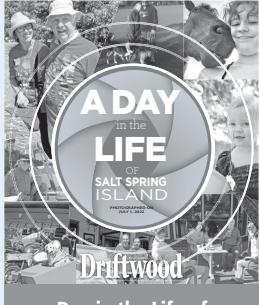


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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

MARKET PALS: Salt Spring BC SPCA branch manager Jerry Lewandowski holds Mika during a Doggy Daycare session at Centennial Park. The daycare lets visitors enjoy the Saturday market, which does not allow dogs. More volunteers to help with the by-donation service would be welcomed.

HOUSING

Bylaw critics air concerns

Open house public feedback highlights build-out and Airbnb worries

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Concerns about Airbnb proliferation, bylaw enforcement and a lack of data were shared by Salt Spring residents at a virtual open house on two bylaws meant to allow accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

Bylaw 526 is a response to a change in provincial regulations on farmworker housing on Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) lands. Under the proposed Islands Trust bylaw, which has gone through the second of three readings at the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC), Agriculture 1 and 2 land can have single family dwellings and a secondary suite within the main dwelling and an accessory dwelling unit (ADU), the latter subject to a few specific conditions.

"So you can have the main dwelling, a secondary suite and a farmworker housing," said Islands Trust planner Geordie Gordon. "Anything above and beyond that still requires additional application to the [Agricultural Land Commission]."

In response to concern from the farming community that farmworker housing was only being allowed in ALR lands yet many Salt Spring farms are outside the ALR, Gordon said the bylaw also allows for larger farms in other zones to "utilize subdivision potential to build extra housing without subdividing or rezoning." This would apply to properties with farm tax status.

The status, which can be allowed to lapse or if a property sells doesn't require the new owners to maintain it, is an "imperfect way" to regulate this kind of housing, Gordon noted.

Under the bylaw, seasonal and casual farmworkers are now able to access housing, Gordon said, compared to only permanent employees.

BYLAWS continued on 2

ATHLETICS

Disc golf champion shares her secrets

Jordyn Little returns from
world championships
in Illinois

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The secret to disc golf?
"Never use my brain," said Jordyn Little, laughing.

The newly minted 12-and-under Long Drive World Champion from Salt Spring is only partly kidding, according to friends and family who have watched her game grow over the last five years. In that time, Little has transformed herself from a complete novice into a Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) Juniors player with 11 career events under her belt — including three wins. And, as her father and fan Chad Wil-

liams sees things, it might indeed have to do with not thinking too hard.

"It's funny to hear, because she doesn't think," said Williams. "She takes almost zero time, she knows she's going to grab this disc, and throw at that angle. Basically it's out of the bag, walk to the front of the tee pad, one quick look, and it's gone."

JORDYN LITTLE continued on 28



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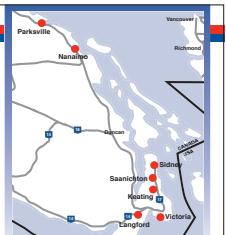


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Covenants, enforcement among bylaw issues

BYLAWS

"It also allows farmer dwellings to be used for family members, which is something that we heard is required for sort of farm succession planning," he said.

In general, the additional housing the bylaw allows for is only allowed to be inhabited by farmworkers or family members on farms with a commercial farm operation with farm status.

"It's very laudable to have more dwellings for farmworkers on farms, but how are you going to prevent these new buildings or old buildings being used for Airbnb?" Michael Wall asked. Gordon answered that bylaw enforcement was how this would be handled. Wall noted this is "extremely problematic and ineffective" and the bylaw could simply be facilitating more short-term rentals. The Trust previously considered a covenant as an option to restrict the use of the ADU, but it was seen as too burdensome to property owners. A covenant could be reworked into the bylaw, if there is a strong feeling that it

is needed, Gordon added. Covenants are also an imperfect tool, he said, as they too require bylaw enforcement and potentially costly court procedures to get owners to comply with covenants.

Christine Torgrimson added her support for a covenant on both bylaws 526 and 530.

"It would give the Islands Trust an extra legal handle in enforcing against [short-term vacation rentals]," she said, adding that covenants can be flexible and include reporting requirements from the landowner, which would lessen the burden on Trust staff.

Short-term vacation rentals are the biggest area of bylaw activity on the island, Gordon said, and there is a risk that units like this, if built, would be used unlawfully. While some enforcement in this area can be tricky, as bed and breakfasts are allowed in many zones, the enforcement of farmworker dwelling units should be more clear cut.

"This is a farmworker dwelling unit, not to be used for Airbnb."

Bylaw 530 has received first reading from

the LTC. In its current draft form, the bylaw allows secondary suites, and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) in or adjacent to built dwellings. Each ADU would need a building permit, where water, septic and sewer requirements would be addressed.

Three open house participants said they wanted to see a build-out calculation, essentially what the result would be if all those properties allowed to build ADUs on their lots did so.

Islands Trust acting regional planning manager Louisa Garbo said the Trust does not yet have data on how many ADUs could possibly be built under the new bylaw.

"Mapping doesn't really give you the true data, this is just an assumption saying how many single family lots potentially can have the ADUs, but it's not saying they'll all have the ADUs," she said.

One school of thought, backed by recent BC Housing commissioned research, asserts that there will be little uptake of the new dwelling units allowed under the draft bylaw.

Most growth in ADU development happened in communities with more than 12,000 to 20,000 residents and in most communities ADUs account for under 10 per cent of homes, according to the BC Housing study.

"It may or may not get taken up quickly, but it's likely to get built out over the years either way," Ronald Wright said, adding that it's "astounding" to have the draft bylaw presented to the public without the number of minimum and maximum ADUs that could result from the bylaw.

Wright added that the same fear about Airbnb proliferation expressed around Bylaw 526 should apply to Bylaw 530.

No one at the Zoom open house spoke in favour of the bylaw, which has a tentative public hearing date of Aug. 18.

Comments on the bylaws should be sent to ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca, or mailed to or dropped off at the Salt Spring Islands Trust office. To view the bylaws and related documents, visit the Salt Spring projects page at www.islandstrust.bc.ca.

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FERRIES

Pre-announced sailing cancellations on Fulford-Swartz continue this week

Union president responds to BC Ferries' statements on absenteeism

BY EMELIE PEACOCK

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Fulford Harbour to Swartz Bay route is seeing its evening sailings cancelled this week as BC Ferries struggles to find workers to run sailings across the ferry network.

The crewing issues on the route began late last week, with later evening sailings from Swartz Bay (7 and 9 p.m.) and Fulford Harbour (5:50 and 7:50 p.m.) cancelled between Friday, July 22 and Saturday, July 30. Other sailings were expected to run as per the regular schedule.

In an update Friday, BC Ferries stated that a 48-person water taxi had been sourced and would be running on the regular sailing schedule. Free parking at Swartz Bay is available, provided customers leave their licence plate number with the ticket agent. The alternate route from Crofton was also advertised in the service notice.

One Twitter user asked whether they could take their dog home on the water taxi. A representative of the ferry corporation replied that water taxis are for foot passengers only.

Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce president Darryl Martin stated via email that the cancellations make doing business on the island even harder for businesses already impacted by widespread pandemic supply chain disruptions.

"Nearly everything – groceries, medicine, lumber, raw materials for our artisans, etcetera – comes by ferry," he stated. Martin said he's also heard from one accommodation provider who reportedly received "a ton of cancellations" of future bookings due to the ferry uncertainty.

The cancelled Fulford – Swartz Bay evening sailings came less than a week after crewing issues left Salt Spring with very few ferry options on Sunday, July 17. Afternoon and evening sailings from Vesuvius Bay and Fulford Harbour were serviced by water taxi only that day, and the final two sailings on the Tsawwassen – Long Harbour route were also cancelled.

The cancellations not only impacted businesses but also disrupted visitors and residents and entailed loss of income for some workers who commute to the island Martin stated. He added that accommodation providers were a key part of ensuring people stranded by the July 17 cancellations had a place to stay.

Salt Spring wasn't the only community affected, with 18 sailings on the two-ferry run between Nanaimo and Gabriola Island and all afternoon sailings between Mill Bay and Brentwood Bay cancelled last Thursday due to crewing issues.

The ferry corporation has cited a rise in absenteeism as one of the reasons for crew shortages. This number has gone from the normal six to now 11 per cent, or 400 to 500 full time employees off on any given day during the COVID-19 pandemic period, according to spokesperson Deborah Marshall.

This explanation did not sit well with Eric McNeely, president of the BC Ferry and Marine Workers' Union. He called it a "par-

ticularly offensive jab at a work force that consistently comes in on day of rest to ensure their friends, family and travellers can move about."

In a late 2021 interview with the Driftwood, McNeely warned that low morale and potential for burnout was palpable among staff.

"Blaming a workforce for management decisions appears to be an effort at deflection," he stated by email. "A year ago [BC Ferries] claimed they had the staff, then there was a global shortage of mariners, then there was a vaccine mandate, then there was more retirements than expected, then there was a backlogged healthcare system, and now it is employee absenteeism."

"My mom used to tell me, 'Take responsibility for your actions.' And when people would rather be unemployed than work for BC Ferries, the issue is not resolved by blaming the remaining workforce attendance numbers. Responsibility needs to [be] owned by those with the authority and ability to make the changes needed for a reliable ferry system that serves all British Columbians."

The ferry corporation has hired or re-hired 1,000 people since January, which includes the return of around 100 employees who were placed on leave under a now-scraped vaccination policy. Yet the combination of a global skilled mariner shortage, a variety of COVID-19 pandemic impacts as well as other concerns including cost of living increases, BC Ferries' on-call hiring policy and the Southern Gulf Islands' housing crisis are all at play in contributing crew shortages.

In other ferry news, the ferry corporation fired CEO Mark Collins Friday. He had been in the role since 2017 and with BC Ferries since 2004.

Current vice president and chief financial officer Jill Sharland has been appointed interim CEO and Collins has been offered a severance according to his contract terms, the amount of which has not yet been made public.

"Like many organizations, BC Ferries has faced recent staffing shortages, service interruptions and COVID-related challenges. There are no quick fixes to these systemic challenges, but as a board we believe it is time for renewal, fresh ideas and a renewed commitment to the highest standards of customer service, safety and affordability," said new board chair Joy MacPhail, a former NDP MLA and cabinet minister who took on the role at the end of June after her role as ICBC board chair.

The chamber has previously made requests for improved service and will be pressing the new leadership at BC Ferries and the province to act, Martin noted. "We need greater reliability on ferries and this means a more active role for the government to ensure that the root causes of ferry disruptions are addressed," he stated. "These include the availability of affordable housing for ferry workers, plus incentives to get people back into the workforce."

Amidst cancellations, the chamber worked to get the word out that people can still ride a water taxi to Salt Spring and visit the island on foot and on transit to catch the Saturday market, for example. All visitors should also be signed up for the BC Ferries notification service, he added.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour						
JULY/AUGUST 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
27	0141	3.0	9.8	31	0104	2.6
	0957	0.5	1.6		0443	2.8
WE	1839	3.3	10.8	SU	1213	0.7
ME	2333	2.9	9.5	DI	2005	3.2
						10.5
28	0227	3.0	9.8	1	0143	2.4
	1033	0.5	1.6		0536	2.7
TH	1906	3.2	10.5	MO	1245	0.9
JE				LU	2024	3.2
						10.5
29	0001	2.8	9.2	2	0225	2.2
	0311	3.0	9.8		0641	2.5
FR	1107	0.5	1.6	TU	1317	1.2
VE	1928	3.2	10.5	MA	2042	3.2
						10.5
30	0030	2.7	8.9	3	0310	1.9
	0355	2.9	9.5		0803	2.4
SA	1140	0.6	2.0	WE	1351	1.5
SA	1947	3.2	10.5	ME	2101	3.2
						10.5

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FIRE DISTRICT

Fire board eyes next steps after referendum

Preliminary hall construction schedule discussed

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Planning is underway for Salt Spring's largest infrastructure project in recent years, yet shovels likely won't be in the ground until 2024.

