiago, left, and Don Clifford of the Lions Club of Salt Spring Island, right, with a group of students in Manzanillo, Mexico who have had their vision tested using a scanner from the Salt Spring club and received pencils as a small reward for their time. Above, Clifford uses a screening device to test a student's vision.

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Lions Club of Salt Spring Island steps up

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Vision screening for over 3,000 students in Manzanillo began with a chance encounter aboard a plane from Vancouver to Mexico.

Don and Bobbi Clifford, members of the Lions Club of Salt Spring Island, were on a plane to their winter home in the coastal city in the state of Colima when they noticed a person wearing a Lions logo. This chance encounter led them to spend five days volunteering in a huge vision clinic where their acquaintance as well as Lions Club members from Alabama were headed along with 10,000 pairs of glasses.

A total of 2,500 people had their vision examined at the clinic, 10 to 15 per cent of whom were determined to need glasses that they also acquired them from the clinic. While there, Don and Bobbi met members of the Club de Leones Santiago, the Lions Club in Manzanillo. Don asked whether the club might be interested in having the Salt Spring club's vision scanner brought down to assist in what is a key area of the Mexican club's work.

For several years, Don and Bobbi have taken part in annual fall vision screenings the Salt Spring Lions do for elementary school students using a handheld vision screener, also known as a spot scanner. The device then "goes into a filing cabinet for the rest of the year," Don said. "So we thought well, 'Okay, let's utilize it.'"

The machine is incredible, Bobbi explained, with an exam taking around 15 seconds. Photographer and friend of the Cliffords' John Chalmers, who has also been instrumental in fundraising, explained the scanner tests for "myopia (nearsightedness), hyperopia (farsightedness), astigmatism (blurred vision) and eye misalignment, among other conditions." And while results are double-checked by a local optometrist, the accuracy is 99.9 per cent, Don added, and local optometrists have found it to be very accurate. The scanner can also confirm whether the

glasses a child already wears are meeting their needs.

Within the elementary cohorts, from 10 up to 30 per cent of students often need some kind of correction to their vision.

The Manzanillo club doesn't own a scanner, which can cost between \$5,000 and \$9,000 U.S. dollars, depending on whether it is a new or used device.

Don and Bobbi brought the scanner down to Manzanillo around six years ago and have been doing so every year since. Together with the Manzanillo Lions they have now screened over 3,000 elementary school students and some adults as well at screenings done at an orphanage, some businesses and churches.

In Canada, the screening is done by the Lions and the subsequent optometrist visit and fitting for glasses is done by parents. In Mexico, the Lions help students with frame fitting as well as fundraising for frames, which cost around \$100 Canadian each, for glasses and for transportation to optometrists.

Don and Bobbi credit members of the Club de Leones Santiago for their emphasis on the vision program, and especially Jackie Avendaño Pires, Hector Uriostegui Moreno, Daniel Beltran and Ruben Otegui.

"That club is incredible . . . I know they dig deep into their pockets if need be, to make sure these kids have glasses," Bobbi said.

The club is currently fundraising to purchase a vision scanner of their own.

Vision has been a global Lions movement focus since 1925, when they were called to do so by Helen Keller. A lifelong advocate for people with disabilities who learned sign language, braille and later learned to speak after losing her sight and hearing at 18 months old, Keller challenged the Lions to become "knights of the blind in the crusade against darkness." Across the world, clubs have been working to prevent avoidable blindness and improve the lives of people who are visually impaired through screening, provision of glasses, seeing eye dogs, training eye health professionals and creating infrastructure for eye surgeries and treatments.

One unique example is the international Lions collection of used glasses, which hap-

pens at local clubs. The glasses are then sent to the U.S. where they are catalogued into a database and reconfigured for the needs of a new wearer.

Don said it's a "real thrill" to conduct the vision scans at local elementary grades 1 through 6 in the city he and Bobbi call home from November to April.

"It's a thrill for us to watch a person, a child who's never had proper sight before, actually get the glasses," he said.

