

inside:



12 New north end trail welcomes public use

Arts and Entertainment.....	8
Classifieds	15
Editorial	4
Island Life	12
Letters.....	5
Sports and Recreation.....	11
What's On	10

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ISLANDS TRUST

Islanders speak up on bylaws

Trustees hear strong voices on both sides of proposed housing changes

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Supporters and opponents of housing-related bylaws were out in full force on Thursday at two Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) public hearings held at the Harbour House Hotel.

Proposed Bylaw 530 changes definitions to allow secondary suites and cottages — redefined as accessory dwelling units (ADUs) — in most zones on the island. It does not authorize residences in garages or recreational vehicles on a property, as some people have stated.

Proposed Bylaw 526 would allow properties zoned Agriculture 1 and 2 to have a secondary suite within a single-family dwelling as well as an accessory dwelling.

Among those speaking against Bylaw 530 was Ron Wright, who said it was actually “unlawful.” He cited an eight-page legal opinion from Tollefson Law of Victoria provided to a Keep Salt Spring Sustainable group Wright and others have formed to back up that claim.

Wright also observed that the word “affordability” doesn’t appear in the bylaw.

“This bylaw’s main thrust is to deregulate and let market forces rip,” Wright said. “The likeliest outcome will be skyrocketing land values for thousands of landowners and a massive increase in tourism and uncontrollable STVRs. Our island’s charm and natural beauty will be ruthlessly exploited until the very things that make this island so special are wrecked beyond repair.”

Michael Wall said his research found that legalizing ADUs raised property values, which made it more difficult for low-income people to buy homes.

“Giving a property owner permission to build an extra building on that land is going to raise the property value of that land. And that’s probably going to make it so that higher income people are going to buy those properties when they sell them. They’re probably not going to use those added buildings to rent out. They’re probably going to use it for family guests and Airbnb.”

HOUSING continued on 2

WHAT’S THE BUZZ?: Anais Pinardon from France visits the busy bees in the Salt Spring Farmers’ Institute’s observation hive, including queen #58, at beekeeper/farmer Ron Pither’s booth at the Saturday market, after donning the much-passed-around and photographed “pollinator hat.” Pither said Pinardon is from a bee-friendly part of France and loved the “Pollination for the Nation of Salt Spring Island” materials in his display, which can be found at both the Saturday and Tuesday markets in Centennial Park, along with his honey. “The display helps underline the need for adequate insect diversity and population stability, absolutely needed to save humanity,” he said.

PHOTO BY REMY FIELDING

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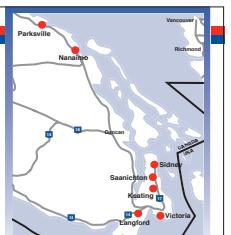




PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

OPEN DOORS: A temporary residential complex at 154 Kings Lane set up for Seabreeze Inne residents was the spot for an "open house" for neighbours on Aug. 18. BC Housing had reached out to neighbourhood residents with an invitation to check out the units, meet the project team and share concerns. Justin Yee and Amanda Parnham from BC Housing said an earlier meeting with residents at nearby Greenwoods had gone well, and a good number of neighbours had popped in over the afternoon to ask questions and tour the facility. "What we are committing to moving forward is keeping our neighbours updated," said Parnham. "So as news comes down to us, for example when we know tenants would be moving in, we want to keep the neighbourhood apprised." The units are ready for use, according to Yee, with some Seabreeze Inne residents having already visited. Residents will be displaced by a renovation of the motel for hospital worker housing by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, which purchased the site earlier this year.

MEDIA

Driftwood adds new reporter to team

Robb Magley returns to journalism career



ROBB MAGLEY

The Gulf Islands Driftwood is pleased to welcome reporter Robb Magley to its editorial department.

Magley spent several years covering beats for small-market newspapers in rural Colorado, where he developed a passion for storytelling and the outdoors. After a rewarding career shift to "stay-at-home-dad" and part-time author, Magley has returned to newspapering.

He grew up visiting the Gulf Islands every summer, and has lived

with his family on Salt Spring since the early days of the pandemic.

Magley said he is delighted to be living and working on the island and looks forward to continued exploring.

Magley replaces Emelie Peacock, who since October of 2021 had been handling reporter duties mainly from Vancouver since finding secure housing on the island was not possible.

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Youth and musical voices at hearing

HOUSING

continued from 1

Sharon Bywater said she felt a guarantee that created units would be rented to local workers would be required to make the bylaw effective.

"We want affordable housing. I think that's something everybody in this room can agree on, but how do we get there? In this bylaw, I feel very strongly that there be a requirement that any ADU is rented affordably to a local worker. Without that requirement, I honestly do not see it happening."

Elizabeth White said she did not support Bylaw 530 in its current form, without the speculation and vacancy tax applied to the island and adequate resources dedicated to bylaw enforcement to discourage STVR use.

"It will encourage everything that affordable housing advocates and climate and ecological activists alike have been working hard to avoid, namely more property speculation, more short-term vacation rentals and increased land clearing and estate development for absentee or part-time landowners," said White. "Economic realities dictate these outcomes."

Several people also spoke in favour of Bylaw 530.

Mairi Welman told trustees that only 54 per cent of Salt Spring's population is of working age — 18 to 64 — which she said "is well below that required for a healthy functional community that is resilient in the face of the many challenges facing us and those to come." Further, the number of people in that category of Salt Spring's population had only grown by 160 between the 2016 and 2021 censuses while the 65-plus category had increased by more than 800 individuals.

"Current policies that favour new single family home development over long-term rental housing is driving a skewed population growth that is heavily service dependent and has a large environmental footprint," she added. "We're out of balance, and the wobble is only going to increase exponentially if we don't make some changes. Please vote yes to Bylaw 530 and allow the incoming newly elected Trust committee to begin to restore the balance in our community. We

need all ages and all incomes living here to truly call Salt Spring sustainable."

Jessica Harkema also added her voice to those who support Bylaw 530.

"This is the first meaningful [housing] bylaw I've ever seen proposed, and I mean meaningful in that it could move us forward," she said.

One way that could happen is if different members of a family could share two dwellings on a property, she explained. That would help her as a younger working person to remain on the island.

"We want affordable housing. I think that's something everybody in this room can agree on, but how do we get there?"

SHARON BYWATER
Maliview Drive resident

"My biggest worry is that this actually isn't enough. We have to continue pushing Salt Spring to be a more livable community."

Rhonan Heitzmann, who chairs the Salt Spring LTC's Housing Action Program Task Force, stressed that affordable housing is defined as consuming up to 30 per cent of household income, which for many working families can be quite high.

"There's a lot of people who can afford to pay market rents," he said. "This bylaw isn't supposed to imitate subsidized housing."

Heitzmann also pointed out that the official community plan did not only contain statements about protecting the environment.

"We can't just cherry pick a few sentences and focus only on that to support your points. You need to consider everything it says. The OCP is full of quotes to support a diverse and healthy community. It supports new dwellings for affordable housing."

The Bylaw 530 hearing began in an unusual way, with Bill Hender-

son playing ukulele and singing a song that had lines like "Don't try to change these islands; let these islands change you."

"That has got to be a first for me," said LTC chair Peter Luckham. "We could start a new thing here on Salt Spring."

The hearing also heard from seven-year-old Meadow, who said she and her mom needed a home. Her mother then explained they have to be out of their current residence in a couple of weeks and have been unable to find new accommodation. She has skills in caregiving, business, construction and restaurant work, she added, "and if we find that we're going to have to leave the island, it would be a loss because I will finally be able to go to work, and we were hoping to make this our longtime home."

The LTC had also received 208 written submissions about Bylaw 530 before the cut-off on Aug. 17.

Several speakers had suggestions for improving the bylaw, including facilitating tiny home use, covenanting affordability in some way, and allowing a tourist accommodation unit as well as one for long-term rental on the same property to make the proposition more financially viable.

Earlier in the day the hearing on Bylaw 526 saw more than 20 provide their opinion, with only a couple of people not in support, citing concerns about environmental degradation.

Adam Gold of Golden Tree Farm was one of the people who talked about the various challenges of farming, including the need for housing.

"I think if we can offer good housing to our people, then we can maintain our staff. We can then maintain food, we can maintain a solid business and then offer food security to the community. If we don't have that we can't do it, and so it's really important. Also, I have children that I'm bringing up on my farm, and I would love to be able to have housing for them in the future. I really don't see how we can move forward without this. And I really thank you for thinking about it right now."

Both bylaws will be considered by LTC members at their Sept. 6 meeting.

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
24	0040	2.8	9.2	28	0417	2.8	9.2
	0854	0.7	2.3		1115	0.9	3.0
WE	1724	3.2	10.5	SU	1838	3.1	10.2
ME	2232	2.7	8.9	DI			
25	0140	2.9	9.5	29	0007	2.1	6.9
	0933	0.7	2.3		0512	2.8	9.2
TH	1747	3.2	10.5	MO	1147	1.1	3.6
JE	2252	2.6	8.5	LU	1853	3.1	10.2
26	0234	2.9	9.5	30	0042	1.9	6.2
	1009	0.7	2.3		0613	2.7	8.9
FR	1806	3.1	10.2	TU	1218	1.4	4.6
VE	2313	2.5	8.2	MA	1909	3.1	10.2
27	0326	2.9	9.5	31	0122	1.6	5.2
	1043	0.8	2.6		0722	2.6	8.5
SA	1823	3.1	10.2	WE	1252	1.7	5.6
SA	2337	2.4	7.9	ME	1926	3.1	10.2

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LABOUR STRIFE

Province rations government store liquor sales

Businesses prepare for shortages as distribution slows

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The province is rationing alcohol sales at government-run liquor stores — and as an industry group representing private outlets warns of stock shortages, discussions between government and union officials remain at an impasse.

Effectively immediately upon the measure's announcement Friday, Aug. 12, quantity limits at BC Liquor stores restrict all customers to three items per transaction — with the only exception being domestic and imported beer. Alcoholic beverage products sold in multiples, such as 4- or 6-packs, count as a single item.