After the success of a referendum on borrowing \$9.7-million to build a new fire hall to replace Ganges Hall #1, the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) board examined next steps at a July 18 meeting. Construction on the new fire hall, to be located at 455 Lower Ganges Rd., is estimated to be finished by the end of 2026.

"We're going to be designing for the next year and determining, and a lot of different things, so it's very likely that we're not going to be in the ground until 2024," said chief administrative officer Rodney Dieleman. "We've got to keep everybody motivated during this long construction period."

The new fire hall campaign was run with conceptual designs, so final designs need to be made, Dieleman explained. The building is also taking place on a greenfield site that has not previously seen construction.

"We've got to extend sewer lines, we've got to bring on power . . . water, access, fencing, security, and so a little bit of a longer timeline here than a brownfield, a regular

construction in the centre of town."

The July 18 meeting agenda included a preliminary schedule with site assessments, design and cost estimates taking place in 2023 and into 2024, and onsite work starting in mid-2024. A focus going forward will be "re-designing and re-evaluating and updating our cost structure, so we know what we can get for a product when we do start construction," Dieleman explained.

Risks, as outlined in the business plan and project charter, include potential supply chain interruptions, increased interest rates and shortages of labour, he added, "and all of these things are moving, it's very fluid, so it's hard to know exactly when these dates will happen."

One of the first steps to move the project along will be to hire a project manager, with plans to have this position in place by late August. A request for proposals is posted at saltspringfire.com/job-opportunities/ and closes Aug. 18.

A project steering committee was also created at the meeting, to work with the project manager as well as the architect and other stakeholders.

The total project costs of \$13.7 million for the 11,500-square-foot building will be financed by \$1 million from the Capital Regional District's Community Works Fund (federal gas tax), \$3 million from SSIFPD reserves and the \$9.7 million loan.

The final results of the referendum were 2,608 "Yes" votes and 864 "No" votes, with 13 spoiled or rejected ballots. Voter turnout was 45.7 per cent.



PHOTO COURTESY JAMIE HOLMES

Firefighters Josh Lindstrom, left and Patrick Byrne give a thumbs up to the final tally of the referendum to build a new fire hall on Salt Spring, which saw 75 per cent of voters support the fire district's plans to borrow \$9.7 million for the build.

Bruce Cameron, who coordinated the referendum campaign on behalf of the fire district, told trustees that two waves of research showed that the investment the board made in public communications was not only about getting to a "yes" vote but also about crucial education.

The research showed 85 per cent of residents are more aware of the fire department through advertising or communications during the campaign, including the key messages

about not raising additional taxes to fund the build, cost contingencies being built in and reserves being set aside, gas tax funding and the reduction in the size of the fire hall design from the previous unsuccessful referendum.

Some measures by Cameron's research firm Return on Insight between February and June included a 320 per cent increase in the perception that the board and management made decisions about future planning priorities well. The perception that money and tax dollars were allocated and spent well also tripled.

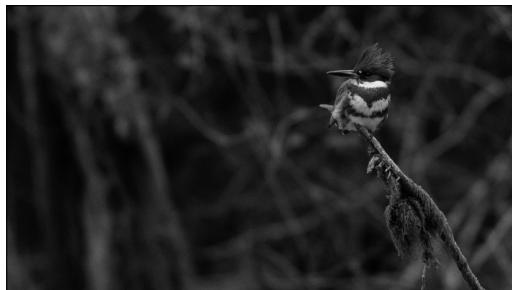
"We got the story out, and that was a big part of why the vote was 75 per cent because people saw what you were doing and they heard more about the steps that had been taken," Cameron said.

Data gathered is important to take into account as the project takes shape, Cameron said, including the key concern about the design being eco-friendly. While project designers or architects might see this factor as one part of the project and not a major concern, Cameron said, "we should think of it as a more important priority because Salt Spring Islanders really want to see those eco-friendly elements emphasized."

Support for the referendum was highest among women and people living in and around Ganges, Cameron noted. Opposition, although it was small, was "more pronounced among men, older residents and residents of the west side and the mid-island . . . Over the next few years, there are some constituents that need to be reached out to and brought along in the process, because the more people who support it, the better."

CONSERVATION

Pender campaign funds grow



Kingfisher Forest goal passes half-way mark

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The campaign to protect 45 acres of waterfront forest on North Pender Island has secured \$1.3 million.

The efforts of Raincoast Conservation Foundation and the Pender Islands Conservancy have pushed the campaign past the halfway mark, with \$2.18 million in total needed to purchase and protect the land. The remaining \$795,000 needs to be raised by the end of the year to buy the property just above Razor Point (KELÁ_EKE in SENĆOŦEN), a piece of land which links a freshwater wetland, the upland forest and the shores of Plumper Sound.

The land, known as KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest on S,DÁYES (Pender Island), is home to "maturing coastal Douglas-fir, western red-cedar, and arbutus and connects to Plumper Sound, critical habitat for southern resident killer whales," a July 20 news release stated. Over 100 species of birds make their home on the 45-acre property, including band-tailed pigeons, western and horned grebes, barn

swallows, olive-sided flycatchers, double-crested cormorants and coastal great blue heron, all of which are species of concern.

"The resilience of our communities in the face of climate change and ongoing development pressures depends on intact, healthy and resilient terrestrial and aquatic ecosystems," the conservancy's ecology and conservation director Erin O'Brien stated. "Protection of KELÁ_EKE Kingfisher Forest will help to ensure this resilience — both through the ecological diversity that is supported by the land itself, as well as through its connectivity to other protected Coastal Douglas-fir forest habitats in the area."

Securing the property is the second joint conservation effort by Raincoast Conservation Foundation and the Pender Islands Conservancy Association, who together bought 13 acres of land on the island last year. These actions are part of the foundation's Forests for the Future initiative, where buying private undeveloped land for ecological protection is combined with restoration efforts, advocacy, ecological investigation and community science initiatives.

Donations so far have come from individuals and local businesses, local foundations, Sitka Foundation, Islands Trust Conservancy and others.

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT



NOTICE OF NOMINATION THREE (3) TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for three trustees will be received between:

9:00 a.m. Friday, July 22, 2022
and 4:00 p.m. Friday, August 11, 2022

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road, or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Anthony A. Kennedy at (250) 537-8815 or 647-284-2900.

The Trustee positions are for a three-year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday September 12, 2022 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2025.

The Election to be held on Saturday, September 10, 2022 at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Advance Voting will be held on Wednesday, September 7, 2022 at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Only persons who are qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District may nominate Trustees and hold the office of Trustee. Qualified candidates must be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Ganges Fire Hall or from Anthony A. Kennedy, Returning Officer (250) 537-8815 or 647-284-2900.

Those persons eligible to nominate Trustees and vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to the election day
4. Be an owner of land located within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. 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.

If more than one person is registered on title as an owner of land, then each owner may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No person may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Salt Spring Island, B.C.
this 22nd day of July 2022

Anthony A. Kennedy
Returning Officer

OPINION

Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

SVT tool needed

When it comes to fending off real estate speculation, the Gulf Islands can consider themselves left to the wolves.

In announcing an expansion of the government's Speculation and Vacancy Tax (SVT), B.C. Finance Minister Selena Robinson described the new communities subject to the tax as being "protected."

As of next year, owners of vacant homes in North Cowichan, Duncan, Ladysmith, Lake Cowichan, Lions Bay and Squamish will have to pay .5 per cent of the home's assessed value (or two per cent if they are foreign owners or satellite families) per year to the government, with funds used to build affordable housing.

But what Robinson said about those areas could just as easily apply to our islands.

"People in these communities have been vocal about the intense housing pressures they have been facing, including speculation and near-zero rental vacancy rate."

It makes us wonder what people in those communities did to make the government aware of their plight, or how their situations could be any worse than ours when it comes to real estate speculation.

The Capital Regional District may be a bit late to the SVT request party, but it seems unbelievable that the government would not be aware of the desperate housing situation on Salt Spring, at least.

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen said he has been advocating for inclusion and was "deeply disappointed" the islands in his constituency were not included (despite not being a tax supporter for the islands when it was first announced in 2018). He added that he will be reaching out to Robinson to get the decision rationale.

While applying the tax to the Gulf Islands may seem punitive to people who have had summer homes on the islands for many years, perhaps those owners could be grandfathered somehow and the SVT only applied to purchasers after a certain date.

Dwellings should first and foremost be used to provide shelter and security for people, not as investments for those who are already housed and have other options for growing wealth.

If islanders have not been "vocal" enough about the impacts of a lack of housing and how help is needed to sustain our communities, it's time some noise was made.

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

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



McPhail a force for BCF

BY BRUCE CAMERON

One of the most powerful and consequential leaders in B.C. is a woman who few people would recognize, but her accomplishments keep piling up. And she has just been appointed Chair of BC Ferries after a very successful stint as chair of ICBC. The question is: can she turn things around?

Joy McPhail served as an NDP cabinet minister in crucial posts like health, finance and social services in the 1990s. She was also one of only two NDP MLAs who survived the electoral thrashing of the party by Gordon Campbell's Liberal party in 2001. She won her seat in 2001 by only 400 votes but left her imprint on the party over the next few years by serving as interim leader and quietly and competently leading it back from the political wilderness to become a political force once again.

During her time as a cabinet minister in the 1990s, notable accomplishments included getting the iconic Vancouver Trade and Convention Centre built and starting the SkyTrain network. Since leaving politics in 2005, she has served on many public and private boards, including major hotels, social service providers like Covenant House in Vancouver and as the vice chair of the Squamish Nation's Economic Development Corporation.

During McPhail's five-year term as chair of the ICBC board of directors she steered the organization through one of the most dramatic reorganizations a crown corporation has ever navigated, moving from a litigation-based system to a care-based model that is estimated to save \$1.5 billion a year. Although five years is indeed an eternity in politics, when McPhail became chair in 2017, ICBC was under constant attack, and it was resented by many British Columbians. As her term ended at ICBC this spring, insurance rates were dropping, consumer sentiment toward ICBC was improving, and the NDP

VIEWPOINT

government could point to it as one of its finest accomplishments.

Joy McPhail is moving on to her next Herculean challenge, as chair

of BC Ferries. While technically "an independently managed, publicly owned company" and not a crown corporation, BC Ferries provides services to one client: the B.C. government. And the B.C. government must answer to the millions of people and tourists who use the company's complex network of routes along B.C.'s coast. BC Ferries serves as the de facto lifeline for millions of British Columbians whose health and livelihood depend on its services, making it a massive political hot potato.

Appointed to the chair position June 30, McPhail wasted no time in plotting a course correction. Within three weeks of her appointment, the CEO of BC Ferries, Mark Collins, was fired.

BC Ferries, like many companies in the transportation sector, is facing an unprecedented surge in travel that is straining its infrastructure to the breaking point. Post-pandemic increases in travel are occurring at the same time as staff shortages due to retirements, the time it takes to properly train replacements and rising Covid sick leave.

Operating one of the largest and most diverse fleets of ferries in the world is a gargantuan task, but for B.C. taxpayers relying on the service, all those facts fade into the background if they are forced to endure last-minute cancellations that leave them stranded. Not to mention the hundreds of millions of dollars a year in tourism revenues that are at risk if the recent abrupt service disruptions continue. Something has to be done, and quickly.

If there is anyone in B.C. with the track record to possibly turn the ship around, it is Joy McPhail. And she just made her first move, by firing the captain. Where McPhail will steer next is the billion-dollar question.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you in favour of draft SSLTC bylaws 526 and 530?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should the Speculation & Vacancy Tax be applied to the Gulf Islands?



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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Is the APC asleep at the switch?