Bobbi added that teachers and other adults have also received glasses as part of the vision scanning visits. One teacher, who was instrumental in making the vision experience a good one for the children, had only been able to get a pair of drug-store reading glasses. Getting a pair of glasses "made a world of difference for her," Bobbi said.

Don recalls screening one individual in particular, an adult whose experience included using a wheelchair, being non-verbal and having some challenges with her mental capacity.

"A month or so later when she got her glasses, her eyes were alert. She was concentrating ahead and looking. I thought it was fantastic, it was just a thrill," he recalled. "Her face just lit up . . . She's over 50 years old, and she was actually seeing for the first time."

"We've got similar sorts of situations with kids and their smiles afterwards. Some of them look pretty cool in their frames too. They're stepping out."

What is more rare, but has occurred during their six years conducting screenings in Mexico, is sending some children on to see specialists for possible corrective surgery.

"This past year, out of the [scans] that we did, two of them indicated some kind of neurological issues," Don said.

The Salt Spring club is now formally twinned with Club de Leones Santiago, so future collaboration is possible.

"That's actually what, over the years I've learned, is that's the Lions spirit and they are very connected internationally," Bobbi said. The Lions motto is "We Serve," of "Nosotros Servimos" in Spanish.

If anyone has used frames they would like to donate, they can drop them at the Salt Spring Lions office at Hart Bradley Memorial Hall on Bonnet Avenue.

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VOLUNTEERING

Local hospice group hosts information sessions

July gatherings
in advance of fall
training

SUBMITTED BY SSI HOSPICE

Salt Spring Island Hospice is getting back to serving the community after two years of hibernation due to the Covid restrictions.

We are inviting anyone who wants to learn about our services and our upcoming volunteer training to come to one of two public information sessions in the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. We are offer-

ing an afternoon session and an evening session to give folks a choice, depending on their schedules. The same information will be covered at both sessions.

Information session #1 runs on Monday, July 25 from 1 to 2 p.m.

Information session #2 runs on Thursday, July 28 from 7 to 8 p.m.

There is no need to register for these sessions, just come on by, and if you can, arrive a few minutes early to get settled.

Experienced volunteers will be available at these sessions to answer any questions about

how individuals can access Hospice's various programs and services and about our volunteer training, which will run September through October (exact dates yet to be determined). The 30 hours of participatory training sessions will be split between Saturdays and week-night evenings.

For further information, contact the office at 250-537-2770 or send us an email office@saltspringhospice.or or attend one of the information sessions.

About SSI Hospice

We began in 1984 under the name Bessie Dane Foundation

in memory of Bessie Dane, a retired nurse who did her own kind of hospice work. Our mandate was very broad as support services on island were few and we became a registered society in 1989 under the B.C. Societies Act. Over the years since, health services have grown and the Salt Spring Hospice Society has evolved to accommodate the needs of the island.

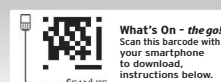
Having no physical facility of our own, Salt Spring Hospice Society describes a set of services rather than a location. We partnered in funding a palliative suite in Lady Minto Hospital and are the volunteer component of

the Lady Minto Palliative Care Team. We support those recently diagnosed with a life-threatening illness, those with a chronic or terminal illness, their families, friends, other care givers, and persons recently bereaved.

Salt Spring Hospice provides grief support (one-to-one and in group), vigil support and visitations in hospital, residential care facilities such as Greenwoods and Braehaven and private residences.

We also provide guidance on advance care planning for people at any stage in life and, more recently, information on Medical Assistance in Dying.

what's on this week



Wed. July 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo.
Irving Levine & Theo Primes.
Cellist and pianist at All Saints. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.

Jack & Cables.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salish Sea Bike Ride + Rally.
Meet at Fulford Hall at 9:45 a.m., or 10:15 at Lee's Hill or 10:30 at Cusheon Lake Road to join MLA Adam Olsen and cycling enthusiasts to promote creation of a bike path from Fulford to Vesuvius. A rally to promote the Salish Sea Trail will then be held at Centennial Park at 11 a.m.