The move is in response to a job action that shuttered BCL distribution centres this week. Members of the BC General Employees Union (BCGEU), one of the largest in the province, are picketing warehouses in an effort to persuade the provincial government to consider wage increases that are protected against rising inflation. Its contract with the Public Service Agency (PSA) officially expired April 1, and talks have been taking place since, but with desired outcomes several percentage

points apart, the two sides were unable to reach agreement.

On Monday, Aug. 22, BCGEU's bargaining committee announced it had declared a ban on non-emergency overtime for its members working in the BC public service, excluding BC Wildfire Services, and calling on the province to renew discussions. BCGEU president and committee chair Stephanie Smith said PSA has relied on overtime instead of addressing what she called "systemic issues" in the public sector — specifically, understaffing, excessive workload, and high turnover.

"We hope this escalation gives government the incentive they need to invite us back to the bargaining table," said Smith, "and negotiate a deal that will ensure robust, sustainable public services for our province and a fair deal for BCGEU members and all public sector workers."

Notably, purchase limits include "hospitality customers and retail customers," according to a fact sheet from BC Liquor (BCL), adding strain to Salt Spring restaurants and bars preparing to feel the pinch of supply shock. Salt Spring Inn owner Jeremy Millsom said in-house operations there haven't been affected yet — but if the parties don't come together, it's coming.

"We're lucky in that we're not as reliant on [revenue from] liquor sales as a pub or nightclub might be," said Millsom. "We're going

to be impaired, and it'll be a hardship, but it is what it is."

"We are conscious of growing supply constraints," read the statement from BCL, "and want to do what we can to ensure equal access to product for all customers during the BCGEU job action."

While BCL characterized the restrictions as "modest quantity limits," the Alliance of Beverage Licensees of BC (ABLE BC) issued its own statement Friday morning, warning its members of shortages, but stopping short of recommending privately owned liquor stores also enact limits.



ELECTION BY ACCLAMATION SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that the nominated candidates

John Wakefield
and
Robin Williams

Stand elected to the District Board by acclamation. Both will serve for three-year terms to begin at the next Annual General Meeting of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District, which will be held at 6:30 pm at the 105 Lower Ganges Road, on Monday, September 12, 2022.

Dated at Ganges
August 16, 2022

Anthony A. Kennedy
Returning Officer

BC FERRIES

BC Ferries reports record profit, traffic

Priority boarding for residents idea floated

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As BC Ferries reported its highest three-month vehicle traffic count in history, riders from small island communities and the Sunshine Coast "zoomed in" to an annual meeting to express frustration.

With a packed house at the Hotel Grand Pacific in Victoria and more than 100 stakeholders attending remotely, the combined annual meetings of the B.C. Ferry Authority and British Columbia Ferry Services Inc. gave officials an opportunity to report the first fiscal quarter's financial results, and they were profitable, to the tune of \$7.9 million.

Both passenger and vehicle traffic counts were up for the quarter, by 74 and 42 per cent respectively. And a record number of vehicles — nearly 2.5 million across all routes — sailed during that period.

But even as BC Ferry Authority chair Lecia Stewart thanked ferry users for their "patronage and patience," it was clear they were aware it was not altogether smooth sailing.

"The good news is that usage is continuing to recover," said Stewart, "but new challenges have emerged."

"We did our best," said BC Ferry Services Inc. chair Joy MacPhail, "and we know we can do more — and we will do more."

Interim president and CEO Jill

Sharland told attendees the staffing problems that have led to cancelled sailings may not be solved simply by additional hiring. According to Sharland, current staffing levels are not far off from pre-pandemic heights.

"We've hired more than 800 new employees," said Sharland, adding it was likely the most they had ever hired, crediting the success of an international recruitment campaign. "But what we're seeing as a result of fatigue in the organization is a higher rate of absenteeism. If that one last person doesn't make it in, [the ferry] doesn't sail."

That sentiment was borne out during the live comment period of the meeting. Among stakeholders, Hornby and Denman residents had the most to say, lamenting the state of route coverage, wait times and facilities. Sharland agreed there were issues, noting that those islands had been identified as "hot spots" and would be receiving priority attention to hopefully improve things by next summer.

Of interest to all islanders, and in response to a question from Sechart-based regular passenger Doug Naugler, Sharland made commitments to further examine a system of preferred travel for small island residents, as well as ways to make fares more accessible and affordable, particularly for those who need to travel for medical needs and family events.

"Our long-term plan is to make the prepaid reservation fare the same as a drive-up," said Sharland. "We just need some time to get there, within the next few years."

It's Back to School Time!

Tuesday, September 6th



School District 64 (Gulf Islands) is excited to be welcoming students back for the 2022/2023 school year.

Opening Day Only: Tuesday, September 6th will be early dismissal (regular school start time, dismissing at lunch). Full day classes begin Wednesday, September 7th.

Schools will be open for student registration and inquiries from August 29th to September 1st, 2022. (*Gulf Islands Secondary School open August 22nd*)

School	Principal	Office Hours	Phone #
Fernwood Elementary School (K-7)	Michael Berendt	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-537-9332
Fulford Community School (K-7)	Marie Mullen	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-653-9223
Galiano Community School (K-7)	Brenda Lepine	8:30 am to 12:30 pm	250-539-2261
Gulf Islands Secondary School (8-12) and Phoenix Place Alternate Program	Ryan Massey	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-537-9944
Mayne Elem. Jr. Sec. School (K-7)	Kaz Lundgren	8:30 am to 12:30 pm	250-539-2371
Pender Islands School (K-12)	Adrian Pendergast	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-629-3711
Phoenix Elementary School (K-7)	Dan Sparanese	8:30 am to 12:00 pm	250-537-1156
Salt Spring Elementary School (K-7)	Shelly Johnson	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-537-9928
Saturna Elementary/SEEC (K-5 / 10-12)	Adrian Pendergast	apendergast@sd64.org	250-539-2472
64GO (online learning: K-12, adult education, graduation program)	Lyall Ruehlen	lruehlen@sd64.org	250-537-1254

Kindergarten: A child must be five years of age by December 31st, 2022 to enter Kindergarten this year. Please provide your child's Birth Certificate and BC Care Card at the time of registration. Parents will be contacted by the school with arrangements for your child's entry date into the Kindergarten program.

StrongStart BC Programs (ELF): StrongStart Early Learning programs will be welcoming families again this year. Please check in with the school in your community for more information.

Student Transportation: School bus and student water taxi route information is available on the SD64 website at sd64.bc.ca/transportation. Facilities and Transportation administration will be available August 22nd to September 2nd for student transportation registration and inquiries (250-537-5723 or transportation@sd64.org).

OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Respect rocks

It's easy to find fault with just about anything these days.

Not many institutions or businesses are functioning with all cylinders firing due to labour shortages and other challenges. But something that worked remarkably well on Salt Spring Island last week was public hearings into two Salt Spring Local Trust Committee bylaws related to increasing the island's rental housing stock.

We agree wholeheartedly with long-time resident and Driftwood letter writer Nina Raginsky, who describes last Thursday's hearing on proposed Bylaw 530 as an "amazingly positive and respectful happening!" Raginsky, who has attended many a local meeting in recent decades, said she never thought she would see such a thing in her lifetime.

It's true that some past Trust public hearings or meetings have been rude and raucous affairs. Not so this time, for either the accessory dwelling unit bylaw (#530) hearing or the one aiming to increase farmworker housing (#526).

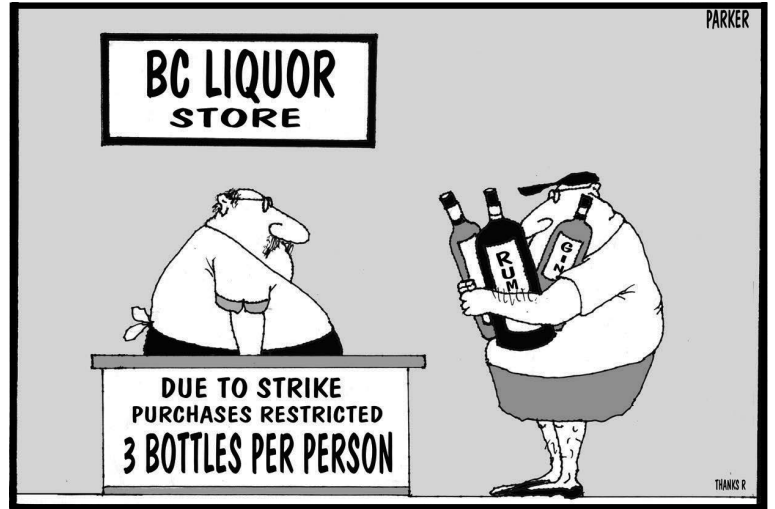
It could be that coming together in one room and seeing the faces of the decision makers and everyone who took the time to show up and speak on matters of importance helped shape the positive tenor. It's known that the distance allowed between parties on online platforms facilitates inflammatory and hurtful discourse. But it also seemed that the citizens speaking last Thursday were for the most part well prepared and had chosen their words carefully and expressed them respectfully. (Or maybe having the first submission to the committee be in the form of a song from Bill Henderson just set the whole Bylaw 530 event off on the right foot.)

LTC chair Peter Luckham deserves kudos for always prioritizing the creation of a respectful, safe space for people to express themselves. Luckham's firm but courteous demeanor in explaining the rules over the years has contributed to a higher level of public discussion. After several years of repetition, the message has for the most part been accepted, although humans do seem to find it hard to not applaud when they are inspired by a speaker or words they agree with.

As we head into local elections this fall, we hope the tenor of public debate can mirror what was seen at last week's LTC public hearings and be as courteous and genuinely respectful as possible.

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LTC: a question of values

BY ANNE PARKINSON, COLIN COE, BONNIE REYNOLDS, DENNIS LUCARELLI, FRANTS ATTORP, MARIAN PORTER, MAXINE LEICHTER, MICHAEL BUSHBY, JEAN WILKINSON, RYDER BERGERUD

VIEWPOINT

The decision by the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) to approve the Vortex development at Fulford Harbour comes as a deep disappointment to the many island residents who hoped to restore the estuary to its natural state. A great conservation opportunity has been missed, which raises a crucial question: Why?

