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LOCAL ELECTION

Candidates face public at forum



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Salt Spring resident Dan Dickmeyer asks a question at the all candidates meeting held at ArtSpring on Thursday. A video of the event is available to view on the Salt Spring Forum and Gulf Islands Driftwood websites.

Islanders drill CRD, Islands Trust aspirants on housing, climate

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With 10 hopefuls on stage — and just two hours at their disposal — candidates faced bright lights, strict time limits and pointed questions from a nearly packed house at ArtSpring's main theatre Thursday, Oct. 6.

The all-candidates debate, co-sponsored by the Driftwood and Salt Spring Forum, welcomed three candidates for Capital Regional District (CRD) director — Jesse Brown, Kylie Coates and incumbent Gary Holman — and seven vying for two seats on the Islands Trust — Ben Corno, Gary Gagné, Jamie Harris, Don Marcotte, Jenny McClean, incumbent Laura Patrick, and Elissa Poole.

Throughout the event, candidates sought to reach voters on a personal level; many spoke to their "island roots" — whether born here or more recently transplanted. They proffered evidence of their reliable life experiences, and offered assurances of engagement for the traditionally under-represented. And they presented their résumés of accomplishments, whether in public office or in their personal lives.

Moderator Aletha Humphreys held candidates to a tight format, giving each just

two minutes for an opening statement, then launched the event directly into audience questions. And while it might have seemed there was an agreed-upon list of issues critical to Salt Spring, the candidates nonetheless had different ideas about how to address them.

Unsurprisingly, the first questions out of the gate were directed at Islands Trust candidates and concerned housing — specifically the recently-put-on-hold Bylaw 530, meant to add to the rental housing pool by allowing additional secondary units on properties. Corno said he liked the idea, but agreed it needed more "accurate language," specifically addressing whether properties would be bus-serviced.

Gagné said he felt 530 was a "nuclear option" that shouldn't be used until other ideas failed, such as getting Salt Spring included in the Speculation and Vacancy Tax, or enforcing against illegal short-term vacation rentals.

"Change zoning and small areas to allow equal density and see how it goes," said Gagné. "If it's successful we can do more of this."

Harris, who is running as a slate with Mar-

cotte and largely spoke for the pair, felt Bylaw 530's problem was that it didn't go far enough.

"We would either amend or create a new bylaw, for all suites and cottages to be legalized without restrictions," said Harris, "other than the ones in the existing building code and Vancouver Island Health Authority regulations."

McClean reminded the audience that a big reason 530 was put on hold had to do with opposition from the Tsawout First Nation, so addressing their concerns — and those expressed by the broader public — should come first. She also had misgivings about the idea of spreading density all over the island.

"The idea that was around for awhile was actually to have [focused] density around Ganges," said McClean, "which was supposed to cut down vehicle traffic, so people can live near services."

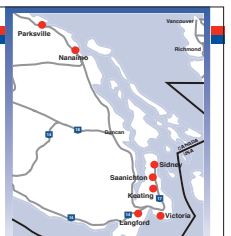
Patrick said 530 was never likely to solve the housing crisis on its own, citing BC Housing data showing single-digit uptake of accessory dwelling units when permitted in rural communities.

ALL CANDIDATES continued on 3

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TRANSPORTATION

Future BC Ferries plans released

Two-ship service for
Route 6 bumped up in
ideal vision

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries sent its "wish list" to the BC Ferries Commission last week, with some items that should please Salt Spring residents if they come to fruition.

Included in a 12-year capital plan are two new Island Class ferries to serve the Crofton-Vesuvius Bay route (#6), envisioned for operation by the fall of 2026, and using the existing Route 6 MV Quinsam for supplemental peak season use on the Fulford-Swartz Bay route (#4) with the Skeena Queen beginning in summer of 2027.

In order to help alleviate Route 4 congestion in peak season, adding

two more round-trip sailings is suggested in the near term.

Other plans for the ferry system outlined in what is called the BC Ferries Performance Term Six submission include seven new major vessels to replace the existing six and "an incremental vessel to support growth and improve resiliency," another Island Class vessel for the Quadra to Cortes Island route, and one to serve as a relief vessel for several routes.

The timelines presented for increased Salt Spring service are several years ahead of what the corporation had committed to in previous public communication.

Harold Swierenga, chair of the Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee, said he was "cautiously optimistic" that the plans outlined in the submission would be approved by the ferry commissioner and enacted by BC Ferries in the timeline presented.

"It's all great, but we know when

dealing with any projections for travel, they can be off."

He noted that BC Ferries points to a number of qualifiers, including the global economy and staffing availability.

"If things go right, it will happen."

The BC Ferries submission includes a section on strategies for improving staff recruitment and retention, terminal upgrades and other matters.

David Courtney, initiator of a Change.org petition demanding two-ship service for Route 6 and an advocate of ferry matters generally on Salt Spring, said the plans outlined in the submission were "extremely welcomed and timely news."

The submission also serves to determine "price caps" for ferry fares during the April 2024 through March 2028 period.

Public input on the submission is invited. Documents can be viewed on the bcferrycommission.ca website.

On October 15
Re-Elect Laura Patrick
for Salt Spring Island Local Trustee - Islands Trust
"Bringing Balance"



Together, we can preserve and protect our fragile island ecosystem and ensure a thriving community for all islanders.

To strengthen our resilience in the face of challenges, Salt Spring needs a proven leader like Laura Patrick, who can:

- Build constructive partnerships with provincial and federal governments.
- Establish better coordination with the CRD and First Nations.
- Take action to address our housing crisis.
- Listen and learn from all Salt Spring residents.

For more information go to
Laurapacktrustee.ca or contact laura@lpatrick.com

Authorized by Eva Kuhn, Financial Agent, (evamkuhn@gmail.com)

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Voting dates, times and locations detailed

Identification needed
for registered and
non-registered voters

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Eager islanders have one last chance at early voting for local government elections and referendum questions before the main election day.

Salt Spring's final advance polling takes place 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 12 at two locations — the Salt Spring Public Library program room and Community Gospel Chapel. People can also vote during the same hours at the Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church at 9296 East Saanich Rd.

On Saturday, Oct. 15 — main election day — polls are open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. at Community Gospel Chapel, the library and the seniors annex at Fulford Hall on Salt Spring, and again off-island at the Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church.

People voting for Salt Spring school board candidates should note that while George Sipsos' name is on the ballot, he has since chosen not to serve as school trustee, and asks people not to vote for him.

The remaining five candidates are Tisha Boulter (incumbent), Nancy Macdonald, Jenny McClean, Rob Pingle (incumbent) and Anna Szul.

