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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

WITH A SIREN TOO: Nico Ruurs holds the RCMP-themed zucchini racer he made for the Zucchini 500 races at the Salt Spring Fall Fair on Saturday with encouragement from the local RCMP detachment, including Const. Hardip Gill, who led the crowd countdown for the race. Ruurs' racer also sported a working siren. For more fall fair photos, see the Harvest Time publication in next week's Driftwood.

ISLANDS TRUST

Housing bylaw process paused

Trust staff tasked with addressing First Nation and public concerns

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's latest effort to address the island's tight housing market is in a holding pattern, while officials and staff look to address both First Nations and wider public concerns.

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) members agreed Sept. 6 with a staff recommendation to pause consideration of a third reading for Bylaw 530 in order to consult with Tsawout First Nation — given receipt of the nation's lands manager's negative response to the proposal — and also directed staff to develop recommendations to address multiple concerns expressed by other community members.

Bylaw 530, crafted at the urging of the Housing Action Program Task Force and shaped through several public events and LTC amendments, is meant to help ease Salt Spring's rental supply crunch by permitting a new housing option: accessory dwelling units (ADUs), which would be permitted in several zones across the island. The bylaw text also presents a host of regulations on how those ADUs would be permitted and used, and while the proposal has been referred to several relevant and organizations with no changes recommended — apart from the inclusion of building and fire code requirements and the provision of water and sewer, according to staff reports — the combination of substantial public concern and direct opposition from Tsawout First Nation seems to have been pivotal in the LTC's decision to pause its process.

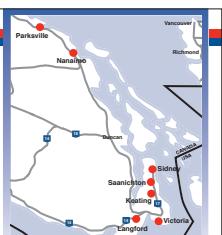
BYLAW 530 continued on 3

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WATER

Report: Weston watershed near or at capacity

Study limitations notwithstanding, planners recommend conservation

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Legally it's "Lake Weston," not "Weston Lake," according to the provincial registry — but whatever it's called, local planners agree its use as a potable water source is probably at capacity.

Even as he commiserated with trustees about yet another unfortunate choice from BC's Geographical Names Office, Islands Trust senior freshwater specialist William Shulba presented Salt Spring's local Trust committee (LTC) with a comprehensive report on the lake's water supply, with consideration

for how that will be affected by climate change.

And while Shulba and his colleagues agree the data availability is limited — and requested the LTC ask its staff to help find new funding opportunities for a more detailed assessment, through the Capital Regional District or the province — all signs point to a fully subscribed body of water.

"Taking a precautionary principle, staff are suggesting that the lake is either nearing or completely allocated," said Shulba. "And with the influence of climate change, there will need to be some significant conservation effort put in just for the existing users."

The assessment was undertaken by GW Solutions, and funded mostly by the LTC — using unspent special property tax requisition funds for watershed protection coordination from previous fiscal years. It concludes

that, given current surface and groundwater withdrawals, every year Lake Weston's water level likely drops below the minimum required to sustain the environmental flow needs of Weston Creek — and it predicts the problem is unlikely to get anything but worse as the climate changes.

Lake Weston is groundwater-dominated, said Shulba, without many surface-water inputs, and with just a single surface-water output: Weston Creek, which is itself also fed by groundwater.

More detailed studies, already in early planning stages, could determine additional water use would not negatively impact the already identified critical habitats in the watershed; Shulba said additional licences would be considered by the province, and he was hopeful the report would prompt the province to agree to help local efforts to identify envi-

ronmental flow needs, as part of informing its licensing process.

"At this time I would suggest any expansion of Fulford should not happen until this is further studied," said Shulba. "If there is a significant application that needs water, [they should use] their own licence on the lake, and then use shared works to get the water to where it's going."

Other recommendations that came out of the report included installing additional groundwater monitoring stations, as well as more opt-in well metering, to help quantify domestic well water use, and further promotion of conservation measures. Trustees directed staff to work with the Capital Regional District and the provincial government to identify funding and project management opportunities to undertake the environmental flow needs assessment for the lake and creek. The final report

was then referred to the Ministry of Forests Water Authorization Branch for its information, review and comment.

FOR THE RECORD

A reader correctly pointed out that a Sept. 7 article concerning the Maxwell Lake area should have made better distinction between the body of water — which is a public resource — and the watershed surrounding it — which is owned by the North Salt Spring Waterworks District. Using "Maxwell Lake" and "Maxwell Lake watershed" interchangeably was imprecise.

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LAND USE PLANNING

Task force submits housing recommendations

Communication, education and collaboration needed, says chair

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When climate and housing crises intersect, how should local government respond?

Two years ago, a group of volunteers were handed the task: advise the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) how to craft a balance between housing a diverse and healthy population on Salt Spring, while reducing — or, at a minimum, not increasing — that population's impact on the environment. And on Sept. 6, the island's Housing Action Program Task Force chair presented trustees with its latest report, consisting of several recommendations that have emerged from hundreds of hours of research, discussion and public engagement.

And, as expected, the process is far from complete.

"We've finished a summary report of the various ideas we've discussed to date," said task force chair Rhonan Heitzmann, speaking on behalf of the group, and reiterating the recommendations were meant to "improve housing options and diversity in a way that reduces the net environmental impact per capita of our settlement patterns, while maintaining a diverse and healthy community."

Some of the recommendations were familiar, having garnered much recent attention — the progression of a bylaw to permit accessory dwelling units stemmed in part from the task force's urging, and there are few on Salt Spring without opinions regarding regulation of vacation rentals, or tiny homes.

Others appealed to public policy



RHONAN
HEITZMANN

works — the task force's recommendations to the LTC naturally focus on land use planning — urging action on sustainability and affordability.

But to some extent or another, they were mostly tackling the issue of density: how planners might affect the number of developed units in a given area of land.

"We have to change the way we live as a community," said Heitzmann. "The status quo of large single-family dwellings on large lots is clearly unsustainable, socially or environmentally."

The task force recommended encouraging walkable village centres by allowing multiple stories of residential units above downtown businesses, to focus density there. And several ideas approached density from transactional angles — exchanging allowances on a new home's total floor area for putting conservation covenants on part of the homeowner's property, perhaps allowing additional dwelling spaces on a property if the owner builds to a higher standard of ecological efficiency — or updating the transfer mechanism, where developers "trade" density from large, landlocked and undeveloped areas for additional allowances on another property closer to existing infrastructure, to include considerations like forest preservation.

On an island renown for robust public discourse, it's little surprise that community engagement has been equally vigorous; between speakers at in-person hearings and thick stacks of letters and emails, input from islanders has not been in shortage. But task force members have been disheartened, according to Heitzmann, by the negative perception many in the public have about their goals, in part, he said, because official communication

with the public hasn't been effective.

"There's much work to do still, but information and communication is an important part," said Heitzmann. "One of the main points that we have highlighted is that need for better communication, education and collaboration."

Recent public discourse, said Heitzmann, has been rife with misunderstanding, false assumptions and incomplete appreciations of differing points of view and intentions.

"We can do better," he said, pointing to recent engagement with First Nations as an example. Heitzmann read from a June 10 letter from Lyackson First Nations expressing concerns about the housing task force's work — a letter he said was never shared with the task force.

"They are part of our community. We must do a better job engaging with them so that we can find solutions together," said Heitzmann. "We at the task force want to take into account their views and address their needs, but we can't do that if we're left in the dark."

In addition to the report's suggestions that the collaborative process strive to be more broadly inclusive, urging establishment of an interagency housing authority where Indigenous, provincial, territorial and local governments (e.g., CRD, water districts) could collaborate, Heitzmann recommended that when everyone reconvened in the next term, First Nations should be specifically invited to "meaningfully engage" in the process. He also suggested the invitation might be extended even sooner in preparation for discussions.

The Housing Action Program Task Force's report can be read online at: <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/salt-spring/projects/> under "Housing Action Program," "Other Information," "HAPT 2022 Summary of Recommendations" or at this shortened link: <https://bit.ly/3Bt0Xtx>

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour						
SEPTEMBER 2022 PST (UTC-9h)						
When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table						
DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES
14	0124	1.2	3.9	18	0434	1.0
	0812	2.8	9.2		1348	3.1
WE	1306	2.1	6.9	SU		10.2
ME	1905	3.1	10.2	DI		
15	0208	1.1	3.6	19	0534	1.0
	0935	2.8	9.2		1439	3.1
TH	1358	2.4	7.9	MO		10.2
JE	1924	3.0	9.8	LU		
16	0253	1.0	3.3	20	0635	1.1
	1108	2.9	9.5		1518	3.2
FR	1506	2.6	8.5	TU	2133	2.6
VE	1940	2.9	9.5	MA	2313	2.6
17	0341	1.0	3.3	21	0731	1.0
	1238	3.0	9.8		1548	3.1
SA	1711	2.8	9.2	WE	2140	2.5
SA	1946	2.8	9.2	ME		8.2

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LAND USE

Farmworker housing change proceeds

Guidance prepared for public

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With little fanfare, a proposed bylaw addressing housing for agricultural workers passed through the hands of Salt Spring's local Trust committee, and continues its journey towards implementation.

Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw 526 was given third reading Tuesday, Sept. 6, with no further changes to its draft version. Bylaw 526 is an effort to implement recent legislation in support of farmworker housing, and if passed, would effect several changes in how agricultural land use is regulated. Properties zoned Agriculture 1 and 2 (and classified as farms under the Assessment Act) would be permitted an additional dwelling for farmworkers, and the definition of a farmworker's dwelling unit would be expanded to include housing for both seasonal and full-time employees of the farm business, as well as for family members.

Farms on land not zoned Agriculture also have an option under the new bylaw to use unrealized subdivision potential to create farmworker housing, but only when certain conditions — such as registering covenants on their use, and agreeing to no further subdivisions — are met. The bylaw would also clarify the number of rooms that can be used for agritourism accommodation.

In calling the vote, trustee Laura Patrick noted the support in the Aug. 18 public hearing for the type of housing addressed in the bylaw. Acting regional planning manager Louisa Garbo explained that staff will now forward it to the Islands Trust Executive Committee for consideration, and prepare for the fourth reading once approved, hopefully in October.

Trustees directed staff to prepare communication materials to guide the public and help clarify the various forms of housing on agricultural land and the steps necessary to legally occupy that housing.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Committee Membership Opportunity

Skana Water Service Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3133, real property owners or residents in the Skana Water Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner, resident or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2023.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, three (3) real property owners and one (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- One (1) resident or real property owner who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.
- One (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nomination Instructions: when submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Skana Water Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 30, 2022**.