Downzoning the property to reduce its development potential was listed as an option in staff reports. While there is always a risk of legal action when a government downzones, history has shown that, if the decision is based on legitimate reasons, it is likely to be upheld by the courts. This was demonstrated on Galiano Island in 1995 when the BC Court of Appeal upheld the right of the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee to limit the development ambitions of forestry giant MacMillan Bloedel.

In the case of Vortex, there was overwhelming evidence to support downzoning or some other legal alternative. The project, consisting of 17 motel units, a restaurant and retail facilities, dwarfs the former Fulford Inn. It will be located between two fish-bearing streams where there is a shallow, potentially tidal-dominated groundwater table and where the CRD predicts climate change-induced flooding. A local hydrologist has classified the lower lot as "coastal flood hazardland," and recommended the septic system be relocated to higher ground.

But options other than maximum development were never explored by the LTC. In

2019, trustee Laura Patrick told the applicant: "As I've said before, we'd love to see a development on this property." And despite the Trust's Climate Emergency Declaration, she dismissed the flooding hazard as "our future issue" and claimed "there's nothing we can do." Additionally, the LTC allowed a very broad interpretation of "motel," and failed to request the scientific reports that might have deemed the site unsuitable for development.

The applicant has, at the last minute, agreed to move the septic field outside the setback area, but, according to his septic consultant, that will make no difference. He has previously said such a step "would lead to more complex treatment requirements and a more complex system," and leave the risk to water bodies "unchanged." He explained that key contaminants "are quite mobile once they reach the shallow groundwater."

If ground discharge from the resort reaches water bodies it will bring many contaminants not removed by standard septic systems—substances like pharmaceuticals, cleaners and personal care products that accumulate in the environment and are toxic to aquatic life.

The Vortex experience has exposed an LTC with a clear pro-development bias. Trustees have repeatedly accepted the applicant's information at face value while ignoring the advice of their own staff. They have dismissed strong community opposition and abandoned the precautionary principle they are sworn to uphold. They showed little concern for fish habitat and the micro-organisms that support the entire marine ecosystem. We must elect trustees whose values are more aligned with the preserve and protect mandate of the Islands Trust.

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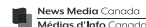
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you object to people camping/living in vehicles in public places?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support the SSILTC's Vortex decision?



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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Destruction of island possible

The residents of Salt Spring Island and those who enjoy the wonders of the jewel of the Southern Gulf Islands, you should be aware of the fact that your island is being destroyed.

We have been regular visitors to the island for several years and have often thought of relocating. We have family living and owning there operating businesses. Our grandchildren are being schooled there.

Over the past few months we have become aware of the terrible deterioration of your public areas. The parks, the streets, the shopping areas have seen a huge number of people who have no regard for those who live or visit the island. The obvious disregard for all existing bylaws is blatant and inexcusable.

Parking is not available on Fulford-Ganges Road due to the camper trucks, some with out-of-province licence plates,

blocking access to the banks. Humans and animals use the parks as toilets.

It appears there is absolutely no enforcement by either the RCMP or bylaw officers.

If these conditions are allowed to continue and our so-called officials do not get off their collective butts, Salt Spring will be destroyed.

GORDON AND DIANA MACKIE,
NEW WESTMINSTER, B.C.

Respect impresses

I never thought I'd see this happen in my lifetime! The Islands Trust draft Bylaw 530 public hearing, held on Aug. 18 to address the housing crisis, was an amazingly positive and respectful happening.

I saw the old guard mellowing and a wave of young people so eloquently expressing their heartfelt concerns.

Thanks to the Islands Trust planners, staff and trustees for their hard work and for the well-organized hearing platform.

I love my Salt Spring community and treasure our ability to have a conversation that listens to, and respects, our eccentric, creative and diverse points of view.

Let's keep the conversation happening!

NINA RAGINSKY,
WALTER BAY

Mighty flush

Silly humans. Some of you get upset because the Fulford estuary is in danger while others want development to expand access to accommodation and their sense of community.

Your trustees hide behind rules established by the influential elite while ignoring healthy ecosystem values. Yes, more species will vanish but you will have more access to beer and burgers. Considering all the waste you have dumped into earth's rivers, oceans and atmosphere, the damage of this development seems small. Does it really matter? Over the planet's last billion years history, at least five major disturbances have eliminated most spe-

cies, but they just keep coming back and humans are one of the most recent.

Your ingenuity for development is exceptional but will it cause another major extinction event? You really must listen to your scientists (the clever ones), whose analytics are undeniable. Chemicals in the soil and water not found a few hundred years ago are worrisome but the level of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has got my attention. Over the past million years, carbon dioxide has not exceeded 300 parts per million but today it is over 420 and rising. Atmospheric carbon dioxide and temperature are linked and hotter days are ahead.

So, you opponents of development fear not. The mighty flush is coming. Ocean levels are rising and will take back what they previously possessed. Vortex will be gone. But can you wait?

JOE WEBBER,
STEWART ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"My biggest worry is that [Bylaw 530] actually isn't enough. We have to continue pushing Salt Spring to be a more livable community."

JESSICA HARKEMA, BORN & RAISED SALT SPRING RESIDENT

Ecosystem study paints grim picture of Salt Spring's sustainability

The following was submitted to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee regarding proposed Bylaw 530 and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY DAVID J. RAPPORT

I am writing to you as a long-term resident of Salt Spring Island (since April 2005), and one who deeply cares about the sustainability of this unique place we call home. Two urgencies of the moment — Bylaw 530 and the Vortex proposal — compel me to speak up in light of the potential consequences of both initiatives for the health of the island's ecosystems, and thus for our health and wellbeing.

Of specific relevance to our local context is a project I have spearheaded since 2008, the Healthy Ecosystems Healthy Community Initiative (HEHCI). The HEHCI was established to provide an assessment of the state and trends of the health of Salt Spring's ecosystems, their impacts on our community's health and wellbeing, and the effectiveness of responses by the Islands Trust. Our preliminary findings are now being readied for review by island experts, after which the revised report will be widely disseminated.

Our findings are briefly summarized in the following statements, regarding the health of our lakes, forests, and near-shore marine ecosystems. They may come as no surprise to many of our residents, but this is the first time they are documented as systematically as the available data allow.

1. Our lakes are in dire straits. They have become seriously eutrophic — initially from the cumulative impacts of deforestation in the watersheds, and then, over the past half century, from unrestrained development in those watersheds. This has compromised the lakes' health and, as a consequence, the health of the community

in both direct and indirect ways.

2. Our forests have been heavily degraded due to the loss of nearly all the frontier forests (the so-called "old growth") and most of the mature second-growth forests. With an already much weakened forest ecosystem, our vulnerability to the impacts of climate change — which almost assuredly will rise in intensity over the coming decades — render us more prone to the risk of catastrophic fires and floods. With the loss of forest habitat, biodiversity — which is key to the resilience of ecosystems and thus our survival — is sharply reduced.

3. Our estuaries and near-shore coastal environments, while unquestionably influenced by the overall changing state of the Salish Sea, are also heavily affected by over-development on the island. This compromises those fragile habitats, which are critical not only to fish and wildlife but also for buffering us from other severe consequences of climate change — from rising sea levels to storm surges and massive runoffs during atmospheric river events, the consequences of which we already saw this past winter.

While these trends were set in motion back in the days of European colonization, in which logging and clearing land for agriculture have played major roles, they have been disturbingly accentuated under the aegis of the Trust. It is by no means far-fetched to argue that there has been a wholesale neglect of the principles and objectives set forth in the Trust Policy Statement, and that this neglect constitutes an abdication of the Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate.

It is especially notable that despite avowing to "Foster Preservation and Protection

INDEPTH

of the Trust Area's Ecosystems" while asserting that "Protection of these ecosystems is essential if they are to remain healthy and productive for the benefit of future generations" (Islands Trust Policy Statement, p.7), Trust Council has thus far failed to even research the health of our island's ecosystems, failed to establish scientifically valid indicators of ecosystem health, and failed to monitor their trends over time. If the Trust had taken their charge seriously, multiple red flags would have appeared well before today, and would have stimulated urgent corrective actions.

Is it too late to save Salt Spring? The island is unquestionably over-developed now, and in population numbers we are well past what the ecology of the island can support even if we are not yet past the mythical "buildout" level enshrined in our OCP. The rapidly declining health of its main ecosystems over the past half-century is proof positive of that.

A sheer sense of self-preservation requires we pull back on the main drivers and pressures that have so dramatically compromised the health of our ecosystems. That's definitely not out of some elitist environmentalism, as concern for our environment is often portrayed; rather, it is squarely in the interest of sustaining the health and wellbeing, and the very livability, of our community.

In the past, similar advice was given by outside experts, and was roundly ignored. If we care about our health and wellbeing, and about our ability to continue to live and thrive on this island, we cannot afford to keep ignoring it. We are inseparable from our ecology. As has been shown around the world, a collapsing ecology results in a collapsing society, ultimately

ending in abandonment of an area that can no longer support the fundamental requirements for life.

The Trust is profoundly misguided if it advocates the need for "compromise" and "balance" under these conditions. There is no compromise with the health of our ecosystems, without which there is no life. Either we maintain our life-support systems, or we perish. The choice is ours, and the consequences of that choice is what will determine if this island will remain habitable for our species.

The inescapable conclusion is that Salt Spring Island is at the edge of a precipice: either we pull back and rebuild the health of our ecosystems, or we continue to march to the tune of a deceptive drummer and go over the cliff. I have personally witnessed the latter outcome in various parts of the world — and the picture is not pretty.

We must put an urgent hold on population growth on the island and on forms of development that add anthropogenic stress on ecosystems already showing marked signs of pathology. To do otherwise is nothing short of self-destruction.

This may undoubtedly appear to be a bitter pill in the light of many unresolved social and economic issues that beset us. But without healthy ecosystems there is no future for our community. Proceeding on Bylaw 530 (and the Vortex proposal) would in light of the above be a grave and egregious mistake. We need to turn the page on growth and development that our ecology cannot support, and begin to move in a positive direction, keeping our activities to what the island can sustain — lest we unwittingly and wantonly add ourselves to the growing list of endangered species on Salt Spring Island.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

No sympathy for cell tower area residents

I would like to register my objection to the protests against the new Rogers cell tower.