Three people are in the running for one Salt Spring CRD director seat: Jesse Brown, Kylie Coates and Gary Holman (incumbent).

Seven people are on the ballot for two Salt Spring Islands Trust trustee positions: Ben Corno, Gary Gagné, Jamie Harris, Don Marcotte, Jenny McClean, Laura Patrick (incumbent) and Elissa Poole.

Salt Spring voters will also be asked if they are in favour of the CRD Board adopting Bylaw No. 4507. The bylaw would authorize the establishment of a local community commission, which would consolidate several existing CRD commissions and services, and see four elected commission members and the electoral area director oversee those ser-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Polling station sign outside the Salt Spring library. The CRD administers local elections on the Gulf Islands.

vices and related CRD issues.

For voting place, candidate and referendum question details for other Gulf Islands elections, visit the crd.bc.ca/about/how-we-are-governed/elections-other-voting/how-and-where-to-vote website.

In order to be eligible to vote, people must be 18 years or older, a Canadian citizen, and have resided in B.C. for six months prior to voting day. If you are already on the voters' list, government-issued identification must be shown at the polling station.

For people who are not already registered to vote, two documents proving identity and residency (one with a signature) must be shown.

The ballot consists of one piece of paper with all candidates and the referendum question on it. As in the 2018 local election, ballot sheets are placed by voters into a machine, which does the vote counting.

Election results will be posted at gulfislandsdriftwood.com and on the Driftwood's Facebook page as soon as they are available on Saturday night.



**HELP SHAPE YOUR COMMUNITY'S
TRANSPORTATION FUTURE!**

Every five to six years, the Capital Regional District conducts the Origin Destination Household Travel Survey. Data provide a profile of travel patterns in the region on an average fall day.

From October to November 2022, some residents around the region will receive a letter from the CRD inviting participation in the survey.

If you receive a letter asking you to participate, log in with your invitation letter's unique secure code at crdtravelsurvey.ca.

Participate and enter to win!

You could win \$500 cash or a \$25 gift card to a local business.

We value your contribution as it will directly affect transportation decisions made across the region.

Thank you in advance for taking the time to complete this important survey.

CRD

Community action plans shared



PHOTOS BY ROBB MAGLEY

All 10 candidates in Salt Spring CRD and Islands Trust elections participating in the Oct. 6 Salt Spring Forum/Driftwood all-candidates forum (and listening to each other) are, clockwise from top left photo, CRD candidates Jesse Brown, Gary Holman and Kylie Coates; Islands Trust candidates Ben Corno, Gary Gagné, Jamie Harris and Don Marcotte; Islands Trust candidates Jenny McClean, Laura Patrick and Elissa Poole.

ALL CANDIDATES

continued from 3

"This form of housing is already legal in all the other Southern Gulf Islands," said Patrick, "and they're not seeing runaway use of their cottages and suites." Patrick also spoke about legalizing existing suites "in a way that works," and bringing in business licences for some short-term vacation rentals.

Poole said she agreed 530 wasn't going to be the answer to the housing crisis, going a step further to say she believed it was a "waste of time for us to be arguing about."

"Already over the past 10 years, the Trust legalized 2,000 properties or suites and long-term cottage rentals, and it made very little difference," said Poole. "We should be working on the things that will be the answer, pilot projects in the appropriate areas."

A question on adapting to climate change was directed at both Islands Trust and CRD candidates, offering the latter their first opportunity to respond to a crowd largely focused on potential trustees. All three, asked whether they were planning for rising ocean levels, agreed climate change was an enormous problem that would affect Salt Spring.

"It is the overarching issue of our time," said Brown, "and it's the reason I got into politics in the first place." Brown added he felt Salt Spring Island could be a "miniature model society" in its response, and hopefully be inspirational to other communities.

Holman pointed to climate-change-focused initiatives that took place during his service as the incumbent, when he spearheaded gas tax funding for both the Climate Action Plan 2.0 and agricultural food plan.

"It shouldn't just be about mitigating [greenhouse gas] emissions, but actually adapting to changes that are already baked in," said Holman. "Moving the fire hall uphill was part of that. I'm looking at the feasibility of relocating our government [offices] into the middle school — again, on higher ground."

Coates said his experience with the Department of Defence had made clear to him climate change — "not Russia," he quipped — is the number

one threat, not just for Salt Spring, but for all of Canada.

"We as a community should — and will — show the rest of British Columbia that we can get this done," said Coates. "But we have to tell Victoria — and we have to tell Ottawa — to get their act together, because we can't just do it as a community, we have to do this as a country, as a continent, and as a world."

Trust candidates were less concordant about the impacts of climate change for Salt Spring; Patrick pointed to her record and the importance of preparing for sea level rise, while Poole pointed out current trustees approved a development permit for Vortex, "a development on a flood plain, known to be in a storm surge area."

Corno said part of long-term planning should include "imagining what moving the town would look like"; Gagné said he'd learned "our land is rising at about the same rate as the sea so far," so he was less concerned about rising waters than potential wildfires and drought.

Harris agreed fire was the primary climate impact for the island, saying it was the result of "decades of mismanagement of our protected forests" and particularly called out those who might disagree with him on other matters to collaborate on wildfire mitigation.

And his running-mate Marcotte was more direct. "The climate's been changing for millions of years," he said. "I remember being a kid and they were telling me, 'Oh, the oceans are gonna rise.' Well, I've been here 50 years, and they haven't risen."

For her part, McClean said she believed cooperative, community actions could be as powerful as legislation.

"More than just focusing, as we always hear, on emissions trading and electric cars, I feel that the more that people can share and work together, the less energy each person will individually use," she said. "It really comes down to the commitment of people, and a heart and willingness to work with each other."

A video recording of the evening is available to view online at gulfislandsdriftwood.com and saltspringforum.ca.

On October 15 re-elect Gary Holman For CRD Director



For over 30 years, Gary has served Salt Spring as a community activist, MLA, and CRD Director, and played a key role in many of our successes.

LET'S CONTINUE PROGRESS ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING, INFRASTRUCTURE, CLIMATE ACTION, FOOD SECURITY, AND GOVERNANCE!

Last term, Gary helped secure tens of millions in funding for our new emergency room; supported housing on Drake Road; our homeless shelter; our new fire hall, CRD ownership of the Ganges hall, and Middle School lease; recreation/daycare pool addition; transit to Beddis area; over 2 km of pathways/sidewalks; Ganges hill repaving; and SSI's first large scale composting facility.