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Acting Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 3133 is available for viewing on the CRD website at: www.crd.bc.ca/skana-ws

Tsawout bylaw concerns flagged

BYLAW 530

continued from 1

On the day of a well-attended public hearing Aug. 18, staff received a letter from Tsawout First Nation in response to referral of the proposed bylaw, expressing its opposition; representatives concluded the bylaw, as written, could infringe upon Tsawout aboriginal rights and title, inasmuch as the potential impact was not directly considered.

"Bylaw No. 530 does not address the potential impacts increased development and living capacity will have on Tsawout First Nations rights to manage the traditional territory for now and future generations," reads the Aug. 16 letter.

While acknowledging the broader housing crisis, Tsawout First Nation also believes the proposed referral will significantly change the "environmental trajectory" of Salt Spring Island by pushing the living capacity past the standards originally outlined in the island's official community plan.

"The island does not have the capacity to increase living conditions without threatening the environmental stability of our traditional territory."

As he agreed with staff's recommendation to halt the process for First Nation consultation, trustee Peter Grove also felt the large number of other public comments, both in support of and in opposition to the proposed bylaw, deserved attention.

"It was a very full and interesting public meeting," said Grove. "I think we need to address some of the many valid questions and points that were made, and have some kind of response to those concerns."

Trustee Laura Patrick agreed, and pointed out that among the stated principles for the housing action program was that the LTC would "early and throughout the process" facilitate regular open dialogue with a full spectrum of the community, including First Nations.

"I know things kind of moved quickly this summer," said Patrick. "I think there's a number of things we can do to improve the bylaw, do a little bit more research, in addition to carrying on the dialogue with First Nations."

Specifically Patrick wanted staff to research options to limit the number of ADUs that could be permitted in a given time period, as well as potential amendments to the proposed bylaw — such as limits to total floor areas, shared driveways, or proximities to existing structures — that could minimize environmental impacts of its implementation. Patrick also felt there was a need for a strong education component, should the bylaw come into force.

"We need communication materials that explain what

these different forms of dwelling units are, for people to recognize the paths to making them legal," said Patrick.

Trustees directed staff to explore and report back to LTC on those matters, as well as to review concerns raised at the public hearing — and those of Tsawout First Nation — and provide recommendations on what action, if any, the LTC might take to address those concerns.

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Proposed Bylaw 280

Rezoning to permit for the development of up to 20 residential affordable housing rental units.

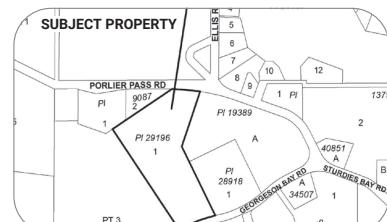
Subject Property Address: 409 Portier Pass Road
Parcel Identifier Number: 001-416-987
Application: GL-RZ-2021.1 (GALL)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING

GALIANO ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 280 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 280 will amend Galiano Island Land Use Bylaw No. 127 by rezoning the subject property known as 'Galiano Green' to allow for the development of up to 20 residential affordable housing rental units. The property is currently zoned Community Housing 1 (CH1), and rezoning is required to allow for an increase in permitted density from one dwelling per lot to 20 dwellings per lot. Other amendments are also required to align the existing CH1 zoning for the subject property with the applicant's multi-unit affordable housing development proposal.



How do I get more information?

A copy of the proposed bylaws and other information are available on the Current Application [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 September 11, 2022.

A Community Information Meeting (CIM) will take place in person to answer any questions about the proposed bylaw amendments. The Public Hearing will occur in person per the details on this notice.

Submissions

Written submissions may be delivered prior to 4:30 p.m., September 26, 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.



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Community Information Meeting
Tues. September 6, 2022 @ 12:30 (in person)

Public Hearing
Tues. September 27, 2022 at 12:30 p.m. in person

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Who should attend?
Anyone affected by
the proposed bylaw.

Enquiries?
Brad Smith
Island Planner
Islands Trust
bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca
778-679-5185

Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for Pender Island. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the agency. Applicants must reside on Pender Island in order to be considered for this position.

For information and an application form please visit our website at: gov.bc.ca/becoming-a-marriage-commissioner



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Capital Regional District

CRD

Membership Opportunities

Water and Sewer Commissions

The Capital Regional District (CRD) invites applications for volunteers to serve as members of various Water and Sewer Commissions. Terms are for two years, starting January 1 each year.

At their Annual General Meetings (AGM's) held earlier this year, the following Commissions did not receive the required amount of nominations for upcoming vacancies.

- ▶ **Beddis Water Service Commission** (1 position available) - includes 4 members within the Beddis water service area (3 members must be owners of real property; and 1 member may be a resident or owner of real property). The service consists of 137 parcels and provides drinking water to 128 connections.
- ▶ **Cedar Lane Water Service Commission** (up to 2 positions available) - includes 3 resident or owners of real property within the Cedar Lane water service area; or a person who is prepared to represent the service area. The system provides drinking water to 37 connections.
- ▶ **Fernwood and Highland Water Service Commission** (1 position available for a 1 year term from January 1, 2023 - December 31, 2023) - includes 4 members Fernwood and Highland Water service area (3 members resident electors; and 1 member may be a resident elector of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area). The system consists of 333 parcels, and provides drinking water to 321 connections.
- ▶ **Ganges Sewer Service Commission** (up to 3 positions available) - includes 5 members Ganges Sewer service area (4 members must be residents or owners of a business; 1 member may be a resident or owner of a business within the Electoral area; and 1 of the 5 members may be an employee or member of the school district, hospital, or community care facility which owns or manages property within the service area). The service consists of 416 parcels, and provides sewer service to 591 connections.
- ▶ **Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Service Commission** (up to 3 positions available) - Total membership on the committee is five plus the Electoral Area Director (five members must be persons entitled to vote on Salt Spring Island for the Electoral Area Director; one member must be from the Ganges Sewer Local Services Commission; and one member must be from the Maliview Sewer Local Service area).

Please submit your letter of interest and background information no later than **October 1, 2022** to:

Mail: CRD Electoral Area office
Suite 108-121 McPhillips Avenue, BC V8W 2S6

Email: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

Phone: 250.538.4304 for more information

ROYAL FAMILY

Queen's death raises memories

Islanders share experiences from recent and not-so-recent years

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

For some Salt Spring Islanders, the death of Queen Elizabeth II on Sept. 8 prompted fond memories of their encounters with Her Royal Highness over the years.

Kees Ruurs was a park ranger in Alberta in 1978 when he and his wife Margriet Ruurs were asked to attend a ceremony where an existing park in Edmonton was to be named Queen Elizabeth Park. The queen and Prince Philip were in Edmonton for the Commonwealth Games that year.

"The most amazing thing was that I had to be the queen for the practice the day before," Margriet Ruurs said on her Facebook page. "That felt so surreal. I sat in an open car with mounted police in front and waved at hundreds of boy scouts. There were First Nations chiefs presenting her with a gift and hundreds more. So I got to do all that the day before she came. It was very interesting to be involved in the planning of a Royal visit — it took months. I felt sorry for her that her every move was so regulated."

Anna Rithaler was six years old in October of 2002 when she went with her mother Loretta Rithaler and grandmother Rita Dods to see Queen Elizabeth and Prince Philip in Victoria during their tour of B.C. that year. The moment when young Anna gave the queen a bouquet of flowers was captured in both memory and photographic form.

Fourteen years later, Anna's brother William Rithaler was fortunate to have a conversation with Prince William, when he and his wife Katherine, the Duchess of Cambridge, visited Victoria. His mother and grandmother again made the trek, and William gave Prince William a bouquet of flowers with an envelope containing a card and note with the photo from



PHOTO COURTESY RITHALER FAMILY

Queen Elizabeth II accepts flowers from Salt Spring resident Anna Rithaler, then six years old, during a 2002 Royal Family visit to Victoria.

Anna's meeting with the Queen in Victoria in 2002.

Just last year, Katharine Byers' Salt Spring Elementary School grades 3-4 class members had the experience of receiving a letter from Queen Elizabeth II via her Lady-in-Waiting Jennifer Gordon Lennox. It was in response to a project that saw them time travel back to 1940 and write letters to then Princess Elizabeth and Princess Margaret following a radio broadcast they did as children that year. Byers' students were praised for writing so imaginatively and Lennox said the queen appreciated hearing from them.

"Her Majesty hopes you are keeping safe and well during the current situation," she added, referring to the pandemic.

Sheri Hickman's story about her experience as a child is printed below.

Remembering Queen Elizabeth

Salt Spring Islander recalls childhood encounter, letter

BY SHERI HICKMAN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Today Queen Elizabeth died, Sept. 8, 2022. I have always had an interest in the Royal Family; I was born in 1943 when King George was the King, and my father was in the Navy fighting in the Second World War to help defend the Dominion of Canada and the Monarchy.

As a young child, I would cut out any pictures of royalty that appeared in the Vancouver Sun — the only newspaper we got back then. I especially loved everything about the princesses — and eventually the Queen and her children.

In 1951, when Princess Elizabeth and her husband The Duke of Edinburgh (Prince Philip) made a visit to Canada, arriving in Montreal and travelling across the country, I was eight years old and followed the story as closely as I was able, asking my parents a myriad of questions that they patiently answered. My parents, myself and my baby brother were living in Campbell River on northern Vancouver Island at the time.

I was excited when I heard the Princess would be coming to Nanaimo, B.C. — but how I was I to get there to see her? The old Island Highway was a narrow winding road and we had a 1940s Ford sedan that lumbered along. I belonged to the Campbell River Girl Guides — we were called Brownies, as we weren't old enough to be Girl Guides yet. When I found out our Brownie pack was going to travel to Nanaimo to see the Royal couple, I was over the moon, and could hardly sleep until we got there.

We stood along the sidewalk in downtown Nanaimo and watched the Princess go by, waving to us. I ferociously waved my little "Union Jack" flag, and saw the Princess look directly at me and smile.

As soon as I got home, I carefully printed a



CAMPBELL RIVER COURIER CLIPPING COURTESY SHERI HICKMAN
The writer in her Brownie uniform holding the letter received from then Princess Elizabeth in November of 1951.

letter to the Princess, telling her how beautiful she looked, and that she looked right at me. I wondered if she remembered the little girl with a lot of ringlets in her hair, wearing a Brownie uniform and waving the Union Jack?

