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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
Aug. 17, 2022

62nd year
Issue 33
\$1.50

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PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

MORE THAN A DREAM: Remy Fielding looks at Susan Benson's A Midsummer Night's Dream piece in her multi-media Showcase Exhibition titled We are Such Stuff as Dreams are Made on, which uses Shakespeare's words and images created by Benson, some with direct commentary on political leaders of today. The exhibit continues at Mahon Hall through Monday, Aug. 22. Benson and Salt Spring Arts have also announced a new fund to help support visual artists. See story on page 8.

ISLANDS TRUST

Vortex gets Trust permit approval

Opposition to environmental impacts demonstrated at meeting

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Vortex project at the head of Fulford Harbour received development permit (DP) approval from the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) on Aug. 9, despite a number of public pleas for the Trust to halt the project due to environmental concerns.

In opening the elected officials' discussion about the controversial development, trustee Laura Patrick made it clear that refusing a permit was not in the cards from a legislative standpoint.

"Development permits are such that the conditions of a development permit will not prevent a property from being used as the local zoning bylaw allows, so those are the little boxes that we're in." She said that despite people's desire to "erase all this and go back

to some other time . . . we have to start with the rules that we have, which is the zoning that's in place."

The property consists of two titles totalling two hectares (five acres) in size. The former Fulford Inn site is zoned Commercial Accommodation (CA) 2 and the adjacent parcel is split zoned CA 2(b) and Rural. The lands were purchased in early 2018 by Merchant House Capital, whose CEO David Fullbrook lives in the south end of Salt Spring. The proposal is for 17 units of tourist accommodation, a restaurant, three accessory spaces and an outdoor plaza.

One of the main points of contention was eliminated the day before the meeting when Trust staff accepted a septic system location move to outside of the 30-metre setback area. That meant the LTC had only to consider a couple of lot line setbacks in issuing the devel-

opment variance permit.

As for the overall development permit, which covers issues ranging from building form and character to landscaping and septic and stormwater management, the plan was given LTC approval with conditions after a number of permit amendments. One of those specified the need for "a metering and monitoring plan that enables ongoing evaluation of the sewage disposal system performance and receiving environment condition." Another requires "confirmation from a qualified hydrogeologist that upon [sewage disposal] system operation, including any relief and interception drainage, pre- and post-development groundwater flows to Fulford and Soule Creeks will remain constant."

VORTEX continued on 2



Zen Master Wolfgang says:

"A diplomat is someone who thinks twice before saying nothing."

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Building permit, First Nations, water up next

VORTEX

continued from 1

In introducing the project at the Aug. 9 meeting, Trust planner Jason Youmans said the proposal was generally consistent with land use bylaws and development permit area guidelines, but that staff still wanted a comprehensive ground-water study to be done.

"Where staff continue to hang our hat is on this issue of whether or not sufficient study has been done of the potential polluting impacts of development on the site, particularly as it relates to the septic field and its impact on groundwater hydrology, and ultimately on the nearby streams as well," he said.

But Fullbrook pointed out that to get the kind of meaningful data envisioned by Trust staff through such a study could take up to three years.

"You're talking about a really significant scientific undertaking that because of the data sets that are required would take an extensive amount of time, far beyond what any development permit would ever typically require."

Permit amendments related to sewage disposal system monitoring were meant to address the concerns about potential pollution.

The amended permit also includes a clause recognizing "the proponent's commitment to maintaining an ongoing working relationship with the Tsawout First Nation in regard to further development-related approvals, design, construction and operation."

Fullbrook reported on First Nations engagement to date. While other nations were consulted, he explained that Fulford Harbour is acknowledged as being traditional Tsawout First Nation territory and a working relationship has been



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Citizens gather outside Community Gospel Chapel before the town hall portion of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee business meeting held Aug. 9, some holding fish-shaped signs to reflect concerns about environmental impacts of the Vortex commercial accommodation development on the site of the former Fulford Inn.

developed with the Tsawout.

"Through critical review we have determined that the proponent meets and exceeds the environmental standards for the project," states a July 27 letter to the Trust from Tsawout First Nation lands manager Casey Dick-Wyatt providing conditional approval. "The proponent has satisfied our initial request to have our cultural monitors present for archeological work within the project area, and we no longer have concerns of the project's impact to archeological sites and local water ways."

The Salt Spring Island Advisory Planning Commission also recommended DP approval.

Seventeen members of the public spoke against the project in the delegations and town hall portions of the meeting. Some suggested the proponent undertake a smaller development on the upper part of the property and restore the lower seaside lot as much as possible.

"I propose that the LTC engage

with the developer in pursuing a vision that is more in keeping with the official community plan and the tenets of the [Islands Trust's] declared climate emergency," said area resident John FitzGibbon.

**"Through critical review
we have determined
that the proponent
meets and exceeds the
environmental standards
for the project."**

CASEY DICK-WYATT
*Lands manager,
Tsawout First Nation*

Many described visions of restoration of Fulford and Soule creeks and the estuary. Retired professional

biologist Anne Parkinson said the estuary was currently "bone dead," which was "the result of decades of illegal dumping of fill, followed by building a very tight short bridge."

She explained how replacing the bridge with a longer one that would restore the natural flow of watercourses was key to rehabilitation.

"The estuary in the marine environment would thrive," she said.

Following the LTC's permit approval decision, Parkinson told the Driftwood, "It is difficult to comprehend why a motel on stilts in a flood zone with no community access or water is given a permit, with variances, to further compound historic damages to the Fulford estuary. How does the profit of a few take precedence over the life of salmon, eelgrass meadows and the health of the bay without proper study?"

The project still needs a building permit from the Capital Regional District (CRD), water supply approv-

al envisioned through expansion of the CRD Fulford Water Service Area and further work with First Nations.

According to permit terms, construction will need to begin within three years.

In speaking to the Driftwood later in the week, Fullbrook thanked Trust staff and trustees for their hard work on the file, even though he said it was "a very frustrating and painful exercise."

He also elaborated on visions for Tsawout involvement in the project, including possible plans for ecotourism activities.

"For the Tsawout it's really about establishing their presence and their legacy within the harbour, and how that is going to occur is really the conversation we are interested to have."

He also said he hopes that the general public conversation about the Vortex will now "change a little bit towards less acrimony and divisiveness and more about how can we work together and really create meaningful stewardship for Fulford Harbour."

He said he spoke to some of the project opponents at the LTC meeting and said, "We have an interest in the kinds of things that you're interested in. And there's an opportunity here to do something that is, I think, an example of thoughtful, balanced development."

The LTC also wants to see more collaboration. Another clause added to the DP "encourages the proponent to consider establishing a local advisory group to provide local knowledge on environmental issues related to the design, construction and operation of the project."

An audio recording of the Aug. 9 meeting will be available through the Salt Spring page of the Islands Trust website.

GOVERNANCE

Committee endorses LCC bylaws

Discussion of Oct. 15 referendum question gets rolling

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Volunteer members of the Local Community Commission (LCC) Advisory Committee have taken a position on the proposed LCC bylaws, asking people to vote in favour of approving them in an Oct. 15 referendum.

Capital Regional District (CRD) bylaws 4507 and 4508 establish an LCC for Salt Spring and lay out the authority delegated to a commission by the CRD.

"These bylaws provide an excellent foundation for a locally elected council for Salt Spring," the committee states in a press release. "A Salt Spring LCC will broaden elected CRD representation, confer authority over local services, allow more transparent decision-making and consolidate the siloed nature of CRD service delivery."

The committee says it recommended a broader list of services be overseen by

an LCC but is "confident that the creation of an LCC will significantly improve CRD service delivery and that its scope of authority can be increased over time as experience is gained."

The group acknowledged the change has costs attached, including the 2023 election for commission members, annual stipends and additional costs to be determined by the LCC.

"We believe that the efficiency and governance benefits offered by an LCC justify these costs."

The committee also notes that with dissolution of the transportation, parks and rec, economic sustainability and liquid waste commissions, the LCC needs to find a way to retain the expertise of citizens such as those who currently volunteer as commission members. A focused effort to create stronger volunteer/CRD partnerships is suggested.

"In summary, we are confident that an LCC will offer a significant improvement in CRD service delivery through increased elected representation, cost effectiveness and transparency in decision-making."

LCC Advisory Committee members are Gayle Baker, who currently chairs the

transportation commission and the LCC committee, parks and recreation commission chair Sonja Collombin, liquid waste commission chair Mary Richardson (and alternate Peter Meyer), and members at large Darryl Martin and Kees Ruurs. Brian Webster is an advisory and primary author of the LCC discussion paper.