With the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) set to decide on the Vortex application and the future of Fulford Harbour, one question is screaming to be answered: Where are the environmental reports Trust staff have been recommending since 2019?

Staff concerns, based largely on the opinions of the Trust's senior freshwater specialist, have not changed: a potentially tidal-dominated groundwater table, risks of sea level rise, and long-term, cumulative impacts of septic effluent on the marine environment.

Last February, trustees referred the matter to the Advisory Planning Commission (APC). Despite being asked specifically to comment on the water pollution issue, having a member of the public appear in person to warn about the cumulative effects of contaminants and having full access to all staff reports, commissioners failed to address key issues.

The minutes of their March 3, 2022 meeting show no discussion of cumulative

effects, nor of staff recommendations for hydrology and biology studies, nor of an independent hydrology study that classified the site as "coastal flood hazard land" unsuited for a septic system. The commission recommended approval of the application with only minor changes — a departure from their 2019 recommendation, which recommended approval subject to "concerns being addressed by the qualified professional reports." Why the change of mind? No explanation was provided. But discussions did include "a comment that the APC is not qualified to determine whether the site can be built on or not."

One is left wondering if the commissioners even read all the related documents, especially since a recent APC resignation letter states: "I have noted that several members more often than not preface their input by saying they did not 'have time' to read the agenda before the meeting, and then proceed to have an opinion to share with the commission anyway."

Will the Fulford Bay ecosystem go down because the Vortex application did not receive proper scrutiny? Send your com-

ments to ssiinfo@islandtrust.ca or attend the Aug. 9 LTC meeting at noon at Community Gospel Chapel.

**FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING**

Voicing opposition

I feel public consultation for the proposed Vortex project in Fulford Harbour has been atrocious. With just two weeks until the application comes before the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC), most islanders still know very little about this project and its implications.

Trustees have failed to request the scientific studies recommended by their staff. These reports would show this project is not suited for the site. Releasing septic outflow into Soule Creek has critical implications for marine life and waterfowl throughout the bay. Fulford Creek, the largest fish-bearing stream in the Southern Gulf Islands, is part of that web of life.

Trustees have not taken climate change seriously. CRD maps show that the majority of the development site will be subject to flooding due to sea-level rise, posing extreme risks to buildings and septic sys-

tems. Architectural plans show motel units built on piers.

A CRD map is featured on The Vortex Facebook page, with claims that the B.C. Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure is responsible for dealing with the impacts of sea-level rise. But that doesn't address the problem. There are serious risks to the entire ecosystem. Tidal action alone may cause sewage and groundwater to mix. Relying on technology to shut down the septic system in case of flooding is not good enough. We need to know what's happening under the ground.

While the applicant may have the convenience of saying "it's not my problem," trustees do not. They are accountable to the public, and made a commitment in 2019 to "take urgent and fair climate action." Approving this application would make a mockery of that commitment and the "preserve and protect" mandate. I will be attending the Aug. 9 LTC meeting to voice my opposition to this project.

**BONNIE REYNOLDS,
SALT SPRING**

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"We got the story out, and that was a big part of why the vote was 75 per cent because people saw what you were doing and they heard more about the steps that had been taken."

BRUCE CAMERON, RETURN ON INSIGHT, RE SUCCESSFUL FIRE HALL REFERENDUM

Guinness World Book record opportunities abound on Salt Spring

I have this image inside my head that is indelibly etched onto my brain. It's a picture of a very old mystic yogi living in a cave somewhere in the mountains of northern India. He perches in lotus position on his bed of three-inch metal spikes as he beams beatifically from behind his pointed, grizzled beard and wildly unkempt shock of white hair.

What is most striking about this image, however, are the impossibly long fingernails and toenails curving, twisting and spiralling off in every which direction away from his body. The poor man looks like he has fallen into a tangle of blackberries, except that the long vines keeping him captive are his own nails.

The aforementioned photo comes from a copy of The Guinness Book of World Records published at some time in the middle of the last century. At the time, the yogi, whose name has long ago escaped from my leaky memory vault, held the world record for longest combined nails growing from both fingers and toes. Granted, he would have had a heck of a time playing Beethoven's Moonlight Sonata on a Hohner piano accordion, but I'm sure that setting a Guinness world record for long nails far outweighed any feat he could have achieved in the musical field.

As they say, of course, records are made to be broken. Even our cave-dwelling yogi's twisted nails have long since been surpassed. There are now even subcategories for world records involving nails. They include length of nails on one hand, on one foot, both hands and feet, and for all we know, both hands and one foot as well as both feet and one hand. The records

are now divided into both male and female classes. For instance, the all-time fingernails record for females was held by Lee Redmond who started to grow them in 1979 and reached a length of 28 feet before she broke them when ejected from her vehicle in a four-car pile-up in Utah in 2009. Luckily she didn't lose her life.

A more recent record holder, Ayanne Williamson of Houston, became the female presently with the longest fingernails when, after 30 years of growth, she reached a total length of over 24.5 feet. Apparently, it took her three to four bottles of nail polish and over 20 hours to manicure her hands, which is probably why she has recently cut her nails and vowed to not let them grow any longer than six inches.

The Guinness Book of World Records is chock-full of weird and revolting stuff like these last ones mentioned. For instance, the current record holder for the fastest typing using only the nose goes to Davinder Singh of India, who in 2017 and using solely his proboscis, was able to strike a prescribed 103 character text on a keyboard in only 40.19 seconds. No doubt Davinder could easily have been trying to simultaneously break the record for biggest headache combined with worst sinus infection.

The human face was again put to the test when, in 2009, Simon Elmore of the



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

U.K. managed to stuff 400 straws into his mouth and hold them there for 10 seconds without the aid of his hands. The recent abolition of single-use plastic straws may make Simon's record unbreakable.

Perhaps you somehow missed the Guinness record set by Josef Todtling of Austria. He managed to get himself dragged 500 metres by a horse while completely on fire. Him, not the horse. Simon was a human torch and he made sure that fuel was poured on him while being pulled so that the record would not be questioned.

Sylvio Sabba of Italy is in the record book for the most clothes pegs clipped to the face in one minute. In 2012, Sylvio managed to attach 51 of the wooden pegs to just about every square inch of his face. Do you have any idea how painful that must have felt? If I were Sylvio, I would have demanded to be set on fire and dragged behind a horse just to distract me from feeling the hurt caused by those clothes pegs pinching my face.

There must be, it seems to me, a certain niche in the Guinness universe for world records that are specific to living on this weird and wonderful rock called Salt Spring. An obvious record that would probably be broken weekly would be most consecutive ferry sailings missed due to overloads or sailing cancellations. Another related one could be the distance the lineups stretches up the road from the ferry compound.

Sticking with the vehicle theme, there's

probably room in Guinness Salt Spring for the most laps around the Mouat's/Thrifty's parking lot as you wait for a parking stall to become available. For those shopping at the Country Grocer, there's a record waiting to be broken for the most hugs you can receive from friends, neighbours and complete strangers while wheeling your buggy down aisle 7b on 10 per cent off Tuesdays.

Salt Spring is also the ideal location to set a new record for combined number of tattoos, piercings and flesh brandings. A special asterisk will go next to the name of the record holder if the marked body also possesses at least five didgeridoos.

Another possible category that "Salt Springs" to mind would be the longest time you can nurse a cup of coffee at a local café or restaurant while checking your email, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and TikTok accounts while downloading one thousand Netflix movies on the establishment's WiFi. Lastly, although the list is undoubtedly endless, could be the record for the earliest you can arrive at a garage sale that has plastered "NO EARLY BIRDS" signs up and down the island's notice boards and hydro poles.

Nobody asked me, but I sure wouldn't mind getting my name in the Guinness record book myself. Imagine leaving a lasting impression on future generations like that nail freak yogi in India has done for me. One thing is for sure, though. As a third generation nail biter and chewer, there is zero chance I will ever get a sniff of the world record for longest fingernails and toenails.

Hmmm. I wonder what the record is for the world's shortest nails?

Fear of all change impedes solving of crisis

BY JASON MOGUS
SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

The past few Driftwoods have seen a few opinion writers warning about dire consequences from the small steps the Trust is set to take on affordable housing. I'm here to offer a different perspective.

The Accessory Dwelling Unit (ADU) bylaw proposal would see a path to legalization for many existing cottages and suites and even allow some new small homes to be built, albeit with all the same significant water and construction cost restrictions they've long faced.

For the record, workforce housing advocates are disappointed with the ambition of the Trust's proposal. This one change has been under review for over a year, Trust staff have already watered it down, and it still addresses only one solution that could be deployed.

But ADUs were a key recommendation of the Trust's own Housing Action Program Task Force, and if the Trust follows through it will show our community can actually do something besides say no.

Yet to opponents, you'd think

IN RESPONSE 1

the Trust was approving the development of the Expo lands. According to these writers, new tiny homes will lead to us blowing over our OCP population limits. There is no guaranteed ADUs will be affordable, critics say, but even so ADUs will bring thousands of poor people to our shores from the unwashed cities surrounding us. They will drain our aquifers, unleash the urban developers and turn us into Nanaimo.

Is anyone else getting tired of the fear mongering from the same few, self-appointed guardians of the island, who have prolific writing skills, the time to track local politics in great detail, and the gumption to weaponize environmental arguments against any kind of change that would help others less privileged than them, or benefit the whole community?

Let's get a few facts straight. First, ADUs are tiny homes, cottages and suites. The kind of cute places you might want your aging

mother, adult child, or a young couple to live in. They are small — which means they use fewer resources than the new mansion going up on your street right now, or probably the house you are reading this article in. Small is good, right?

Second, there is no way this will lead to thousands of new homes. Recent research commissioned by the B.C. government has shown there is usually less than 10 per cent uptake in communities of our size. Can someone please check the math on how we get from 11,645 people today to 17,000 via small homes few property owners are likely to build?

And that brings us to water. No, my tidy mom in her tiny cottage will not use up the last drops of our most precious resource. North Salt Spring Waterworks District's initially laudable but increasingly indefensible moratorium still stands, and any new suites will have to prove for water. No water, no ADU.

Guess what uses the most water around here? Your landscaping — especially if you live in a large, lush property — and massive leaks from

our water works. Yet the water warriors on this island continue to attack only small homes that don't exist yet rather than those two much juicier targets.

I know we don't like change here, but there is no middle ground in the face of a crisis.

It's become clear to most that the Islands Trust isn't very fit for purpose in solving the complex challenges we face in this disrupted 21st century. But if every time it tries to take a cautious step forward it gets hammered by people who fight any kind of change as if it's the end of the world, aren't we just going to stagnate and decline even further as a community?

The whole thing reminds me of the fight for climate survival. We pressure governments for years to act, then after decades of delay they finally do something. But the

policies proposed, while sounding good, are full of loopholes and nowhere near what the science says is needed. Yet even these small changes make the right wing and fossil fuel-funded interests erupt with madness. When the dust settles, the initial timid action is even further watered down, and the future remains just as hopeless as it was before. Actually, the future is worse, as some people think we just did something, and the whole community is more misinformed and divided.

I know we don't like change here, but there is no middle ground in the face of a crisis, whether it's the climate emergency, Indigenous rights violations, U.S. democratic collapse, or the affordable housing crisis ravaging our community. In the face of clear and present danger, forward action is the only sane response.

I truly hope our elected officials keep their spines and vote to support this incremental, responsible change, and that our community shows we are compassionate, can handle complexity, and can get things done.

Cell-tower letter response results in friendly rebuttal

BY MIKE STACEY

In my self-appointed role of community "Poke in the Eye With a Sharp Stick" observer, I have written a number of letters to this fine publication over the years in an attempt to irritate the local citizens to the point that somebody puts pen to paper and fires a volley in my direction.