Some of Gary's key priorities:

- affordable housing (Dragonfly, Land Bank, CRD's Drake Road)
- continue public transit expansion, Salish Sea Trail progress
- Ganges Harbourwalk and safe, pedestrian-friendly villages
- food market in Ganges firehall, local government in Middle School
- reduce liquid waste costs by on-island disposal
- establish strategic focus for elected Local Community Commission

You can contact Gary at: gary4director@gmail.com

See Gary's detailed platform at: gary4director.org

Voter information: www.crd.bc.ca/vote

Authorized by Janis Gauthier financial agent (janisgauthier@shaw.ca)



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OPINION

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

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



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Nancy Johnson
PUBLISHER

nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjoberg
MANAGING EDITOR

gail.sjoberg@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan
PRODUCTION MANAGER

lorraine.sullivan@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Sky Marciano
ACCOUNT MANAGER

sky.marciano@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Derek Capitaine
OFFICE MANAGER

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Elizabeth M. Zook
OFFICE MANAGER

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Robb Magley
REPORTER

robb.magley@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Voting homework

Low turn-out rates in municipal/local government elections are often decried.

But it's understandable for people to shy away from voting when they don't know the people, their positions or the burning issues.

While the last advance poll day is today (Oct. 12) and general election day is on Saturday, there is still time to get more information in order to make more confident and informed decisions before facing the long ballot sheet at the polling station.

Salt Spring voters must choose between three candidates for one Capital Regional District (CRD) position, seven candidates for two Islands Trust seats and five candidates for three school board positions, and are being asked for approval to establish a CRD local community commission (LCC).

One of the best ways to get a sense of the candidates is to watch the video of last Thursday's all-candidates meeting at ArtSpring through either saltspringforum.ca or gulfislandsdriftwood.com. Whether illuminating policies, philosophies, experience levels or character, seeing and hearing individuals speak to a crowd in such a format is somewhat like "speed dating," noted meeting moderator Aletha Humphreys. People can be drawn to vote for a particular candidate for any reason and all of them are valid.

THE ISSUE:
This week's elections

WE SAY:
Lots of ways to get informed

We are grateful to the non-profit group Salt Spring Forum for partnering with the Driftwood to present the event and arranging for Cameron Byers to take care of the videography. We congratulate Humphreys, all candidates and audience members for creating a civil evening of discourse. A video of a Sept. 28 Zoom all-candidates meeting hosted by Transition Salt Spring is also on that group's transitionsaltspring.com website.

Ample written information is available online as well, on various social media and candidate sites, and the Driftwood website. A compilation of opinion about the LCC proposal, including a couple of pieces that did not make it into print, is one of the elements of the Driftwood's online opinion section. Another is candidate answers on housing issues posed to them by the Salt Spring Housing Council, and Q&As with all candidates. It's also helpful to know what powers a government body or elected official really have to make changes.

Democracy always works better with more participation. It might take a bit of time to make an informed choice, but it's worth it.



Work with facts and listen

BY LAURA PATRICK

The following is a response to Ronald Wright's "Moment of truth for Trust" opinion piece in last week's Driftwood.

VIEWPOINT

Back in March 2021, Trust Council (the body of all 26 trustees) defeated this motion: "That Trust Council affirm its understanding that the paramount object of the Islands Trust Act is protection and preservation of the natural environment." The issue here was not protection and preservation, but the use of the word "paramount," meaning that the environment, without exception, must take precedence over all other considerations.

In June 2021, Trust Council passed the following resolution to provide clarity: "That Trust Council affirms its understanding that preservation and protection of the natural, terrestrial and marine environment is central to the mandate of the Islands Trust and that this responsibility must be given special and profound consideration in all our decisions and in all we do."

Trust Council also affirmed its understanding that the mandate of the Islands Trust Act includes the concept of, and protection of, healthy and inclusive communities including (but not limited to) housing and transportation. This affirmation is not a shift in direction or a reordering of priorities; it is a statement of clarification.

As an elected trustee, I have always

understood the mandate of the Trust to mean that I have a responsibility towards our constituency (people) AND the environment. The Trust

is different from every other local government in British Columbia because we have a statutory obligation to the environment, in addition to all other obligations.

Some people are saying that the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) ignored staff recommendations and approved the development permit for The Vortex in disregard of the environment. This is simply incorrect. Staff recommendations were incorporated

as significant environmental conditions within the development permit approval.

On the issue of accessory dwelling units, the LTC sent Bylaw 530 back to staff for further work following the input we received in the public hearing.

People and place are interconnected, and we need integrated

solutions to address the challenges we face on Salt Spring. I am committed to place-based, multigenerational sustainability that addresses equity, diversity and inclusion in meaningful ways.

We urgently need to address the climate, housing, and biodiversity crises. A return to the status quo is no longer an option. If we truly want to move towards effective action, the most important thing we can do is stop taking sides, work with the facts and start listening to each other.

People and place are interconnected, and we need integrated solutions to address the challenges we face on Salt Spring.

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you happy about the warm and dry fall so far?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will you be getting a flu shot this year?

41 60
NO YES

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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. For details about deadlines, and word limits for the Viewpoint and other longer opinion pieces, contact the editor at the email address below, or phone 250-537-9933. All submissions may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are asked to provide a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign letters with their full name. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., its staff or advertisers. Send letters to: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Trustee obligations

In last week's Driftwood, former Salt Spring trustee Peter Lamb set out a persuasive argument for the value of the Trust's mandate and the obligations of trustees under that mandate.

In my view, the present trustees have long ignored their primary obligations by taking on, on an equal footing or even as a priority, issues that are outside the mandate of the Trust. And in so doing, they have not only done an enormous disservice to our community they have also violated their oath of office to carry out the object (mandate) of the Trust.

Judging from their platform statements, several of the candidates for the upcoming local Trust committee election also appear to be, at the very least, foggy about the obligation they would assume, under the Trust mandate, to prioritize the environment as the key issue in their decision making.

This is a plea for all of us to wake up to reality. If we are to have any hope to survive and thrive on this island, we urgently need to have trustees who will faithfully fulfill the obligations to which they are beholden by virtue of taking on their office. Short of that, Salt Spring will become another disastrous casualty of a self-destructive mentality that does not recognize the value of a healthy environment until it is too late, as

it is already the case in many parts of the world. I speak from long professional experience with seeing countries and regions around the world degrade beyond recovery from lack of recognition of and support for the life systems that sustain our own lives.

Social issues, housing, jobs, crime, equality are also critical today. But those issues need to be properly dealt with at the appropriate levels of government (provincial and federal). The change we urgently need on Salt Spring (as we do worldwide) is towards an environmentally responsible leadership. Here, that means trustees who will dedicate themselves unstintingly to the responsibilities they assume under their oath of office, not those who will sidestep their responsibilities and become mouthpieces for the kinds of development which, if continued, will bring our island down.