Gerard Zentner represents the Community Economic Sustainability Commission (CESC) on the LCC Advisory Committee. The CESC is discussing its position regarding the LCC proposal at its Sept. 12 meeting.

Representatives of Salt Spring Fire Protection District and North Salt Spring Waterworks District participated in the committee's work but declined to take a public position.

Copies of the proposed bylaws, minutes of the LCC Advisory Committee meetings, the LCC discussion paper, an analysis of CRD response to committee recommendations, and more are available by emailing lccsaltspring@gmail.com.

All of the information will be available at lccsaltspring.com website soon.

The referendum will be held in conjunction with local government elections on Oct. 15.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

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	FEET
17	0312	1.5	4.9	21	0634	0.9	3.0
	0921	2.5	8.2		1538	3.1	10.2
WE	1408	1.9	6.2	SU	2045	2.8	9.2
ME	2045	3.2	10.5	DI	2225	2.9	9.5
18	0402	1.3	4.3		0725	0.9	3.0
	1115	2.5	8.2	22	1620	3.2	10.5
TH	1458	2.3	7.5	MO	2145	2.8	9.2
JE	2106	3.1	10.2	LU	2330	2.8	9.2
19	0451	1.1	3.6		0812	0.8	2.6
	1317	2.7	8.9	23	1655	3.2	10.5
FR	1609	2.6	8.5	TU	2212	2.8	9.2
VE	2127	3.0	9.8	MA			
20	0542	1.0	3.3	24	0040	2.8	9.2
	1443	2.9	9.5		0854	0.7	2.3
SA	1816	2.8	9.2	WE	1724	3.2	10.5
SA	2150	2.9	9.5	ME	2232	2.7	8.9

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PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

MAKING PROGRESS: Work to build the new emergency department for Lady Minto Hospital continues through good summer weather. The Capital Regional Hospital District recently announced a further \$738,000 contribution to the \$3 million it already approved for the \$12.8-million, 4,500-square-foot project. The provincial government, through Island Health, is also expected to announce a contribution soon. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation has to date provided all of the other funding.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

First candidates step out

Kylie Coates and Gary Holman for CRD; Ben Corno and Laura Patrick for Islands Trust

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A handful of individuals have already declared their intention to run for local political office this fall.

Incumbent Salt Spring electoral area director Gary Holman says he is running again to be Capital Regional District director. He is being challenged by Kylie Coates, who ran for a seat on the Islands Trust in 2018.

Local government elections take place across B.C. on Saturday, Oct. 15.

Holman, an economist, was Salt Spring's CRD director from 2002 to 2008, and from 2018 to the present. He was Saanich North and the Islands NDP MLA from 2013 to 2017 before being defeated by Adam Olsen of the Green party.

In declaring his candidacy, Holman said, "It's been an honour to serve this community over the years as CRD director and MLA. Salt Spring has made some good progress over this past term despite some unprecedented disruptive events, and I want to continue contributing to this progress for one final term."

He also said he hoped voters will support the local community commission concept in the upcoming Oct. 15 referendum.

"I look forward to working with locally elected colleagues to establish a constructive working relationship and strategic focus for a new era in CRD governance," he said.

Coates graduated from Gulf Islands Secondary School in 2000. He returned several years later to work for his father Chris Coates' electrician business and to help support his aging grandparents.

"I'm just a local boy who is fed up and I'm not seeing anyone come to the table with solutions," he said when asked why he wants to be CRD director.

Last Thursday Coates erected a sign in Ganges with a photo of Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick citing some alleged anti-business activities of the Trust. He said he had the \$600 sign made to raise awareness about things that are "going on behind closed doors."

"This is me getting mad. Me getting frustrated . . . When you are mad and frustrated you do silly things."

After his unsuccessful run for a trustee position in 2018, Coates joined the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce board. He is temporarily stepping away from the board while he is on the campaign trail.

Salt Spring Islands Trust

Incumbent trustee Laura Patrick is running for a second term as a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member.

Patrick topped the polls in the 2018 election during her first campaign. She was also elected by fellow Islands Trust Council members to be on the Executive Committee, which sees her chair meetings on some Trust islands and deliberate on matters from the other local Trust areas.

She has a background in environmental management and international consulting, and has always advocated a balanced approach to decision making.

"I think it's more important than ever that our decisions need to be balanced and acutely aware of social, environmental and economic elements, but also rooted in sustainability and justice," she said during the July 12 LTC meeting in providing her reasons for seeking a second term. "And we need solutions that solve more than one problem. We need to be able to deal with a number of the crises that we're facing."

Patrick's fellow trustee Peter Grove stated at that same meeting that he would not be seeking another term. Grove has been an LTC member since 2011.

The only other person to so far declare an intention to seek a Salt Spring Islands Trust seat is Ben Corno.

He has lived on Salt Spring for 12 years and is the co-owner/operator of Heavenly Roots Vegetable Farm.

Corno currently chairs the Community Market Society, which operates the Salt Spring Island Tuesday Market. He is also past president of the Salt Spring Island Disc Golf Club.

"My motivation in submitting myself for Islands Trust trusteeship is to better utilize my skill and comfort with challenging communications to add flexible and creative potential to our island's land use planning," he said in a written statement. "I believe I've been fortunate enough to develop an ego-free facilitation style that is resilient in the face of high-emotion situations, and tireless in its application. I have a mind for understanding complicated systems and leveraging my curiosity to imagine new possibilities for progress."

"We are stalled in the intersection of a housing crisis that is creating dysfunction for businesses and essential services, and inequity in our communities housing security. Our worsening climate crisis has galvanized a determined regional advocacy to elevate our ecology above just a consideration; our sensitive ecosystem needs active conservation and more voices at the table. We need to act quickly, and plan long-term to make Salt Spring the place we want to live. I'm determined to carry the invaluable nature of our environment and the potential vitality of our community with me as we work together to realize the needs and interests of our special community."

The official candidate nomination period runs from Aug. 30 to Sept. 9, when candidates must submit their nominations to local election officials.

Candidates must be:

- 18 years of age or older on general voting day;
- a Canadian citizen;
- have been a resident of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before filing nomination documents;

• not be disqualified under the Local Government Act or any other enactment from voting in an election in British Columbia or from being nominated for, being elected to or holding office, or be otherwise disqualified by law.

On election day on Salt Spring, voters will choose one CRD director and two Islands Trust trustees, and three school trustees. They will also be asked to approve establishing a local community commission form of government under the CRD.

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OPINION

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

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



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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EDITORIAL

Reason prevails

The scene at last week's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee meeting was a familiar one.

The room was filled with people hoping to convince trustees to take a specific course of action. In this case they wanted trustees to deny a development permit to the Vortex project in Fulford.

But as trustee Laura Patrick pointed out at the beginning of the discussion, the LTC is constrained by the fact that the property is zoned for tourist accommodation and a restaurant. Local land-use authorities such as the Islands Trust cannot stop a property owner from using their zoning, whether it allows a single-family home or a 17-unit resort. Or they can't stop it without inviting a lawsuit.

Unfortunately, most of the opponents did not remain in the hall to hear that explanation or anything else trustees, staff or property owner David Fullbrook, who lives a couple

of kilometres away from the Vortex site, had to say.

One thing they would have heard is that the septic system is state of the art (and no doubt of less impact to the receiving environment than old septic fields of properties along Fulford Creek) and that new development permit conditions add extra layers of groundwater protection.

THE ISSUE:
Vortex development permit

WE SAY:
LTC, staff did a good job

It's easy to say that any development is bad and shouldn't take place. But it is not a realistic position to take without amendments to private property law, and it always comes from a place of hypocrisy to some degree if expressed by a person who has already exercised the zoning potential of their own property.

Transformation of the former Fulford Inn property into a park and rehabilitation of the creek and estuary would be wonderful, of course. That would start with a purchase of the property and need commitment from the provincial government after that. Fullbrook said last week that no one had reached out to him about buying the property for preservation purposes.

The Islands Trust mandate and reason for its creation almost 50 years ago saddles it and its elected officials with an unrealistic public expectation that they have special powers to "stop" environmental degradation and development of private property. In fact, they have no more practical tools to do that than any other local government in this province.

What Islands Trust staff and trustees did last week in ensuring the septic system is as low-impact as possible and facilitating a better location for it was an example of using those tools in a responsible way.



SVT barks up wrong tree

BY C. THOMAS

VIEWPOINT

Over two decades ago, my family saved to purchase a few acres of land on beautiful Salt Spring Island. A few years after that, we hired a local builder to build a seasonal cottage, which we have used every summer, and on occasional week-ends throughout the year.