Every time I do so I eagerly anticipate the following Wednesday and grab the paper as soon as it hits the street. Disappointment, time after time. But imagine my delight two weeks ago. Finally! Someone took the bait! In his Sermon on the Mount, Julian Clark claims to have had a good laugh, but I have my doubts.

IN RESPONSE 2

There are confirmed cases of people having had their appendix and sense of humour both surgically removed at the same time, as neither was serving any purpose.

He wonders if I am ignorant of the issues. Not that I know of. He is also concerned with the First Nations having input on the matter. Very noble, as the tower site is situated on a "known heritage area with intensive settlement activity dating back 2,000 years." If that

is the case, I would assume his house is as well, but I have no doubt that the band elders were consulted at length before the first shovel appeared on site.

Oddly, he claims that the tower's emissions, usually the primary concern when these things are installed, are not what he and his neighbours are worried about, but goes on to point out that fire halls won't allow them to be built anywhere near them because of the potential harm from the emissions which he assures us are to be avoided at all cost . . . I'm so confused. While I was discussing this paradox with my son, he made a brilliant suggestion that would be the obvious

sure-fire solution: Build the new fire hall on top of Channel Ridge! Then they would never be able to put up a tower, bamboo or otherwise. An added benefit would be that once they got the trucks in motion, the firefighters could just kick them out of gear and let 'em roll! By the time they hit Vesuvius Bay Road, they would be approaching Mach 1 and response times would be cut in half! It's a win-win! Such a clever lad.

The threat of a "Fernwood McDonalds" is not valid. Unless they were serving certified organic non-gmo ethically harvested totally inclusive and non-judgemental bean sprouts, and only the ones that grew leaning to the left, on a biodegradable plate with tofu nuggets, they would be gone in less time than the Dairy Queen we once had here, leaving the building vacant for another market.

"Be careful who you are calling tinsel heads," he warned me. Seeing this, I panicked. "Egads!" I cried. "Did I call someone a tinsel head? Nothing could be worse! What was I thinking?" (I confess that I wrote the offending letter, but I never read it, so I had no idea what was in it.)

I had to find my letter, pronto. I leapt to my feet. "To the birdcage, with all haste!" I screamed. Fearlessly stuffing my hand into the budgie's cage, I lost a sizable chunk of one finger to his sharp beak. The little stinker hasn't spoken to me since I took the ground straps off the cat and vehemently refuses to relinquish his tiny tinfoil hat. I yanked the paper from the floor of the cage with my bleeding hand and wiped it off on my shirt. (Did you know that the Driftwood is a perfect fit in a birdcage? No trimming required!)

I feverishly scanned the words in search of condemning evidence, between the seed shells and . . . other things. Nothing. I was in the clear. I leaned back in my chair and thought about it. Julian was putting words in my mouth, and they didn't taste very good. What if someone were to read this without reading my letter first? Surely public outrage and cries for justice would immediately ensue. Mr Clark lives up on Channel Ridge, and I'm on Maliview. We all know who they would believe.

I have been peeking out from behind my closed lead-lined curtains watching for the angry mob to appear carrying torches and pitchforks, bound and determined to string me up from the bamboo cell tower. Poetic justice, mais non?

I will remain in hiding as long as I can, but am convinced that the end is near. This will most likely be my last letter. If I don't make it, please, Julian, come and find my budgie . . . to the cat.

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Media research

Trust matters: Canadians turn to news outlets for information they need to know



NANCY JOHNSON
PUBLISHER

The results of a new survey by the Toronto-based public relations firm Kaiser & Partners, Inc. has found that Canadians resoundingly view established news outlets as the best source for reliable news and information when compared to social media platforms.

Overall, the survey shows that 39 per cent of Canadians indicated that they consider some sources of information to be less credible today, compared to pre-pandemic. By far, the outlets taking the biggest hit are crowd sourced news platforms and social media.

Content from social media in general is reported as the least credible (73 per cent of Canadians), followed by information conveyed by others in platforms such as Reddit and Quora (45 per cent). When broken down by age, more than three quarters of Canadians aged 55 and older find social media less trustworthy as a result of the pandemic than those between the ages of 35 and 54 (74 per cent) and those between 18 and 34 (66 per cent).

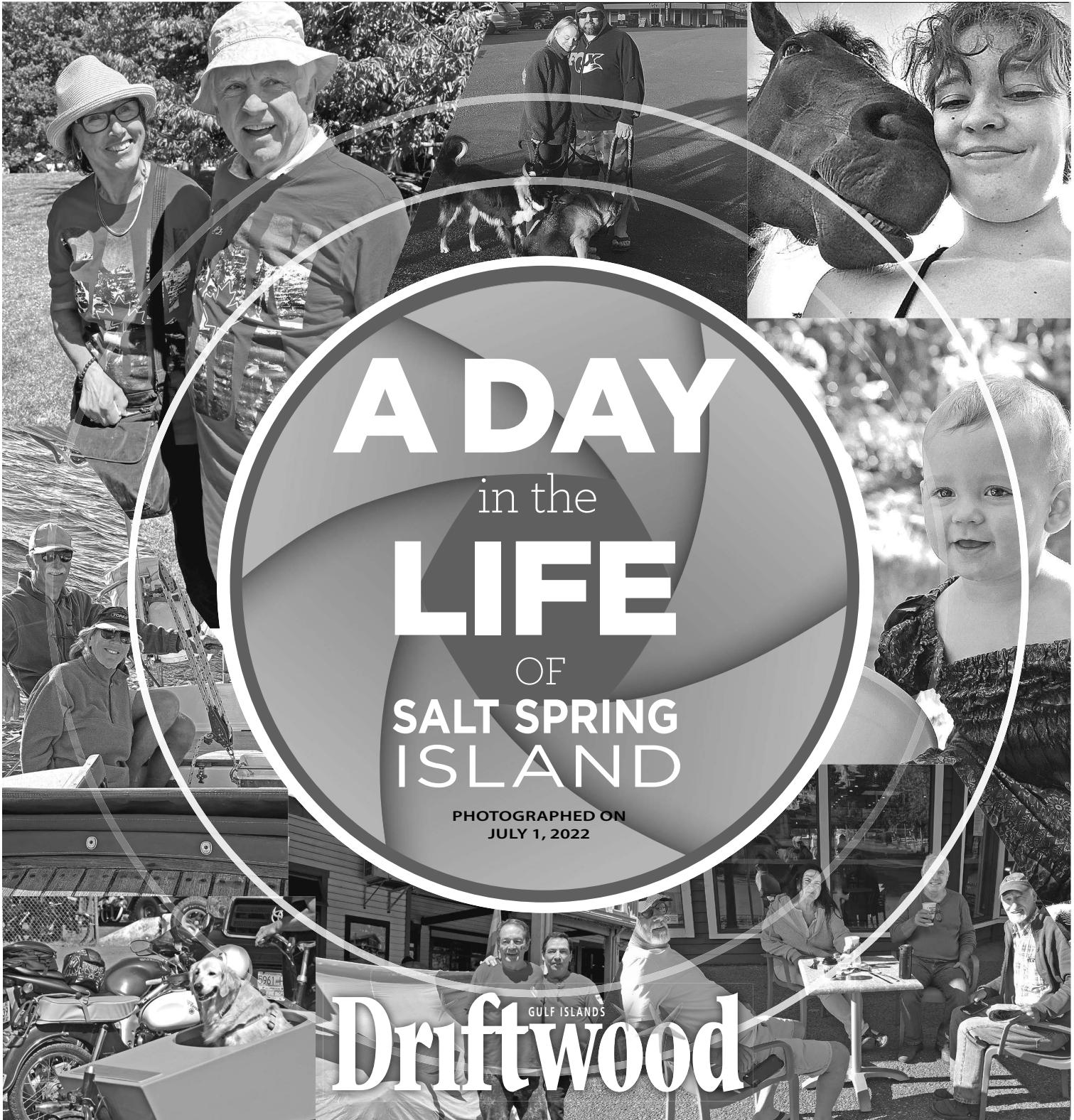
SOURCE: News Media Canada

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MORE OPINION continued on 23



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A Canada Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island

You are holding the 19th annual Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island publication. The basic format has remained the same since the beginning, with a selection of photos taken in a 24-hour period published with support from community-minded businesses.

For the last 11 years, most of the photographs have been provided by community members, many with a strong interest in photography or even professional experience, rather than solely Driftwood staff or freelancers. We love the broad spectrum of views the community approach provides, and invite you to submit a photo or two in future editions.

This year Driftwood publisher Nancy Johnson and I settled on Canada Day for the shoot day. We knew there would be lots happening — and there was! — and it also

felt like an opportunity to reclaim the flag for everyone in a positive way.

We are so grateful to our 2022 photographers, who are Aislin Blair, Anna Haltrecht, Anna McColm, Brandon Linters, Chris Rowthorn, Emma Thomas, Hannah Rowthorn, Ian Van Wyck, Jean Panepinto, Jen MacLellan (Driftwood contributing photographer), John Denniston, Julia Gilbert, Kristine Mayes, Linda Dares, Margriet Ruurs, Marie Beaudoin, Nancy Johnson (Driftwood publisher), Rob Lowrie, Robin Jenkinson, Stan Garrod, Sue Newman, Tracie Whitelaw and Viv Nielsen.

Watch for notices about the 2023 Day in the Life project next spring. We'd love to have your photos in our 20th edition next year!

— *Gail Sjoberg, Driftwood editor*

5 to 9 am



PHOTO BY LINDA DARES

6:05 am Jeff Kempling on the bridge for the first run of the MV Quinsam from Vesuvius Bay to Crofton. The 63-car-capacity Quinsam became the regular year-round ferry on the route on April 13, replacing the much smaller MV Quinitsa (winter months) and the Bowen Queen in the summers of 2020-21.



PHOTO BY ANNA MCCOLM

5:23 am A raccoon family frolics in the photographer's yard.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

5:47 am Ganges Harbour sunrise and reflection of clouds in the water.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

5:33 am Visitors Clint and Adrienne walk their dog at sunrise in Ganges Harbour and search for a washroom open at that time on a statutory holiday.

*Proudly recording all
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PHOTO BY LINDA DARES
6:05 am BC Ferries Captain Michael Fischer on the bridge of the MV Quinsam, as photographed by his colleague Linda Dares.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD
6:33 am Ruckle Farm Highland cattle graze in the field off Beaver Point Road.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

8:05 am Marv Coulthard gives his 1960 Morgan Plus 4 roadster some TLC before the opening of the Salt Spring Cruisers Show & Shine at the Hydro Field.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD
8:27 am Enjoying coffee and conversation outside of Salt Spring Coffee in Ganges are, from left, Dave, Jacquie, Cory and John.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

6:17 am Skeena Queen leaves beautiful Fulford Harbour on time for its first run of a busy Canada Day on Route 4. Since the beginning of 2022, this route and others throughout the BC Ferries system have experienced cancellations due to crew shortages attributed to COVID illness and other factors.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD
7:24 am Brian and Patty, visiting from Chemainus with their dog Maggie, enjoy a morning coffee in the sunshine at Embe Bakery.



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PHOTO BY JEAN PANEPINTO

10:29 am
Kim Ballantyne is poised to return the volley at a Portlock Park tennis game.



PHOTO BY KRISTINE MAYES

11:17 am
Arriving in style at the Canada Day show and shine.



PHOTO BY TRACIE WHITELAW

11:37 am Lorrie Irwin, left, and Wendy Milton get ready for the Canada Day Swing Shift concert in Centennial Park. Island band members have played at the car show for a number of years, but in 2022 returned to the site of the first Bandemonium Canada Day concert way back in 1993. Swing Shift runs under the Bandemonium umbrella.



PHOTO BY TRACIE WHITELAW

11:36 am Catherine Shaw-Pomajzl and John Jefferson show their Canada Day spirit with special shirts, which are very red in colour!