Cell phones are an important part of life for most of us now. Many no longer have a land line. Staying in touch is important to many of us.

Salt Spring has too many areas where you cannot make or receive calls, such as downtown Ganges.

A major objective of the new cell tower is to improve communication for first responders. In a conversation with an ambulance paramedic several months ago he complained that there were a

number of "dead zones" where they are out of touch with their communication centre. This is just not acceptable in this day and age.

I feel the protesters should just suck it up and be quiet for the sake of the common good.

GREG MIDDLETON,

SALT SPRING

Can't get something for nothing

Point One: I am not known for showing up at protest meetings, but I find myself in agreement with those opposed to the Vortex project.

I have no problem with someone trying to set up a money-making operation, and it would work, I'm sure. Good idea, wrong place. The Islands Trust's hands are tied fairly tight on this one, zoning being in place. If the zoning

were not appropriate, the chance of changing it to what is currently in place would be equivalent to the long-term survival of a snowball in hell. I assume it was "grandfathered" in because of previous use when zoning was brought in way back in the '70s.

I have never met Mr. Fullbrook, but if I were in his shoes I would be ripping out what little hair I have left as a result of having to deal with the ever-expanding, possibly endless row of hurdles to jump. He is unlikely to throw his hands up and declare "Okay . . . I quit . . . easy come, easy go." He will fight tooth and nail to make it happen. If he does not succeed, the property in question could become a bit of a white elephant.

Point Two: When the fire district gave (more or less) the old fire hall to the CRD, I said to myself "That's not good business sense at work here. They could have sold the place and put the money towards the new hall." The proposed use of the old structure will do me per-

sonally no good. It's interesting to note that although the roof was threatening to drop onto the fire-fighter's heads without warning, it would not dare fall on members of the general public buying beans.

We can yell, scream and protest all we want about Vortex, but you won't get something for nothing in the real world. We want the old Fulford Inn site made into what it was, but how bad do we really want it? How about we offer Mr. Fullbrook the old fire hall in exchange for the Vortex site? No, I'm not joking this time. In my opinion we need to preserve that area a lot more than we need a "Carrots R US" in the middle of town. Rezone the south end property, make a park out of it, in cooperation with the Tsawout First Nation and return the creek area to its former self. Maybe cut a couple of bears loose in there to keep the transients from wrecking it.

MIKE STACEY,

SALT SPRING

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Fulford Harbour fill could solve traffic woes

BY DAVID COURTNEY

Since the Fix for Route 6 petition began for the Vesuvius Bay to Crofton BC Ferries route on Dec. 22, 2021, we've continued for eight months advocating for improvements. If nothing else, we have raised awareness on the state of our ferry service and terminals.

Both Vesuvius Bay and Crofton are slated for terminal upgrades between 2023 and 2027. The idea of a two-ferry service has been well received and is on the agenda. No improvements are planned for Fulford Harbour between 2023 and 2027.

Most who use Route 4 are well aware of the traffic line-ups and one-way gauntlet into Fulford village and the ferry terminal. This past June when the BC Ferries board of directors met for the first time here on Salt Spring, the CEO conveyed that he envisioned the service to remain on a two-hour schedule with a larger vessel capable of carrying 140 vehicles. The problem is where do you put all those vehicles in a parking containment area designed to hold approximately 60 vehicles? The situation has been discussed for years and negotiations with the adjacent land owner have failed more than once.

There is one option and probably the only option left: use of land fill to create a parking containment area for



PHOTO BY DAVID COURTNEY

Current Fulford Harbour terminal area showing use of fill.

160 vehicles in total. Finally we could take the vehicles off the roadway and allow for two-way traffic to the ferry terminal as well as the village. The idea of land fill is not something new, as the present car park was cre-

ated by land fill decades ago.

Both a 1992 agreement between the Ministry of Transportation and Islands Trust, and the 2008 official community plan amendment for improvements to Fulford village lean towards the fill option if you connect the dots. For those who would never entertain this option environmentally, remember we would be adding land fill to a land fill site to create a parking containment area for the next 40 to 50 years. A number of community-minded residents have raised concerns that a tragic accident will happen with the current situation at Fulford.

As we move towards the fall elections, consider asking our candidates running for CRD director and Islands Trust trustee positions. On Aug. 12 at the United Church Meadow, I did have an opportunity to ask CRD director candidates Gary Holman and Kylie Coates.

In my opinion it's time to give the residents of Fulford Harbour their community back, one that is free of traffic congestion and a safe environment for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles.

The writer is among a group calling themselves the Patrons of Route 4 and 6 concerned with improving Salt Spring Island ferry service.

Pressure on island people living in vehicles criticized

BY RYAN JOHNSON

Is now the time (in the middle of a consensus called by people of all stripes the "housing crisis") to slap up NO CAMPING OR OVERNIGHT PARKING signs?

New ones popping up unannounced around Ganges startled me. Not only because I live in an RV (or a secret tent in the woods), but also for the sheer stupidity.

We're not talking people's driveways or patios. Included is a picture of one of the signs posted in front of an overgrown empty lot. That is shortsighted greed (you're not even protecting something you're using) and if you plant such seeds, be sure the fruit you will not like.

An ancient scripture says "The earth is The Lord's and everything in it," and it is also a sentiment shared around the world by many cultures. If you have a title deed to land, it is granted by humans in a questionable government system. Do you even have real rights to the (unceded?) land? You are a steward of land if you are rightly "owning." Even living in our bodies is kind of like driving rental cars; everyone will give an account and there will be inspection and consequence for our lives — even how we steward our temporary bodies — can you even add a minute or day to your life if it's your time?

Yes. Government has a necessary place — but those in power are always tempted to overreach and over-regulate. An example is the Capital Regional District wanting to enforce "building codes" on simple one-level tiny homes built on trailers. Building codes are great to protect people living in dense apartments and giant housing which could collapse or kindle and kill many others; if someone's tiny home collapses they may need ice for a goose egg. Buzz off with over-regulation!

Who is doing this, what authority do they have, and how many people are involved?

I was raised in Canmore, Alta., worked in Banff, Whistler and Nelson. I know special, touristy places, beautiful spots . . . People move to these places and love "the vibe" — the bustling, eclectic Tuesday and Saturday markets, artisans, hippies, spiritual folks, etc. — the beauty of creation is all around.

But once people get "their place" they often want to block others from being able to enjoy the place, in the name of preserving their sanctuary, protecting their property values, etc.

Consider please: about half of the people I know personally who sell at the market are in precarious rental situations. They live on boats, or in vehicles, trailers or buses. Are millionaires going to come stand in those stalls for hours on hot days?

I cut your firewood. I weed your gardens.

Jes Christ, son of God, showed up home-

less. If you don't like Christianity, spiritual dudes from the east such as Buddha and Lao Tzu left "normal society" and lived as homeless vagabonds! Now you cherish their books and words as treasure on your shelves (collecting dust? Maybe time for a reread. Would you have kicked them off the island?)

Of course, please police crime. I don't get drunk or use drugs to get high. I don't steal or hurt others (by the grace of God . . . I did these things in the past but I'm forgiven, now free!) People doing evil and polluting society need consequences and discipline. Please get more RCMP here and not only for a disorderly street person but to bust rich drug-dealers who often wear suits and leather more than tie-dye.

I don't want crime here. May Salt Spring be a Kingdom of Love place!

But is parking and camping on/in front

of unused land a crime?

There is a real danger of rejecting what seems "unseemly" — accidentally choosing death and crucifying love. Choosing stagnancy, fear and "control," but losing life. When you stick a pin through a butterfly, you get to look at it on your wall, but it's dead. To try to superficially "sanitize" Salt Spring is foolish.

I'm occupying Salt Spring. If you kick people like me off unused public streets (with dubious authority) don't be surprised if we do park in your driveways and camp in your yards.

How about restructuring? And while we do, there should be no enforcement/persecution of good citizens who live in vehicles and don't bother you (except for perhaps annoying your aesthetic)! How about let us park in safe, unoccupied areas? Maybe build some shoulders and pull-outs so it's not all in Ganges?



PHOTO BY RYAN JOHNSON

Sign near Ganges that discourages overnight parking and camping.

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PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Inga Michaelson of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, bottom, assists mural artist Paige Bowman on the first of three murals to be painted by three different artists in Ganges.

PUBLIC ART

Mural project begins

Lam's Lane wall transformed

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first of three murals planned for downtown Ganges is underway.

Artist Paige Bowman began work this week on a mural in Lam's Lane, facing Seaview Avenue, as part of a project of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce called Murals on Salt Spring (MoSS). Bowman was selected from a number of applicants,

according to chamber president Darryl Martin, adding that the eventual trio of outdoor art pieces are part of a larger set of chamber initiatives, scheduled over several years, to increase Ganges' attractiveness and vibrancy.

Inga Michaelson, the chamber's Ganges vibrancy coordinator, was on hand for the chamber to "get paint on her hands" and support Bowman.

The project was begun with the assistance of Salt Spring Arts. Funding comes from the THRIVE Small Capital Program.



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Artist Paige Bowman works on a mural in Lam's Lane, facing Seaview Avenue, which will depict seals playing amid kelp.

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OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT

Lapp and Dobres on stage

Final event in summer concert series in the park

SUBMITTED BY SS ARTS

Next Thursday, Sept. 1 is the final concert in Salt Spring Arts' Summer Outdoor Concert Series season, with Daniel Lapp, Adam Dobres and other Gulf Islands musicians playing in the gazebo in Centennial Park.

Music runs from 6 to 8 p.m., and people are invited to bring a blanket or lawn chairs.

Lapp grew up in Prince George in a musical household with deep prairie fiddling roots. He received his Bachelor of Music degree from UVic, studying classical trumpet, and spent a year studying jazz at Humber College. For more than 30 years Lapp has toured across Europe, Australia, China, Israel, the U.S. and Canada playing a plethora of musical styles from folk and jazz to electronic music. He has performed on a variety of instruments with many well-known names such as Spirit of the West, Rickie Lee Jones, 54-40, Gord

Downie, Barney Bentall, Jim Byrnes, Jim Cuddy, Elvis Costello, Lou Reed, Stephen Fearing, Ed Robertson and Roy Forbes.