We purchased the property to be our sacred place to recharge, and never was it for "speculation." We practised the "preserve and protect" philosophy ourselves as much as we could. We have never rented out the cottage to generate any additional income, nor do we ever intend to.

Because we are not full-time residents on the island, we already pay the highest, non-discounted annual property tax rate. Because we are not full-time residents, we actually contribute to the general quiet and peacefulness of the island, since we are away more than we are here. That also means one less vehicle looking for a parking spot in Ganges, most of the time.

We are regular, older "working-class" folks who are not yet retired, and we certainly are not "executives."

Salt Spring Island currently is in a very concerning situation where there is an imbalance of affordable rental housing available for the number of jobs that are needed. Many decently paid workers (like in healthcare or ferries) are having difficulty finding an affordable place to live.

It must be challenging for business owners like Rhonan Heitzmann with his water company or Daniel Wood with his family's Salt Spring Cheese company, to retain workers for their own businesses to thrive. Both messieurs Heitzmann and Wood publicly support the Salt Spring Solutions

group trying to find a solution to the housing shortage.

In last week's Driftwood, it was mentioned that there are

around 1,000 non-permanently occupied homes on Salt Spring Island. Our seasonal cottage is one of them. The "Salt Spring Solutions" group has made a lot of noise in the media recently, pushing for the speculation and vacancy tax to be applied to property owners in the Gulf Islands like me, to help finance affordable accommodation for people who can possibly work for business owners like Mr. Heitzmann and Mr. Wood, for example.

Because I am not a "wealthy retiree" or a wealthy "executive," this punishing tax increase would inflict major financial hardship on my own family. It would cost us thousands of dollars in additional taxes each year, and indeed be untenable. So what are my options? Clear-cutting the timber on my property to raise the funds to pay for the tax is a desperate option. And if I were forced to sell, would the new owners contribute to a solution to the housing shortage? Certainly not. How could they? The property would likely be purchased by wealthy buyers from abroad, and not by local "working" people. This would further polarize "wealthy" vs. "not wealthy" on this island.

So let's be realistic here: There are still many "middle class" seasonal property owners on this island. "Cancelling" their presence here by taxing them out of existence is not going to free up housing availability and solve the housing shortage. Mr. Heitzmann and Mr. Wood, you and your "Salt Spring Solutions" group of thinkers have good intentions in trying to create affordable housing, but pushing for the speculation and vacancy tax is barking up the wrong tree.

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Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST

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Canada Publication Mail No. 0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782
Member of News Media Canada + National NewsMedia Council, and BC & Yukon Community NewsMedia Association

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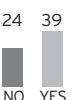
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you support the
LTC's Vortex
decision?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you getting
concerned about
summer drought &
wildfire?



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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Doctor payments

Doctors of BC has announced that “stabilization funding is on the way; a new payment model that combines fee-for service and contract models.”

As the result of discussions with the Ministry of Health, hopes are high for the new payment model to be launched this fall. The payment would include some additional funding for business costs such as rising rents and non-medical staffing. The exact details are still being ironed out and are confidential.

I have been told that another family doctor on Salt Spring Island is closing her practice. This is the third doctor this year. One new replacement arrives in September. Another doctor closed his practice without a replacement in 2021. The loss of family doctors, closure of some emergency rooms and walk-in clinics has become a provincial epidemic.

According to BC Health Care Matters:

1. Of the 6,800 licensed family doctors in B.C., only 3,200 are choosing to work. Why?

2. Newly trained doctors are choosing careers as specialists or hospital doctors where they do not have to worry about running a private under-funded business.

3. Family doctors earn more money for the same amount of work in other provinces.

4. Next door in Alberta, a family doctor is paid \$41 a visit vs. the \$31 a visit paid by B.C.

5. “In B.C., family doctors get paid for a 15-minute visit and nothing much beyond that. They can’t bill MSP for other tasks, such as writing a referral letter, charting, reviewing charts, reviewing lab results, talking with and examining the patient beyond 15 minutes, anything else the doctor does in relation to the patient’s care.”

The pressure of the health care services pandemic is being felt in the hallways of the provincial government. Let’s hope for good news being implemented very soon.

CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

No restraints?

The Salt Spring Local Trust Committee’s decision to conditionally approve a destination resort at Fulford Harbour — against all expert advice except that provided by the applicant — marks a tragic turning point for Salt Spring Island.

Trustees had a chance to restore one of the Gulf Islands’ most threatened ecosystems, but chose commercial development instead. Their claims to being environmentalists have now been exposed as political greenwash and their climate emergency declaration as nothing more than a big blast of hot air.

A pattern of reckless disregard for the environment has emerged through their support of this project, their undermining of the Trust Policy Statement, and their misguided plan to rezone most of the island for additional dwellings with few benefits in terms of affordable housing.

Where are the restraints one would expect in a protected area? The only way to prevent total destruction of the Islands Trust is to elect more responsible trustees on Oct. 15.

J. HIGHESTED,
SALT SPRING

Progress trap

In my book called *A Short History of Progress* I defined a “progress trap” as a seductive chain of successes that leads to disaster. Cutting down woodlands and building on

farmland are examples as old as civilization. The Greeks, the Romans, the Maya and many others made these mistakes, as we still do. Now we face the climate trap set off by fossil fuels.

Here on Salt Spring the controversial Bylaw 530 has all the hallmarks of a progress trap. It proposes dealing with a housing shortage and already-shrinking water supply by building many more houses and adding many more people than allowed under our official community plan and the Islands Trust mandate.

If this bylaw goes ahead without a thorough rethinking based on long-range studies, it is likely to set off a development boom that the island’s water and rural character cannot withstand.

Those who think more is better and growth is always the answer should ask themselves why bigger communities from Nanaimo to New York have the very same problems writ large.

RONALD WRIGHT,
SALT SPRING

MORE OPINION continued on 6 + 7

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“I think until we have that societal conversation around how medical practice is organized, we’re not going to get that holy grail of integrated accessible primary care.”

DR. DAVID BUTCHER, SALT SPRING

Residents call on Trust to stop Channel Ridge cell tower ‘madness’

The following is most of the text of a presentation made to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee at their Aug. 9 meeting by Julian Clark on behalf of the Concerned Residents of Canvasback.

I’m here today asking you to listen not just with your ears, but also your hearts.

This group of homeowners, a group you’ve met frequently over the past year, are not activists, not objectors railing against the establishment, and certainly not anti-cell, anti 5G, or anti-CREST folks. In fact, most of us have never protested anything, never held a picket sign. And I think it’s fair to say we are for the most part socially responsible, active members of our community.

We come from all walks of life — lawyers, accountants, social workers, professors, trades people, artists, ferry workers, technologists — the list goes on. We are very different people with very different backgrounds, but what we have in common is a love for this island. We are here for the idyllic setting, the calm and peaceful way of life, the sense of safety and security, the community, and the closeness we can feel here to nature and all of its bounty.

At least that was the case until Rogers decided it would be a good idea to build a 14-story tower less than a football field away from most of our homes, and less than half that distance from some of them. A 14-story tower that can be

increased to 17 stories after a year with no further approvals necessary. Just to put that in perspective, a Rogers contractor we met while blocking access to the site over the past couple of weeks told us that he had been working for Rogers and other telecom companies for over 25 years and had installed the foundations for over 150 cell towers but had never seen one installed so close to residences.

Rogers’ plans have shattered our sense of security and safety, caused us significant anxiety and worry, and have harmed our peace of mind.

How can this be? Salt Spring Island has clear objectives in its official community plan that should prevent this from happening. You, our local Trust committee, have committed to protecting environmentally sensitive areas, which this is. You have committed to accommodate the community’s need to be safe, secure and healthy — physically, mentally and spiritually — which this is definitely not doing. You have committed to the precautionary health principle, which your own advisory planning commission applied to antenna siting by recommending “to the maximum extent possible, the antennae should be sited as far away from facilities concerned with continuous human activity as is practically feasible.” And if you consider public opinion, Salt Spring residents against this tower siting number three times greater than those for it.

INDEPTH

So what gives? We submit that this is a clear case of poor corporate citizenry and corporate greed. There are acres and acres of open space on Onni lands where a tower could be sited safely. However, as Rogers acknowledged during their July 7 Zoom call with the public, this site is the least expensive option. Rogers appears to be putting their bottom line ahead of our safety, security and peace of mind.

Early on in the application process, Rogers understood LTC staff when they told Rogers to use the Islands Trust Draft Model Protocol for Antenna Siting as a guideline. And Rogers did mislead you and staff when they stated in their application request for concurrence that they fulfilled the requirements of that protocol. Staff clearly believed Rogers as they included that model protocol in the agenda package for the fateful July 27, 2021 meeting. And you clearly relied on Rogers’ claim they fulfilled the requirements under the protocol when you granted concurrence.