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

11:55 am Tim O'Connor, left, and John Dolman, owners of TJ Beans, sport their huge Canada Day flag in front of their Ganges cafe. They also headed up the Canada Day evening music and beach ball toss event. Canada Day events had been cancelled in 2020 and 2021 due to the pandemic.



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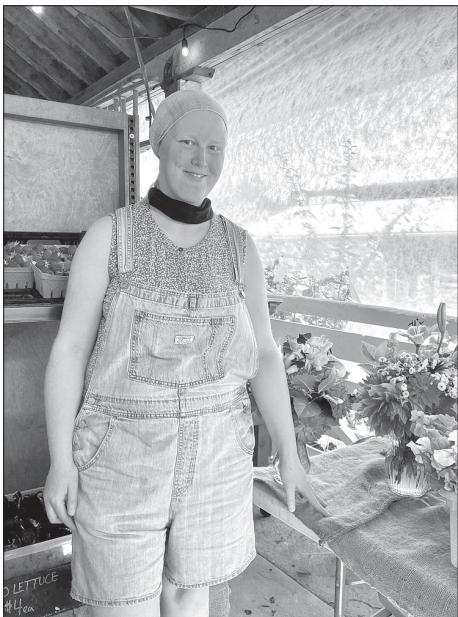


PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON
9:59 am
 Sarah Nantel delivers bread at North End Farm.



PHOTO BY JEAN PANEPINTO
9:34 am
 Bill Coté loads up his sails in preparation for going sailing on his 19-foot Azzurro sailboat.



PHOTO BY JEAN PANEPINTO
9:36 am
 A deer looks over the graveyard on Baker Road.



PHOTO BY KRISTINE MAYES
11:19 am Salt Spring Cruisers Show & Shine car show visitors ooh and ahh over some of the approximately 80 classic vehicles on display.



PHOTO BY MARGRIET RUURS
11:50 am
 Salt Spring Island Lions cheerfully flip hamburgers for a hungry crowd at the car show.



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE
9:05 am
 Neighbours Joan Douglas, left, and Marjie Radford pause to wave the flag on their regular morning walk on Seymour Heights with their two springer spaniels Buster and Bess.



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12 to 3 p.m.



PHOTO BY ROBIN JENKINSON

12:01 pm

Bob MacKie sports his best Canada Day look as he heads to the car show.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

12:58 pm Indigenous artist James Darin Corbiere with his Walk Gently piece on display behind the Collide collective gallery on McPhillips Avenue.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

1:18 pm Caroni Young, director of Viva Chorale, leads her singers during the Canada Day concert at the gazebo in Centennial Park.



PHOTO BY VIV NIELSEN

12:30 pm Harry Nielsen, 96, stays cool in the shade while proudly watching his grandson (Noel, seen on page 14) play saxophone in the Swing Shift big band in Centennial Park.



PHOTO BY MARGRIET RUURDS

12:15 pm Salt Spring Transit bus driver Julius Fisher fills up the bottomless tank of the Salt Spring bus. Regular gas cost 215.9 cents per litre on July 1. One year ago the average price was closer to 155 cents per litre.

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SCAN ME





PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

2:40 pm Annebeke Gedeon and her son Wynn take off the final wrapping of their new gelato batch freezer as they prepare for their coming opening of Glad's Gelateria (formerly Glad's Ice Cream Shop) in Ganges.



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

1:24 pm Unmistakably Canadian, Ania Wickstrom from Vancouver wears her annual Canada Day "get up." Ana and her friend Wiesia Legal were also on the front page of the July 6 issue of the Driftwood.



PHOTO BY VIV NIELSEN

12:31 pm Noel Nielsen, left, plays his sax alongside John Moore, also playing sax: the youngest and the oldest members of Swing Shift big band.



PHOTO BY EMMA THOMAS

2:35 pm Foster kittens from the Lord of the Rings litter rescued by Karen Tottman of the Salt Spring Cat group. She is one of several islanders helping cats on Salt Spring Island.



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

1:14 pm Thrifty Foods cashier Tina Mede rings through ladyfingers needed for the photographer's next batch of delicious tiramisu.

When it's all about pets, make the BC SPCA your first option for adoption and resources to spay/neuter and microchip your pets.

 A collage of five small black and white photographs. From left to right: a man with glasses and a beard holding a white cat; a close-up of a black and white cat's face; a close-up of a cat's face with a wire fence in the background; a close-up of a cat's face; and a close-up of a cat's paw and a hand holding a small object.

SALT SPRING SPCA
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SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS



PHOTO BY MARGRIET RUURS

2:25 pm Sheri Standen charges her electric vehicle using one of the by-donation charging stations in the ArtSpring parking lot. ICBC reports that at the end of 2021, there were 380 electric vehicles registered on Salt Spring, up from 272 the year before.



PHOTO BY HANNAH ROWTHORN

1:00 pm Here's looking at you, kid! Photographer Hannah Rowthorn takes a photo of herself in the mirror of a classic car at the Salt Spring Cruisers Show & Shine.



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

2:33 pm On the Coast Guard dock, Martin Herbert, left, and Tony Meek wrap up from another session of working on the restoration of their treasured 50-year-old Flying 15.



PHOTO BY MARGRIET RUURS

1:45 pm Sarah Ingram of Fernie, B.C. prepares for a next-day wedding by buying balloons at the Thrifty Foods flower shop.



PHOTOS BY ROB LOWRIE



1:15 pm Swing Shift director Derrick Milton, left, and sax player David Astill take a break on the boardwalk looking out to sea and back again before resuming their set in the Canada Day concert in Centennial Park.

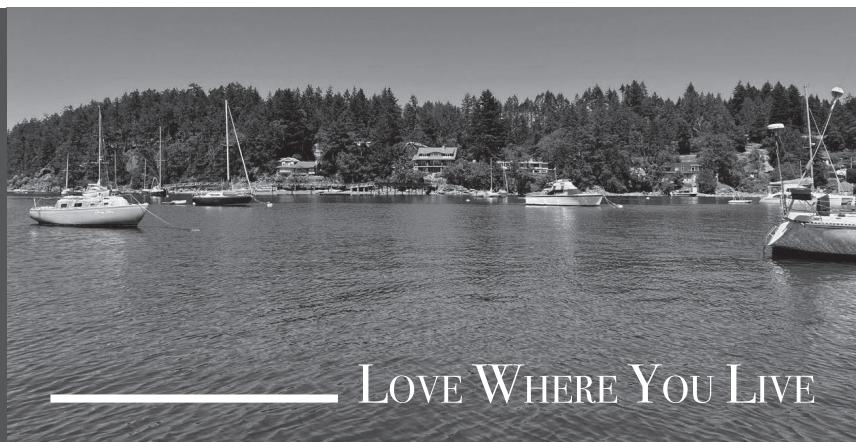
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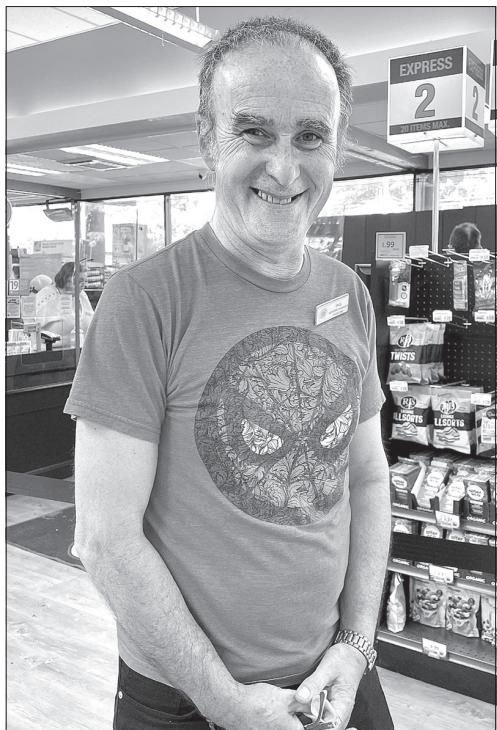


PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

2:12 pm Front-end cashier Paul Griffin sports his Spider Man T-shirt for Canada Day duty at Country Grocer.

PHOTO BY MARGRIET RUURS

12:30 pm
Salt Spring Painters
Guild members
Jose Campbell,
left, and Jan Ross
greet visitors to the
summer show and
sale at ArtSpring,
celebrating the
guild's 50th
anniversary.



PHOTO BY JULIA GILBERT

2:52 pm
Tika, a seven-month-old
shepherd cross, is ready
to play.



PHOTO BY JULIA GILBERT

1:14 pm Sadie and her human Jody Hawley take a break from gardening.

PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

2:15 pm
Wearing their
Canadian colours,
Curt Firestone and
Gwen McDonald
soak up the tunes at
the Centennial Park
gazebo.



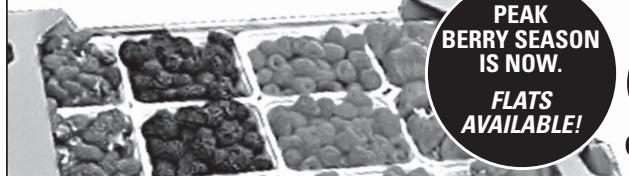
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4:01 pm Kieran Rowthorn does a boardslide at Kanaka Skate Park.



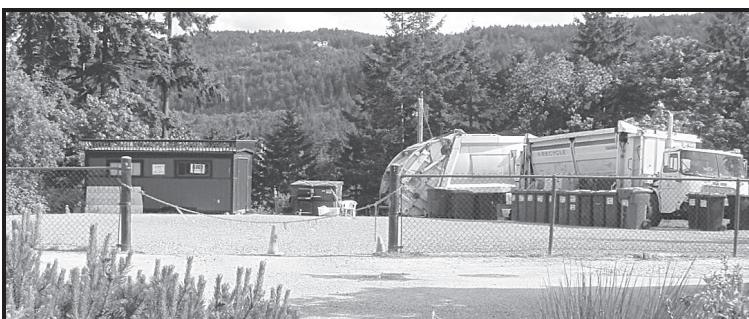
3:48 pm Emma Thomas tries on sunglasses at Osisi Boutique in Ganges Alley.



3:55 pm Ayla Stevens, centre, gets help from her cousins Pippa, left, and Keeha Isaac-Gilbert to clean her room. They found all sorts of treasures!



5:45 pm Ty Oviatt cuts hay in the fields on Sharp Road.



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PHOTO BY JULIA GILBERT

4:23 pm Nigel Denyer and Mary Waugh enjoy happy hour at the Gilbert-Stevens-Isaac residence.



PHOTO BY KRISTINE MAYES

3:01 pm A family tries their luck at crabbing at Fernwood Dock.



PHOTO BY EMMA THOMAS

5:35 pm Molly Divers makes a papier mâché mushroom hat.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

4:12 pm Firefighter Tony Denman backs Engine 301 into the Ganges fire hall bay. The following day the results of a June mail-in ballot referendum were released where 75 per cent of voters approved borrowing \$9.7 million for a new fire hall to be built on land next to Brinkworthy Place on Lower Ganges Road.

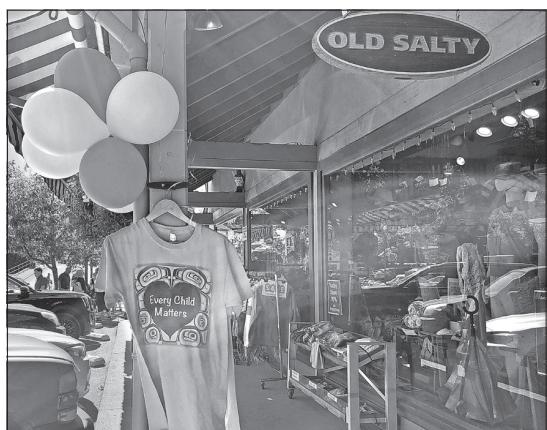


PHOTO BY EMMA THOMAS

4:25 pm An Every Child Matters orange T-shirt hangs outside at the Mouat's Clothing and Old Salty stores, a reminder of the importance of meaningful and continued Truth and Reconciliation actions.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

4:08 pm People line up for hot dogs and drinks at the Thrifty Foods tent in Rotary Park, one of the Canada Day traditions that was able to return in 2022.