DAVID J. RAPPORT,
SALT SPRING

Voting yes

As a former senior employee of the Capital Regional District, I am well aware of the shortcomings of the current governance system of the CRD.

As the residents of Salt Spring Island have recently twice rejected an incorporation referendum, becoming a municipality will

not be an option for years to come. I believe that a local community commission is the next best thing and certainly an improvement over the current system.

I will be voting "yes" on the LCC referendum question in the local election this week.

KEES RUURS,
FORMER SENIOR MANAGER, SSI CRD, RETIRED

We can do better

From the time of the governance working group established four years ago, I have watched as the concept of a local community commission (LCC) for Salt Spring has been developed, improved and adapted for use here. This is a genuine opportunity for Salt Springers to make a significant improvement to the way that services are provided and in how we are governed.

A large portion of our tax dollars goes to the CRD for the provision of services on Salt Spring. It does not make sense to me that decisions about the expenditure of millions of taxpayer dollars are largely overseen by one individual — our CRD director — with many of these decisions made out of the eye of the community. A Salt Spring LCC will expand that decision-making base to five fully elected members (a CRD director and four local commissioners) where these deci-

sions will be made in open meetings. Decisions will be made by consensus or majority vote. There is no veto power in the model that Salt Spring is being asked to support.

One thing that Salt Springers can agree on is that the current system is very flawed. There are priorities that are not within the scope of the existing volunteer commissions. Too many important projects — like the long-stalled harbour walk — simply fall through the cracks of the current siloed system. An LCC will collaboratively make island-wide action priorities in open meetings that will welcome Islanders' input as it is overseeing expenditures.

It is time to bring decision making about local Salt Spring services into the open. It is time for all Salt Springers to have more of a say in the priorities here in our community. As I work in my volunteer capacities with various organizations on island, I will know where to go to have my issues addressed. It is a step in the right direction to fixing what is currently wrong.

If you are happy with the status quo, then a no vote is the choice you will make. If you think that we can do better in addressing our own issues, you really have to vote YES to the LCC.

WAYNE GLOVER,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

{ QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"Our members are good men — happy to chat, work on a creative project together or build something useful for the community."

TRISTAN LAURILLARD, FOUNDER, SALT SPRING MEN'S SHED

Sage advice: Don't let a 20-something kid 'manage' your money

You may have missed it, but there was an item on the CBC news recently about a legal battle to claw back a huge fortune allegedly misappropriated by a so-called "Crypto King."

Canadian investors in the scheme had each lost considerable sums of money while the Crypto King ran a \$2-million fleet of supercars, flew on private jets, paid \$40,000 a month for a lakeside apartment and apparently blew \$600,000 on a watch! Did you know there were even \$600,000 watches to be had? I thought my \$350 Apple Watch was an exorbitant luxury, but \$600,000 would buy this flashy huckster 1,700 of them.

Oh, and the "Crypto King" is now flat broke, not especially repentant ... and all of 23 years old.

I don't mean to sound harsh or particularly unsympathetic, but just how stupid or mercenary do you need to be to hand over your life savings to a 23-year-old because he's promising a 10 to 20 per cent return on your investment when the best the banks can offer is a couple of per cents if you're lucky? A 23-year-old promising to make your fortune?

Come on! You might just as well invest in a scheme to turn lead into gold. And with apologies to the handful of sensible 20-somethings out there, I wouldn't trust the rest of them with my socks, let alone my savings.

And it's not even as if investors discovered too late that they'd handed their cash to a kid who'd barely started to shave. Most were fully aware of the fact that he was a whippersnapper and must have presumed he was a prodigy because they all likely had a better grasp of jam making than the unfathomable conundrum that is cryptocurrency.

So now this smarmy young conman is bankrupt and being sued for the \$35 million his investors handed over, but which seems to have disappeared into thin air.

His defence is as laughable as it is infuriating. He told the investors who wanted their rainy-day dollars back that paperwork wasn't really his thing and, in any case, "I'm just a 20-something-year-old kid."

The court heard that one investor was shown a crypto trading agency statement that purported to have \$311 million



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

in it. Needless to say, the numbers were entirely bogus, and his trading balance was in fact a big, fat zero.

The problem here, though, goes beyond a Ponzi pyramid and all the other get-rich-quick schemes that have been around since the dawn of the dollar. It is rather more to do with the yawning gap that exists between the generations for whom computers are ubiquitous and those of us who use them but don't really have the faintest idea what is going on under the hood. Consequently, we take the word of those who claim to know.

I'd be perfectly happy to ask a 23-year-old to help me find my files that have vanished into the "cloud" or to explain why I can't seem to find anything worth watching on TV despite paying a small fortune to a dozen

different program providers. But a 23-year-old stockbroker or investment manager? Not a chance!

In any case, cryptocurrency is utterly ephemeral, it's there, but it isn't there, you can hoard it but not touch it, you can use it to buy an F-type Jaguar but not a kilo of potatoes. I have read a dozen explanations of how it functions and have yet to understand one of them or why anyone without a Ph.D. in applied mathematics would invest in them.

Why, for instance, does a so-called crypto miner need a shedload of computers that generate enough heat to warm Ganges? And before any helpful retired boffin out there reaches for their laptop to explain it to me, thank you, but I'd just as soon know.

The same is pretty much true of most of the other scams that blight the 21st century and is why the hacked details of elderly pensioners are the pot of gold for the sleazebags who prey on them.

I have a regular would-be email bandit who intrigues me, and I often wonder how much more successful he or she might be if they did an honest day's work instead of trying to trick

pensioners (i.e. me), into giving them my credit card details. The amount of detail in their fraudulent UPS emails I'm getting on a monotonously regular basis is astonishingly realistic and I can perfectly well imagine at least a few confused elders opening their bank accounts to them.

The emails look incredibly authentic, and claim UPS is "reaching out to me" to let me know that they hadn't been able to deliver my parcel, and would I like to reschedule? Of course, there is no parcel, never was a parcel but when you're my age it's not a great stretch to wonder if you'd forgotten something you ordered weeks ago.

Then the catch. To reschedule a delivery will cost you a piddling \$2, and all they require is your credit card number. Gotcha! They don't want your two bucks, but they DO want your credit card details and the next thing you know you've just bought a small apartment in Uzbekistan.

The scams are endless and relentless and quite probably enabled by 23-year-olds, but I like to think being 50 years their senior gives me an edge.

I hope ...

LCC Local Community Commission

What Does it Mean for Salt Spring Island?