But here’s the thing, Rogers deceived you. Had they fulfilled the model protocol requirements, the tower could not have been proposed on the site Rogers wants. The model protocol discourages locations that are environmentally sensitive, which the proposed site

is, and discourages locations in and among medium density residential areas, which the proposed site is. More importantly, as this particular tower can and will likely be elevated an additional 25 per cent in height after one year without any further approvals, the model protocol states that the LTC “should consider a guideline of increasing the setback by up to 25 per cent.” The proposed site is currently setback 42 metres. If the LTC followed the protocol guidelines, the site would need to be pushed back eight more metres which would put it over the cliff and into the Water Preservation Society lands.

So, Rogers didn’t fulfill the requirements of the model protocol and as a responsible land use authority, the LTC rescinded the concurrence. So what did Rogers do? They leaned on their contacts at the federal regulator, stated the only requirement they needed to meet was the Industry, Science and Economic Development (ISED) default protocol, avoided a proper dispute resolution process as spelled out in the regulations, and would have us all believe this is an approved government site, which it is not. And then, they ignored your request to not conduct construction activity on the site until you’ve had an opportunity to respond to the regulator’s letter of May 17, 2022.

This is why we have taken up picket signs, why this group has spent hours and hours in the hot sun trying to keep Rogers from get-

ting far enough with the tower construction that they can’t say, oh sorry, it’s already done!

But the truth is, we can’t stop Rogers. Only you can do that. The federal regulator will not deal with individuals. They will only deal with telecoms and land use authorities. Yes, the federal regulators have the ultimate authority on siting an antenna, however, they have written the regulations to be explicitly clear that the proponent, Rogers in this case, must fulfill the requirements you, the land-use authority established.

Rogers did not fulfill those requirements. In fact, Rogers misled you that they had met those requirements. Hold tight to your rescindment. Demand that ISED follow the dispute resolution process and provide them with all the reasons why your rescindment was valid.

Only you can stop this madness. Listen to your heart and do what you know is right. Stop Rogers from placing a 14-story tower in our backyards. Would you let this happen in your backyard?

Editor’s note: At the Aug. 9 LTC meeting, it was reported by chair Peter Luckham that Islands Trust legal counsel had approved writing of an open letter regarding the issue of federal regulator ISED not accepting the LTC’s rescindment of its previous decision to provide concurrence with the Channel Ridge cell tower site.

Bylaw 530 has small but essential role to play

BY RHONAN HEITZMANN

SECOND OF TWO PARTS

Often overlooked in the discussion about accessory dwelling units (ADUs) is the fact that they are not only about providing rentals but also allow for multi-generational living, and retiring and downsizing in place on one's own beloved property. They are also mortgage helpers that assist a family on the verge of home ownership to be able to afford to get into the market.

Speaking of affordability, there seems to be concern that ADUs will not offer "truly" affordable rentals. Let's clarify this point. Affordability is a relative term that, according to CMHC, is defined by 30 per cent of gross household income towards shelter. On Salt Spring Island, every household earning under \$200,000 per year is in the same boat of not being able to qualify for a mortgage on an average starter home. This means there are

plenty of working families who can afford to pay higher rents, but there is next to nothing available, which puts pressure downwards on the whole spectrum of housing needs. Encouraging private owners to rent out a space is not meant to equal government subsidized housing for the lower income part of the spectrum. This is market housing, and in order for market housing to be more affordable there needs to be sufficient supply to meet the demand. If we have enough adequate housing there will be less profiteering of outlandish rents for substandard housing.

The proposed bylaw clearly states that these ADUs cannot be used for short-term rental, so the fear that this will somehow further add to the proliferation of illegal STVRs is unfounded. Regulating legal B&B businesses with a licence system would greatly ease the efforts of enforcement against illegal vacation rentals and will allow us as a community

to decide how many beds we want to have rented out for tourists on a given peak day, an important control for those concerned about the impacts of vacationers on water use and infrastructure, while still sustaining a reasonable amount of tourism for the economy.

Permitting ADUs is just one first step of many recommendations to be proposed by the Housing Action Program Task Force, which together are designed to find a balance of housing a diverse and healthy population with minimal impact per capita on the environment. This is not achieved by arbitrary figures of how many people someday may live here, but by transforming how we all live so that collectively we live with a smaller ecological footprint.

We also need multifamily purpose built rentals close to village centres. But the challenge is that we don't have any local government agency taking responsibility for building

such complexes. We depend upon non-profits who have been putting in valiant efforts to recently bring the Salt Spring Commons and Croftonbrook projects to fruition. But these efforts have taken a long time and are very costly. At the rate of less than 10 units per year of effort, it would take over 60 years to fulfill the housing need of 600 Units identified in the CRD 2020 Housing needs assessment (based on 2016 Census data, thus already sorely out of date).

Please recognize the small but essential contribution that Bylaw 530 might have to contribute desperately needed housing options to our community. Please email the Islands Trust at ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca and express your support.

Editor's note: The whole of the writer's piece is posted on our gulfislandsdriftwood.com website.

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Hyperbole muddies second-home discussions

BY JEFF AND JANICE WADE

We are writing in response to Francine Carlin's Viewpoint last week regarding adopting a "speculation tax" on Salt Spring Island.

We are Americans, living mostly on this lovely island. We have been here every year since 2003 (except when blocked by Covid restrictions). After retiring we decided to build a second home here, and five years ago we did.

There is something special here, a feeling in the air, that we have experienced no place else. It is our home. We are barred from citizenship because of our age, but it is still our home.

There are arguments to be made in support of a speculative tax, I suppose. But those arguments should be based on truth.

Unfortunately, Ms. Carlin's correspondence did not make those arguments.

Instead, she claims, "speculators are purchasing home after home and renting them at exorbitant prices..." without citing any evidence to support that claim. We talk frequently to real estate agents and none of them reported this an issue.

Or the claim that those homes are "a haven for summer party houses with little regard for water or fire conservation." Again, no source. We called the RCMP to ask them if they have received any complaints about housing and was politely told that information is not available to the public. So again we wonder where is Ms. Carlin getting her facts?

INRESPONSE

She blames the crowds during the summer on over subscription during the summer. Really? Is that why ferry traffic swells on the weekends and the Saturday market is the only evidence of "over-population"?

Hyperbole like, "Speculators from across North America and offshore know there is little Salt Spring Island regulation and no consequences for their purchase for profit" serves no purpose other than to inflame the issue. As do reckless claims that Lady Minto "may not survive."

Let me explain some reality for those of us who are here less than full-time — much like the

snowbirds from Salt Spring who go south for the winter. Carlin asserts these "speculators" should say, "I'm willing to pay a tax for the pleasure of having a second home." Yet we pay the same property taxes as full-time residents — actually more because our lack of citizenship disqualifies us from claiming exemptions to which we would qualify if we were lucky enough to be Canadians.

And, not reported in the Viewpoint, people buying property from outside the country are required to pay a 20 per cent surtax on any property purchased on the island. That is a lot of money. We do not get to vote for the board of our local water district, nor did we get to support the fire department by voting to build a

new firehouse. But we are not complaining. Instead, we are celebrating our luck to be able to live here.

Her claim people with second homes on the island is representative of the attitude imbedded in her missive, her disdain is clear in another statement, "Of course those who bring their servants and food with them... don't notice [the inconvenience she asserts exists]." Who does that? Do you personally know anyone who travels with servants?

Support for a position should be based on facts. Ms. Carlin's arguments remind me of the Trumpers down south who let their disdain and anger stain their thinking. That is not what Salt Spring is about.

Pursue creative solutions to housing supply problems

BY BEN CORNO

There is a housing access emergency on Salt Spring Island; that is not up for debate. Renters cling to precarious homes just to live where they work, or raise their families.

Our dwindling home supply is driving an employment shortage that has led to dysfunction for businesses and essential services. More businesses will be forced to close and skilled people will relocate. We must address this inequity now by adding supply where possible, and planning our villages, long-term, around increased density, livability and connection with our surroundings.

Land use planning sets the stage for how our island grows into the future. The Islands Trust has a facilitating role to play in realizing secure housing for its constituents. Bylaw 530 is responding to the numerous recommendations made by 20 years of reports on housing, and by our existing Housing Task Force

to tease out more legal housing options.