I don't know how my mom figured out an address, but we mailed my letter and on Nov. 7, 1951, I received a letter from Princess Elizabeth. Of course it was typed up by her Lady-In-Waiting, but I felt her speak directly to me. Our newspaper, The Campbell River Courier, took my picture holding the letter and published it with a story. Elizabeth was crowned Queen on my ninth birthday: Feb. 6, 1952. Of course, I believed that was intentional too.

There may only be a few people on Salt Spring Island who have received a letter from the Queen; funny enough I think my brother-in-law, Andy Hickman, is one of those people!

Sheri Hickman (nee Sherry Dyck) moved to Salt Spring in 1971, met her husband here and they raised their family on the island. She reports she now has eight grandchildren.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Islands' candidate lists finalized

Crowded fields for Trust and school board on Salt Spring Island

BY GAIL SJUBERG AND ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Final lists of candidates for Capital Regional District (CRD), Islands Trust, and Gulf Islands School Board positions have been finalized — and voters will have several contended races.

Eight individuals have put forth their name to fill two Islands Trust trustee seats on Salt Spring Island. They are Ben Corno, Gary Gagne, Jamie Harris, Jennifer Maksymetz, Don Marcotte, Jenny McClean, Laura Patrick (incumbent) and Elissa Poole.

Incumbent Gary Holman faces a challenge from Jesse Brown and Kylie Coates for the Salt Spring CRD director position.

The Southern Gulf Islands director position sees two past Islands Trust representatives vying for the job: Ben McConchie of North Pender Island and Paul Brent from Saturna. Brent has been the acting CRD director since the resignation of Dave Howe earlier this year.

On South Pender Island, Dag Falck, Kristina Peszel and Cameron Thorn (incumbent) are the candidates for two Islands Trust positions.

North Pender incumbent Deb Morrison is running again, along with Aaron Campbell, Barbara Johnston and Mary Beth Rondeau.

Mayne Island incumbents David Maude and Jeanine Dodds face a challenge from Deb Foote.

Galiano Island sees Lisa Gauvreau, Ben Mabberley, John Ronsley and Jane Wolverton (incumbent) in a race for the two seats.

Only Saturna Island's Trust representatives have been decided by acclamation. Incumbent Lee Middleton will be joined by Mairead Boland.

For Gulf Islands School Board positions, six candidates will run for three seats representing Salt Spring Island: Tisha Boulter (incumbent), Nancy Macdonald, Jenny McClean, Rob Pingle (incumbent), George Sipos and Anna Szul.

Jeannine Georgeson, Greg Lucas and Chaya Katrensky will run unopposed to become trustees representing Galiano, Pender and Saturna Islands, respectively. The nomination deadline for a Mayne Island school trustee was extended to Sept. 12; no candidate name had been released as of press time.

General election day is Saturday, Oct. 15. Advance polling dates are Wednesdays, Oct. 5 and 12. Mail-in ballots can also be applied for through the CRD website.

Candidate introductions continue

The Driftwood asked all newly announced Trust and CRD candidates for a quick statement that included a brief biography and their motivations to run for office. Those new candidates who answered on our very tight deadline appear below. The rest will appear next week, if received. Basic information about those who announced their candidacy last month — CRD candidates Kylie Coates and Gary Holman, and Salt Spring Trust candidates Laura Patrick and Ben Corno — was published in previous editions of the Driftwood.

In coming weeks, we will give Trust, CRD and school board candidates the opportunity to answer a few questions in writing for publication. In addition, the Driftwood and the Salt Spring Forum are co-sponsoring an all-candidates forum at 7 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 6, at ArtSpring.

Jesse Brown - CRD

Jesse Brown has deep roots in the community, most recently working as CRD Salt Spring's first economic sustainability coordinator (2022) and executive director at the Chamber of Commerce (2021). Brown developed and wrote successful community building proposals for Ganges Village Vibrancy, More than Murals, and Southern Gulf Islands Love Local.

He volunteered as a commissioner on the Islands Trust's Ganges Village Planning Task Force (2021), advocating for the inclusion of working people, families and minorities in decision making.

Prior to working on Salt Spring Island, Brown worked in Vancouver as a community health advocate and was the Green Party of Canada's nominee for MP in Vancouver-Centre earning 12.5 per cent of the vote in 2019.

"I'm running because I deeply care about the future of our island and have the energy to act. Ensuring that working people and families can continue to live on Salt Spring Island will guide all my decisions if elected as your representative."

"I am concerned about Gary Holman's local community commission idea as it is expensive, rushed and won't correct our governance dysfunction. Please vote no to the LCC because, if elected, I will begin a community dialogue on Salt Spring Island government that connects with all Salt Springers."

Gary Gagne - Islands Trust

During his decades as a resident of Salt Spring, Gagne has volunteered for Transition Salt Spring, Island Pathways, Cycling Salt Spring, Partners Creating Pathways, TSSEC, Green Islands, ambulance service, and has also spent several years on the front lines protecting ancient forests, as an officer on Greenpeace ships and support staff for spiritual organizations. Currently serving as vice-chair of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) and briefly as acting chair, Gagne has four years experience as a trustee. In that capacity he served as the NSSWD representative on the Salt Spring Island Housing Council, and was very involved with the Climate Action Plan 2.0 update and its ongoing implementation in the Maxwell watershed. Gagne has also been a boat builder, sailor, house builder and single parent of two boys and now lives on a small-scale, off-grid organic farm with his wife of 25 years.

"My motivation to run for this office stems from my concern that in recent years the Trust has taken a direction away from its mandate to "preserve and protect"; the need for affordable housing can be resolved without compromising that mandate," states Gagne. "I would also hope to bring more transparency, accessibility and

inclusivity to the Trust meetings. My 30-plus year history as a volunteer in various organizations has given me a broad perspective and strong interest in bringing people together to work on the many pertinent issues facing the islands."

Elissa Poole - Islands Trust

Elissa Poole has called Salt Spring home since 1978, although her career as a professional musician often took her off-island for long periods of time. Since 2000 she has been teaching at the University of Victoria in the School of Music. She also wrote for the *Globe and Mail* for over 20 years.

"My son grew up here, I've been graced with wonderful friends as the neighbourhood expanded, and I can't imagine living anywhere else," she said.

Most recently she has been active in attempting to conserve a large acreage in the south end of the island. That project, which is ongoing, has involved raising almost \$250,000 in donations. She said it has put her into contact with extraordinary people whose expertise in forestry, wetland management, species diversity and habitat conservation has been an inspiration.

"Thanks to these collaborations I've come to a better understanding of the hurdles facing conservationists, the tradeoffs involved, the fragility of the ecosystems on our island as our weather becomes more unpredictable, and the need to ensure that the Island Trust's mandate to protect the environment — its very reason for being — is honoured."

She said she decided to run for office "to ensure that the Trust continues to make protecting our Salt Spring environment a priority. The current Trust has focused on policies: lots of ideas, lots of strategic plans, but not much real action in four years. I support initiatives in housing and the idea of creating incentives to encourage landlords — many of them within the current pool of housing options — to rent long term to local workers. But we need to be cautious, and to accept that our hotter climate and summer droughts put our environment at risk."

"Figuring out how to implement recommendations from the climate action proposals — protecting Douglas fir forests and watersheds, for instance — is crucial. Talking about reconciliation must include regular input from First Nations on subjects they care about, and that we actively respond to, not just acknowledge."

Jennifer Maksymetz - Islands Trust

Jennifer Maksymetz moved to Salt Spring Island in 2017 with her daughter and husband.

She is a board member of Salt Spring Arts, and was appointed to the Ganges Village Task Force (Islands Trust) as an advisor for art and culture. Professionally, she has been active in the international arts and culture community over 20 years as an art director, advisor, researcher, writer and artist.

She holds an MA in Art and Politics from Goldsmiths University, London. She specializes in Asian tea ceremony and has a small tea school in the south end where she teaches about tea culture.

Maksymetz said she was inspired to run for a local trustee position because she believes that Salt Spring "has tremendous potential to foster a resilient, inclusive, equitable and sustainable community for generations to come."

She said she wants to continue to be a part of the 2050 Policy Statement amendment project, which will enable the Trust Council to plan for the challenges and opportunities that the Islands Trust area will face for the next 30 years.

"As a trustee it would be an honour to work in a good way, through partnership planning, with Indigenous communities and individuals here in the Coast Salish Territories," she said. "We are living in a complex time — climate change, the emerging asocial society (isolation and mental health) and increasing economic disparity. It will take a whole systems approach — one that requires research, planning and community support. I am excited by this opportunity."

Capital Regional District

CRD

Committee Membership Opportunity

Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2558, real property owners in the Sticks Allison Water Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2023.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, and four (4) owners of real property within the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- Two (2) real property owners who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, clearly print the committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 30, 2022**.

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Acting Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7

Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 2558 is available for viewing on the CRD website at:

www.crd.bc.ca/sticks-ws

OPINION

Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



EDITORIAL

Healthy democracy

Speculation about who would be running for local political office was answered at the end of the day on Friday with release of names of individuals who had completed the nomination process.

While races will take place for Islands Trust trustees on all of the southern Gulf Islands except for Saturna, on Salt Spring the field has been filled with eight candidates who are vying for two available seats. Similarly, six people have stepped up for the three Salt Spring seats on the Gulf Islands school board. The other islands' seats have been filled by acclamation, and a representative for Mayne Island is still being sought. While nine people did run for Salt Spring Islands Trust in 2002, smaller fields have been the norm in recent decades.

THE ISSUE:
Local election candidates

WE SAY:
More is better

It's heartening to see so much interest in local governance and it should be considered a sign of a healthy democracy. The next month should provide plenty of time for voters to learn about the issues and speak with the candidates before casting votes on general election day — Oct. 15 — in the advance polls on Oct. 5 or 12, or by mail. A mail ballot application is available on the CRD website and should be completed as soon as possible if people want to vote via mail.

Salt Spring voters will also be asked in a referendum for their opinion about adopting a local community commission format of governance to consolidate some CRD services. Voters on Saturna, Mayne, Pender and Galiano will be asked to provide assent to create a Southern Gulf Islands Transportation Service, with a \$675,000 maximum annual requisition required.

In a related matter, the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District annual general meeting is on Monday, Sept. 19. Its governance structure (as an "improvement district") requires that ratepayers set and approve remuneration for trustees at the AGM each year. At present the SSIFPD trustees receive no compensation for their time and service to the community. The honorarium does not have to be large, but fire trustees have long been treated like second-class governance citizens. It's time for that to change.