- ✓ **More voices** - adding more perspectives to decision making. Commission decisions will be made by five elected islanders, not just one.
- ✓ **Coordination & Transparency** - Salt Spring issues will be discussed at regular public meetings as a whole, not in silos as at present, consolidating service delivery and improving accountability.
- ✓ **Local Control** - full authority to set local spending priorities and budgets for 11 CRD services, including Parks & Rec, Transportation, and Economic Development, plus oversight of CRD budgets for 3 other services.
- ✓ **Cost effectiveness** - each elected LCC member will receive \$10,000 annually to oversee an existing CRD multi-million dollar budget (\$9.3 million in 2022). Total annual fixed costs for the LCC will be under \$1 per household per month.

More information at LCCSaltSpring.com

CRD Bylaw 4507 establishing a Local Community Commission requires a Yes vote in the referendum on October 15.

Authorized by Salt Springers for an L.C.C., registered sponsor under LECPA 250-537-4482

**Vote YES for
Coordinated
Local Control**

Safe cycling should be a priority

BY SIMON ROMPRE

Regardless of the side of the fence we find ourselves on, the division between environmental activists and affordable housing advocates is not as deep as we are led to think.

With local elections looming, maybe it is time to revisit some of those priorities that made many of us move here, like maybe adopting a change of lifestyle by slowing down or living closer to nature. After all, very few new residents who go through all the effort of moving to Salt Spring want to recreate the heavily polluted urban environment they left behind in Toronto, Vancouver or whatever city was home before.

With the current situation, though, the problem is that no one can expect change by just doing the same old thing as we have always done and on Salt Spring we seem to be very keen on talking the talk but may not be as prolific at walking it.

Living in a rural community makes us highly dependent on private cars and while absolutely necessary in many instances, this dependency unfortunately ends up destroying precious wildlife habitat, costs a lot of money (highly subsidized by government and therefore everyone),

ELECTION ISSUES

contributes to climate change and eventually denies a safe future for generations to come. Think about it: we are moving tons of metal and plastics on four wheels, often just to get a cup of coffee or go to a Green party meeting. How good is that for this island many work so hard at preserving?

We have a solution that both could make Salt Spring more affordable and help preserve our precious environment while helping us to stay healthy longer, providing we can do it safely.

With many families and individuals strapped for money because rents and mortgages are so expensive, getting around safely on bikes and especially

ebikes makes a lot of sense. Imagine all the money that can be saved that way. It could be in the thousands of dollars a year per household. Also for the many ageing Salt Springers, what if getting around safely on a bicycle or ebike could add extra years of health and happiness to your life, would you still be hesitating to use it? Something well worth considering if physical exercise is needed, unless, of course, the priority is to end up in extended care sooner than later and if that is the case, I really hope there will be enough dietary aides, care givers and nurses that can afford to live here when that time comes.

There is hope on the horizon as plans to widen Ganges hill and make room for bikes and pedestrians are coming to fruition after decades of advocacy, but there is a lot more yet to be done. So here we go, we have a solution that both could make Salt Spring more affordable and help preserve our precious environment while helping us stay healthy longer, providing we can do it safely.

Please make sure that whoever you vote for on Oct. 15 makes safe cycling for everyone on Salt Spring a priority. Our community and the world desperately needs it.

Holman 'knows how to get things done'

BY JEAN GELWICKS

I have known Gary Holman for over 25 years. He brings a rich and high level of experience, knowledge and intelligence to every project and he has successes.

He knows how to get things done. He works extremely well with non profit organizations, commissions, ministries, groups of all kinds and individuals. He works with his community to make it a wonderful place to be proud to live. We cannot find a smarter, more hard working, honest person, who keeps his promises than Gary.

In the first week of my moving to Salt Spring, I attended an event at the secondary school where Gary Holman happened to speak. I was so impressed with how Gary spoke and thought, I asked my husband who he was. He introduced me to Gary. At that time I had no idea how important he would become to my aspirations for our island.

One of the first groups I joined as a board member was Island Pathways. I became very interested in getting pedestrians and mobility scooters off busy roads and onto safe off-road pathways. I discovered in the island's official community plan the community also had a dream of creating a network of community pedestrian pathways into and around Ganges. For some reason it was not happening.

Soon after becoming our CRD director

for the first time, Gary figured out a way to make community pathways happen. He had the CRD form the SSI Transportation Commission.

Gary is an islander through and through. He knows how important volunteers are to our island culture and how it has been volunteers who have been the driving force behind much of what is positive on our islands. He asked Island Pathways (a non-profit society) to work with him and the newly formed commission (made up of volunteers) and the rest has been history. Working together we completed the Ganges Village Pathway Network, which was a dream of the community for years and we did it for a fraction of the cost.

I credit Gary for playing a key role in most of the CRD infrastructure that has had a positive impact on our community since I have lived here.

Gary has my support to continue as our CRD director for as long as he is willing.

JEAN GELWICKS,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 7

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don't start themselves.**

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From first dates to Main Street meet-ups to the last virtual call of the day. Turn to the local news to spark your next great conversation... 9 in 10 Canadians do.

CANADIAN NEWS MEDIA
**CHAMPION
THE TRUTH.**

Please VOTE Gary Gagné for Islands Trust

Gary Gagné stands for:

TRUTH, Openness, Accountability, and Accessibility
RESTORING threatened ecosystems and water resources
UPHOLDING the Official Community Plan and Trust mandate
SEEKING diverse land use solutions that are sustainable & affordable
THANKFULNESS for Indigenous stewardship

VOTE GARY GAGNÉ for Salt Spring TRUSTEE on October 15.

Authorized by Gary Gagné Financial Agent
garysgagne@gmail.com



2022 SALT SPRING ISLAND'S VitalSigns®

The 2022 Salt Spring Island VitalSigns Report

Measuring the vitality and health of our communities.

Supporting action towards improving the quality of life on Salt Spring Island.



Report Launch
Salt Spring Island
Public Library
Saturday, Oct 29th,
1pm-3pm (drop in)

Available from October 29th, in print and online ssifoundation.ca/vitalsigns

Forum impression

There were few empty seats at the all-candidates meeting at ArtSpring last Thursday. Salt Springers that would choose to see betterment on Salt Spring might be encouraged by that attendance. We might all recognize that there are real limitations in the CRD and Trust performance in going toward this goal, but people still care.

The focus on betterment was a continuation of last week's all-candidates meeting, on Zoom, in which people were asked, "What will you do that will make life on Salt Spring 'better' in 2072?"

MORE LETTERS

Green demise

As the consequences of global heating grow ever more dire, there is a certain ironic perversity to the demise of the Green Party at the hands of a pronoun posse determined to oust an Indigenous executive.