The Public Circle Dialogues.
Chat informally with MLA Adam Olsen at the gazebo at Centennial Park. 1 to 3 p.m.

Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting.
Public welcome. Lower hall. 7 p.m.

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.

Insight Meditation.
Regular drop-in Wednesday evening meditation from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Fulford as part of the Star of the Sea Centre.

Swing Dance.
Wednesdays at the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. with instruction for leads at 6 p.m.

Thur. July 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Summer Outdoor Concert Series.
Veda Hille, with opener Marianne Grittani, perform in Centennial Park. 6 to 8 p.m.

Hannah Epperson.
Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

Julia Beattie.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Russell DeCarle.
Live music under the tent at the Royal Canadian Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum.
See Wednesday listing.

Fri. July 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Gisto & the Grateful Livin.
On stage at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to midnight.

Ashton Bachman Band.
Mateada Lounge. 9 p.m. to midnight.

The Costners.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring.
This week's guests are Emcon roads maintenance and Ministry of Transportation managers in the United Church Meadow. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Then from 1 to 2 p.m., also in the United Church Meadow, transportation commissioners will stay to listen to community feedback and answer local transportation questions.



Friday Games Night.
Board games evening for ages 13 to 19 back by popular demand in the library program room. 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum.
See Wednesday listing.

Sat. July 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Steadies.
Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

David Carl & Craig McKerron.
On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

Ashton Bachman Band.
On stage at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to midnight.

Sharon Bailey Band.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park.
In Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The New Calligraphers.
Third session in weekly summer calligraphy course for teens aged 13 to 19. Library program room. 2 to 3 p.m.

Sun. July 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum.
See Wednesday listing.

Mon. July 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tom Hooper.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Hospice Volunteer Information Session.
First of two sessions at the Salt Spring library program room. 1 to 2 p.m.



Salt Spring Hospice

Tues. July 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Bruce Cobanli Trio.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market.
Weekly market in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

Wed. July 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo.
Marianne Grittani Trio.
All Saints. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.

Harry Warner & Friends.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Wed. July 27

ACTIVITIES

Insight Meditation.
See last Wednesday's listing.

Salt Spring Museum.
See last Wednesday's listing.

Swing Dance.
See last Wednesday's listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Minions: The Rise of Gru** continues on Wed.-Thurs., July 20-21 at 7 p.m. See thefritz.ca for information on the next movie running July 22 to 28. The cinema is now open seven nights a week plus a Sunday matinee. See thefritz.ca for more movie information.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Judy Chappus** presents **Understory** — paintings and poems — at **Salt Spring Gallery** from July 15 through Aug. 3 (Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m.)

• **Abstract Energy**, paintings by **Elaine Potter**, is the **Artcraft Showcase** exhibition at **Mahon Hall** running daily until Aug. 1.

• **Impressions 7**, the annual show of new works by **SSI Printmakers**, is in the **library program room** until July 30.

• **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.

• **Hazel Gardner**, a member of the **SSI Painters Guild**, is showing a selection of her animal portraits at **Salt Spring Coffee** until Aug. 15.

• **Sheri Standen** is exhibiting her art at **Fernwood Cafe** through July. Subjects of the 14 paintings include flowers, animals, portraits and buildings.

• **Juliana Slomka** has work hanging on the **Dragonfly Art Supplies** gallery wall during the month of July.