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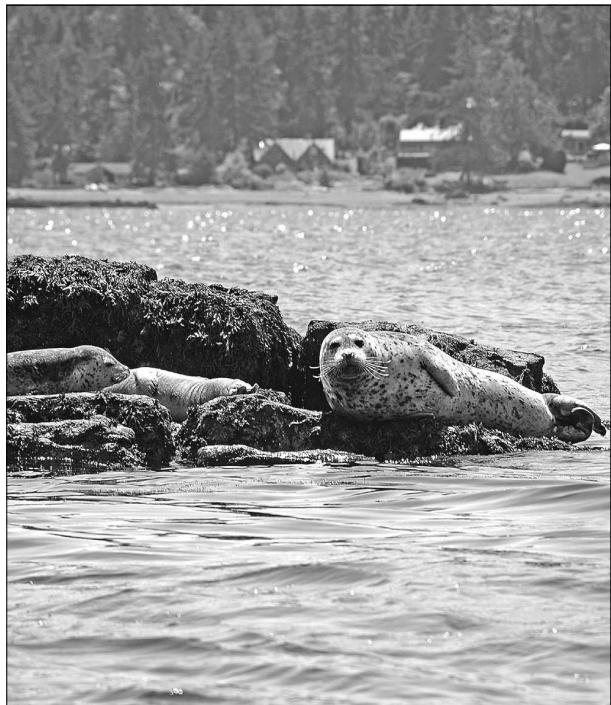


PHOTO BY KRISTINE MAYES

3:12 pm Seals sun themselves on rocks near Wallace Island.

PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG
5:35 pm

A happy crowd dances to music by the Everyday People band under the tent at the Royal Canadian Legion near the end of a day full of live music, food, refreshments and family fun.

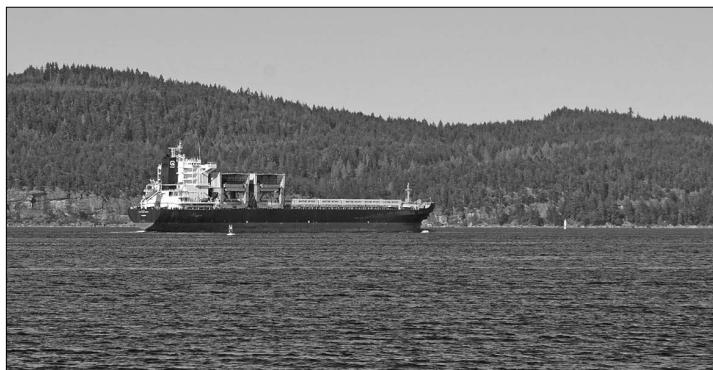


PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

5:44 pm Freighter moves through Trincomali Channel near Fernwood Dock. The noise and environmental impacts of freighters anchoring in Gulf Islands waters continued to be of concern to residents and the Islands Trust in 2022.



PHOTO BY JOHN DENNISTON

4:24 pm Ann Alexander of Vesuvius Bay blows out birthday cake candles as part of her 71st birthday celebration with her husband Ross, granddaughter Riley and other members of the Vesuvius Beach Indolent Society. It was also Ann and Ross's 50th wedding anniversary.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

4:25 pm One-year-old cousins Mira Hazenboom, left, and Freya Finer hang out and play together on the sunny Canada Day afternoon.

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6 pm to midnight



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

7:54 pm

Robert Anthony and Alex Golder out for an evening sail in Ganges Harbour on their boat Minke.



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

9:11 pm BC SPCA foster kitten Dash is mesmerized by his shadow created by the cell-phone's flashlight.



PHOTO BY JULIA GILBERT

7:04 pm Warning sign seen as approaching Goat Island in Ganges Harbour.



PHOTO BY BRANDON LENTERS

7:00 pm Ruwadzano Marimba Band practises for their first Saturday market gig of the summer season. Clockwise from left are Chris Dixon, Gwenyth Dobie, Rejeanne McKechnie, Akiko Otsu, Shannon Cowan and Andrea Metzger. Not pictured are Lisana Dodd, Steph Cowan and Brandon Linters.



PHOTO BY SUE NEWMAN

7:11 pm Wendy Judith Cutler and partner Corrie Hope Furst, before the opening night at Beaver Point Hall of Wendy's play *An UnDutiful Daughter*, based on Wendy's experience of coming out as a lesbian to her family and the personal and social/political tumult of the 1970s and '80s.

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PHOTO BY KRISTINE MAYES

7:02 pm A person cools off in Ganges Harbour waters. According to the Weather Network, the high temperature on Salt Spring on July 1 was 25.5 Celsius and the low was 11.6.



PHOTO BY AISLIN BLAIR

7:03 pm Aislin Blair snaps a selfie with her new friend Bubbles.



PHOTO BY TRACIE WHITELAW

9:49 pm El Jose's Cuban Dance Party band gets the crowd excited at the Tree House Cafe.



PHOTO BY TRACIE WHITELAW

7:40 pm Traffic jam on Rainbow Road.



PHOTO BY IAN VAN WYCK

7:30 pm Anna Haltrecht dances in her Langs Road studio.



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PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

10:21 pm A fireworks display put on by Salt Spring Fire Rescue in Ganges Harbour, another tradition that returned to the Canada Day roster this year thanks to the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce and other sponsoring help.



6:00 pm Weston Williams helps his grand-maman (the photographer) water her kale.



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

10:26 pm Joan Douglas enjoys the fireworks.



PHOTO BY STAN GARROD

7:33 pm Excitement builds for Ingrid Sanchez, left, and Jessica Carlin as Jessica's mom Joi Freed-Garrod lights the last candle on two birthday cakes at the Freed-Garrod home. One cake was for daughter-in-law Ingrid, whose birthday is June 29, and the second was for daughter Jessica, whose birthday is on July 2.



PHOTO BY ANNA HALTRECHT

8:21 pm Tania Aguilera dances to her husband Jose Sanchez's band at the Tree House Cafe.

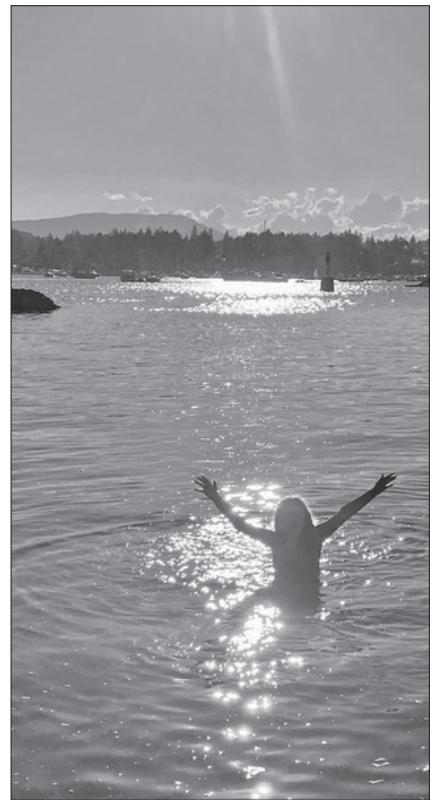


PHOTO BY JULIA GILBERT

7:31 pm Ayla Stevens swims in the sun-sparkling water of Ganges Harbour.



READY TO ROLL: Bicycle riders converge at the Cusheon Lake and Fulford-Ganges road intersection for the last leg of a July 20 ride to Centennial Park for a rally in support of including Salt Spring in the Salish Sea Trail, where MLA Adam Olsen addressed the crowd. Funding for a study was recently announced by the provincial government, and Island Pathways has also received a \$50,000 federal government grant to be used for the project. The plan envisions a bike lane on the road between Fulford Harbour and Vesuvius Bay.

PHOTO BY BRYAN YOUNG

MORE LETTERS

continued from 6

Step lightly

Correct me if I'm wrong, please, regarding proposed Islands Trust draft Bylaw 530: housing for Salt Spring working families. No mention of affordable housing, though!

This bylaw would allow one accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on most properties throughout the island.

I'm certainly no planner, but urban sprawl does not seem like a great idea. Nor is the potential to double the island's human population over the long term.

And if you take the time to read our official community plan, you will find this proposed bylaw inconsistent with the purpose for which the Islands Trust was created: to protect these fragile island ecosystems from overdevelopment.

In a perfect world, striking a balance of respect for the well-being of the land and

its wildlife, and respect for the well-being of each other would go a long way.

Let's step lightly.

And let's not forget this land is Coast Salish territory. We are just visitors here.

NINA RAGINSKY,
WALTER BAY

Change of position

When discussing the speculation tax, MLA Adam Olsen was quoted in the March 28, 2018 Gulf Islands Driftwood as saying "I'm glad the government has listened to these concerns and recognized that this tax doesn't make sense for rural areas like the Gulf Islands."

Imagine our surprise to hear that Adam Olsen is now slamming the government for not extending the speculation tax to the Gulf Islands. We are glad he has changed his position.

FRANCES AND JAN HAVELAAR,
SALT SPRING

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EXHIBIT PREVIEW

Shakespeare inspires latest Benson artworks

'We are such stuff as dreams are made on'
 opens Aug. 5

SUBMITTED BY ARTCRAFT

The Artcraft gallery continues an exciting 2022 Showcase Exhibition season in August with a Shakespeare-inspired show of paper works by the acclaimed artist, set and costume designer Susan Benson.

Benson, who was named to the Order of Canada in 2019 for her extensive contributions to Canadian theatre, has taken a favourite playwright as the jumping-off point for a number of three-dimensional art book pieces. Her fluid explorations in two-dimensional art as painted panels form another aspect of the show, which opens Friday, Aug. 5 on the Mahon Hall stage.



SALT SPRING ARTS FILE PHOTO

Susan Benson, the next Showcase Exhibition artist, at the 2018 Easter Art Show at Mahon Hall. Benson's show opens Aug. 5.

"For many years I designed sets and costumes for the theatre, but stage design has always to take into account the director's

vision, the performers and the practicalities of the art form," Benson explains in her artist's statement. "However, as a painter I can approach a play in a different way that is free from the restrictions of a collaborative process. *The Tempest* is one of my favourite plays and I wanted to explore it and a number of other plays by Shakespeare from a painter's point of view."

The paintings and books are mixed media using inks, charcoal and watercolour to explore these ideas. For both types of work, Benson's process began with "floating" inks in water and then exploring the organic shapes that were created.

"The shapes inspire thoughts and ideas, which link to the themes of the play and which I then develop in the books and paintings. In the case of *The Tempest*, the colours and shapes that emerged with the ink suggested the tropical and strange world of the Bermudas to which Shakespeare refers in the

play," Benson said.

Lines in the play also provided inspiration for visual elements.

"We are such stuff / As dreams are made on, and our little life / Is rounded with a sleep" gave rise to Benson's dream/nightmare drawings — storms, goddesses, witches and sinking galleons — which are only revealed when the pages in *The Tempest* book are turned.

Benson's husband, acclaimed theatre lighting designer Michael Whitfield, has contributed to the exhibit by sourcing relevant quotes that will be displayed on stage. Photographer Seth Berkowitz has also supported the show with his work.

The exhibition is sponsored by Thrifty Foods.

A reception with the artist takes place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 5, and an artist talk with Benson and Whitfield is set for 2 p.m. on Sunday, Aug. 7.