Lapp will be joined by fellow Pender Islander Adam Dobres. A gifted guitarist, he fuses a rich organic sensibility with an almost exotic sense of space and melody. Dobres has toured all over the world with acts ranging from folk ensemble The Ruth Moody Band to pop rock singer Toni Childs. In 2016, he stepped into the spotlight with his eponymous debut album, earning him a nomination for instrumental artist of the year in the West Coast Music Awards.

Opening the evening are four talented young singer songwriters who are current or former Gulf Islands Secondary School and Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts students. Sóley Ella May, Angelina Holland, Maddie Glover and Isabelle Muir will share tunes and add harmonies to one another's songs. The group recently performed at Mayne Island's Campbell Bay Music Festival.

This Thursday, Aug. 25 sees Daryl Chonka headlining the show, with opening act 19 Strings.



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Driftwood

TEA À TEMPO

Young violinist performs



PHOTO COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

Kieran Denny in a past public performance.

Carolyn Hatch and Kerry Graham also on the bill

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Tea à Tempo organizers are delighted to present Violinist Kieran Denny at next Wednesday's recital at All Saints by-the-Sea.

Denny is a Grade 11 student at Queen Margaret's School in Duncan.

Denny has lived on Salt Spring Island all his life and attended the Salt Spring Centre School for his early schooling years.

Denny has always loved music: from about age two he began asking for a violin of his own and from age four started playing the instrument with Carolyn Hatch, so has now played the violin for 12 years.

He has performed at many community and family events, including at the Tsunami Circus, the Beaver Point Hall Christmas Market, Duncan Light up and weddings.

The Salt Spring Saturday market is often a perfect busking venue for Denny.

The young musician has held the position of concert master of Queen Margaret's School string orchestra for three years. He placed first in his classes at the 2022 Cowichan Music Festival winning the Duta Family Award for Technical and Musical Challenge and the Ross Wristen Memorial Award.

Denny looks forward to continuing his music studies, adding more music to his repertoire and especially music by his favourite composer, J.S. Bach.

For the Aug. 31 Tea à Tempo recital Denny plans

to play a variety of musical styles, from Romantic-era violin favourites to Baroque chamber music and rousing fiddle tunes.

Denny will be joined by Hatch and Kerry Graham.

Violinist Hatch has lived on Salt Spring Island 20 years and has taught many children to play the violin and fiddle. She played in the Bach on the Rock Chamber Orchestra for many years. Prior to moving to Salt Spring, Hatch taught in Calgary, Idaho and Creston.

She has developed a program of teaching classical and fiddle music repertoire, has performed and toured with her students in many countries.

Bassoonist Graham plays with the Civic Orchestra of Victoria and Salt Spring's Bach on the Rock Chamber Orchestra. She also plays in Wind Warning, the quintet of wind instrument players that performed for Tea and Tempo for the first time earlier this summer.

Graham is also the founder and president of Salt Spring Baroque, a society dedicated to the performance of Baroque music on the Gulf Islands.

Next Wednesday's music starts at 2:10 p.m. at All Saints Anglican Church at 110 Park Drive.

All donations received are directed towards the honorarium for the performers and the running of the Tea à Tempo concert series.

Tea and treats will be served right after the 50-minute concert.

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what's on this week


Wed. Aug. 24
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo.
Saskia Delaronde and Nathan Tinkham perform in by-donation recital 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.
Open in Bittancourt House on the Farmers' Institute grounds on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Insight Meditation.
Salt Spring Insight Meditation Community offers a regular drop-in Wednesday evening meditation from 7 to 8:30 p.m. at St. Mary's Church in Fulford as part of the Star of the Sea Centre. Silent meditation with some guidance, followed by a dharma talk.

Swing Dance.
Wednesdays at the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Thur. Aug. 25
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Summer Outdoor Concert Series.
Daryl Chonka is the headliner with opening act 19 Strings. Centennial Park. 6 to 8 p.m.

Eleanor Buckland.
Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

Julia Beattie.
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

Green Drinks.
Gathering for EV owners and anyone interested in "green" topics at the Salt Spring Golf Course. 5 p.m. on.

VIA ZOOM

Library Book Club.
This month's book is *Where the Crawdads Sing* by Delia Owens. 1 to 3 p.m. A Salt Spring Public Library event. Contact Nan at bookclub@saltspringlibrary.com.

Salt Spring Museum.
See Wednesday listing.

Fri. Aug. 26
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Shebad.
Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Marianne Grittani.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring.
This week's guests are Rhonan Heitzmann and Fernando dos Santos talking about workforce housing. United Church Meadow. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

StoryWalk.
Self-guided family activity. Follow the signs from the Salt Spring Public Library through Mouat Park toward Rainbow Road. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Fridays through Mondays.

Salt Spring Museum.
See Wednesday listing.

Sat. Aug. 27
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viperteeth.
On deck at Moby's Pub from 5 to 8 p.m. and on stage from 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Cat Madden.
Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11 p.m.

Phoenix Lazare.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Toy Run.
Motorcyclists leave from the GISS parking lot at 1 p.m. and ride around the island before gathering back at the Legion at about 2 p.m. Everyone is then welcome to enjoy a BBQ and live music, with all proceeds benefitting Santa's Workshop.



Boot Sale.
United Church fundraiser: multi-family yard sale in the church meadow and basement. Plus Indigenous arts and crafts. Refreshments, hot dogs, baking. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

StoryWalk.
See Friday listing.

Sun. Aug. 28
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sharon Bailey & Craig McKerron.
On deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

Sue Newman & the Frank Huether Trio.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Family Adventures in Nature.
Program for kids and their adult. This week's theme is beavers. Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. Drop-in from 1 to 4 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Mon. Aug. 29
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ashleigh Ball & Malcolm Jack.
Cassette Cafe and Dive Bar. Doors at 6 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Tues. Aug. 30
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live Music TBA. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

StoryTime. Songs, stories, puppets and more for kids at the Salt Spring Public Library. Every Tuesday at 11 a.m.

Wed. Aug. 31
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo.
Violinist Kieren Denny performs at All Saints, joined by violinist Carolyn Hatch and bassoonist Kerry Graham. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.

El Jose's Cuban Dance Party.
Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Insight Meditation.
See last Wednesday's listing.

Salt Spring Museum.
See last Wednesday's listing.

Swing Dance.
See last Wednesday's listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Lightyear** runs Wed.-Thurs., Aug. 24-25 at 7 p.m. **DC League of Superpets** is on from Friday, Aug. 26 through Wed., Aug. 31 at 7 p.m. Check the website at thefritz.ca for more information, including whether or not a Sunday matinee will take place.

EXHIBITIONS

• **JSINSET-SWELOKE (Family Growing Ourselves Up)**, a multidisciplinary exhibit of work by four members of the Elliott family from WSÁNEĆ: **Myrna Crossley** and **TEMOSÉN**, Charles Elliott, and family members, emerging artists **TEMOSÉN** Chazz Elliott and Matthew Parlyby-Elliott is the Showcase Exhibition at **Mahon Hall** from Friday, Aug. 26 through Sept. 18, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Public reception on Friday, Aug. 26 from 6 to 8 p.m. Plus an artist panel on Saturday, Aug. 27 from 2 to 3 p.m. in the ArtSpring gallery, and a cultural talk by Dr. JSINTEN, Dr. John Elliott on Wednesday, Aug. 31 at 4:30 p.m. in the ArtSpring gallery.

• **Olga Szkabarnicki** presents *Bed-sheets & Recurring Dreams, Monumental Dance Portraits*, at **Salt Spring Gallery** from Aug. 26 to Sept. 14, Wednesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 26 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **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.

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

• **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 **Laundro-mat** and **SSI Soap Exchange** through August daily from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. except Friday.

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

• **Susan Gordon** shows dog portraits at the **Country Grocer Cafe** this month.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Scene from the 2017 Salt Spring Toy Run. This year's event runs on Saturday, Aug. 27, with the public welcome to enjoy live music and a BBQ at the Legion beginning at 2 p.m. All proceeds go to the Santa's Workshop Christmas gift program for underprivileged families.

Family Adventures in Nature

**Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve
Program for kids 3-12 and their adult.**

**SUNDAY, AUGUST 28
Drop-in from 1 to 4 p.m.**

THRIFTY FOODS

**Ganges, Mouat's Centre 7:30am to 9pm
Customer Service 250-537-1522**



SPORTS + RECREATION

GROW YOUR
COMMUNITY
Buy Local



YOUTH SOCCER

Players get set to return to pitch

New Salt Spring United club season details outlined



Malcolm Legg
SOCCER
ROUND-UP

Salt Spring United soccer is almost back, with all its programs to provide Salt Spring youth a great soccer experience.

The actual season is a little way off still, with most games starting about Sept. 17, but the Salt Spring United soccer executive is busy preparing the 2022-23 program for our youth.

Our technical committee, led by technical director Josip Bratanovic, is finalizing teams and the coaches that will be involved, but at present our levels appear to be as follows:

Tots Program: Saturday development program with boys and girls who are three and four years old.

House Program: Boys U6/U7 (five and six year olds); Girls U6/7 (five and six year olds); Boys U8 (seven year old); Girls U8 (seven year olds). These teams are Saturday development program.

House Super League: Boys U9/10 (eight and nine year olds); Girls U9/10 (eight and nine year olds). These groups will form an actual league within each group. Games will be

played on Saturday and practises held mid-week.

Small-sided Teams: Girls U11 (10 year olds); Girls U12 (11 year olds); Boys U11 (10 year olds); Boys U12 (11 year olds). These teams play small-sided games on Saturday (Salt Spring and in Victoria), practices are mid-week.

Full-sided Teams: Girls U13/15 (12, 13 and 14 year olds); Girls U16/18 (15, 16 and 17 year olds); Boys U13/14 (12 and 13 year olds); Boys U15/16 (14 and 15 year old boys). These teams have weekend games, midweek practices.

The final formatting of the small-sided and full-sided teams will happen in the next week and info will be posted on our website at www.saltspringsoccer.com.

Most of these teams still need players to fill out rosters or create more teams, so if interested please sign up on the website and register in the

appropriate age group. Maggie Montague can help with any registration issues or questions at ssiu.registrar@gmail.com. Get registered now and do not miss the fun.