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

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



PARKER



Water runs through crisis

BY DAVID SUZUKI

Sometimes there's too much water; sometimes not enough. A major challenge with global heating is that it doesn't necessarily cause more or less of something in a specific geographic area; it just makes everything less predictable, and often more extreme.

Consider some late-summer headlines. Pakistan "faces 'monsoon on steroids' as more flood warnings issued." In Spain, "Historic monuments resurface as severe drought shrinks reservoirs." Melting Greenland ice is "set to raise sea levels by nearly a foot."

In rainy Vancouver where I live, overall precipitation is expected to increase by a small amount, but more intense rain is expected in shorter periods, especially during fall and winter. Many areas get hit with torrential rains after prolonged drought, which causes problems from runoff to crop and tree destruction.

This planet has evolved interconnected cycles that make human and other life possible — among them, the carbon, hydrologic (i.e., water), nitrogen and oxygen cycles. Burning coal, oil and gas — and disrupting or destroying natural carbon sinks like forests and wetlands — has affected the carbon cycle, heating the climate and changing the ways water flows.

Impacts are evident everywhere, yet many continue to take water for granted. And governments allow multinational corporations to suck up, bottle and sell it back to us as drinking water or sugary beverages. With so much development — urban, agricultural and industrial — people have created conditions for runoff, flooding and water waste.

Again, we have many solutions. We can build bigger seawalls or start the process of "managed retreat" from coastlines. We can implement flood measures using natural features to capture, channel, store and

VIEWPOINT

drain water. We can engineer "drought-resistant" crops. We can shift to agricultural methods that hold water and soil together better. We can re-imagine plumbing systems to stop wasting potable water and to recycle valuable nutrients like nitrogen in urine.

But until we tackle the root cause of all these interconnected, often complex changes, we'll see them become increasingly more frequent and severe. We absolutely must ramp up efforts to slow and halt the climate crisis, which is bringing many interrelated tragedies in its wake, from species extinction to refugee crises to various water issues. A recent study by global engineering and architecture services firm GHD found that the price of failing to address related climate and water issues could be staggering. "Aquanomics" predicts floods, droughts and storms could cost Canada's economy \$139 billion over the next 30 years, with mounting damage to power, manufacturing and transportation infrastructure.

As the report title suggests, it's all about water. "Either we have too much water or not enough," the company's water lead, Don Holland, told CBC. "But really, when we talk about climate change, we experience it through water."

We're each about 60 per cent water. Water is life. We can't live without it. If we want to avoid worsening conflicts over this increasingly scarce necessity — and problems associated with its distribution, from floods to droughts — we must get off fossil fuels, reform agricultural practices and protect and restore natural areas.

The writer is a scientist, broadcaster, author and David Suzuki Foundation co-founder. This piece was written with contributions from foundation senior writer and editor Ian Hanington.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Were you impacted by news of Queen Elizabeth's death?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you be attending the Salt Spring Fall Fair?

24 64
YES NO

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

ISLAND VOICES

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: What was your favourite thing about the fall fair?

RUBY GILLIAM



I loved the games. Especially the dart game where the prizes were Yerba!

ROB CHAPIN



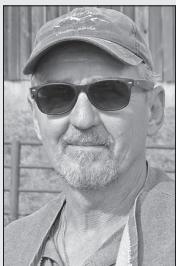
I enjoyed meeting the other volunteers from all over the island. Our name tags meant we met a lot of new people and visitors.

SHAYLA WEBB



The corn from the Dos Amores booth and the swing ride.

DARRELL SOMERS



A lamb burger and a beer.

KATE COOPER



Working with all the new and returning volunteers who want to get involved in their community.

LETTERS to the editor

LCC concept supported

I want to add my support for the local community commission (LCC) proposal, which Salt Springers will be able to vote on during the referendum at the upcoming October elections.

As someone who is often trying to organize community projects, I've seen first-hand what our siloed governance system can do to a good idea. While I don't think any government system is perfect, I do believe that having diverse voices elected to represent a variety of viewpoints, cultures, ages, economic classes and genders produces more complex thinking and decisions. Something our community and our planet desperately need right now.

I also think an LCC gets us closer to what many of us would like to see on Salt Spring — more truly "local" decisions and priorities. Diverse representation on an

LCC means we'll have more people to talk to about our needs and concerns, which then translates to direct influence on the outcomes. Is this a perfect solution? Likely not. Is it good enough for now, and safe enough to try? I say yes.

DARLENE GAGE,
SALT SPRING

Islands Trust meeting view not informed

I am writing in response to Paul McElroy's Sept. 1 *And Another Thing* column. He has chosen to write about a Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting that he admits to having only attended for a short while out of a day-long meeting.

He also admits to not being a regular attendee at the LTC meetings. I have found that a person cannot really know what is going on here or begin to know unless they attend

the entire meeting on whatever commission or group is holding the meeting. I realize that people feel that it is impossible to know what is going on as they work at jobs and cannot do this. However, not everyone is allowed to fill half a page in the Driftwood to explain a meeting that they barely attended. Furthermore, the article reinforces stereotypes about Salt Spring that are very tired now. I have seen these same stereotypes for over a decade. I was at the very same LTC meeting that Paul McElroy attended and I had a completely different impression of it.

A decision was made after many well thought out, polite, intelligent presentations were heard. There were decisions made based on incomplete information and that were not perfect as the senior freshwater specialist William Shulba was not in attendance that day. A decision was made without his input.

At the next LTC meeting on Sept. 6, William Shulba pre-

sented on Weston Lake and the outflow to Weston Creek and the need for wetlands to have adequate water. The current restrictions on the Fulford water supply that comes from Weston Lake are based on the time of year rather than lake levels. A commercial business with potentially high water consumption was approved without input on hydrology at this time. Those speaking on this were not a bunch of regular idiots. Rather, the crowd who presented included a retired marine biologist and many with university degrees and all who spoke shared a great amount of knowledge and experience with the trustees.

I find it disheartening to read Paul McElroy's summary as for those who were unable to attend it gives a completely biased impression and is drawn from his minimal attendance at the meeting.

JENNY McCLEAN,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"The status quo of large single-family dwellings on large lots is clearly non-sustainable, socially or environmentally."

RHONAN HEITZMANN, CHAIR, HOUSING ACTION PROGRAM TASK FORCE

New governance decision should not be rushed

BY CHRIS DIXON

We're being asked to consider establishing a local community commission (LCC) for Salt Spring Island, and to vote for or against the idea in October. There's a hitch, of course.

In the same way that voting for a new fire hall also meant quietly giving our old fire hall to the CRD, this current question isn't just about whether we want an LCC; it is about deciding whether we want an LCC that is managed by an un-elected, unaccountable CRD in Victoria.

For me personally, the question is whether an LCC that is administered by the CRD is something I truly want. As a former CRD commissioner, I will vote no.

A recent paper authored by Linda Adams, Richard Kerr and Brian Webster suggests that we could benefit from establishing an LCC; that four locally elected CRD commissioners could deliver an enhanced level of participation in decisions that are currently made in Victoria.

Words like "more democratic, more accessible, more streamlined, more transparent and accountable" appear early in the document, but these theoretical benefits are conditional; the issue being one of delegated authority. Success hinges on whether the CRD will actually allow people they don't control to make decisions for themselves. How the CRD treats its commissioners is an

INDEPTH

important question.

In response to a recent governance study of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD), the CRD indicates that they are not prepared to delegate authority to elected local representatives of NSSWD ratepayers. How is an elected local community commission different?

The LCC report makes the distinction that LCC commissioners will be elected rather than appointed. It casts shade on appointed commissioners, (page 12), suggesting that they might "lack the time, experience or knowledge to contribute effectively to decision-making." Really? Would the four elected LCC commissioners be drawn from a different gene pool?

At any given time, Salt Spring Island has 30 or 40 CRD commissioners; over the years, we have likely had a few hundred citizens serve our community as commissioners. This large, diverse and committed group of individuals represents a wealth of hands-on experience in dealing with the CRD.

Hearing their opinion of the CRD would elevate today's LCC conversation from the hypothetical to the factual. It concerns me that their voice has not

been heard.

I would like to see every current and past CRD commissioner on Salt Spring formally interviewed by an intelligent, independent local person, who would then report on the issues and concerns that our CRD commissioners face. We should all have this information before we're asked to vote.

The CRD argues that it is too expensive to have a separate referendum on the LCC idea. Based on their \$7-million annual requisition spread over 50 five-day weeks, the CRD costs us something like \$28,000 per day, and establishing a CRD/LCC is a decision we'll only make once.

If a CRD/LCC is a good idea today, it will still be a good idea in three months, or six months or a year from now. Rushing to include the LCC in this next round of voting is a mistake.

Islanders are not well served by rushing a decision of this magnitude. The LCC question should be removed from the ballot until we have good factual information to support our decision. The urgency of the current process reflects poorly on its proponents.

The writer is a former member of the CRD's Cedar Lane Water Service Commission and a current NSSWD trustee.

Provisional CRD budget sees 3.5 per cent hike

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board will approve its provisional budget for 2023 on Sept. 21, held earlier than usual this year due to the local government election in October. It will be the responsibility of the elected CRD director to publicly present the provisional CRD budget and vote on the final CRD budget in March 2023.

The proposed requisition increase for the CRD and CRHD (Capital Region Hospital District) is 3.5 per cent on a per household basis, similar to the average yearly increase over the past four year term. The 2023 increase is somewhat higher than the average inflation rate for 2018-22, but about half the current inflation rate.

The major drivers for the 2023 requisition increase, aside from inflation and negotiated wage and salary settlements for CRD staff, are:

- costs to PARC of leasing and oper-

Gary Holman
CRD DIRECTOR'S
REPORT



ating the middle school, re-purposing of the Ganges fire hall property, and requisition increases to support devolution of Saturday Market management to a local non-profit group;

- increased funding for community groups engaged in climate action, food security and beautification of Ganges;
- continued increases in library staffing as volunteer numbers decline;
- higher BC Transit bus leasing fees and COVID ridership revenue impacts;
- higher costs of liquid waste truck-

ing and disposal.

Offsetting these cost increases somewhat is the reduced cost of the 911 dispatch service, now provided by Saanich municipality, compared to Langford which has discontinued this service.