And they talk of reconciliation.

CHARLES BRETH,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 12



Roses

The Salt Spring Abattoir would like to send many thanks and bunches of roses to all the people that helped support the Salt Spring Fall Fair BBQ fundraiser. Appreciation to Country Grocer, Mark Kilner from GISS, all the volunteers that made, cooked, served and supported, and all the farms that donated meat and fixings for the amazing burgers. Special thanks to Anne Macey for her tireless work, organization and all out dedication that made this fundraiser an unparalleled success! See you all next year.

Radiant roses to drivers who have foresight to check both head and tail lights to ensure all are working. Rainy foggy dark is coming! Wendy Hilliard

Salt Spring Island Public Library sends bouquets of wild flowers of thanks to the very helpful Owls Class, grades 5/6/7, at the Salt Spring Centre School. They generously donated their time and excellent energy to stuff nearly 500 letters into envelopes for the library's annual giving campaign. Wow! Thanks, everybody.

An autumn rose to Emcon Services for much appreciated road maintenance like minor pothole filling and gentle brush cutting that helps improve intersection visibility and lets us travel more safely.

During Thursday's meeting, the limitations of the CRD and Trust governing forms to work toward a better future for this island were revealed.

1. A focus on renting the middle school to make space available to non-profit organizations (NPOs) was concerning for two reasons: Families with school-aged children are in decline. Social problems, requiring NPOs, are increasing.

2. Many social problems are coming from our housing chaos. Our young people are leaving Salt Spring. Accommodation is not available for lower-income employees. Stresses on use of established accommodations are common. Developing hundreds of appropriate accommodation units in line with

healthy community needs requires absolute priority now.

3. Significant social imbalances are undermining the structure of our community. These imbalances include economic, age, and resident and non-resident property ownership.

4. Environmental concerns among Salt Springers are common. Appeal was made to work toward earning a country-wide reputation for leadership, which seems appropriate.

Community betterment will require development of the voice of Salt Springers with elected officials paying attention to that voice.

PETER ROBINSON,
SALT SPRING

Capital Regional District

CRD

Notice of Election by Voting and Notice of Assent Voting Opportunity (Referendum) | 2022 General Local Election

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area (Galiano, Mayne, North Pender, Piers, Saturna, South Pender)

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that General Voting Day will be held from **8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Saturday, October 15, 2022** to elect persons to serve a four-year term of office as Electoral Area Director for Southern Gulf Islands on the CRD Board from November 2022 until after the 2026 General Local Election, held in accordance with the Local Government Act.

The persons nominated as candidates and for whom votes will be received are:

Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area – One Director to be elected:

Given Name	Surname	Residential Address
Paul	BRENT	116 Winter Cove Road, Saturna Island, BC
Ben	MCCONCHIE	9805-B Spalding Road, Pender Island, BC

Notice of Assent Voting Opportunity – Southern Gulf Islands Transportation Service

Assent voting will be conducted at the same time for qualified electors of the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area on the following question:

"Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District (CRD) Board adopting Bylaw No. 4484, "Southern Gulf Islands Transportation Service Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2022" authorizing the CRD to establish an integrated transportation service for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area to raise a maximum annual requisition up to the greater of SIX HUNDRED AND SEVENTY FIVE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$675,000) or \$0.1414 per ONE THOUSAND DOLLARS (\$1,000.00) of taxable land and improvements for the purpose of funding the operating costs of the service?"

YES or NO?"

Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4484

The intent of Bylaw No. 4484, the "Southern Gulf Islands Transportation Service Establishing Bylaw No. 1, 2022" is to establish a new integrated transportation service for the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area to coordinate, fund, and operate land and water-based transportation services within the electoral area. The bylaw permits the CRD to raise a maximum annual requisition for the purpose of funding the service to the greater of six hundred and seventy five thousand dollars (\$675,000) or \$0.1414 per one thousand (\$1,000) of taxable land and improvements in the service area. The maximum requisition is the upwards limit of what would be collected.

Please note that this synopsis of Bylaw No. 4484 is not intended to be or understood as an interpretation of the bylaw. A copy of the complete bylaw and this notice may be viewed at the Capital Regional District offices located at 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria B.C. during business hours.

This information may also be viewed on the website at www.crd.bc.ca.

Voting Opportunities

GENERAL VOTING will be open to qualified electors of the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area on **Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm**, at:

- ▶ Galiano Lions Hall, 992 Burrill Road, Galiano Island, BC
- ▶ Mayne Island Community Hall, 493 Felix Jack Road, Mayne Island, BC
- ▶ Pender Islands School, 5714 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC
- ▶ Piers Island Fire Hall, 116 McKenzie Crescent, Piers Island, BC
- ▶ Saturna Recreation Centre, 104 Harris Road, Saturna Island, BC
- ▶ Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church, 9296 East Saanich Road, North Saanich, BC

www.crd.bc.ca/vote
www.crd.bc.ca/transportation-vote

ADVANCE VOTING opportunities will be available on **Wednesday, October 5, 2022 and Wednesday, October 12, 2022 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm**, at:

- ▶ Galiano Lions Hall, 992 Burrill Road, Galiano Island, BC
- ▶ Mayne Island Community Hall, 493 Felix Jack Road, Mayne Island, BC
- ▶ Pender Islands School, 5714 Canal Road, Pender Island, BC
- ▶ Saturna Recreation Centre, 104 Harris Road, Saturna Island, BC
- ▶ Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church, 9296 East Saanich Road, North Saanich, BC

Mail Ballot Voting

Mail ballot voting will be open to all resident and non-resident property electors for the 2022 General Local Election. To register to vote by mail, electors must submit a completed mail ballot application form and return to elections@crd.bc.ca before **October 1, 2022** to permit time for mailing. Application forms are available at www.crd.bc.ca/vote. To be counted, the elector is responsible for ensuring their mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer **no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, October 14, 2022** at the addresses below:

Hand Delivery: Capital Regional District, Legislative Services, 5th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Mailing by Post: Capital Regional District, Legislative Services, PO Box 1000, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Elector Qualifications

Resident Elector - You are entitled to vote as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on general voting day, are a Canadian Citizen and have resided in British Columbia for the past six months. If registering on voting day, you must provide two documents proving identity and residency (one must have a signature). Please note the CRD is using the Provincial Voters List for Resident Electors.