Our program will also include the popular Friday Salt Spring United Academy, run by technical director Josip Bratanovic. The 10-week program will help develop skills and team play with special training that is extra to their regular teams. Details of this program will be coming out soon on our website.

Salt Spring United will also be offering a Small-Sided Referees Course (dates TBA) for all youth 12 and older interested in refereeing. This is the course we had to cancel in the spring and will train youth to become good referees as well as assistant refs (linespersons). For information or if you are interested in taking the course, please contact myself, Malcolm Legg at mallegg@shaw.ca.

There will be more to come after our next executive meeting, set for today (Aug. 17) at 6 p.m. at the Portlock Park portable. (Anyone interested is welcome to attend.) Check the website for more info and contact me if you have questions.

Watch for that soccer start-up, it usually coincides with rain! Cheers for now.

SWIMMING

Pinney wins B.C. backstroke title

Stingrays swimmer continues record-breaking season performance

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Stingrays swimmer Druehn Pinney brought home provincial gold this past weekend, rounding out a season of fast finishes — and toppled pool records — across the Vancouver Island region.

Pinney shaved nearly two seconds off his morning preliminary time to finish first in the Boys Division-5 100-meter backstroke with a time of 1:04:08 — nearly a half second faster than his personal best set weeks earlier at a regionals win in Saanich.

The Stingrays sent 13 youth swimmers to Kamloops to represent Salt Spring Island at the 2022 BC Summer Swimming Asso-

ciation Provincial Championships meet Aug. 15-21. To qualify to race at the provincial championship, swimmers needed to beat set qualifying standard times during the finals of their regional championship meet.

Other top finishes Friday and Saturday included Zoey Johnson's silver medal in the Girls Div.-7 200-m IM; a pair of fifth-place finishes for the Boys Div.-7 200-m freestyle relay team — Matthias Woodley, Pinney, Keegan Otsubo-Papp and Aiden Otsubo-Papp — and Boys Div.-7 200-m medley relay team — Pinney, Mac Flett, Woodley and Aiden Otsubo-Papp; and a sixth-place finish for the Stingrays' Girls Div.-7 200-m medley relay team — Johnson, Lily Armstrong, Zoe Sanchez Wickland and Elyse Walsh.

Sunday's results were not available by press time. Look for them in updates at gulfislandsdriftwood.com.



We are publishing the official guide to the Fall Fair 2022 winners on September 21. Harvest Time magazine will be a celebration of the fair with lots of photos, prize-winning recipes and, of course, a showcase of the winners in all categories. To advertise in Harvest Time please call your account executive today at 250-537-9933.



THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

www.sunstarastrology.com 1-800-836-0648 sunstarastrology@gmail.com
TIP OF THE WEEK: READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Virgo time is underway and its ruling planet Mercury is in the spotlight. The wing-footed messenger of the Gods that Mercury is depicted as in Greek Mythology, is an apt portrayal of the fast-moving planet of perception, interpretation, the acquisition of knowledge and communication, and short excursions, weaving the element of surprise into daily activities.

A day prior to the Virgo New Moon, Mercury enters harmony-oriented Libra on August 26, even though it is already slowing down prior to its tri-annual, 3-week retrograde cycle which begins on September 11. It is this retrograde process that amounts to Mercury requiring an entire year to complete a cycle around the Zodiac, from our geo-centric perspective, but only 88 days to complete a cycle around the Sun, which is probably not merely coincidental that there are 88 official constellations. Mercury will exchange places with the Sun entering Libra marking Autumn Equinox on September 23 as Mercury re-enters Virgo where it will remain until October 11 after resuming direct motion again on October 3.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Despite an otherwise practically oriented focus, Mercury in Libra and Venus in Leo will inspire you to engage socially. Getting in some last lacks of summer and fun in the sun will align with the mood quite well. Mars in Gemini indicates a boost of energy for us all, but especially you.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

Virgo time tends to be one when creativity and practicality to produce works of beauty is at a peak. Venus, the planet of love and beauty in the sign of artistic expression Leo, bodes well to focus on repairs, cleaning and general upliftment of your home environment, inside and out.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

While the Sun in Virgo usually inspires you to get down to business, there is a particularly playful period forecasted, for at least the next week or so. You will not be alone in this inspired window and social activities will likely be a hit. Jupiter in Aries chimes in to support the start of new friendships.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

You can expect the pace to get busier now. Ambitions to wisely invest your time, energy and money will emerge as a priority. While others are happy to play, you are likely in a more industrious mood. It is possible to have it all, especially if you follow the age-old wisdom of business before pleasure.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Practical considerations will weave with a strong urge for creative self-expression. Sharing key communications and messages with significant others is part of the plot. This is hardly an idle time and you will be focused on results and realistic measures oriented to progress.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)

The time has come to take some new initiatives. Financial responsibilities will likely be a strong motivator. You will focus to make your communications really count. Yet, you will also be contending with realistic measures regarding people, or yourself, and situations in need of love and compassion.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

When the Sun in Virgo comes out, it is your cue to go within. This could amount to a yearning for retreat and quietude or an invitation to get consumed by a good book. This impulse will get progressively stronger over the coming weeks. Yet, Mercury in your sign will also move you to express yourself.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

An activation of a whole new level of independence should become increasingly evident. This process will unfold over the coming weeks and even months, actually. In the short-term, collecting tools and exercising various techniques to feel both inspired and at peace could prove well worth the effort.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Seeking attention and reward for past efforts and accomplishments is now in focus. Although keeping an open mind will prove important, you will want to enter into very specific conversations with people in positions of power and influence. Expect some resistance but persevere to be heard.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

The Virgo New Moon will serve to activate your mind to gather knowledge and information backed by ardent determination. You will be in pursuit of answers. In journalistic fashion, you will be oriented to see many sides of matters before you surrender to any conclusive interpretations.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Virgo time can prove deep, powerful and transformational for you. It is an excellent time to get clear psychologically and emotionally, to do a deep cleaning of your living environment and/or to commit to a body/organ cleanse. Mercury in Libra will help you to be aware of and kind to your future self.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

Focusing to create a higher quality of harmony in your more significant relationships is now in the spotlight. This may require deeper investigation, knowledge and reflection than usual. Become more aware of how your communications are received to gauge your progress.



ISLAND LIFE

RECREATION

Cupples trail opens to public

Property next to North View Nature Reserve

BY CHARLES KAHN
SS TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

In June, Claire and Will Cupples contacted the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club (SSTNC) and offered the club the opportunity to establish a public trail on their 38-acre property at the north end of the island. A very generous offer!

A few weeks later we signed a contract with the Cupples to use this trail. The contract gives the landowners a \$2-million liability insurance policy through the Gulf Islands Trails Society.

The trail around the property is about a two-kilometre return round trip. It has been signed

and cleared. The access is a farm driveway on the south side of North End Road and just east of the 2670 address. There is ample parking on the grassy shoulder near the trail sign. People should park perpendicular to the road to provide room for others to park.

This property adjoins the Salt Spring Island Conservancy's North View Nature Reserve, so in the future it may be possible to connect the two trail systems. The Cupples Trail is also close to the Jack Foster Trail and could be combined with it for a day's outing in the north end of the island.

The Cupples are retired scientists and academics who have worked in many institutions across Canada, most recently at Simon Fraser University. Will's roots on Salt Spring go back many decades from the time his father bought North End Farm where Will, in part, grew up. The Cupples returned to Salt Spring and established their home here in the early 2000s.

It's terrific when landowners like the Cupples are prepared to share their land in this way. We hope that other landowners will act similarly in the future. This is our second contract with private landowners to establish public trails on their land. For further information, contact Charles Kahn (charleskahn@shaw.ca) or Kees Ruurs (Keesruurs@hotmail.com).

The SSTNC helps develop and maintain most of the trails on the island. The club has signed agreements with BC Parks to work on the trails in the provincial parks. It also has an agreement with the Islands Trust Conservancy to maintain the trail in the Lower Mount Erskine Nature Reserve. Recently, volunteers worked with PARC to replace all the numbers on the posts in Channel Ridge with you-are-here maps so that it is now not necessary to carry a map to know where you are in the trail system.

Memberships for the 2022-23 SSTNC season can now be obtained. Go to saltspring-tnc.ca/index.php/membership for further information. In addition to hikes, walks, and rambles, the club has regular presentations on interesting, related topics and is also allied with naturalist groups that organize birding and other outings. As you can see, the club provides an important service on the island and deserves your support even if you don't attend all of its events.

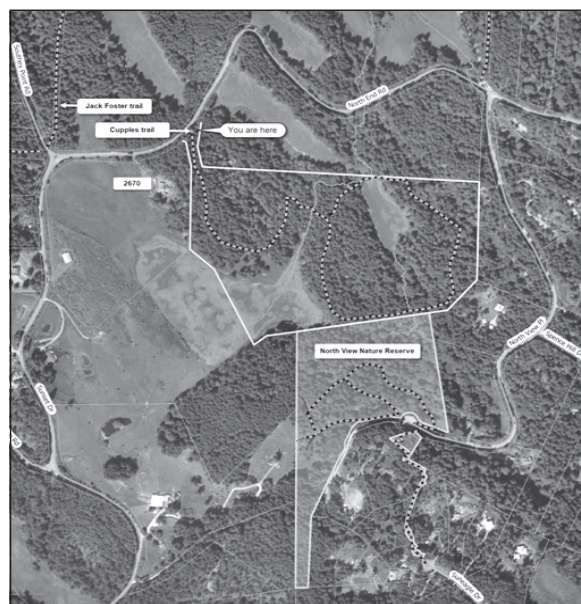


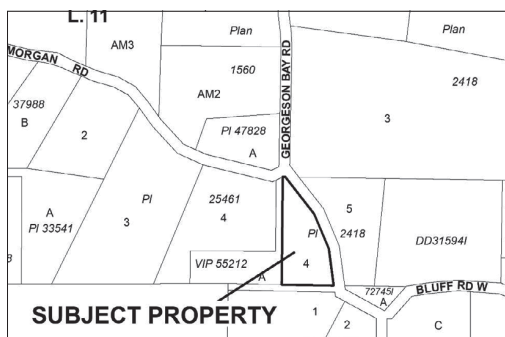
IMAGE COURTESY SSTNC

North end area map shows new Cupples Trail.