A major factor contributing to the CRD requisition increase in the previous year was the unprecedented escalation in Salt Spring Island's assessed values compared to the region as a whole, meaning we paid a higher proportion of the costs of region-wide services. Assessed values within the regional district are not available, nor the requisition implications, until February of 2023, and will be taken into account in the final CRD budget. The final CRD/CRHD requisition, to be approved in March 2023, may be higher due to costs related to the local community commission (subject to voter approval,) and CRD Board decisions on initiatives regarding First Nations reconciliation and other regional issues.

Most of the requisition increases for local CRD services result from the leasing of the middle school and pending acquisition of the fire hall; increases in service levels (library, economic development); and devolution of the Saturday Market management to a local community group. It should be noted that SSI has also benefitted greatly this term from millions in grants and funding commitments directly from the CRD, or flowing through CRD from senior governments, such as:

- \$3.74 million from Capital Region Hospital District for the new Lady Minto Hospital emergency room.

- over \$2 million in infrastructure funding for the CRD Maliview sewage treatment plant upgrade and Salt Spring's first large-scale composting facility.

- \$6.5 million through CRD Regional Housing for the Croftonbrook project.

- BC Housing's commitment for a fully funded 28-unit supported housing facility on CRD's Drake Road property.

- gas tax funding for affordable housing-related water supply alternatives and our new fire hall.

- continued CRD funding to support free residential recycling.

- MOTI funding of \$490,000 for the Booth Canal-Central pathway.

- over \$1 million from the Province to PARC for shared recreation/daycare space at the Rainbow Road swimming pool.

- \$300,000 in PARC funding to acquire the Mount Maxwell community park.

It has been a privilege to serve Salt Spring this past term, and I urge everyone to get out and vote for your preferred CRD and Islands Trust candidates.

I also urge voters to support the local community commission proposal to broaden CRD elected representation, make local decision-making (including budget decisions) more transparent and reduce the siloed nature of our service delivery.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Letter writer should reverse roles

Comments from Greg Middleton in the Aug. 24 Driftwood regarding residents of the community opposed to Rogers proposed cell tower installation in "their back yard" are astounding to me.

Mr. Middleton is suggesting those living in the close proximity of this uncalled-for intrusion by the corporate bad neighbour Rogers "should just suck it up and be quiet for the sake of the common good," as Greg sees it. It's so easy to do the "right thing," hey Greg? You know, take one for the team.

Really! Good for who Greg? I can only guess

about the incredible clarity and certainty you are in possession of and thankfully sharing with us. It is amazing to be able to proclaim with such confidence and selflessness this bit of advice all without moralizing about it and for others to follow, or suck it up, as it were.

Not being in that situation personally I can't quite grasp how Mr. Middleton can so eagerly and loudly repeat such a perspective for those who might actually have to live with the cell tower. After all, Greg is far removed from the reality of those living with this invasion in their part of the community.

The residents on Canavasback Place have asked Rogers to consider moving the tower back away from the houses. Crickets. They did not say "don't provide better ser-

vice for first responders" like ambulance, police or the fire department (who wouldn't wish that antennae attached to their fire hall tower). They did not deny the possibility of endless streaming of the mindless content Rogers, Bell and Telus enjoy making available and over-charging for here in Canada, while further dumbing down the eager customers and citizenry. Oh well, take the bad with all the good, eh?

For your consideration, wish for others what you wish for yourself, Greg. Your armchair quarterbacking regarding this situation has placed you in the category of a "Take my advice, I am not using it" philosophy.

All the best.

DAVID MERKE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 9

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129 McPhilips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, British Columbia V0K 2T6

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Island's Doomsday clock keeps ticking on housing

A limited number of island residents who apparently fail to recognize that "sustainability" has social and economic dimensions, as well as environmental ones, have blocked, hopefully only temporarily, the passage of Bylaw 530. Those of us who support Bylaw 530 felt it was just a modest, actually far too modest, first step in dealing with our island's housing crisis. After all, half a loaf is better than none.

Unfortunately, however, even that half loaf would be too much progress for some to swallow. Such individuals apparently believe, for reasons that defy understanding, that the construction over a number of years of what experience elsewhere suggests will be at most 150 to 200 small dwelling units will somehow lead to a tsunami of 5,000 barbarians at the gate. Enough already!

Can anyone in their right mind deny that we are in the midst of a housing crisis that is sucking the blood out of Salt Spring, one reluctant, and often tearful, departure at a time? That being so, what do those opposed to Bylaw 530 advocate in its place to keep us a vibrant community, one serving

MORE LETTERS

all ages with enough workers for our hospital, our schools and all the businesses we now rely upon?

What do they propose to keep us from becoming an all but gated community for well to do retirees and even wealthier part time residents?

What alternatives do we have to providing reasonably priced housing options? Would we prefer a world where service was provided by a limited number of 21st-century serfs, all living in employer-owned housing, and an almost endless supply of artificially intelligent (?) creatures swearing allegiance only to Siri or to Alexa?

STAN SHAPIRO,
SALT SPRING

Experts' warnings unheeded by Trust on Vortex

Columnist Paul McElroy got it all wrong in last week's Driftwood when he wrote that approving the Vortex resort was "the only action" Salt Spring Local Trust Committee trustees could have taken.

Projects that require a development permit from the Islands Trust must meet all applica-

ble development permit area (DPA) guidelines. Applications that do not meet the guidelines can and should be rejected.

In the case of the Vortex application, there were four DPAs to consider, one with guidelines on drainage, flooding, and pollution of surface and groundwater. There is serious doubt all of these guidelines were met.

Trust staff produced four major reports. All recommended that trustees ask for comprehensive hydrology, drainage and biology studies. Even the final addendum, written after the applicant agreed to relocate the septic, stated that "staff continue to have questions about whether the reports furnished to date by the applicant provide sufficient quantitative analysis and modelling to conclude that guidelines are met. Provision of the reports noted above would help staff arrive at a final decision about guideline consistency."

If the Vortex project pollutes the fish-bearing creeks and the bay, the question that will forever hang in the air is why trustees, who are bound by the precautionary principle in their decision making, repeatedly failed to request the scientific reports recommended by their own experts.

Five warnings about possible impacts on one of the Gulf Islands' most fragile ecosystems went unheeded.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING



AEDs SAVE LIVES BUT PROPER MAINTENANCE IS ESSENTIAL

**AED Maintenance Day on Salt Spring is Wednesday September 28th
9:00-10:00 am Drop off your AED**

Behind Lady Minto Hospital beside the annex.
E-mail us at admin@ladymintofoundation.com
and let us know that you will be bringing a machine to be serviced.

12:00-2:00 Pick up your serviced AED

Remember to write your location name on the back.

Maintenance involves testing all equipment, updating the software and replacing the 9V battery.
Cost is \$55 plus any replacement costs for new equipment if required.

Thank you to all AED owners for providing this life saving service!

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Rants + ROSES

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news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Roses

A gigantic bouquet of roses, much appreciation and huge thanks to all our amazing volunteers who supported the recent Salt Spring National Art Prize fundraiser at ArtSpring. Your smiling faces make our art world a better place! The SSNAP team

A truckload of fragrant roses with my heartfelt thanks to the two young men who stopped and graciously assisted me, an elderly lady who had slipped into a five-foot-deep ditch on a black night in Fulford on Sept. 5. My sons who were looking for me, and my whole family, wish to express their gratitude for your thoughtfulness and kind assistance. A Salt Spring senior

Salt Spring CRD & Islands Trust Elections

All-Candidates Debate

**Thursday, October 6
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ArtSpring**

Everyone welcome / Free admission

Moderator: Aletha Humphreys

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COMMUNITY MUSIC

Music groups drum up new members

Society hopes new space strikes chord with musicians and singers in community

BY ROBB MAGLEY
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's been a month shy of two years since the last rehearsal, but with a new space — and renewed enthusiasm — Bandemonium's concert band is back, and seeking musicians at every level.

On Monday, Sept. 19, from 7 to 9 p.m. the Bandemonium Music Society is hosting a drop-in open house at the new band room — formerly the library — at the middle school building. It's not a rehearsal, according to the nonprofit's secretary, Kim Thompson, but an open invitation.

"We want to call in the current band members, let them see the room — get excited and register," said Thompson, "and tell anyone else who's at all interested in playing, come on in!"

Thompson said the early reviews on the space are stellar; being a smaller ensemble, the society's jazz band Swing Shift has had a chance to try it out, and reported the room — library carpet, drop ceiling, corkboard and all — worked surprisingly well for their acoustic needs.

"Once they took out the stacks, so to speak, the room felt bigger than expected," said Thompson. "It's such a good space, acoustically, and we want to share it."

Thompson envisions the return from the long COVID-induced rehearsal drought as an opportunity to revitalize music



PHOTO COURTESY BANDEMONIUM

Members of Swing Shift jazz band rehearse in the new music group space at the former Salt Spring Island Middle School. The space is still called "SIMS" — for Salt Spring Island Multi-Space — now administered by the CRD's parks department.

on the island — and the new space is just the spot. Bandemonium wants musicians to tour the room and share their ideas for what groups, classes, or workshops the community wants to see there.

"We'd love to make the concert band even bigger," said Thompson. "There's a lot of instruments in closets out there."

And, Thompson added, with enough interest Bandemonium wants to bring back the adult beginner band program — for anyone who feels rusty, or maybe wants a space to learn a new instrument.

After the Sept. 19 open house, rehearsals are set to begin starting Sept. 26. The concert band meets weekly on Monday nights, the jazz ensemble on Thursdays. There are early bird discounts on fees before Oct. 24, as well as for musicians who want to join both groups or play for just part of

the 2022/23 season — and there should be ample performance opportunities, something Thompson knows people miss.

"The new space is hopefully going to give us the chance to try a few new things; we'd love other groups to use it as well," said Thompson. "It could be a central hub for the different bands and choirs on the island — we'd love to see every open hour filled with music."

The Bach on the Rock chamber orchestra and choir will also be using the space later in the season and will have a representative at the Monday open house to talk with potential singers and musicians. The group has a particular need for string players at this time.

For more information about Bandemonium visit www.saltspring.band or email kim.saltspring@gmail.com.

WRITING

Island writers make CBC prize long list

Karl Meade and Murray Reiss among 31 finalists nation wide

BY ROBB MAGLEY
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two of Salt Spring's local writers are among 31 Canada-wide who have been long-listed for a literary prize that could include cash and a writing residency.

Karl Meade and Murray Reiss both appear on the long list for the 2022 CBC Nonfiction Prize, compiled by a panel of established writers and editors from across Canada from thousands of entries. A jury will select the shortlist to be announced Sept. 15, with the winner announced Sept. 22.