Non-Resident Property Elector - If you are 18 years or older on general voting day, are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months, have owned and held registered title to property within the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area for the past 30 days, and do not qualify as a Resident Elector, you may vote as a Non-Resident Property Elector if you: a) have registered on or before August 23, 2022, or b) register at the time of voting. The following information is required at the time of registration:

- ▶ a recent title search, state of title certificate, or property tax notice, showing the names of all of the registered owners,
- ▶ two documents proving identity and residency (one must have a signature), and
- ▶ in the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners, designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property. A copy of the consent form is available at: www.crd.bc.ca/vote

Identification

The following are examples of acceptable classes of documents for proof of identity: BC Driver's Licence; BC ID card (BCID); BC Services Card; Social Insurance Card; Citizenship Card; property tax notice; credit card or debit card issued by a savings institution; and utility bill.

For more information, please contact the Capital Regional District at 250.360.3642 or Toll Free 1.800.663.4425 local 3642, or by email at elections@crd.bc.ca.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2022

Kristen Morley
Chief Election Officer

THANK YOU TO OUR FIREFIGHTERS



JAMIE HOLMES
FIRE CHIEF
In the fire service since 1996



DALE LUNDY
DEPUTY CHIEF
In the fire service since 1992



MITCHELL SHERRIN
ASSISTANT CHIEF
In the fire service since 2003



KEN AKERMAN
CAREER CAPTAIN
In the fire service since 1994



CODY HUNSBERGER
CAREER CAPTAIN
In the fire service since 2009



WARREN NUYENS
CAREER CAPTAIN
In the fire service since 2011



CLAYTON AKERMAN
CAREER CAPTAIN
In the fire service since 2010



PATRICK BYRNE
CAREER FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2016



GORDON FRASER
CAREER FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2016



COLBY SAWCHUK
CAPTAIN
In the fire service since 2007



ERIC TAYLOR
LIEUTENANT
In the fire service since 2008



JASON GAFFNEY
LIEUTENANT
In the fire service since 2012



CHANTELLE NICKEL
ACTING LIEUTENANT
In the fire service since 2012



BEN WESTLAKE
ACTING LIEUTENANT
In the fire service since 2014



ABE HOHN
ACTING LIEUTENANT
In the fire service since 2012



STEVE LEICHTER
FIELD INCIDENT TECH.
In the fire service since 2007



GRANT GUSSIE
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2006



JIM POHL
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2009



BODHI BRITSON
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2018



DAN SMITH
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2018



KRYSTAL CAPRANOS
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2018



BREE STURDY
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2018



CYRUS ANDRESS
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2018



DAYTEN SANDERS
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2018



DAVID BUNKOWSKI
FIELD INCIDENT TECH.
In the fire service since 2019



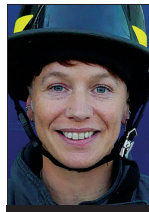
DAVID DEMNER
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2019



TONY DENMAN
FIREFIGHTER
In the fire service since 2019



EMMA HAMILTON
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



JODI BANFORD
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



MYSHA DEWAR-MCCLELLAND
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



ZACK HEMSTREET
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



RYAN SHEPARD
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



JOVIAN WIEFELSPUETT
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



IVAN ROSSMAN
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



ADAM EVANUK
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



PETER VERHEUL
FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT
In the fire service since 2022



Members invited for next SSIFR

Drop in to open house for info

SUBMITTED BY SSIFR

"As a recruit with Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue I have found the community I didn't know was missing in my life. I am constantly inspired by the quality of the training as well as the individual and collective strengths of the men and women who comprise this family of firefighters." — Mysha Dewar-McClelland, Recruit Firefighter, 2022

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue is a professional, composite fire department that is staffed 24 hours a

day, seven days a week. We are a family of 41 active members, (11 career, 30 paid-on-call) with a percentage of female members well above the provincial average. We are a progressive department rooted in the deep tradition of the fire service always striving to be forward thinking.

The education, training and life experience available to recruits can be as rewarding as you choose to make them. There is a path here for your unique skillset. You can count on us to find your strengths and build upon them. We come from all walks of life and are united in

our common purpose.

If you like learning, if you want to be a part of something bigger than yourself, if you would love to help your community, if you have the spirit of volunteerism, if you are an individual with the skills to succeed today.

Firefighting, more than a job, is a hard work. You become a team from the first day and your career and help you

Make and practice your plan for escaping a fire.

The Prepare Yourself Safety Worksheet provides simple, life-saving steps.

www.crd.bc.ca/prepare-yourself/hazards-in-our-region/structure-fire

250-537-1220 • E: ssiepc@crd.bc.ca
facebook.com/SaltSpringIslandEmergencyProgram
twitter.com/SSIEmergency



CRD

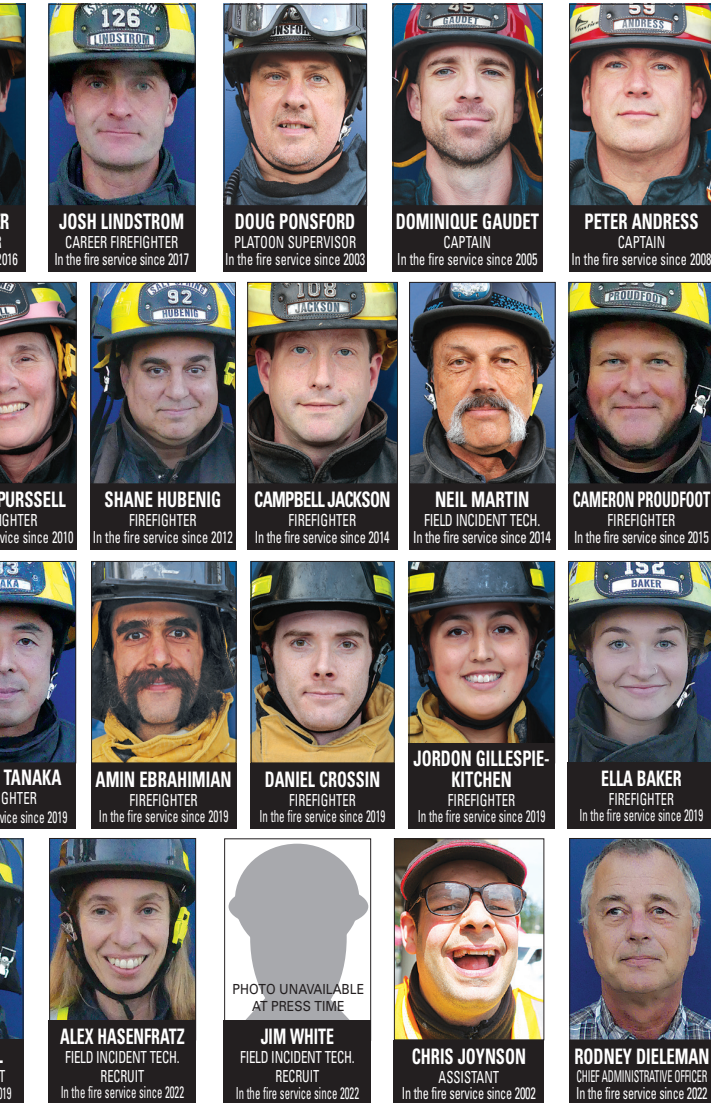
It's been 10 years since we started building, we will always be thankful to you.