Salt Spring Hospice

Learn about volunteering opportunities
Monday, July 25, 1 to 2 p.m.
Thursday, July 28, 7 to 8 p.m.
SS Library Program Room

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Coming Events

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

Wednesday July 20, 2022
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TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Leo time begins on July 22 in the waning light of the Moon. It does so amidst a series of noteworthy planetary placements. Principle among these is Saturn in Aquarius which is still not technically in aspect ('unaspected') to any other planet, currently. This actually began on Summer Solstice and continued ever since. Unaspected planets can be described as 'wild cards'. The outer manifestation can be described as a growing number of societal factions and subcultures. So, while certain forces aspire to increase homogeneity, this push for recognition by these smaller groups is growing. This should be quite expected in the Age of Aquarius, the sign of individuation. From the perspective of Numerology, July is a Universal 13/4 month. Like entering an order that requires the death of habitual self-concepts and attitudes ritualized as the shaving of the head, this is suggestive of a process of deepening and of initiation. Not usually a fun experience, playful Leo begins on a somewhat sobering note, quite in-keeping with these complex times.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Creating beauty and harmony close to home continues. Diving deeper into projects is likely. Giving more than you may want will yield a bit to the desire to have more fun, but home and family remain your main focus. Accepting the continued weight of responsibility is hardly a party but consolidating yesteryear and building for tomorrow feels right.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Although you may have felt the desire to slow down, you probably find yourself attending to a variety of fronts. Moving slowly and gracefully from one to the other is the ideal behind slow but sure. Weaving in quality time is featured in balancing work with play. This focus will continue for a while so take and target those precious pockets.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Leo time tends to bring you to life, to want to engage with others and have fun more than usual. Themes of security are on your mind, however, and these could have a dampening effect. Other factors add to this resulting in being pulled within and without simultaneously preventing you from being as fully present as you would like. Use this awareness to take command.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Taking stock of what is important and where your priorities need to be is a central theme now. This can include thoughts and strategies to make investments. Meanwhile, a rebellious mood prevails. Forging ahead somehow does feel important. Sharing your feelings and concerns with significant others will probably help.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) The Sun entering your sign will inspire you to take new leads. Your career and public life are likely arenas to forge ahead. This impulse will increase after the New Moon later this week. The challenge includes overcoming a mood for introversion. To prevail, exercise more empathy for others to access hidden motivation to go the extra distance.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) Returns for past efforts and investments have likely been flowing in. Hopefully, you have been diligent and wise. Yet, you may also feel a little burned out. If the opportunity to get away, to retreat, or simply duck out of the limelight for a while presents itself, grab it! It is said that a change of scenery is as good as a rest, so perhaps that is the way to go. If you can have both, even better.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) This is generally an expansive time for you and this trend will continue for months. Getting organized to get things done feels important. Meanwhile, the desire to share more quality time with friends is indicated. Ticking an item or two on your bucket list is part of the plot. Focus to combine both interests for best results.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Getting the attention you want, have earned, and feel you deserve is in the spotlight. You will push as necessary to be seen and heard, even if you have to shake things up. Cultural activities in which you can express your mood, feelings, and sense of individuality are featured. Yet, for all of the above, success requires you to confront your fears.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Out of the dark and into the light is an apt description of the Sun in Leo's influence on you. This is not to say that the past month's journey through the dark was bad or evil. However, it was a time to purge layers of your ego to remain current with your destiny flow and such cycles are not usually particularly pleasant.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) Are there any reactive resistances within that you recognize to be problematic? This is your opportunity to break free. However, success depends on your level of awareness and willingness to do the work. This requires a certain measure of vision to move from a posture of instinctual survival to intuition-guided personal growth.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) A fuller embrace of those you love characterizes the next phase of your annual journey. In some respects, circumstances are requiring you to give more than you might want. However, the quality of your communications is probably better than usual and you feel both more understood and understanding. Creative cooperation is the key.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Making improvements in your lifestyle is in focus now. This can occur by deliberately taking a break, by getting away from the same old for a while. Your powers of creative, critical thinking are running high and present a golden opportunity to direct your mind to technical projects that have been on hold until the time is right.

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HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Speculation and vacancy tax proposed for islands

Business licences for STVRs also being considered

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is examining both the provincial speculation and vacancy tax (SVT) and business licensing to target rental and housing affordability on Salt Spring Island.

At a July 13 meeting of the Capital Regional District (CRD) electoral areas committee, directors learned more about how business licensing could be brought to Salt Spring to regulate short-term vacation rentals. The committee also voted in favour of having the 24-member CRD board request that Salt Spring be included in the SVT to address rental and housing affordability.