Encouraging owners with existing buildings to renovate or legally lease their accessory buildings and suites is a quick action that aims to connect more locals seeking secure housing with willing landlords. This opportunity is not meant to be a cure for our housing access emergency, but it will lead to increased supply. Rather than leading to an increase in our population, it will lend more options for secure housing to the hundreds of precariously housed locals. Providing a path to renting legally will allow landlords to list their properties publicly or renovate spaces to be suitable for year-round habitation.

Bylaw 530 does not allow just anyone to build or permit an accessory dwelling unit. In its current form, it will allow anyone to apply for the permits to legalize an existing unit, or renovate or build a new one. Applications

INDEPTH

will be scored and approved based on the suitability of the property that is applying. The impact of one hundred per cent buildout is a fair number to consider, but it is an impossibility that continues to divert attention from the importance of immediate solutions that utilize existing buildings and zonings.

Salt Spring is bonded together by our good will for each other. However, community members should not be obligated to bail each other out when our local governments are positioned to respond to the needs of their constituents. Land use bylaws are a tool the Islands Trust can use to address our shared challenges, just as they are used as a tool for conservation.

An active conservation commitment must guide all approval processes and should be a welcome responsibility of the Islands Trust

and applicants. We inhabit unique and connected places that are healthier when that connectivity is nurtured. The addition of more accessory dwelling units has been rightfully met with concern about the impact of more buildings on our local ecosystem. Our community can insist that our ecosystem is given prima consideration when development is called for; we do not have to choose which to focus on alone.

We must not tolerate the conditions that are leading to continuing stagnation and malfunction in our community. We can choose to do better than this. Our towns must become more vital and habitable. Our community should join the growing list of modern communities responding quickly with creative and ecologically forward solutions to their housing supply problems. Perhaps we can find ourselves being celebrated for our solutions rather than highlighted for our problems.

Local solutions better

What's with the off-island so-called solutions?

Oh. Cheaper? Maybe short term. But are we rejecting our treasure? There are many skilled carpenters and builders on island. There are many many artists (some "starving artists," often living in vehicles, boondocking, renting illegal suites, buses and tents).

So why are the new murals being painted through thousands of dollars paid in grants to off-island artists?

Why was a homeless housing solution built by a mega-company/contractor from Fort St. John? They are almost prison-or-dorm-like, rather than "home;" temporary, homogenous square-box cells used for remote work. Generic Band-aids.

Salt Spring is bursting with amazing and creative people. People like Nejmah Guermoud, an expert in community resiliency, at the maker space. People like Rhonan Heitzmann, who's got great solutions to local housing and water issues. People like Ron Pither (the honey guy at the market), who has decades of experi-

ence with co-ops and collective farming and alternative economies.

Allison Brodie and Del Seagrave and other excellent professional local artists could have our boring surfaces painted with wonderlands. Why not some on-island art and housing, which has some organic, homey (curvy) "warmth"... sustainable and created by more than just "the cheapest bidder."

Now how are you going to force people out of the Seabreeze Inne into chicken coop cells? Instead, wouldn't it be better to design something with flavour? Think circles — Jesus sat in a circle with his disciples — circles, natural materials... of tiny homes with a communal kitchen and gathering place, gardens, etc.

Let's put resources into long-term healthy community support. Let's love one another, do unto others as we would want done unto us.

RYAN JOHNSON,
SALT SPRING






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EXHIBITIONS

Indigenous artist showcase opens

Exhibit and related events begin Aug. 26

SUBMITTED BY ARTCRAFT

Artcraft will close its 2022 Showcase season with a special project that brings an exhibition of regional Indigenous artists to the Mahon Hall stage for the very first time.

JISINSET-SWELOKE (Family Growing Ourselves Up), a multidisciplinary show opening on Aug. 26, represents the opportunity to reconnect members of the WSÁNEĆ Nation with the islands that are part of their unceded homelands, and to introduce more recent islanders to the traditional culture that was forcibly displaced by colonialism.

Curated by Salt Spring Arts' special advisor and Indigenous outreach coordinator Rose Spahan, the exhibit features four Elliott family artists who work, live, and create on the sacred and traditional territory of their ancestors in WSÁNEĆ, in Brentwood Bay. Senior artists Myrna Crossley and TEMOSENĀT, Charles Elliott, are joined by their family members, emerging artists TEMOSEN Chazz Elliott and Mathew Parly-Elliott.

Elder and knowledge keeper Dr. John Elliott shares the story of how the Creator gave the laws to the WSÁNEĆ people: "The Creator told the people that we should look after the land as we would our relatives. The trees, the ocean, the land, the Gulf Islands are our relatives and it is our sacred law to protect them as we would our family. The WSÁNEĆ people made that promise to the Creator."

These core principles guide the artworks featured in JISINSET-SWELOKE. The Elliotts are deeply rooted in their community, with a lineage of preserving WSÁNEĆ art, language and culture. They work closely together, but their works are not normally exhibited in galleries. They are usually busy creating sacred objects (including blankets, poles, grave markers) for private commis-



Charles Elliott and Myrna Crossley, two of four family members whose work forms JISINSET-SWELOKE (Family Growing Ourselves Up), a multidisciplinary exhibit at Mahon Hall opening next Friday.

sions, ceremonies and community events, for commercial uses or for installation at major institutions.

The JISINSET-SWELOKE exhibit juxtaposes contemporary explorations with traditional pieces, telling a multi-generational story and demonstrating female/male WSÁNEĆ power. It brings together the established and emerging artists of the Elliott family to beautifully demonstrate how traditions and techniques progress, transform and are reinterpreted by consecutive generations. The show also demonstrates to the viewer how the common symbols of Salish art — trigons, concentric circles and split-u forms — repeat in different media, remaining essentially the same but expressing personality and subtle changes through each artist's vision.



PHOTOS BY DAVID BORROWMAN COURTESY SALT SPRING ARTS

Collectively, the family's artistic practices include weaving, drawing, serigraphs, carving and other two- and three-dimensional works that reflect Salish iconography, both in traditional and contemporary styles. This exhibit shares visual stories, rich intergenerational ties and highlights a family that supports one another in a tradition of love, art and life.

The show runs from Aug. 26 to Sept. 18 during regular Artcraft hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Special events associated with the show include a public reception at Mahon Hall on Aug. 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. An artist talk on Aug. 27 at 2 p.m. and a cultural talk by Dr. John Elliott on Aug. 31 at 4:30 p.m. will both take place at the ArtSpring gallery (rather than Mahon Hall).

CRAFT

Guild holds pottery sale

In Centennial Park this Sunday

SUBMITTED BY SS POTTERS GUILD

Salt Spring Potters Guild will hold its fourth annual one-day show, Pottery in the Park, on Sunday, Aug. 21.

At least eight members of the guild will be in attendance and are excited to have their ceramic works on display and for sale at Centennial Park from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

In addition to having a wide variety of pots and sculptural pieces for sale, guild members will hold their Empty Bowls fundraiser. Two years ago, more than 100 bowls were donated and sold out in three hours at the Country Grocer parking lot. This year, like in 2021, the Pottery in the Park event will include a table for donated pottery bowls, with all proceeds again going to the Salt Spring Island Food Bank.

The Salt Spring Potters Guild is over 50 years old and one of the oldest in B.C. Its members create pieces using a wide range of techniques and materials, including wheel-thrown functional stoneware and porcelain, and carved hand-built sculptural art. Some of Salt Spring's well-known potters from the Saturday Market in the Park, Salt Spring Studio Tour locations and local galleries will have tables at the sale. New members have joined recently that will add to the variety of work.

ARTS GRANTS

Benson establishes new fund for artists

Awards recognize obstacles for female and emerging artists

SUBMITTED BY SS ARTS

A new fund for visual artists has been established by Susan Benson and Salt Spring Arts.

Artists in need living on Salt Spring Island can apply for grants, with preference given to female artists who are committed to building their creative careers.

Benson first announced her intention to establish the fund during her acceptance speech at the 2021 Salt Spring National



SUSAN BENSON

Art Prize awards ceremony, when her Parallel Art Show piece The Meaning of Symbols: The Meaning of Memories was awarded both First Place People's Choice Award and the Juror's Choice Award, Honourable Mention. As part of the speech, she recalled that during her training at art college during the late 1950s, women were told they would not become artists.

Benson is well known for her portraiture and painting,

with numerous exhibitions on Salt Spring and across Canada. She has a portrait in the permanent collection of the National Portrait Gallery of Canada, and was a semi-finalist in the prestigious BP Portrait Award in London, England. Benson was elected to the Royal Canadian Academy of the Arts in 1986.

A total of \$5,000 in grants will be available between 2022 and 2024 and awarded with the regular Salt Spring Arts grants and awards cycle (Oct. 31 and April 30).