PUBLIC ART

Final artists chosen for Ganges mural project

Three proposals selected
 from 54 submissions

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Themes and images of seals playing in kelp, Salish Sea islands and a visual contemplation on climate grief will be gracing three Ganges walls at the end of the summer, as the Murals on Salt Spring (MoSS) project announced the final artists chosen to create three new murals around town.

For the Salt Spring Coffee wall, Damian John will be painting his creation "Island Hopping," the details of which the jury are relatively mum about. As the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce website stated, the jury "appreciated the way Damian incorporated characters representing Coast Salish Peoples, whose territory we are fortunate to live, work and play on, as well

as the island's location in the Salish Sea." The mural design is playful and incorporates existing features of the coffee shop wall.

John, who resides in the tiny community of Ymir in the Kootenays, is a self-taught T'la'at'la' artist. The T'la'at'la' Nation is a Dakelh community whose traditional territory extends along Stuart Lake in Northern B.C.. He has worked with digital and acrylic painting as well as glass, wood and metal sculpture.

Paige Bowman will paint a mural of seals swimming in a kelp forest onto the selected wall in Lam's Lane. Animals are the star of the mural, the chamber stated, which is "dreamy and simple and manages to be both representational and abstract."

Bowman is a "nonbinary settler" born and raised in Victoria and now residing in Vancouver, the chamber stated, who works with painting, animations, murals and sculptures and has long been exploring "the fantasy realms of animals, mythical creatures, and storytelling."

British-Canadian artist David Camisa will be painting on the theme of navigating climate grief and action on the wall of Glad's Gelateria next to the West of the Moon toy store. The location itself provides a tension for the artist to work with, the chamber explained, as the theme is a heavy one on the wall of a location where "a gelato and toy store sell joy."

"His mural manages to express a lot, leaving room for contemplation, grief and meditation," the chamber stated. "At the same time, it shows confidence, hope and acceptance."

Camisa has in recent years expanded into illustrations and murals, with works in the Vancouver Mural Festival and the Vancouver Queer Arts Festival.

The selection committee, comprised of Elizabeth FitzZaland, Charlene Johnny and Michael A. Mann, considered 54 submissions.

The joint chamber and Salt Spring Arts project received \$50,000 earlier this year from the THRIVE Small Capital Program.

CONCERT PREVIEW

Garton and T. Nile perform next week

Outdoor music in the park

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Islanders and visitors can continue to bring a blanket and a picnic to Centennial Park on Thursday evenings while enjoying live music in the beautiful setting of Ganges Harbour.

Next Thursday, Aug. 4, sees a double bill of Galiano Island's Jack Garton and T. Nile perform from 6 to 8 p.m.

Enchanting audiences in Western Canada and the U.S. for many years as a musician and theatre artist, Garton's show is described as "a rocking, sultry and fresh blend of roots, blues and doo-wop." Featured recently in Western Canada Theatre's production of *Chelsea Hotel: Songs of Leonard Cohen*, and fresh from recording a new full-length album with Vancouver surf legends Kitty and the Rooster, Garton is thrilled and honoured to be presenting his songs to live audiences again.

Quite a ways from her early days in a Galiano Island cabin, T. Nile has blurred musical boundaries, fusing the traditionally conflicting styles of Americana and dream pop. Nile was groomed for an unconventional life. Her father performed as Dan The Man, The One Man Band, following in the footsteps of his inspiration and mentor Jesse Fuller, a street performer turned influential blues musician who famously penned San Francisco Bay Blues and inspired Bob Dylan to pick up the harmonica. From the age of six until her teenage years Nile accompanied her father as they toured the west coast and Australia in an RV.

As an adult musician she has toured North America and Europe, released two albums and some EPs, and her awards have included Best New/Emerging Artist at the Canadian Folk Music Awards.

This Thursday's Summer Outdoor Concert Series headliner is XL The Band, the hip-hop/jazz/alternative fusion side project of the Swollen Members, with opener 11 Odd Fox.



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PHOTO BY COLTON PREVOST

TAKING A BOW: The cast of Crimes of the Heart following a weekend show at Lions Hall. From left are Annika Siemsen, Kelsey Mech, Metta Rose, Shyla-Rae Lloyd-Walters, Dustin Bragg-Van Wyck and Bryan Dubien. The Bloom theatre show runs for three more nights only July 28, 29 and 30 at 7:30 p.m. Tickets are at Twang & Pearl.

RECITAL SERIES

Moberg on stage

Tea à Tempo series

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Tea à Tempo is once again honoured to have Alan Moberg, Salt Spring Island's Saltwater Cowboy, on the All Saints by-the-Sea stage.

Since 2005, Alan has endeared himself every year to a wide and loyal fan base at Music and Munch and Tea à Tempo as well as at just about every venue on the island, including the fall fair and Tree House Cafe. His musical contributions span more than six decades and include performances at

many festivals throughout B.C.

On June 19, musicians from Salt Spring and beyond honoured Moberg by playing their versions of some of his songs at a tribute concert at Foxglove Farm and Garden Supply.

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

Admission is by donation, which provides the honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series.

Optional tea and treats are served immediately following the concert in the hall overlooking Ganges Harbour.



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what's on this week

Wed.

July 27

Fri.

July 29

Sun.

July 31

Aug. 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

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

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

Thur.

July 28

Fri.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Crimes of the Heart.
See Thursday listing.

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

Sharon Bailey Band. On stage at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to midnight.

Kathy Stack Trio.
At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

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

Marianne Grittani & Band.
Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring.
This week's guests are Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce board members and operations manager Alexander Fischer-Jean in the United Church Meadow. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Harry Manx & The Yaletown Strings.
See Friday listing.

GyroElectric Dance Party.
At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Leeroy Stagger Band.
Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

Mike & Margo.
On the deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

Tumblin' Dice.
On stage at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to midnight.

The Fabulous Flakes. 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.
Fourth session in weekly summer calligraphy course for teens aged 13 to 19. Library program room. 2 to 3 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Hospice Volunteer Information Session.
At the Salt Spring library program room. 7 to 8 p.m.

Green Drinks.
Discuss clean energy, electric vehicles, solar systems, rainwater harvest etc. On the last Thursday of the month at the Salt Spring Golf Course restaurant. 5 to 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Fri.

July 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Harry Manx & The Yaletown Strings.
Concert at Beaver Point Hall. 8 p.m. Tickets through Brown Paper Tickets.

Sun.

July 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sunday Artist Series.
Live music every Sunday at Fernwood Road Cafe. 1 to 2 p.m.

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

Don McGlashan.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Mon.

Aug. 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

CHIR Radio Benefit Concert.
With Phoenix Lazare, the David Carl Trio, The Regulars and Rough & Tumble under the Legion tent. 12 to 6 p.m.

Oliver Swain. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Penelakut Tribe March for the Children.
Meet at Chemainus ferry terminal/Chemainus Salish Sea Market area at 8:30 a.m. to join Penelakut Tribe in march.

Salt Spring Museum.
See Wednesday listing.

Tues.

Aug. 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Wed.

Aug. 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo.
Alan Moberg at All Saints. 2:10 p.m., followed by tea and treats.

Synergy.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Wed.

Aug. 3

ACTIVITIES

Family Adventures in Nature Program.
At Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. Drop in from 1 to 4 p.m. for children aged 3 to 12 and their adult. Today's theme is Going Buggy! Make bug snacks, sing bug songs, hunt for bugs, observe pond life.

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 27-28 at 7 p.m. **Elvis** is the show from Friday, July 29 through Thursday, Aug. 4 at 7 p.m. (No matinee this week). See thefritz.ca for more movie information.

EXHIBITIONS

- Judy Chappus presents **Understory** — paintings and poems — at Salt Spring Gallery on Wednesdays through Saturdays, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., until Aug. 3.
- Abstract Energy, paintings by Elaine Potter, is the **Artrcraft 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.
- Artrcraft 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.
- Julianna Slomka has work hanging on the **Dragonfly Art Supplies** gallery wall during the month of July.

Crimes of the Heart

Pulitzer Prize-winning Beth Henley tragicomedy
presented by Bloom theatre
Thurs.-Sat., July 28 to 30, 7:30 p.m.
Lions Hall

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ISLAND LIFE

TRUTH & RECONCILIATION

Remembering the children of Kuper Island

Islanders invited to join Aug. 1 Penelakut Tribe's March for the Children

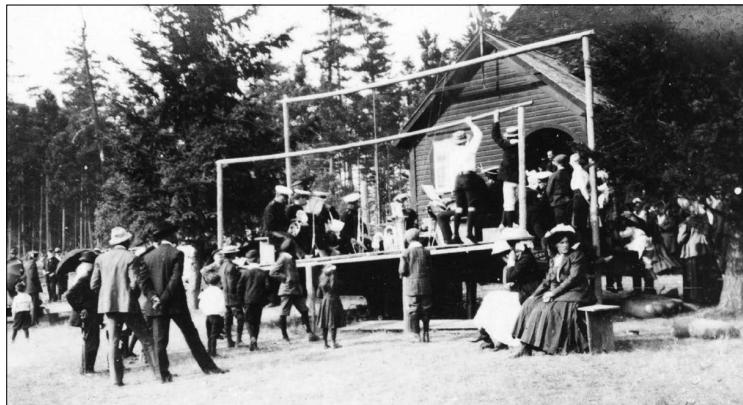
BY PHIL VERNON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In the early 1980s my family and I put our kayaks in at Southeay Point for the short crossing to Kuper Island, as it was called then.

Circumnavigating Kuper, we passed the village and ferry dock on the island's west side, coming face to face with the shuttered hulk of the Kuper Island Indian Residential School. Hunched on the hilltop overlooking the shore, the three-storey red-brick edifice — closed in 1975 and yet to be demolished by the Penelakut Tribe — seemed to exude menace even then.

At the time I thought I had a fair idea of the forced assimilation and abuse of Indian children under Roman Catholic administration, and while horrific I somehow imagined the trauma to be a regrettable but closed chapter of Canada's now-distant past. My understanding of its ongoing and insidious nature deepened in the ensuing years as I engaged with elders from the surrounding Indigenous communities, working to build community-to-community relations and to protect sacred burial sites at Syuhe'men (Walkers Hook) and Grace Islet.

Then this past year, it struck home: that nearly every single elder I know or have known had endured the horrors of residential school, and not just any school, but this one, on Kuper Island. "Incarcerated" is the term Penelakut elder Myrus James uses to describe



Kuper Island School Band performs at Mahon Hall in 1908 (photo by Norah Nixon), illustrating the long connection between the Kuper Island Indian Residential School and Salt Spring Island.

his own experience there. Men and women my own age, scarred forever across a bit of water, while I went to school on another planet.

Recently I've learned a few of Salt Spring's connections with "our" residential school, where — in the words of intergenerational survivor Rocky James — kids "were raised by clinically diagnosable sociopaths."

• Annie Lena Pappenberger was born on Salt Spring and died in 1910 at aged 16. Her name is on a list prepared by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of children who died at the Kuper Island School. Her parents carried their loss for a full 50 years before

they themselves died and were buried at St. Paul's cemetery in Fulford: Mary Ann Pielle, a Penelakut woman, who like many of her people became "country wives" of settlers to this island, and John Pappenberger, who preempted a farm at Beaver Point and was the first mail carrier there.

• The Kuper Island School Band, "a brass ensemble of uniformed native students from the Roman Catholic Residential School on Kuper Island", were regularly invited to perform at events on Salt Spring Island, from the 1902 opening of the Agricultural Hall (thereafter renamed Mahon Hall) and the 1917 unveiling of the "Shrine" in Ganges for the

local boys sent off to the Great War, a precursor to the Cenotaph. In 1967 the Kuper Island Band was hosted by the Salt Spring Lions Club to perform at the opening of Pioneer Village, an event to raise money to send the band to Expo 67 (for more about the band, and the school, see Duncan McCue's excellent and heart-opening CBC podcast "Kuper Island").