PHOTO BY CHARLES KAHN

Wetland area of the recently completed two-kilometre, round-trip trail.



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **August 15, 2022** and continuing up to and including **August 26, 2022**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 494 (2) (c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on Galiano Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867; by fax at (250) 405-5155; or by email to southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before **4:30 p.m., August 26, 2022**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **12:30 p.m., September 6, 2022**.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary



PHOTO BY CHARLES KAHN

Trailhead sign for the new Cupples Trail, accessed via a farm driveway on the south side of North End Road and just east of the 2670 address.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Climate-centred arts festival ready to launch

On the Rise brings arts and community together in September

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A month full of activities kicks off on Salt Spring next week with the On the Rise climate action-themed festival of artistic expression and related activities.

The first live entertainment event is on Saturday, Sept. 3, with the Call Me CC Cabaret Theatre at Beaver Point Hall.

Two month-long visual arts events begin on Sept. 1 and another on Sept. 3. A self-guided Art Walk with an online version and a map available at Mahon Hall will be accessible throughout the month.

Local textile artists will share their perspectives and stories about climate change in A Planet in Crisis exhibit in the ArtSpring lobby through September, and Ultimatum of the Scattered World features work by Amy Ebrahimi in the library program room from Sept. 3 to 27.

The festival is a co-production of Transition Salt Spring, Graffiti Theatre and Salt Spring Arts, and came about following discussions by local people working for social change on the island and beyond. As festival coordinator Rebecca Bloch explains, the group compiled a long list of areas that needed attention, but one thing that emerged strongly was agreement about the value of arts to empower, heal and effect change in the community and the world.

"Something that came out of it, that was a touchstone for everybody, was the need for catharsis through the arts," she said. "Using the arts as a medium often seems to be greater than the sum of its parts, and a few people really echoed that it was more important to play or to make art to express ourselves because we're holding a lot of grief."

One suggestion was to hold an event like the famous Burning Man festival, with a processional through Ganges.

"It sort of evolved from there," said Bloch. "[We asked] how can we come together, first of all; and come together to share our grief, second of all; and thirdly, come together to maybe build something, you know, take all of our free pieces and make a beautiful quilt."

Rebecca Nygard of Graffiti Theatre points out that the group's first discussions took place not only during Covid but amid other intense happenings in the world, from fires to political and social tension in the U.S. They observed how bad news about climate change, including the message that we are running out of time and can't do much to change the trajectory, creates an emotional reaction to the lack of control.

"And so we talked about the importance of continuing to express those things, even though it wouldn't necessarily result in a major shift or a major change; that it was still part of our nature and what's important."

That led to explorations about the function of art in society, "and why human beings are so drawn to create art when they're grieving, when they're sad, when they're angry, and why it's so important for us to share that with each other, and how that sharing kind of connects and strengthens communities."

The festival quickly developed from the initial concept of one attention-grabbing theatrical event.

Salt Spring Arts (SSA) got involved as an organization experienced with all kinds of arts-focused community events.

SSA executive director Yael Wand said one of the pieces Salt Spring Arts is carrying is the month-long Art Walk.

"We have a number of artists from the region and the community who are contributing artwork that's going to be a physical art walk through Ganges and along the high tide line — the future high tide line —



Kat Single-Dain as CC — aka Climate Change — in a promotional image for the bouffon clown presentation at Beaver Point Hall on Sept. 3.

and that's also going to be an online exhibition where people can see a portion of it on site, but then with their camera or with their phone they'll be able to access more information about each of those pieces and the artists online."

The festival does include a community procession as initially conceived. It's open to everyone on Saturday, Sept. 24,

when people are asked to dress in blue and use any kind of physical or visual art form to express themselves. The two previous Saturdays will see art-making workshops for people wanting to make signs and other decorations for the procession.

Transition Salt Spring (TSS) is the not-for-profit group hosting the comprehensive event

website and providing other key support.

TSS board member Darlene Gage said that one of TSS's theories of change is that "only by collaborating, and by working together and finding the places where we have something in common can we hope to even begin to meet some of the challenges that our community is facing, that our world is facing ... so this is a great example to me of how that's possible. Like no way would any one of these organizations be able to pull off a full month of activities like this, but because we've worked together on it, it becomes more possible."

Gage also acknowledged funding support from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, the BC Arts Council and several sponsors.

Thanks to "so many forward thinkers and people who care," said Bloch, "it's turned into something way greater than we could have ever imagined and much larger than just the processional through town."

For all event details, see transitionsaltspring.com/calendar/rise/ and upcoming issues of the Driftwood and Aqua magazine.



Islands Trust

Proposed Bylaws 231 and 232 Rezoning portions of District Lot (DL) 68 and 72 and all of DL 64 and 87 to Nature Protection

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

Community Information

Meeting and Public Hearing

Tuesday, September 6,
2022 at 12:30 p.m.

South Community Hall

141 Sturdies Bay Road
Galiano Island, BC

Who should attend?

Anyone affected by the
proposed bylaws.

Enquiries?

Brad Smith

Island Planner

bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca

778-679-5185

What are Proposed Bylaws 231 and 232 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 231 and No. 232 will amend the Galiano Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 108 (OCP) and the Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127 (LUB) by rezoning portions of DLs 68, 72 and all of DL 64 and 87 to Nature Protection. DL 68, 72 and 87 are owned by the provincial Crown and are currently designated Forest and zoned Forest 1 (F1). The Galiano Conservancy has recently acquired District Lot 64. It is currently designated Rural and zoned Rural 2 (R2).

DL 64 Lot 1 District Lot 64 Galiano Island Cowichan District Plan VIP89337

DL 68 Lot A District Lot 68 Galiano Island Cowichan District Plan VIP76636

DL 72 Lot 1 District Lot 72 Galiano Island Cowichan District Plan VIP75373

DL 87 Lot A, District Lot 87, Galiano Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP56353 Except Part In Plan VIP61539

Parcel Identifier Numbers: DL 64 028-990-943 DL 68 026-010-186 DL 72 025-673-165 DL 87 018-223-826

How do I get more information?

Copies of the proposed bylaws, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the project is available on the Galiano Island Current Project [webpage](#) and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after August 19, 2022.

A Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendments.

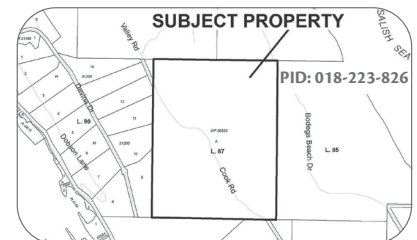
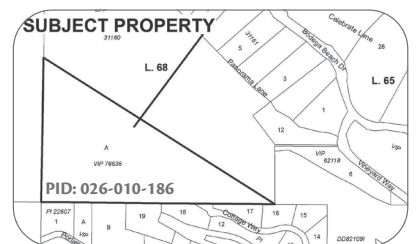
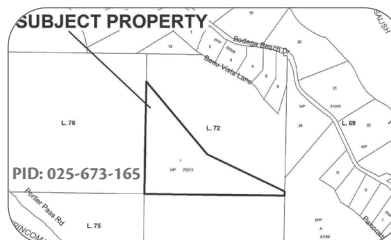
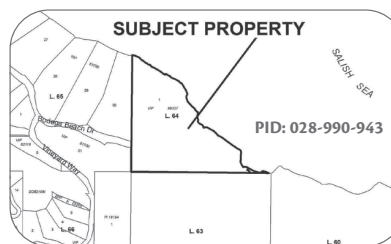
Submissions

Written submissions may be delivered prior to 4:30 p.m., September 2, 2022 via:

Mail or drop off: Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8; Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca

At the Public Hearing: Written submissions will only be accepted until the close of the Public Hearing.

Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.





PHOTOS BY ROBB MAGLEY

AUTHORS REUNITED: The Salt Spring Island Public Library hosted the first Salt Spring Authors' Tea held in three years on Thursday, Aug. 18. Sponsored by the IslandLink Library Federation, the library and island authors welcomed Thetis Island duo Ann Eriksson, who read selections from her ecological literacy book for teens, *Urgent Message from a Hot Planet: Navigating the Climate Crisis*, and Gary Geddes, who offered humour and poems from both *The Ventriloquist* and *The Oysters I Bring to Banquets*.

HEALTH CARE

Scott Hylands shares gratitude

Former island resident recalls year of medical experiences

BY SCOTT HYLANDS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

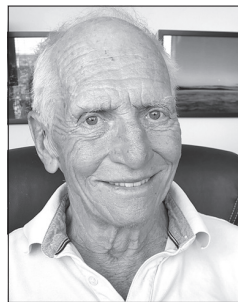


PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT HYLANDS

Last year at about this time, I was putting the finishing touches on a 75-minute one-man Shakespeare show I'd developed called *Lend Me Your Ears*.

In August we presented it, ExitStageLeftProductions and Graffiti Theatre, at a charming dedicated venue in the woods behind Portlock Park. Covid rules were still on, so the audience was limited to 50, but along with an alternating show, Besse's Will, with Jeffrey Renn and Christina Penhale, appreciation ran high throughout the 10 performances (five for each). I was delighted to participate, a summer highlight for me.

Not long after, in September, daughter Rebecca got married. The wedding had been postponed from a year earlier due to Covid. Despite the 50-guest limit and iffy weather, it was a happy sparkling event, and I was a proud poppa indeed.

In late September, out of the blue, I suddenly developed radiating pains that chased up and down my back, arms and shoulders. It didn't have a source, rather it was everywhere. I couldn't really do anything besides lie down. Off the shelf meds were useless. Wife Veronica levered me into the car and off we went to the emergency department (ED) at Royal Jubilee.

Like many parts of the health system, the ED was under considerable stress

recall. Veronica immediately stepped back from her endoscopy job at Vic General, and became a full-time advocate for my condition. I have no doubt at all that were she not at my side, fiercely cutting through varieties of red tape, I would not be writing this, but pushing daisies. She agitated to switch oncologists, because the first one wasn't speedy enough, read voraciously and discovered, through a contact in the U.S., that an experimental immunotherapy drug was having considerable success when administered alongside the chemo drug. However, this medication was not covered in Canada, so MSP would not pay for it. The cost was prohibitive.

from Covid-related understaffing. It was six hours before they got to me. My symptoms were indeterminate, so after dulling the discomfort somewhat with morphine, blood was taken and sent in a vacuum tube to the lab. We waited.