Meade is a poet, essayist, and novelist, who has been longlisted three times previous for the CBC Nonfiction Prize,



MURRAY
 REISS

and once each for the CDC Short Story and Poetry Prizes. His work *Just Beautiful* earned a nod from panelists this year, a story he wanted to tell about his late father, who died after a long struggle with vascular dementia.

"I wanted to convey — and I guess in some ways recapture — what a fun-loving, riotous and multi-faceted person he was through his long and storied life," said Meade.

Reiss' poetry and prose have been published in literary magazines and anthologies throughout Canada and the United States; *Next Door to Evil* examines the human and historical contexts of prosperity that results from industries that play havoc with the natural environment.

"*Next Door to Evil* looks at these



KARL
 MEADE

issues through the personal — my neighbours (stand-ins for the leaders of Exxon and BP and Shell, who responded to warnings of global warming with massive disinformation campaigns) ran those refineries and petrochemical plants — as well as the historical: the trials of German industrialists in the wake of World War II," wrote Reiss.

The winner of the 2022 CBC Nonfiction Prize will receive \$6,000 from the Canada Council for the Arts, attend a two-week writing residency at the Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity and have their work published on CBC Books. Four finalists will each receive \$1,000 from the Canada Council for the Arts and will have their work published on CBC Books.



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 WHAT'S ON CALENDAR
 ON PAGE 12.

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LITERARY EVENTS

Paper Covers Rock festival returns for 2022

Readers and writers fest celebrates storytelling across genres

The second Paper Covers Rock readers and writers festival is on for Oct. 1-8 at The Salty Pear Gallery and B&B, and organizers say ticket sales have begun.

The festival, presented in partnership with Country Grocer and Salt Spring Books, is set to host in-person workshops on fiction, poetry, music, comedy, memoir writing and more, with over 11 speakers confirmed throughout the week.

"Paper Covers Rock isn't your typical writers' festival," said event producer Terri Potratz. "The joy of writing is often found in surprising or unexpected sources of inspiration. For this reason, in addition to having established authors to the festival stage, we've invited innovators across a variety of genres."

The festival kicks off with Cecily Nicholson, winner of the Governor General's Literary Award for poetry. Danny Peart will discuss the virtues of self-publishing, followed by a chapbook-making workshop with Kevin Spenst, poetry



PHOTO COURTESY PAPER COVERS ROCK
Paper Covers Rock society board members, from left, Joyce Ng, Jenn Wint, Terri Potratz and Jen Maksymetz, who are set for the Oct. 1 to 8 event at The Salty Pear Gallery and B&B.

mentor at Simon Fraser University's the Writer's Studio.

During the week, Vancouver-based filmmaker Liz Cairns will discuss strate-

gies for crafting believable characters and storylines; Cairns is currently shooting her first feature on the island. Giselle Vriesen will teach how to write authen-

tically for fiction or fantasy genres. Other speakers include Nellie's Catering co-founder Gracie Gardner, sharing connections between cooking and storytelling, and Ahava Shira leading guided meditations and writing exercises.

Closing weekend will feature a movement workshop with Shauna Devlin, and renowned fiction authors Lee Henderson and Michael Christie will lead their own respective sessions before coming together for an author-to-author Q&A.

Several free social and networking events during the week include a Blues and Haikus event, inspired by Jack Kerouac's classic beat album, a children's storytime reading with Jenn Wint, and a bonfire social at the Salty Pear Gallery.

"We have an incredibly talented lineup of speakers leading workshops this year," said Potratz. "Intimate workshops, thoughtful break-out sessions and endless opportunities to write peacefully in this incredible location make this festival one of a kind."

In addition to general admission tickets, the festival offers a pay-what-you-can payment option for each workshop.

For more information and tickets, visit the website: www.papercoversrock.ca.

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LITERARY EVENTS

Blackwood launches book

A Lantern in the Dark event runs at the library next Thursday

SUBMITTED BY SSI PUBLIC LIBRARY

On Thursday, Sept. 22 at 7 p.m., the Salt Spring Island Public Library will host Danielle Blackwood's launch of her new book called *A Lantern in the Dark*.

When we find ourselves at a crossroads, the conventional ways of understanding where we are can fall short. We are betwixt and between — no longer who we used to be, not yet who we are becoming. However, these psycho-spiritual thresholds, which everyone experiences around the same ages, are where the real magic happens.

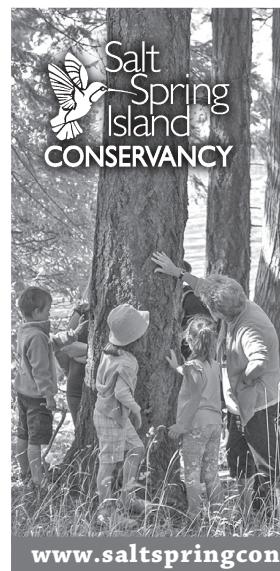
Using sacred astrology, Blackwood shows you when to expect crossroad times throughout your life, including the Saturn return and the midlife transits. She also reveals how myth and folklore can be

unexpected sources of guidance.

Discover the keys to self-realization, create a self-care tool kit, and learn how to support loved ones going through difficult times. As you uncover the archetypal dimensions of your own story, you'll make peace with the past, navigate the present, and move toward your unique purpose.

Blackwood is a professional astrologer with more than 30 years experience, as well as a registered counselling therapist in private practice. Her therapeutic approach is transpersonal, archetypal and person-centred, and she holds a certificate in Jungian and Post Jungian Clinical Concepts through the Centre of Applied Jungian Studies.

She is also the author of the bestselling book *The Twelve Faces of The Goddess* (Llewellyn, 2018). Blackwood is a passionate lifelong student of folklore, mythology, and depth psychology, and helping others reframe their stories through an archetypal lens is at the heart of her work.



www.saltspringconservancy.ca

Help kids connect with nature!

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy is running environmental education programs for the island's elementary students this fall and is looking for volunteers.

The Stewards in Training program is the perfect opportunity to explore the island and share your love of nature with youth. Join us for volunteer training on September 21 from 10 am to 1 pm.

For more information, email reed@saltspringconservancy.ca

what's on this week

Wed.

Sept. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Keven Snowden. 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.

Thur.

Sept. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Richard Garvey. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 10:30 p.m.

Dan Smith. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

MotherGoose. Weekly program for families and children aged 0 to 4 in the library program room. 11 a.m. to noon.

On the Rise: Grief Circle With Maggie Ziegler. Opportunity to come together in a safe group setting to express the pain and grief people carry in this time of climate emergency. Register: www.transitionsaltspring.com/rise. Artbarn on Suffolk Road. 7 to 9 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Fri.

Sept. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

CAMP Dance Collective Rough Cut. See a work-in-progress rough cut from a group that's been at ArtSpring for a creative residency. ArtSpring. 5 p.m. Plus a Q&A.

Pride Karaoke. At the Legion. Dinner served from 6 to 8 p.m. Karaoke begins at 9 p.m. A Pride All Year DAISSI event. Dance for Radio. CHIR.fm fundraiser at Mateada Lounge. 7 to 11 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are declared Salt Spring Islands Trust election candidates. United Church Meadow. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Cybersecurity: How to Protect Yourself from Phishing Scams. In this recorded tutorial, information security analyst Stephanie Ihezukwu covers everything you need to know about phishing and how to defend yourself against phishing carried out by email, phone, social media, text message. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 10 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Fri.

Sept. 16

ACTIVITIES

Spiritual Companioning Group. First of a six-part series led by Elaina Hyde on sharing and deepening a Christian spiritual practice. St. Mary's Church. 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. For more info visit staroftheseassi.ca. 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.

Sept. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

David Carl. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Art Making Workshop #2 For Community Procession. Nayana Filkow leads workshop for people to create ocean creatures and moving artworks for the Sept. 24 On the Rise festival community procession.

At SIMS. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Dosed 2: The Trip of a Lifetime. Documentary film shows at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m., followed by filmmaker Q&A.

Pop-up Drug Checking Event.

Storefront at 129 Hereford Ave. 12 noon to 6 p.m. Free and confidential. More info: substance.uvic.ca.

Saturday Market in the Park.

In Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

StoryWalk.

See Friday listing.

Sun.

Sept. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz Jam. A Salt Spring Jazz and Blues Society event at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

Moving In Peace. Ontario dance duo Suzanne Liska and Takako Segawa perform an improvisational dance piece in honour of the history of the island's Japanese-Canadian pioneers. In Heiwa Garden. 5 p.m.

Doug & Caoimhe. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salmon BBQ & Indigenous Film Night With Trevor Mack. Join award-winning filmmaker Trevor Mack to enjoy fresh, wild-caught salmon from Tsilhqot'in territory & a discussion/film screening.

United Church Meadow. 6:30 p.m. Info/tix: tinyurl.com/Trevor-mack. Or just come after dinner for screenings of In the Valley of Wild Horses and Ts'elman Te'osh at 7:30 p.m. by donation.

Sun.

Sept. 18

ACTIVITIES

Terry Fox Run 42nd Anniversary. Portlock Park. Registration at 10 a.m. and run at 11 a.m. run.terryfox.ca/3021

Mon.

Sept. 19

ACTIVITIES

SSI Scottish Country Dancing Club Open House. Come out and learn a new skill, which will exercise your body and your brain in a friendly, supportive and safe environment. We welcome all prospective dancers with proof of double Covid vaccination. All Saints by-the-Sea. 6 to 8 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District AGM. Annual general meeting at the Ganges Fire Hall. 6:30 p.m. People wanting to participate by Zoom must register in advance before noon today at admin@saltspringfire.com.

Bandemonium Music Society Open House. People are invited to see new community music space at SIMS and learn about music-making opportunities with Bandemonium and Bach on the Rock. 7 to 9 p.m.

StoryWalk. See Friday listing.

Tues.

Sept. 20

ACTIVITIES

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

VIA ZOOM

Poetry of Climate and Weather. Hosted by Star of the Sea and led by Brian Day. Come with a poem or to listen and respond. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at staroftheseassi@gmail.com.

Wed.

Sept. 21

ACTIVITIES

A Quiet Morning. Hosted by Star of the Sea and led by Richard Stetson. Prayer, silence, reading, contemplation. St. Mary's Church. 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. For more info visit staroftheseassi.ca.