• More recently, the boy's soccer team from Kuper would play in tournaments against teams here on the island. And beat them, too, I'm told.

And then last summer, amid the awakening of non-Indigenous Canadians to the untold numbers of children who never came home from the schools, Myrus James and the Penelakut Sulkwe'en Elders Group called for a March For The Children. On the day, the Penelakut organizers were overwhelmed by the thousands of supporters who turned out to walk from the Chemainus ferry dock up to Waterwheel Park. A sea of orange shirts — Indigenous elders and leaders, non-Indigenous folks and families from up and down the "big island." Heartfelt speeches, prayers, songs and stories shared from the tiny stage in the park.

And now a year has passed. Will we remember those children, or have we moved on to other concerns? Will Salt Spring Islanders take up this year's invitation to gather again with our neighbours, to stand up with them, to support them in their healing and deepen our friendship and connection?

Please mark your calendars: Monday, Aug. 1, meet at the Chemainus ferry terminal / Chemainus Salish Sea Market at 8:30 a.m. (the 7:05 sailing from Vesuvius will get us there in time).

FUNDRAISING

Cycle of Life tour welcomed



PHOTO COURTESY ROBERT STEINBACH
Members of the Country Grocer Cycle of Life Tour team that traversed and stayed on Salt Spring on July 16-17 as part of a larger event are, from left, Beth Harris, Alan Hess, Jeff Zala, Brian Hartley, Dave Hubscher, Karen Hartley and Claire Spencer.

Hospice benefit raises more than \$300,000

SUBMITTED BY ROBERT STEINBACH

It takes more than grit to ride 200 km in two days. It calls for inspiration.

Seeing the difference hospice and palliative care made in the lives — and deaths — of loved ones motivated 80-plus riders to join the Cycle of Life Tour July 16-17 to raise funds for eight hospices across Vancouver Island and the Salt Spring Hospice Society.

Salt Spring Island welcomed the riders for an overnight camp-out at the Farmers' Institute on their tour of Southern Vancouver Island, the Cowichan Valley and Salt Spring. Chef Heidi Fink and Country Grocer provided a delicious Saturday night dinner for the riders, and local Legion volunteers prepared Sunday lunch. Over 50 volunteers also helped make the Cycle of Life Tour a great success.

Sponsored by Think Communications, the Cycle of Life Tour has raised more than \$1.25 million since 2011. This year, the riders raised more than \$305,000.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries



Leonard James (Jim) Helset

April 19, 1953 – July 23, 2022

Sadly, we have lost our big bear of a husband, stepdad, stepgrandpa, brother, uncle, papa and friend to a tough battle with sepsis. Middle child of Torbjorn (Ted) and Jenny Helset, he was known to many "Salters" as a darned-good architectural designer. He'll be missed by wife Carol, "kids" Jeff, Diane and Matthew Gow, sisters Clara Ritcey and Ellen (Kelly) Ferguson, brothers Roy and Harold (Judy) Helset, brother-in-law Bob (Angele) Black, sister-in-law Barbara (Don) Ausman, many nieces & nephews, and his special family, the McArens.

Jim was raised in the Clearwater, B.C. area – not too far from Helmcken Falls – where his Dad was a well-known big game guide. He had an interesting childhood – disappearing for days, on horseback, to hunt and to fish. His first 5 years of schooling were in a one-room school house, and for the remainder of the years, he was bussed to Clearwater.

Jim spent a year at Cariboo College, Kamloops, in an accelerated architectural drafting and design certificate program. There were no architectural jobs available upon his graduation, so he moved to Calgary where, for several years, he worked as a contract draftsman in the energy sector specializing in high-pressure piping systems. He then joined Gemini Engineering, initially as a contract draftsman but shortly became a full-time employee. He advanced to the role of Chief Draftsperson and was instrumental in building a talented and well-performing drafting department. Jim was able to use his technical expertise, practical viewpoints and infectious smile to get his points across. He also worked to advance their skills into the computer age and developed computer-aided drafting systems. A highlight for several years was his filling in for Santa Claus at the Children's Christmas parties.

Jim and Carol moved to Salt Spring in 1991, had a major house fire in 1993, rebuilt, and Jim worked out of there – as Helset Design – until his passing. As a testament to his abilities, he was never without work throughout those 31 years.

Jim was a great cook, and when time permitted, he dabbled in the arts – sculpting in soapstone, metals and woods. He and Carol spent 14 years manufacturing metal spiderwebs – as Webs n' Things – often selling at the Saturday Market and at Arctraft.

Jim was especially proud of his long-time Rotarian membership. He made some wonderful friends, there, and loved working on their various projects. He spent many an enjoyable hour helping to create our waterfront mermaid, Neirissa.

Jim's friends often commented on his wealth of knowledge and his ability to retain trivia. It was not uncommon for him to surprise his doctors with his knowledge of all things medical. He was kind and strong, and he loved to laugh.

Jim would want to thank his wonderful doctor and hero, Ron Reznick, and Ron's "boss" Jean for all of their over-and-above care through the years.

No flowers by request, please, but donations in Jim's memory would be welcomed at our SPCA at P.O. Box 522, Salt Spring Island, B.C., V8K 2W2.

— Wait for me on The Far Side Banks of Jordan, Jimmy. —

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com

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

The Leo New Moon on July 28 sowed a celestial seed of hope for the health and welfare of families and children. How this is interpreted and how it manifests is subject to beliefs and choices. The world is now riddled with fear and it appears that there are pretenders who feign concern for the well-being of humanity. As has long been the case the world over, these so-called benevolent agencies demand that others receive their help, or else. Ironically, many seem not to be able to see this age-old contradiction. At the root of this assertion are fear, attachment, dominance and control. These represent four corners of ego-centrism, which can also be understood as materialism. Together, these constitute the lower expression of Leo, which is ruled by the Sun itself in Astrology. Ego-centrism is not merely a matter of pride and vanity; it is a principle of over-identification with one's physical body and personality. As important as these are, a soul-centered perspective recognizes these are temporary vehicles of the embodied soul for the sake of experiential learning and evolution of the soul.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Something is blossoming within you and you can feel it. Like a spring of pure, cool water in a lovely meadow, feelings of gratitude are welling up in your heart. Your ability to see the beauty around you and in others is clearer than usual. Your mind is flooded and for no apparent reason, you feel joy.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Feelings of love are flowing through you. Inspiration and a greater sense of clarity and the courage to act upon your intuitions are visceral, palpable. Such moments can be fleeting and there is an urge to capture them as fully as you can. Empowered, you have a strong sense that anything is possible.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Like a precocious child, your mind is clearer than usual and you see people and situations more clearly. An urge to harness this opening includes activities like art or you might even want to clean the house to align with the vibration. Whatever you do, dive as deeply as you can into this precious moment.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) It is said that when the ego dissolves, the soul light radiates. This implies that this divine light is both within and ever-present. While we need an ego to participate in the world, recognizing that it is not you can be described as a bright ray of light illuminating your perceptions, a taste of enlightenment.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) Some say that the meaning of life is to learn to be an able and responsible co-creator. While the notion of being able implies talents and skills, often cultivated by dedication and practice over time, the notion of being responsible is to empathize with the realities of others as much as possible and to do no harm.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) The notion of enlightenment has been described as turning on the lights in the otherwise dark basement. The basement is the metaphor for the subconscious mind. Bringing the light of awareness to this level of consciousness is said to be a golden key to unlocking hidden strengths and it is in your hand now.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) It is said that likes attract and opposites complement. Regarding your friends, therefore, the natural tendency is to be attracted to people who are like you somehow. Taking this reflection of your projection one step further, it is also said that healthy self-love is the key to being your own best friend.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Making the most of your creative powers is in the spotlight. This includes harnessing your imagination. Like a wild, untamed and hungry beast, our imagination can become like a predator in the night until and unless we take command of it whereupon as if magically you can soar like an eagle.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) The vision of a true seer recognizes that the Sun is hardly just an object in the sky. Upon closer observation, it becomes clear that the Sun is in the centre despite the illusion that it is at the periphery. With a meditative approach in which intuition is deepened, the Sun is seen as a divine source of life. This is your cue.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) Mystics of old have said that to become enlightened, we must annihilate the ego. Yet, it is also true that to function in the material world, we need an ego. Perhaps the ancient seers were misinterpreted and what they meant was that as we focus to become soul-centered, our ego falls into rank, hearing and heeding inner command, which is centered in the heart portal.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) Namaste is a Sanskrit word that basically means: 'the spirit in me honors the spirit in you'. From Toltec tradition, the word: 'In lakesh' essentially implies that you are another me. These spiritual terms refer to a state of communion beyond the divisive tendencies of the intellect, a reflected projection of our true humanity.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Pisces is the most mysterious sign of the Zodiac because it is symbolic of the life between lives and the disembodied soul. The subconscious mind and imagination are central features of your sign and using the latter to bring light to the former for the sake of meaningful contribution via co-creation in the material world is your essential destiny.

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PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

WE'RE A TEAM!: Salt Spring Stingrays swimmers pose for their annual on-island swim meet photo on Sunday. The team hosted almost 300 swimmers from 10 different clubs and also marked a special milestone. Three special cakes from Country Grocer's bakers were enjoyed by swimmers, coaches and parents in celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Salt Spring Stingrays.

Little makes mark for Canada



PHOTO BY CHAD WILLIAMS

Salt Spring's Jordyn Little "flag-bombing" at the 2022 PDGA World Championship in Peoria, Illinois earlier this month, where she earned fourth place in her 12 and under female division and the long drive champion title as well. Little was the only Canadian female in any junior division at the event.

JORDYN LITTLE

continued from 1

Little has been playing her own game from the beginning. Williams is the greenskeeper at Salt Spring's golf course, the periphery of which hosts disc golfers. After school, Little hopped off the bus and played rounds with her father as they both learned the sport, soon joining the Salt Spring Disc Golf club and attending their weekly Sunday games.

"In the beginning, because we both weren't very good, we'd be partnered together," said Williams. "That changed fairly quickly."

"Soon enough, everyone was

playing with Jordyn as a partner," said Ben Corino, past-president of Salt Spring Disc Golf. "The idea that she was a kid sort of melted away for me when I saw that she was trying to win like the rest of us."

Corino describes Little as a "calm and capable" competitor, planning out interesting lines of play and executing them well. Her presence brought out the caring side of the club, he added, as she became what they called "our Junior," receiving mentorship and encouragement from club members.

At the 2022 PDGA World Championship, held in Peoria, Ill. from July 13-16, Little's long drive of 295 feet

earned her first place in her age group. The rest of her tournament play brought her to fourth overall, despite — or perhaps, thanks to — inclement weather the day before the semifinals.

"The B.C. girl in the rain, no umbrella," said Williams with a broad smile.

Facing a three-stroke deficit to make the semifinal cut, with a deluge dampening her competitors' spirits, an unshaken Little played between the raindrops, finishing the day nine and 12 strokes ahead of them.

And, after the sun came out later in the tournament, Little shocked friends and competitors alike with an "ace" (hole in one) on the Final 9, sailing her disc into the side of the basket where it lodged neatly — a "wedgie" that until this year's rule adjustment might not have been recognized as "in."

"I didn't even see it hit," said Little, who bolted down the course with her father after her throw. "The only information I had was from the other people around me."

And the run wasn't just out of excitement.

"If one of the other girls had thrown before she pulled it out, and it had been knocked loose, it wouldn't have counted," said Williams. "So she had to run remove it."

"We are so proud of her," said Corino.

Salt Spring Disc Golf's Facebook page has a video of the ace, complete with Little's delighted squeals. After a short break, her next event will be the British Columbia Provincial Championships in Kamloops this September — and she's eager to get back to competition.

"I had a lot of fun," laughed Little. "Isn't it obvious?"

HAPPY B.C. Day!

Driftwood Magazine

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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