Full details and the application form will be available online as of Sept. 1 at www.saltspringarts.ca.

SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

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RECITAL

Delaronde and Tinkham team up for tea date

Next week at All Saints

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Tea à Tempo, the popular afternoon recital series in All Saints by-the-Sea, is delighted to be presenting a fun folk concert on Wednesday, Aug. 24, featuring Saskia Delaronde and Nathan Tinkham.

Delaronde is a favourite on the Canadian

folk scene. As a European immigrant she has come to love Canada deeply, but periodically returns to Holland to reconnect with her roots, which shows in songs like War Bride, Spring Day in Holland and Two Countries. Her talent as a seasoned singer/songwriter blends with a sense of humour that quickly puts her audience at ease. She performs with positive energy and strong conviction.

Delaronde toured and performed for 20 years with Darrel Delaronde as The Great Plains and 10 years with Gary Fjellgaard throughout Canada and Europe.

Tinkham is a veteran of the Canadian folk, cowboy and country scenes. He began his career in the early '70s busking on the streets of Victoria. Since then he has worked and recorded with Ian Tyson, Wilf Carter, Cindy Church, Quartette, Diamond Joe

White, Undertakin' Daddies, Great Western Orchestra, Saskia Delaronde and a host of others. His songs have been recorded by Quartette, Cindy Church, Gary Fjellgaard and Melanie Safka, to name a few. He currently lives on Gabriola Island where he continues to write and work in his studio.

Music by donation begins at 2:10 p.m. in All Saints on Park Drive, followed by tea and treats.

CONCERT SERIES

Salt Spring's own Daryl Chonka headlines Aug. 25 outdoor concert

Park music continues

SUBMITTED BY SS ARTS

Next Thursday evening sees the second to last presentation in Salt Spring Arts' Summer Outdoor Concert Series, when Daryl Chonka is

the headliner from the gazebo in Centennial Park.

A singer-songwriter, producer and multi-instrumentalist from Salt Spring, Chonka has spent the past 25 years touring, performing, producing and writing with some of the world's finest musical acts.

Having worked with a very diverse and dynamic host of superb artists, Chonka is known as a master of warm tones and beautiful rhythms, his heartfelt sensibilities always shining through.

The opening set features 19 Strings, a three-piece eclectic new-

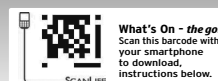
grass-styled band from Salt Spring. Born from many-a-long-night playing music around the kitchen table, the band features brothers William and Charles Acken along with Kai Barrette, the brother from another mother. Their unique brand of entertainment explores traditional

sounds on a melodic mix of multiple strings.

Music runs in the park from 6 to 8 p.m. Entertainment is free but with donations appreciated.

Performers this Thursday, Aug. 18 are Balkan Shmalkan (headliner) and The Orchid Room (opener).

what's on this week



Wed.

Aug. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo. Roly Poly String Trio perform in by-donation recital at All Saints. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.

Billie Woods. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Salt Spring Museum. Open in Bittancourt House on the Farmers' Institute grounds on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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 All About Birds. Bird games, scavenger hunt and more.

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

Thur.

Aug. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Summer Outdoor Concert Series. Balkan Shmalkan is the headliner with opening act The Orchid Room. Centennial Park. 6 to 8 p.m.

Petunia. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

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

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

Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Public Hearings. Hearing for proposed Bylaw 526 at Harbour House Hotel Crofton Room at 11 a.m. Hearing for proposed Bylaw 530 at 4 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Fri.

Aug. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gulf Islands Community Radio Society Fundraiser. With DJs Dano Hammer, Boomtown and Andrew Interchill. Beaver Point Hall. 7 p.m.

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

SugarBeat. On stage at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Fraser & Fawna. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is Salt Spring Local Trust Committee trustee Laura Patrick. United Church Meadow. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Sat.

Aug. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Ashton Bachman Band. On stage at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 p.m.

The Boom Booms. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

Before Night Falls. 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.

CRD Ganges Active Transportation Plan Discussion. Saturday Market. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sun.

Aug. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Jazz Jam. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

Bobo Czarnowski. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sun.

Aug. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Mon.

Aug. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Susan Cogan. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Tues.

Aug. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Raffi & Lindsay Munroe. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Wed.

Aug. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo. Saskia Delaronde and Nathan Tinkham perform at All Saints. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.

Yael Wand. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Museum. See last Wednesday's listing.

Swing Dance. See last Wednesday's listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Thor: Love and Thunder** runs from Wed., Aug. 17-18 at 7 p.m. The show from Friday, Aug. 19 through Thursday, Aug. 25 at 7 p.m. is **Lightyear**. (No Sunday matinee.) For more movie info, see thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Potters Guild** holds its 4th annual Pottery in the Park sale in Centennial Park. Sunday, Aug. 21, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

• Susan Benson's exhibit, **We are Such Stuff as Dreams are Made On**, continues on the Showcase Exhibition stage at **Mahon Hall** daily until Aug. 22.

• **Impressions 7**, the annual show of new works by SSI Printmakers, is in the library program room until Aug. 26.

• **Johanna Hoskins** shows **Playing With Paper & Other Things** in the ArtSpring lobby through August. Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and before theatre events.

• **Artcraft show and sale** of work by more than 100 Gulf Islands artisans runs daily at **Mahon Hall** from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the summer.

• **Cherie Geauvreau** exhibits artwork at the **Laundr-o-mat** and **SSI Soap Exchange** through August daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Friday.

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

• **Cheryl Long** has a selection of landscapes in oil hanging at **Dragonfly Art Supplies'** gallery for the month of August.

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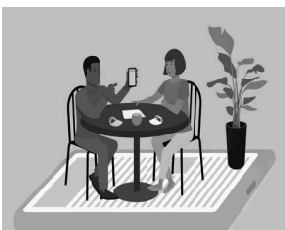
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ISLANDERS

Physician reflects on 'pretirement'

Long-serving family physician talks about past, present and future passions

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's a bittersweet feeling to hand over his family practice to a new incoming doctor, says long-serving Salt Spring Island physician David Butcher.

While it could be called a retirement, Butcher is quick to point out this change is rather a "pretirement" as he will still be working in Lady Minto Hospital, as well as quality consulting and providing a leadership role with Island Health. Amidst a growing family physician shortage across B.C., Edmonton-based physician Dr. Dianne Schuldhuis is taking over Dr. Butcher's patient list as of Sept. 6.

Butcher came to Salt Spring and started practising as a family doctor in 2012. He hails from Northern Alberta, Yorkshire to be exact, where he and another long-serving and now retired Salt Spring doc David Beaver were both born. He later made his way west, growing up in Surrey and Cloverdale.

A fateful visit to the hospital courtesy of his family's doctor at age six started his career path.

"I announced that I was going to be a doctor, and nobody ever let me forget it," he remembered.

Butcher went into UBC's medical program initially wanting to be an orthopaedic surgeon, yet not wanting to get stuck doing one thing in medicine he instead opted for family medicine and graduated in 1985. With some added anaesthesia training after med school as well as additional emergency medicine and orthopaedic training in New Zealand, Butcher returned at a time when B.C. was restricting billing numbers to get physicians from the city into rural areas. As a result, Butcher began doing locum placements in Hope and dabbled with the idea of putting down roots there, however, there were no billing numbers available in that town at the time.

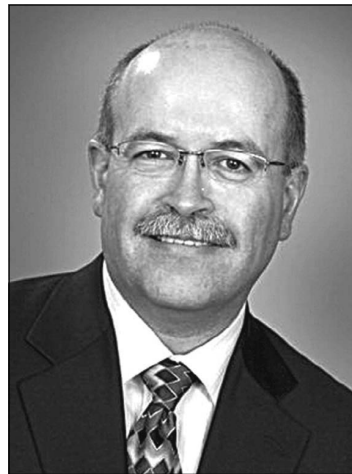
Instead he crossed the country to take a position with Queens' northern medicine program in Moose Factory, Ontario.

"[I] went north to work in a rural First Nations setting with fly-in clinics up and down the west coast of James Bay and absolutely loved it," he said.

Butcher enjoyed the variety of work he encountered on a near-daily basis as well as having to work through many things without a specialist right beside him.

"I really enjoyed the people, I loved being in a small rural community where people were quite self-sufficient... it was an excellent introduction to First Nations," he added.

Wanting to keep himself



COURTESY DAVID BUTCHER

Dr. David Butcher, who will continue to work at Lady Minto Hospital and in an Island Health leadership role, but not in family practice.

skilled in the anaesthesia medicine he had learned and not having a lot of activity at the surgical program, Butcher then went north to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories for a summer locum posting. "Within a couple of weeks of arriving there, absolutely loved it and decided to stay," he said.