Salt Spring United Soccer Club AGM. Annual general meeting at Portlock Park portable. 6 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum. See last Wednesday's listing.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• Back by popular demand! Elvis runs from Friday, Sept. 16 to Tuesday, Sept. 20 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. For more movie info, see thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

• Cheryl Long and Nathalie St-Amant present Translation, a collection of paintings that explore the stories that emerge from landscape, at Salt Spring Gallery from Sept. 16 to Oct. 5, with an opening event on Friday, Sept. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• JSINSET-SWELOKE (Family Growing Ourselves Up), a multidisciplinary exhibit of work by four members of the Elliott family from WSÁNEĆ: Myrna Crossley and TEMOSETET, Charles Elliott, and family members, emerging artists TEMOSEN Chazz Elliott and Matthew Parlby-Elliott is the Showcase Exhibition at Mahon Hall through Sunday, Sept. 18, daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• Self-Guided Art Walk - part of the On the Rise Climate Arts Festival. Grab a map at Mahon Hall and head downtown for the self-guided art tour of work by over a dozen local artists accessed via poster QR codes and your phone.

• Local island textile artists share their perspectives and stories about climate change in A Planet in Crisis exhibit at ArtSpring through September. Part of the On the Rise Climate Arts Festival.

• Ultimatum of the Scattered World is an art installation on display at the Salt Spring Public Library program room until Sept. 27. Part of the On The Rise Climate Arts Festival.

• Arcraft 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. until Sept. 18.

• Pierre Mineau is showing black and white landscape images in the Country Grocer Café for the month of September 2022.

Salt Spring Apple Festival

Display and vendors at Fulford Hall, and a self-guided farm tour. Tickets + programs at Fulford Hall and outside the Ganges Visitor Centre.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2 • 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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ISLAND LIFE

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PHOTOS COURTESY MEL WILLIAMSON

SPECIAL DELIVERY: At far left, Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute (SSIFI) board member Merv Walde (behind the wheel) and others work to get a 1929 Model A Ford truck running so it can be transported by flat-deck truck to its former owner, long-time SSIFI volunteer and past board director John Woodward. Because of mobility issues, Woodward, 95, couldn't make it to this year's Salt Spring Fall Fair, so his grandsons Lukas Booy (in the photo with Woodward at left) and Grey Williamson, who are cousins, initiated an attempt to bring the fair to Woodward with a visit from the vehicle he donated to the institute. The vehicle has a special place on the SSIFI grounds designated by a "John's Garage" sign. Woodward's stepdaughter Mel Williamson said the family was so grateful to Walde for his efforts to help the boys with their plan. Walde got the Ford running but as it wasn't insured the flat-deck truck was needed to effect the delivery. "We actually left it running for a really long time and honked the horn. John really loved it," said Williamson.

LOCAL HISTORY

Penelakut shaman in focus



PHOTO COURTESY JACK LITTLE/SSHS

Lamalcha Bay on Penelakut Island, in an undated image provided by Sept. 24 Salt Spring Historical Society event speaker Jack Little.

Historical talks resume at library

Salt Spring Historical Society in-person talks return this fall, beginning with well-known B.C. historian Jack Little as the guest speaker on Saturday, Sept. 24.

The In-Between World of a Coast Salish Shaman: Charlie Wilson / Chliraminset of Penelakut Island, 1880-1904 is the subject of Little's presentation at the Salt Spring Public Library program room running from 2 to 3 p.m.

"We know little about how the shamans or traditional healers — who

were central figures in First Nations culture — adapted to the intensifying efforts of Christian missionaries and the increased accessibility of western medicines," states Little in a prologue to the paper being presented. "The life of one such figure, Chliraminset/Charlie Wilson, emerges into view from the pages of an Anglican missionary's diary as well as the recorded memories of an Indigenous Elder."

This talk by Jack Little (SFU history professor, emeritus) follows the path of a shaman during the last 24 years of his life on what was then known as Kuper

Island (today's Penelakut Island). As Little explains, despite the seizure of the Lamalcha village site by the British in 1863, Chliraminset — known in English as Charlie Wilson — returned to the island and adapted to new colonial roles as a farmer and logger. His more traditional role as a shaman was also a lucrative one. Essential to the high-ranking social status he desired were the potlatches he hosted to display and distribute much of his material wealth. Later in life Chliraminset's aggressive behaviour alienated him from members of his own community as his demands for payment in the nineteenth century could paradoxically preserve traditional cultural practices and identity.

Little was a member of the SFU history department for almost four decades. The author of many books and articles, he is currently writing a biography of the Rev. Robert Roberts, Anglican missionary on the Six Nations reserve in Ontario and at Lamalcha Bay on Penelakut Island.

Due to the pandemic and public health concerns related to gatherings, the last time the historical society hosted a guest speaker was on March 12, 2020.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Committee Membership Opportunity

Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Local Services Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 1875, real property owners or residents in the Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2023.

Total membership on the committee is six (6), including the Electoral Area Director, four (4) owners or residents of the Local Service Area, and the current holder or representative of the holder of Conditional Water License No. 26480.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- Two (2) owners or residents who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address, along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Local Services Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 30, 2022**.

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Acting Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 1875 is available for viewing on the CRD website:
www.crd.bc.ca/lyallboot-ws

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries



ADRIAN JOHN FLOWERS 1963 - 2022

Adrian John Flowers of Tsawwassen and Salt Spring Island was born on August 17, 1963 and passed away at the age of 58 on September 3, 2022. He is survived by his parents Audrey and Roger and his brother Chris.

Adrian's happiest moments were growing up in Tsawwassen and later living on Salt Spring Island. He touched the lives of so many people. It was easy to see why those who came in contact with him felt his big heart and giving nature. Adrian surrounded himself with good friends near and far, dogs especially his beloved Patches and a family that loved him so very much.

The family would like to thank all those who called Adrian a friend as well as his cousins in the United Kingdom for all their love and support.

Coming Events

Storage



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Coming Events

Coming Events

Salt Spring United Soccer Club ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday Sept. 21, 2022

6:00pm

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*Everyone welcome
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GISRA

GULF ISLANDS SENIORS RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION

**The Annual General Meeting
of the
Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association
will be held on
Thursday, September 29th, 2022
at 9:30am via Zoom**



Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Meeting Notice

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will be held on **19 September 2022** at the Training Room Ganges Fire Hall No. 1 105 Lower Ganges Road. Commencing at 6:30pm

The Trustee acclamations will be announced, as well, the District Auditor's Report, Fire Chief's Report & Trustees Annual Report.

A motion to set Trustees' remuneration will be discussed.

A meeting of the SSIFPD's Board of Trustees will commence following the AGM.

Fire District ratepayers and the general public are encouraged to attend.

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

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

The last official week of summer 2022 begins, a year that has proven to be very complex and ironic. On one hand, humanity is experiencing a reprieve after many months of severe restriction, violent revolution and fear. On the other hand, the world is entering a whole new crisis linked to energy and food. Oil and gas prices reached unprecedented highs, despite abundant supply, yet caps are being placed on the extraction and production of these, exacerbating an already global economic crisis. Governments in Europe interfere with private enterprise, destroying agricultural industries while numerous food processing plants have burned to the ground all over the world, coincidentally according to Reuters, while billionaires buy-up hundreds of thousands of acres of farmland without public notice or clarity of intention and unnaturally long-lasting plane plumes crisscross the skies. Add to the list people everywhere daily literally dropping dead without apparent cause, labelled 'sudden death syndrome'. Although not in the expected sense, these realities reveal a world at war with itself.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) The last days of summer appear to largely include a complex mix of energies. Positively, this will support you to think and act with additional complexity than usual – an opportunity to break free from habitual perspectives and responses. Just make the extra effort to avoid making matters complicated.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Virgo time is extra special for you and as this is its last week, how will you make the most of it? The Mercury Rx factor is also in your favour, as is that of Venus and Mars too. Overall, this is an excellent time to be constructive and to make improvements, and on a variety of fronts.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) The current energy patterns include a rare weave of creative complexity for us all and it appears extra strong for you. Yet, it may be a better time to clear away what was, than to make additions. Clear the clutter, clean the house, and uplift your environment with a higher vibe that sparkles.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Are you ready to see the world as with new eyes? Hopefully you are because you are about to. Fresh perspectives will push to alter some of your perceptions and interpretations. Some of these may even prove a bit scary, prompting you to want to run, but if you can muster the courage, focus to accept.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) Attending to practical matters is the first order of affairs. This can include repairs or early preparations for the coming seasonal requirements. Yet, there is also a powerful intellectual influence brewing; one which includes rather revolutionary thoughts and actions. Embrace the change and focus to integrate it.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) You may have noticed that the past several weeks have included a series of key actions and initiatives for you. Positively, these have emphasized your public and professional status and power. If not, there remains time to take such initiatives, especially if you act now. This trend, if activated, will continue for many months.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) Happy to lay low and enjoy quietude behind the scenes continues this week. Yet, as the Sun enters your sign in a week's time, this impulse will shift somewhat. The good news is that if you are enjoying this retreat, it will linger until early October anyway. Direct your thoughts and communications to your heart and soul.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) A cyclic trend to align more closely with your sense of individuality includes a step in the direction of independence. Not to be mistaken with disassociation, this independence can be experienced as a process of turning within to heed the guidance and wisdom of your inner voice.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) This Harvest Full Moon has the great potential of illuminating you from the inside out. In other words, the illumination is one of intuition, inspiration and awareness as opposed to the way in which external light illuminates a space. Open yourself to receive answers and guidance from within and you will.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) Where the Sun in Virgo impulse tends to activate your mind to engage in intellectual and philosophical interests, the Full Moon in Pisces has the effect of stimulating psychological and spiritual perspectives born of actual experiences. This includes meditation, prayer and mystical adventures.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) An impulse to clear the old to make way for the new lingers this week. While this may well include clearing the clutter and stuff you don't need, it can also include intellectual and psychological themes. What patterns of perception and habitual beliefs can you do without, to set yourself free?

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) This Full Moon is serving to activate themes of focus linked to your relationship life. In the deeper reaches, you will ideally come to the clear realization that the primary relationship is and has ever been with your own body, mind, heart and soul. Connect deeply within to project the same without.

In loving memory of

Booker, Anthony Richards (Tony)

January 24, 1931 - August 3, 2022

It is with great sadness we announce the peaceful passing of Tony Booker on the morning of August 3rd 2022 at the age of 91. He was predeceased by his loving wife, Josephine Booker in 2012. Both are survived by their three sons Timothy (Zora), Patrick (Debbie) and Nicholas (Cherie) as well as five grandchildren (Natasha, Niki, Sydney, Morgan, Naila).