The July 13 report stemmed from a request by the committee to look into how the CRD could restrict or control tourism accommodation, including through business licences. Some local Trust committees have also requested the CRD look at this issue, including those on Salt Spring, North and South Pender and Galiano islands.

SVT revenue goes to BC Housing and has to be spent on housing affordability initiatives, the report stated. Specifically, the revenue should be used to "acquire, construct, maintain or renovate housing or shelter, as well as support other housing-related activities."

Of the \$231 million the province collected in SVT between 2018, when the tax was first put in place, and 2020, the Capital Regional District accounted for eight per cent or \$18.9 million. Most property owners paying the tax were non-B.C. residents, the CRD noted. The amount of the tax is .5 per cent of a property's value as determined by BC Assessment.

Salt Spring Island's electoral area director Gary Holman said that the CRD needs to lobby the province to earmark funds from the SVT for the specific local government in

the area it's collected from.

In February of this year, MLA for Saanich North and the Islands Adam Olsen advocated to the Minister of Finance Selina Robinson to have the SVT applied on Salt Spring. These and other requests, the CRD report noted, will be included in an upcoming review of the Speculation and Vacancy Tax Act.

Implementing the tax will have no cost for the CRD, the report noted, as the province's finance ministry administers the tax.

"Short-term vacation rentals can be problematic for communities by reducing the available long-term rental housing stock for residents," a Feb. 9 report to the committee noted. "It can also encourage buyers to acquire secondary homes in popular tourist destinations, such as the Gulf Islands, by offering a revenue stream to non-resident owners while still allowing them flexibility to access the property for personal use."

The SVT was put in place to address some of these issues, but both Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands are exempt from it.

Acting director for the Southern Gulf Islands Paul Brent said he was unsure of whether he supports doing the work to implement this as the province may end up applying the SVT uniformly to other areas of the CRD.

"I just don't think it's appropriate," he said.

Brent characterized the SVT as "a little bit of a scam," noting that when the SVT was brought in there was no speculation going on in the islands as evidenced by flat market prices at the time. Houses on the Southern Gulf Islands aren't vacant, as people's cabins and second homes are occupied at times. He asked that the Southern Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca electoral areas be excluded from the

out the houses so that they're not subject to the tax."

"The tax structure is intended to apply to vacant properties being used as occasional homes or held as investments, as well as occupied by owners who do not pay income tax in the province but benefit from B.C.'s services and amenities," a June 2022 review of the SVT stated.

The review found the tax added over 20,000 units to the province's long-term rental market and encouraged owners with previously empty homes to rent out or sell their properties.

The report also looked at business licensing, specifically licences for short-term vacation rental units. Regional districts, including the CRD, do not have the power under the Local Government Act to put in place business licensing unless they've been granted that authority by the province.

To implement business licences on Salt Spring, the report noted costs in the area of \$136,000 for staff, a vehicle and administration. This cost took into account the issuing

of 225 licences at \$100 each, yet did not include potential revenue generated from fines.

Due to the split nature of governance on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands, land use is a responsibility of the Islands Trust while development and services are the purview of the CRD.

"Once a vacation rental use is permitted, Islands Trust no longer has control over how the specific use is carried out at an individual property level other than controlling the use under a temporary use permit or conditional case-by-case basis," the report stated. In cases like this, business licenses can be an "important companion to help with zoning compliance."

The Trust can also ask the province to grant them business licensing authority.

"Coordinated compliance overseen by one jurisdiction is preferable to having a regulatory scheme where CRD regulates vacation rentals by business license and Islands Trust regulates the same properties/owners by zoning," the CRD stated.

"It's not a panacea by any means, but it does create a financial incentive to rent housing that would otherwise be vacant."

GARY HOLMAN
Salt Spring CRD director

SVT.

"It's not a panacea by any means, but it does create a financial incentive to rent housing that would otherwise be vacant," Holman said.