**"It's a very bittersweet decision
in that I will very much miss the
relationships that I've developed
with patients that I've been caring
for for the last 10 years."**

DR. DAVID BUTCHER
Salt Spring physician

Butcher was in the city from 1991 to 2003 and eventually became involved with medical politics during a time of crisis in primary care in the territory. He then moved to an executive position at the outset of the creation of Northern Health, in Prince George, and lived there with his young family. He now has two daughters and two grandchildren.

In 2012, Butcher said serendipity led him to Salt Spring. Having left Northern Health and going back into family practice after years away from it, Butcher had to complete some refresher training and three to six months in a mentored role. Both Dr. John Morse and Dr. Shane Barclay were friends of Butcher's from their time in Yellowknife and told him Salt Spring was a good place as any to get back into family medicine.

Butcher ended up being mentored by Dr. Beaver and setting up practice with him.

"So, like many of my career choices, I stepped into it and it just absolutely felt right," he said.

He spent eight and a half years at Beaver's clinic until he closed his family practice, at which point he moved to the Salt Spring

Health Centre.

"Although the geography is different, it felt familiar," Butcher said of his move from the north to the island. "There's a very artistic community, there's a lot of very interesting and unique people on Salt Spring, just as there were in Yellowknife."

Despite being 2,300 kilometres south of Yellowknife, Butcher said the northern city is "much like an island in that while you can drive off it, it is a very long drive to anywhere."

As he eases into "pretirement," Butcher will be filling his free time with reconnecting with his musical roots, both in choral music with Bach on the Rock as well as playing the double bass with the Salt Strings, formerly Orchestra 101, chamber ensemble. He has also begun playing with the World Doctors Orchestra, a Berlin-based ensemble of musicians who are also physicians and other healthcare professionals, who play classical concerts around the world.

"So that's become my latest passion project," he said.

"It's a very bittersweet decision in that I will very much miss the relationships that I've developed with patients that I've been caring for for the last 10 years. It's been a real privilege to have their trust and to be able to care for them" through very challenging and also good times. Butcher added he feels extremely lucky with the timing of Dr. Schuldhuis' arrival and her ability to take over from him at this time, but also feels for the people who are not able to find a family physician on the island.

"Family medicine is at a tipping point," he said, adding that he has seen it go through a number of access crises, including the mid-1990s Ontario doctors strike and the 2000 "rally in the rink" in Prince George when 7,000 people came out to protest the state of healthcare in northern B.C. While these crises led to some major changes in terms of funding of medical care, they didn't spur a "fundamental shift in how medical practice is organized and funded."

The difference this time around, as B.C. faces an acute shortage of family physicians, is that the pushback is being led by patients.

"I think that's a very powerful thing, because patients are standing up and saying, 'This is what we need.' Rather than physicians saying, 'This is what we need to deliver the care the way we see it.'"

"What is becoming more and more apparent, as more and more patients are asking for it, is to have a team of people working all collectively to meet the needs of patients. And there have not been the fundamental shifts in how practice is organized to facilitate that team-based care," Butcher said.

And the team needs to be integrated with nurse practitioners, pharmacists, even dentists, social workers and mental health workers, he said.

"I think until we have that societal conversation around how medical practice is organized, we're not going to get sort of that holy grail of integrated accessible primary care."

"The core of family practice is that it's relationship based and it has continuity," Butcher said. "And that's what really makes a difference both from a patient perspective in terms of improving health and health outcomes, and from a physician point of view in sort of creating satisfaction in the role."

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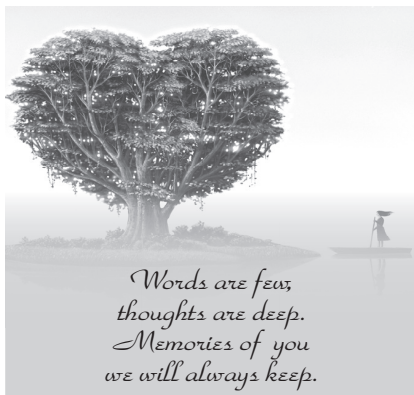
Obituaries

Obituaries

MICHAEL EDWARD BERGMAN

1936 ~ 2022

It is with great sadness that the family of Michael Bergman announce his passing on July 30 2022. Michael is survived by his son and daughter along with their families. He was 85 years old. Michael was born in England in 1936 to Arthur and Nelly, he was the youngest of 3 children; he moved to Canada in 1957 initially settling in Whitby Ontario where he married and had 2 children. After 1969 Michael lived in the area of Coquitlam BC for the duration of his life. Michael was an accomplished draftsman and millwright well known for leading crews replacing large machinery during industry shutdowns. Michael gravitated to the ocean enjoying sailing, living on Galiano Island and travelling to the Bahamas. The family will not be having a service.



STERLING MCEACHERN

1935-2022

Sterling was born in Lindsay, Ontario, and graduated from Queen's University as a mechanical engineer. He met Maureen at Queen's; they married in 1960 and have four girls and three grandchildren.

Through him, we discovered the love of music, sports, reading and outdoor adventures, especially overnight canoe trips.

On Salt Spring, Sterling enjoyed square dancing, Trail and Nature walks, Tai Chi and golfing with the Fiddle Fingers.

He showed us the beauty of silence. How to not take life too seriously. And what a truly good father, grandfather and husband looks like. Strong. Honest. Love through actions.

Sterling lives on always in our hearts.

*In lieu of flowers, please send donations to a charity of your choice.

*No service by request.



Coming Events

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Canadian Navigable Waters Act

AK Green Inc. hereby gives notice that an application has been made to the Minister of Transport, pursuant to the *Canadian Navigable Waters Act* for approval of the work described herein and its site and plans.

Pursuant to paragraph 7(2) of the said Act, **AK Green, Inc.**, has deposited with the Minister of Transport, on the on-line Navigable Waters Registry (<http://cps.canada.ca/>) and under the NPP File Number #2021-503742, a description of the following work, its site and plans:

Kelp Cultivation in the waters between Prevost Island and Hawkins' Islet.

Comments regarding the effect of this work on marine navigation can be sent through the Common Project Search site mentioned above under the Comment section (search by the above referenced number) or, by sending your comments directly to the Navigation Protection Program Pacific, Suite 820 - 800 Burrard Street, Vancouver, B.C., V6Z 2J8 if you do not have access to the internet

However, comments will be considered only if they are in writing (electronic means preferable: NPPAC-PPNPAC@tc.gc.ca) and are received not later than 30 days after the publication of the last notice. Although all comments conforming to the above will be considered, no individual response will be sent.

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

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

The Sun leaves Leo and enters Virgo on August 22nd or the 23rd in the east to begin the third and final period of summer. It does so with Mars just having entered Gemini where it will remain until March 2023 due to its retrograde cycle. A planet turning retrograde is a perceptual phenomenon, not actual, but the perceptual experience of it has both psychological and eventual implications. What can be described as a counter-culture process occurs with any retrograde planet, but Mars retrograde can prove extra powerful because it is the planet of action, the veritable verb in the sentence. So, we should generally expect it to have an unraveling effect regarding people's perceptions and interpretations which are symbolically associated with Gemini Where it is destined to occur in your own chart and what aspects it will make and, thereby, how it will manifest is valuable information that can both support you to be consciously aware and strategically prepared.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

A transition from play to work mode has been underway for a couple of weeks already and now will deepen somewhat. Yet, Venus in Leo will keep you playing the game. Your social focus will also increase as Mercury enters Libra this week. So forget about the cliché that says don't mix business with pleasure.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

A creative cycle has been heating up and comes to a boil this week. It will include diving in deeper somehow. Casting a critical eye on matters could lead to excellence, unless you point it too hard at people. Focus on making improvements guided by accomplishment with beautiful results.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Your energy levels stand to increase steadily over the coming weeks. This will inspire you to be more social, on one hand, and practically industrious, on the other. Exploring new horizons has been a strong theme all year and it will advance to the next level and include more social interaction.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Paying closer attention to the details will become evident this week. Seeing the beauty in people and things is featured. Beyond aesthetics alone, your focus could turn to deeper layers, such as seeing the heart, soul and essence of people you love. Feeling gratitude is implied and could have a heart-opening effect.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

The time has come to get down to business. This will increase an already strong urge for creative self-expression. Mercury entering Libra will sharpen your mind and increase your overall state of awareness. Mars in Gemini could manifest as a rebellious urge so focus to direct it constructively.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