After a long time the emergency room physician beckoned to us, sat us down in a cubicle, and as gently as possible, slid in the diagnosis: acute myeloid leukemia (AML). I went numb. Veronica's knees buckled.

There are different types of leukemia, but basically two — chronic and acute. The former is slow moving, the latter a galloping horse. With chronic leukemia, people can adopt a med regime that will allow them to carry on living for many years. For acute leukemia, it's a race to get ahead of the disease before the lights go out. That could easily be under a year, a month or two maybe. No time to waste. I was admitted immediately.

My mind blurs in the

quently. Salt Springers were more than generous, as well as folk from all over. My acting career had taken me to many places (Toronto, New York, Los Angeles and parts between). Enough came in to cover the med cost and then some, insofar as Venetodax is now available to us without cost, as Canada has agreed to fund it, given its efficacy.

The funds that remain from the GoFundMe will be used to maintain my med regime. AML is not strictly curable. I have been "in remission" since March, but the disease is opportunistic, so barriers must be aggressively maintained and my blood constantly monitored.

So here I am, daunted but unbowed. The summer breezes blow, finally, flowers tumble from every flower pot, tipplers raise a glass from their patio tables, friends and lovers stroll arm in arm along the seashore paths. I'm working up another show, which I don't dare speak of yet, lest I jinx it. The Hylands family, Scott and Veronica, Rebecca, Luke and son-in-law Keith hold each other close, with the knowledge that life is fickle and fragile.

We live in Victoria now, but raised our two kids on Salt Spring. We built a house on the water there and participated in the life of the community for 25 years. We developed friendships there that remain still. The generosity of those folks who knew us well, or only through the shows we frequently put on at ArtSpring, Mahon Hall and Mouat Park, was . . . well, I simply don't have the words. Easily a thousand thank yous.

Enjoy the summer and treasure your time here.

Like many parts of the health system, the ED was under considerable stress from Covid-related understaffing. It was six hours before they got to me.

What we had to consider was stark. We had the resources to cover the cost, at least for a few months, but it would leave us financially depleted, and therefore vulnerable to any number of downturns. We decided to ask the community for help and opened a GoFundMe account.

The response was immediate and beyond gratifying. We both had wet eyes fre-

Fall Fair FOCUS

Confirmed!!!

- Shuttle Buses will run to and from the Fair to the Tourist Office.
- Food Vendors are back including, BBQ Burgers, Gourmet Subs, Chicken & Waffles, Fish & Chips, Putine, Indian & Mexican Foods, Ribs and of course the Beer Garden.
- Come and enjoy at the Fall Fair on Sept. 10/11.

*See you at the Fair
Sept. 10 & 11!*



HAPPY LABOUR DAY

ADVERTISING DEADLINE CHANGE

Please note that the Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed on Monday, Sept. 5 - Labour Day and will reopen 9am - 4pm on Tuesday, September 6.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood Wednesday Sept. 7 edition will be as follows:
Wednesday, August 31, 12 noon

Driftwood

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241 Fulford-Ganges Road

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Celebrations

Celebrations

Coming Events

Coming Events

Storage



Myrtle Margaret Fitz-Patrick (Wiginton)

Myrtle Margaret Fitz-Patrick (Wiginton), age 95 passed away on August 12th, 2022 at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island BC.

Her passing, thanks to M.A.I.D., took place in the presence of her sons Michael and Ross and her daughter-in-law Patricia. She is also survived by her niece Laura, grandniece Paisley and great-grandniece Charlotte.

Myrtle held a Bachelor of Education from the University of Calgary and will be most remembered by her students as a long-time typing teacher at Crescent Heights High School in Calgary.

Myrtle enjoyed a meaningful and rewarding chapter in the last year of her life when she transitioned to Meadowbrook Seniors Residence, where she made many new friends and found a relaxed and catered lifestyle she loved.

Myrtle reunites with her late husband Eugene Rowland Fitz-Patrick who she survived by 17 years.

Celebration OF Life FOR — Carol Johnson —



August 28th, 2022
2 to 5 pm

Legion - outdoor tent
120 Blain Road,
Salt Spring Island
Bring joy, stories and
your dancing shoes!

Celebration of LIFE for Molly VanPoelgeest



The Family of Molly VanPoelgeest would like to invite you to a Celebration of Her Life on September 3, 2022 held from 11:00am to 2:00pm at her home at 490 Rainbow Road. There will be a short service and scattering ceremony commencing at 11:30am.

Food, refreshments and fellowship will follow as an informal come and go celebration for our wonderful Mother, friend and neighbour.

Celebration of LIFE for Donnie Douglas



To be held on Sunday, August 28th at the Lion's Hall from 3-4pm.

Donnie would be so pleased to know that we are gathering together to remember him.

In Memoriam Gifts



Looking for GRIEF SUPPORT?

Hospice offers 1-on-1 and group help.

Call for info
250-537-2770

250-537-2770 • saltspringhospice.org



SEE WEEKLY
HOROSCOPE
ON
PAGE 11

A Multi Family Yard Sale

United Church Meadow & Basement
111 Hereford Ave, Ganges
Saturday, August 27th

Collectibles, Indigenous Art,
New Vintage, Tools,
Techno, Hotdogs,
Refreshments & Baking too!

9am - 1pm

no early birds
please

Garage Sales

Garage Sales

★★★★ GARAGE SALE ★★★★★

To benefit Koastal Dog Rescue
(koastaldogrescue@gmail.com)

Household goods, pet stuff, art, bicycles,
decor items, lawn mower, Echo weedwhacker etc.

545 BLACKBURN ROAD, SALT SPRING
Saturday Aug. 27, 9 am to 1 pm

CASH ONLY (bring change, small bills, please).
Park at the side of the road, not in driveway.

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Copper Kettle Community Partnership

We'll come and get them.

For those who love,
time is not.
Missing you today
and always.

Siobhan Francis Pritchard



Siobhan Francis Pritchard, 38, passed away suddenly at home on Salt Spring Island. She is survived by a loving mother and father, Denise and Murray Pritchard, sister Meghan Pritchard, grandmother Janet Smith, uncles Neil and Glen Pritchard, aunts Ranada Pritchard and Hilary Burrell, cousin Laura Biffen, and countless friends and loved ones.

Siobhan grew up in South Surrey BC, attending Laronde Elementary and Elgin Park Secondary School. Always quick to make friends, Siobhan was known for her creative energy, adventurous spirit, and infectious enthusiasm.

She adored summers spent at the Crescent Beach Swim Club with her tight group of friends. There, Siobhan learned to swim and fell in love with the water – something she carried right through into her adult life.

More recently, Siobhan put her roots down on Salt Spring Island. The island and its residents embraced and nurtured her, and it quickly became her home. Her many friends remember her kindness – often in the form of leaving little notes and love letters to those around her. A fearless explorer, Siobhan never shied away from taking on a new hobby, or activity – from kayaking the coast to fly fishing the inlet or hiking the West Coast Trail.

Developing a love of working with her hands from an early age, Siobhan excelled in her chosen field of carpentry. She had recently entered her third year at Camosun College in their Carpentry Apprenticeship Program, and was looking forward to being able to mentor young women wanting to follow her path into the trades.

Siobhan's radiant energy and infectious laugh will be missed by all those fortunate enough to cross her path.

Memorials in her honour will be held on August 31 at Beaver Point Hall at 5pm on Salt Spring Island and September 5th at 5pm at Camp Alexandra in Crescent Beach. A scholarship in Siobhan's name to support young women pursuing a career in the trades is being set up by her family. More information will be forthcoming.

FIRE

Quick action halts Mount Maxwell fire

Cyclist and property owner credited with averting disaster

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As “extreme” fire danger conditions persist, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) responded Sunday to an illegal fire up Mount Maxwell Road that officials say could have been a lot worse.

Assistant Fire Chief Mitchell Sherrin said three firefighters and two apparatus were dispatched up toward the provincial park after a passing cyclist reported an unattended campfire still smouldering in a meadow off the road. The cyclist rode quickly back to his truck, Sherrin said, grabbed a water can and sprayed it on the fire, before racing to a nearby house to call the fire department.

In a stroke of luck, according to Sherrin, it was the home of Greg Bellavance, who took his bobcat machine to the location and began turning the earth in search of embers that could have restart-

ed the fire. When SSIFR arrived, they doused the ground with additional water and thoroughly extinguished the fire.

“It was really fortunate for us to have Greg there and his machine,” said Sherrin. “And I want to commend that cyclist for acting quickly and notifying us.”

Sherrin said since the fire was on North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) property, they were notified and inspected the site, roughly in the 1200 block of Mount Maxwell Road. Sherrin also implored the public to exercise extreme caution in the woods while the fire danger is so high.

“People need to be extra safe,” said Sherrin. “We probably have another week of this weather before any hope of moisture.”

As of Monday the forest fire danger rating is at extreme. Campfires are banned as part of the regulations.

The NSSWD has been vocal in recent years about asking people to not trespass on their Mount Maxwell watershed property, with concerns about fire damaging the watershed and the potential for degrading drinking water quality.



PHOTOS BY REMY FIELDING

DINNER ARRIVES: An adult osprey brings food to its young in the nest on a property off North Beach Road on Salt Spring, quelling their noisy cries.

Summertime dining IS BEST DONE OUTDOORS!



Enjoy Japanese grilled food including Oko-nomi-yaki, one of the most popular and casual foods in Japan.

Our food truck is located behind Bohemia Consignment in the heart of Ganges. 11am to 5pm, closed Thursdays.

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Dining outdoors is one of the best things about summer. Whether you eat at a restaurant, in your backyard, at the beach or in a local park, everything seems to taste better with some fresh air.

Salt Spring Island has a wide range of choices available to satisfy your craving for a delicious meal you don't have to cook yourself. We hope you will be inspired to try some new island taste sensations — *al fresco* style.