Data for North Saanich and a number of other municipalities indicates the tax is having an effect, he said.

"The number of properties subject to the SVT is declining because people are renting

consultants earlier this year."

"Over the past few years, we have heard many different viewpoints around how to best carry out our special mandate to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment in the Islands Trust Area," said Luckham. "However, we can't do this work alone. As an agency of the province, we require provincial leadership, direction, and support to ensure that we are honouring the preserve and protect vision, while also addressing the new realities and challenges facing the Islands Trust Area today."

Trust Council also established a new standing governance committee at its June 2022 meeting. The committee will begin an in-depth review of the recommendations laid out in the governance report provided by Great North Management earlier this year. It will also be well placed to assist a provincial review process, should the province accept Trust Council's request, the July 15 Trust press release stated.

GOVERNANCE

Trust makes review request

Provincial government participation needed to get ball rolling

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Following a decision of Islands Trust Council made last month, council chair Peter Luckham has asked Municipal Affairs Minister Nathan Cullen in a letter to bring council's request for a provincial review of the Islands Trust mandate, governance and structure to the attention of Lieutenant Governor Janet Austin.

According to a July 15 Islands Trust news release, "Trust Council's decision in June 2022 to request a provincial review comes after much debate and discussion around the policy statement review process and a governance review conducted by external

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BRITISH COLUMBIA



PHOTO COURTESY CHAD WILLIAMS

DISC GOLF CHAMP: Jordyn Little of Salt Spring holds a certificate for her first place win in the junior girls division of the long drive competition at the World Disc Golf Championships held in Peoria, Illinois from July 13-16. Little also placed fourth overall in the 12-and-under age group and made an ace (hole in one) in the finals. For more on Jordyn Little and her trip to the world championships, see next week's story in the Driftwood.

ROAD SAFETY

Cycling advocates celebrate grant funds and road study

Salish Sea Trail concept gets study funds

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring cycling advocates are celebrating the long-awaited attention of the province's transportation ministry to the Fulford-Vesuvius corridor.

The provincial government will be studying and reviewing the road between Fulford Harbour and Vesuvius Bay, with the study meant to be completed by the end of the summer. Board chair of Transition Salt Spring Bryan Young confirmed that Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) Rob Fleming committed to the study on March 31.

The study will look at "current conditions, speeds, shoulder/lanes, signage and more to help inform future planning and opportunities to improve our roads for active transportation," Salt Spring Solutions stated in an email. "This 'final link' of the Salish Sea Trail network

connecting our region's incredible cycling infrastructure is also our main road, and it doesn't take an engineer to know that it's in terrible shape, far too dangerous for cycling, walking, tourists, or even driving."

The study will look at "current conditions, speeds, shoulder/lanes, signage and more to help inform future planning . . ."

SALT SPRING
SOLUTIONS

Island Pathways has also been awarded a \$50,000 federal government grant to advance the network project, funds that will be used for planning that will get the project "shovel ready" and eligible for capital funding.

Earlier this year, advocates with Island Pathways released a series of

video interviews with local cyclists who have experienced grave and lasting consequences as a result of bicycle accidents.

The Road Smarts video, along with a petition started by Jason Mogus, were part of the ongoing effort to lobby MoTI to widen the shoulders on the major roads between Vesuvius Bay and Fulford Harbour ferry terminals. Consistently widening the shoulders with 1.2 metres of paved surface for cyclists on Vesuvius Bay, Lower Ganges and Fulford-Ganges roads would also complete the trail network known informally as the Salish Sea Trail Network, connecting trails throughout the Capital Regional District, including the Galloping Goose and Loch-side trails.

The petition addressed to minister Fleming is still open and has garnered 1,817 signatures.

MLA for Saanich North and the Islands Adam Olsen, a champion of the trail network, cycled from Fulford Harbour to Ganges this morning (July 20) together with supporters of completing the Salish Sea Trail. The ride was set to end in a rally at Centennial Park, in support of trail network plans.

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