The Sun in your sign will activate a pioneering impulse. Sometimes it takes a while to really take root, but the germination begins this week. Yet, rather than getting chatty about it, a contemplative mood will prevail leading you to listen more and talk less. Allow silence to lead you to listen within.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Hopefully you have been able to get some of your 'ya-ya's' fulfilled. The shift into Virgo time could have a retreat-oriented effect. Yet, Mercury in your sign could have the opposite effect leading you to want to express yourself. Mars in Gemini will also increase your urge to be adventurous.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

A shift into increased independence is likely this week. In the deep end, it could manifest as a soul-searching process. You will likely be presented with conflicting options and discerning which the best approach is will require calculated thinking. Acquiring new tools and methods is indicated.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Your mood and focus will shift to more practical matters this week, but not entirely. You will also feel more social and cultural activities will continue to hold strong appeal. Yet, voicing your opinion could acquire a sharper edge as you question assumptions whether they are your own or others.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Virgo time is one during which you are inclined to pay closer attention to the details of the bigger picture. An intellectually stimulating if challenging time could result in seeing people and situations more clearly. Expect your opinion and understanding of matters to undergo change.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

An impulse to dive into the deep end could manifest literally or symbolically starting this week. Your perceptions will also take a more philosophical turn as you ask harder questions. The focus could include seeing and understanding people and circumstances more fully.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Your focus will take a strong turn to emphasize the importance and quality of your relationships. These could be personal but also social and professional. Your willingness to give more, to be more focused on tasks is important. Some measure of research is indicated and could prove profitable.

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ENVIRONMENT

Galiano shares ecological footprint analysis

Community's environmental impact measured in formal study

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The results are in: If everyone in the world lived like residents of Galiano Island, 4.3 Earths would be needed to sustain the global human population.

That conclusion comes from a two-year study done by the Galiano Conservancy Association together with partners, one of the first small island communities in the world to undergo an ecological footprint study.

The footprint started at UBC in the 1990s as a tool to calculate "the amount of productive land and water required to produce the resources they consume and to absorb the wastes they generate," the conservancy stated. Results are measured in global hectares, a "biologically productive hectare with globally average productivity for that year." What this analysis demonstrates is that climate change is a symptom of overshoot, with human demands "outstripping the regenerative capacity of the biosphere."

Footprint calculations have been done for Victoria and Vancouver — which would need 3.5 Earths — and in smaller communities like Saanich and Powell River. The only other small island community that has done a footprint calculation is Helgoland, Germany, making this study the first of its kind for a small Canadian island, population 1,396.

The global average ecological footprint is 1.7 Earths, far lower than Galiano's, yet Galiano's footprint is lower than Canada's average of 5.1 Earths. In some areas such as food, consumables and waste, Galiano is below the average for B.C. jurisdictions. In other areas, including developed area, electricity use and air travel, the island is above average.

The report's intent, co-authors Michelle Thompson and Adam Huggins wrote, is not to "pressure or guilt individual island residents" but rather to "help inform conversations about community-scale responses to the climate, biodiversity and social crises that characterize this moment in time."

While action at the provincial, federal and international level are outside the scope of the report and comprise around 40 per cent of the footprint, the other 60 per cent or 2.6 Earths can be influenced by local community action. The study outlines 10 recommendations for local action to reduce the footprint, which would require community consultation and setting goals together to start working on.

Galiano has a long history of banding together for a cause, Thompson said, and many issues are already being tackled by local grassroots initiatives. One of the recommended actions is to support efforts like the Galiano Club's community food programming and the Galiano Recycling Resources Society, which are "foundational"

for meeting the one planet goal. According to a one planet scenario adapted to Galiano by the BCIT Centre for Ecocities, an 80 per cent reduction in food waste and a 50 per cent reduction in solid waste are required.

The study also looked at the biocapacity of the island, meaning the biological productivity of the terrestrial and marine ecosystems on the island.

"We were able to see that we are very biocapacity rich," Thompson noted, adding that perhaps Galiano needs to be a "biocapacity steward" so that cities like Vancouver can exist into the future.

To this end, the study suggested a new target of 50 per cent of the island's biocapacity through "efforts to protect intact ecosystems, restore degraded areas, enhance productivity and apply ecosystem-based management" while ensuring Indigenous peoples and others can make "sustainable use of island resources."

The conservancy noted that part-time residents as well as tourists double the ecological footprint of the island.

The largest contributor to the footprint was transportation, the area where the community can also make the most impact. The BCIT one planet scenario called for a 50 per cent decrease in the island's vehicle fleet and 100 per cent electrification of all transport, including vehicles, boats and ferries. Actions suggested in the report included advocating to BC Ferries to electrify their fleet, "creating active transport infrastructure, supporting the adoption of electric vehicles, improving public transportation options, and experimenting with island-adapted transport solutions [for example] electric truck co-op, delivery services, vehicle sharing, revival of canoe culture."

One of the more shocking findings for Thompson was how much space the island's built area took up. The community "claims a very large spatial area relative to its population for roads, structures, clearings and other infrastructure," the report noted. This "rural sprawl" has negative impacts on "ecosystem connectivity, island biodiversity and access to harvest areas." The report, and Thompson, acknowledged that there is no easy fix in this area and efforts at densification face hurdles such as groundwater availability.

The conservancy noted that part-time residents as well as tourists double the ecological footprint of the island.

"Interviewees associated this increased population with increased traffic and development, increased water use, decreased availability of housing, and decreased access to harvesting areas are associated with increased population; at the same time, interviewees recognized some economic and cultural benefits provided by the seasonal population," the report stated.

The interviews were conducted as part of an "ecological fingerprint," to evaluate attitudes, self-image and intrinsic values of the community with respect to resource use.

Through interviews with older community members, Thompson noted the felt loss of the fishing and forestry trades. One recommended action is reviving the local economy for both forest and marine resources.

Other recommended actions included investing in a Southern Gulf Island-wide circular economy and widening the use of technologies and practices such as composting toilets and rainwater harvesting.

The report stated that all action should be guided by concepts of reconciliation, resurgence and landback and that "the Indigenous lifeways that were practised in the Salish Sea prior to colonization provide the ultimate, locally adapted example of 'One Planet Living.'"

Having done the legwork adapting the footprint methodology to the island, finding data and filling data gaps through community surveys, Thompson said other islands who want to do such an analysis will be able to pull from their work. A spreadsheet will be posted on the project

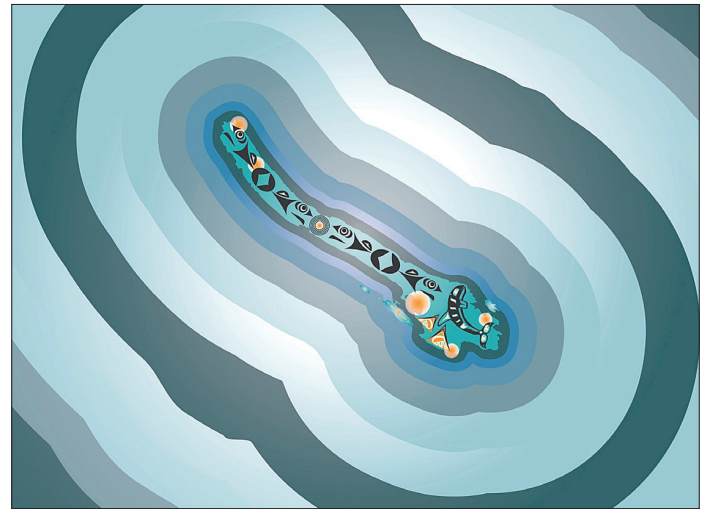


IMAGE COURTESY GALIANO CONSERVANCY ASSOCIATION

An artistic rendering of Galiano Island by Gitksan artist Shar Wilson greets visitors of an interactive online map explaining the key findings of a footprint analysis of the island.

webpage that people can download and apply data to in order to get a rough estimate of biocapacity and consumption for their island. Thompson said other islands should also reach out to the conservancy if they are interested.

The conservancy's goal is to present their findings to the community and allow community members to let them know what their priorities are.

"We're trying to throw it back to the community to say, 'Do we want to focus on transportation? Do we want to rally for more bike lanes or electrification of ferries, or do we want to focus more on local food systems?'" Thompson said.

A follow-up survey is open for residents to share their thoughts, and a podcast about the project is in the works. Visit galianoconservancy.ca/oneisland/ for more detail.

"A lot of people have climate anxiety and they feel like a lot of it is not in our own hands...but through this project we were trying to bring it to the community's hands," Thompson said. "If you're getting discouraged in your individual actions...let's join together as a community and try to do something together."

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