After meeting Josephine in their native country of England, they left busy London and emigrated to Canada in 1958, were married and began married life in the tiny farming village of Markinch, Saskatchewan (where Tony had pre-secured a job as the village School Teacher). They moved west to BC a year later: first to Kamloops where they started their family and later to Vancouver and Ladner to raise their three boys. Here Tony enjoyed a lengthy career as an Art Teacher at Magee Secondary School in Vancouver.

A long love affair with the Gulf Islands, including a summer property on Mayne Island, led them to eventually retire to Salt Spring Island where they settled into a relaxed but vibrant retirement. A long-time member of the Salt Spring Sailing Club, Tony enjoyed sailing and generally messing-around in boats. In 2012, serious health concerns for Josephine forced a move back to Vancouver for the couple, and Tony began his ten year residence at the Independent Living community of Shannon Oaks in Vancouver.

Much appreciation to the friendly staff of Shannon Oaks for their many years creating a comfortable home and community that Tony greatly appreciated. Special thanks to Nursing staff at VGH and UBC Hospitals for their dedication, professionalism and thoughtful care.

As per Tony's request, there will be no service. In lieu of flowers, donations in Tony's (and Josephine's) memory can be made to the Parkinson Society of BC.

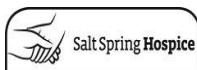
<https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/parkinson-society-british-columbia/>



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LAKES

Stowel advisory lifted

E. coli level drops

Island Health reports Stowel Lake is once again safe for swimmers, microbiologically speaking.

Samples taken by the health authority on Aug. 24 and posted last week showed E. Coli bacteria levels back within an acceptable threshold at 10 per 100 mL; a sample taken Aug. 16 showed an abnormally high 495 per 100 mL. Current sampling means Stowel Lake returns to the "green" rating, with no concerning water quality issues.

The "red" warning is triggered when results exceed 400 per 100 mL, or when the most recent five samples show greater than 200. Island Health notes there is significant risk for illness when bacteria levels are this high.

Samples are generally taken starting in May and continuing through late summer.

ISLAND LIFE

CRD

Capital Regional District

Committee Membership Opportunity

Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2339, real property owners or residents in the Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2023.

Total membership on the committee is seven (7), including the Electoral Area Director and six (6) real property owners or residents who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- Three (3) residents or property owners of the Magic Lake Estates **Water and Sewer** Local Service Area

Nomination Instructions: when submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address, along with the nominee's full name, telephone number, residential address and the service you are nominating for.

New appointments to the Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 30, 2022**.

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Acting Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands,
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 2339 is available for viewing on the CRD website at:
www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-ws

SEND YOUR LETTERS TO: **news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com**

expert ADVICE

Real Estate



JAN MACPHERSON

Buyers: How to compare prices and value?

Comparing homes with similar attributes can provide valuable insights. Consider the age of the: roof, decks, septic field, appliances and "deferred maintenance". How dated are the bathrooms and kitchen and flooring? Would you want to replace them? The cost of replacing each of these items could be considerable. Make up a comparison chart accounting for these differences.

When planning a second viewing, ASK FOR AN INFO PACKAGE & PERMISSION TO TAKE PHOTOS. Take notes. Identify chattels that you may wish to have included such as: window coverings, appliances and their brand name, built in vacuum and/or hot tub accessories, shelving, rewood on hand, riding lawn mower, water filters, garden sheds, building plans, etc. Note what items are excluded on the feature sheet to assist you in making plans for replacing. Then you will likely conclude that...

*The most affordable home
is rarely the lowest priced home!*

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Career Opportunities

Career Opportunities

Salt Spring Studio Tour

OPERATIONS COORDINATOR

The Salt Spring Studio Tour is a member-funded non-profit society seeking the services of an Operations Coordinator. This is a short term contract position focusing on grants to support the Tour's operations. The successful candidate will have knowledge, experience and demonstrated success applying for grants for arts organizations

Please contact us or submit resume, cover letter and contact information to



saltspringstudiotour@gmail.com

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Capital Regional District

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Commission Membership Opportunity

Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2972, persons in the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area are invited to nominate themselves or other individuals who are prepared to represent the Southern Gulf Islands Small Craft Harbours Service to stand on the commission for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2023.

Total membership on the commission is Seven (7), including the Electoral Area Director and six (6) other individuals: one each from Galiano Island, Mayne Island, Saturna Island, North Pender Island, South Pender Island and Piers Island.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- One (1) individual **representing Mayne Island** on the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission
- One (1) individual **representing Saturna Island** on the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission
- One (1) individual **representing North Pender Island** on the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission
- One (1) individual **representing South Pender Island** on the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission
- One (1) individual **representing Piers Island** on the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission

Nomination Instructions: when submitting your nomination, clearly print the commission name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number, residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number, residential address, and the island you are nominating for.

New appointments to the Southern Gulf Islands Harbours Commission will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation. The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 30, 2022**.

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Acting Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands,
479 Island Highway, Victoria BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 2972 is available for viewing on the CRD website:
www.crd.bc.ca

FUNDRAISER

RAVEN hosts benefit

Trevor Mack a special guest

People are invited to join award-winning filmmaker Trevor Mack to enjoy fresh, wild-salmon caught in the traditional way from T'ihqot'in territory at an event this Sunday, Sept. 18 in the United Church Meadow.

The event is a fundraiser for Mack's Indigenous film and cultural projects and the Respecting Aboriginal Values and Environmental Needs (RAVEN) organization. RAVEN describes Mack as a young Indigenous artist whose projects are wide-ranging and visionary.

Tickets (at tinyurl.com/Trevor-mack) include salmon dinner with potatoes and salad, with non-alcoholic beverages available for separate cash purchase.

People are also welcome to come after

dinner to enjoy Mack's short film screenings of films in *In the Valley of Wild Horses*, and *Ts'eman Te?osh*, a film about Tsilhqot'in relationships to salmon, and join the discussion from 7:30 p.m. onwards by donation.

Mack will also talk about his latest project, *Journey of a Drop*. As RAVEN explains, "It follows a singular drop of water as it makes its voyage from its birth in the glaciers to its merging with the ocean. Along mountainous paths, planar fields, winding rivers and crashing seas, the drop carries us through North and South America, following a rich history of ancestral ways of honouring water, land, food, animals and the cosmos. Weaving in and out of ecosystems, this drop illuminates the energy and life carved out by water, releasing Indigenous wisdom and worldviews across the Americas."



PHOTOS BY JEN MACLELLAN

EERIE ORBS: Smoke from forest fires in B.C. and Washington state altered the look of the sun and the moon above Salt Spring over the weekend. The Gulf Islands were included among several regions in an Environment and Climate Change Canada smoky skies bulletin.

Rainwater System Tour
Sunday September 25
A FREE EVENT! tinyurl.com/ssiwpa

Capital Regional District

CRD

Committee Membership Opportunity

Surfside Park Estates Water Service Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3131, real property owners or residents in the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner, resident or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2023.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, three (3) real property owners and one (1) resident, real property owner, or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- One (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Area.
- One (1) real property owner who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Friday, September 30, 2022**.

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Acting Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
 479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7

Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 3131 is available for viewing on the CRD website:
www.crd.bc.ca/surfside-ws

A LOOK BACK

Island's incorporation vote outcome recalled

From the archives of the Gulf Islands Driftwood.

5 years ago

Sept. 13, 2017

• Voters rejected incorporation by a 3,930 to 2,419 margin — or 61.9 per cent. The result was decisive enough that both sides said they can now focus their attention on a new road forward.

The Positively NO campaign responded to the victory in a press release issued Saturday evening, saying, "The real winner tonight is Salt Spring. By rejecting incorporation, islanders showed their support for the principles of local governance and a vision for the future of their rural island

home. As a consequence, Salt Spring will continue to be guided, preserved and protected by a unique and progressive form of governance."

The YES campaign's response on Saturday stated, "We are very disappointed in the outcome, but as the time-honoured saying goes, the people have spoken. We are happy that we've seen a record turnout at the polls for this important decision and we congratulate the opposition on their win."

25 years ago

Sept. 10, 1997

• Smashed windows, broken bottles on the playing field and ripped-up gardens were the aftermath of a party Friday night on the Fulford Elementary School grounds.

One window was smashed with a railway tie. Windows in doors were also smashed although the school did not appear to have been entered. A hose was left running, draining the school well, and gardens planted by parents and students were damaged.

Information in the community suggests there were 15 to 20 cars at the school during the party and that some of the participants were as young as 13 to 14 years old.

Over the weekend, community members turned out to repair the damage; approximately 50 people put in more than 100 volunteer hours picking up the glass and making repairs.

• Increased police surveillance on two weekends this summer was part of a local thrust to crack down on bootlegging.

Ganges RCMP Sgt. Cliff Doherty said police employed surveillance technology and resources never

before used on Salt Spring to thwart adults purchasing liquor for underage drinkers on the Sea Capers and Labour Day weekends.

"We seized a considerable amount of booze," Doherty said, noting that the grassy area outside the detachment's back door was kept green throughout the summer from frequent alcohol "waterings."

Luckily for the adults involved, he added, none had opened the liquor or passed it into the hands of

youths when it was taken by police. Charges can only be laid if the exchange is actually witnessed.

50 years ago

Sept. 14, 1972

• Salt Spring Island has become the first electoral area and the second island in the Capital Regional District to make public a community plan proposal to control land use.

Hammered out over the past three years by the Salt Spring Island Community Planning Association, the Salt Spring Island Advisory Planning Commission and elected officials of the Capital Regional District, the community plan was published at the weekend.

In effect it would provide for the replacement of the arbitrary 10-acre freeze on land development on Salt Spring with controls that would provide a basic five-acre lot development, but also permit development, in some areas, of one-acre lots.

• Langley isn't so far away. It was when he ran all the way, reports Bill Arnold on the first phase of his cross-Canada run.

Bill reports he made 33-1/2 miles the first day out. That was a short day because he set out from Ganges and spent the next two hours on the ferry. It was a last-minute panic to get away and "I had to run pretty hard to make the ferry," he wrote. He is planning to run into Revelstoke on Friday and into the Alberta border by Monday. Tentative date for arrival in Halifax is Dec. 12, running all the way.

• Enrollment in the Gulf Islands Secondary School is 307, and in the Salt Spring Elementary School, 383 students.

A new course in Agriculture is now being offered to interested students, covering a wide range of objectives such as profit in farming, animal husbandry, cooperative production and breeding techniques. A high school drama club is also being formed to produce plays for the local community.