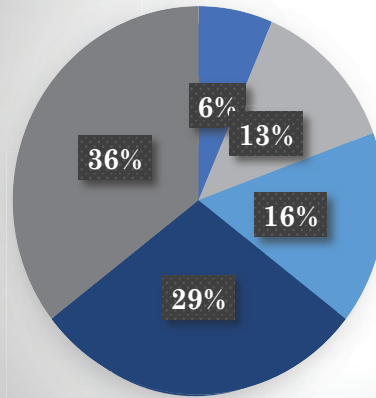
SALT SPRING LINEN & SUPPLY
205-537-2241 116 H
Tuesday - Friday 8:30

FIGHTERS

**Fire won't wait.
Plan your escape.**



Salt Spring Island Structure Fires 2021

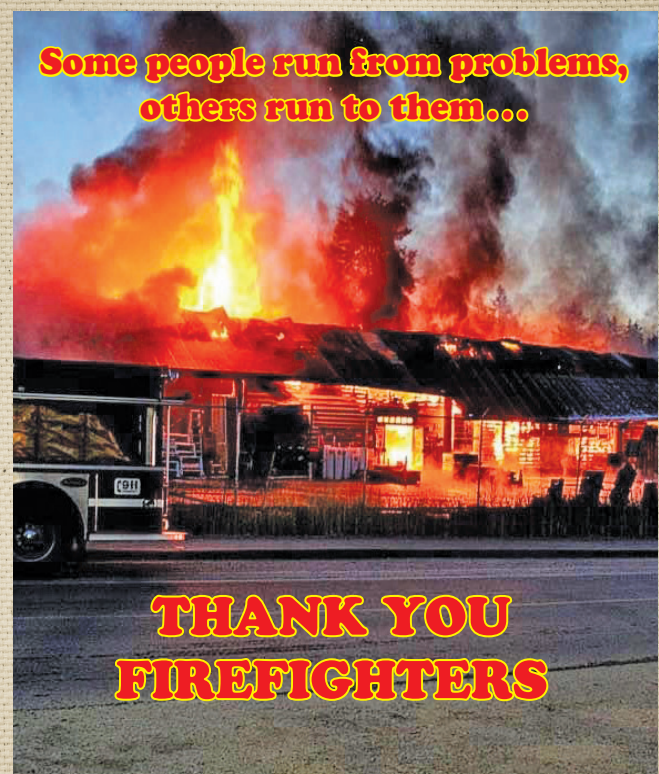


- Smoke in Structure Commercial
- Structure Fire Commercial
- Smoke in Structure Residential
- Structure Fire Residential
- Chimney Fire

Structure Fires include Commercial, Residential, Chimney, Mobile/Trailer, and Smoke in Structure.

(As Dispatched by Fire Dispatch)

**THIS FEATURE IS BROUGHT TO YOU
BY THESE COMMUNITY MINDED BUSINESSES:**
Windsor Plywood, Salt Spring Island Emergency Program,
Salt Spring Linen & Drycleaners, Elizabeth May MP



**Some people run from problems,
others run to them...**

**THANK YOU
FIREFIGHTERS**

Windsor Plywood
Neighbours helping neighbours build their dreams!

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saltspring@windsorplywood.com www.windsorplywood.com

recruit class

ose of serving the community.
ing, challenging yourself and being
ing greater than the individual, we
ar from you. SSIFR was founded in
teerism, and it is community-minded
at spirit that drive our membership
edical first response and rescue are
ecome a member of our family from
we aim to mentor you through your
ou in your own life. You will learn

skills that will help you feel prepared in emergency
situations and lend you confidence in your personal
and professional life.

Apply today to become a paid-on-call firefighter. If
you would like more information, make sure you join
us at our open house on Saturday, Oct. 15 from 10 a.m.
to 3 p.m. at the Ganges Fire Hall.

Learn more here:
<https://saltspringfire.com/recruit>

ce you saved our
ays be grateful....
ou.

& DRYCLEANERS
Beddis Ave.
10am-4:30pm

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS
"THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO
KEEP OUR COMMUNITY SAFE."

Elizabeth May MP
ELIZABETHMAYMP.CA
9711 4TH ST. SIDNEY, BC V8L 2Y8
250 657-2000

2022 SCHOOL BOARD ELECTION

Five candidates are vying for three seats as trustees for Salt Spring on the Gulf Islands Board of Education.

Below are answers to three of the questions posed to Salt Spring school board candidates by the Gulf Islands Teachers' Association. Note that while George Sipos' name is still on the printed ballot, he is no longer seeking a seat on the board.

1. What are the critical issues facing our local schools right now?
2. The Fraser Institute ranks schools based on data from the Foundational Skills Assessments and is reportedly now providing this information to real estate organizations. What is your view of this policy?
3. Recruitment and retention of teachers in the Gulf Islands is a significant challenge. What solutions do you propose to address the critical shortage of qualified teachers in our district?

TISHA BOULTER

1. If elected I represent the Salt Spring Island voters, yet my board responsibility is in servant leadership to the Gulf Islands as a whole.

Some key critical issues on my mind and heart if elected will be monitoring our new configuration model to ensure it is meeting the needs of the students, and that appropriate, financially stable supports are available for our staff to provide the best opportunities for learners. Collaborating on a renewed strategic plan will be a big piece

of work for the new board. I will advocate for values to guide us that stand for diversity (SOGI and BIPOC rights), sustainability (environmental and financial), Opportunity (for all learners) with a restorative practice lens. We need to continue building relationships and trust that contributes to a sense of belonging and collaboration within a system that has complex rights, responsibilities, roles and accountabilities.

2. It is frustrating to witness the Fraser Institute continue to practise ranking schools based on FSA scores. It is small minded to propose that

this tells a person anything meaningful about a school or its community. For the last four years as a trustee, our association has advocated to the Ministry of Education to stop this policy.

3. Recruitment and retention strategies are multifaceted. They need to consider housing costs/availability (outside of our control), keeping up with provincial pay grids, participating in in-house trainings/incentives (bus drivers/EAs for example), as well as investing in healthy, vibrant school cultures that attract potential employees.

NANCY MACDONALD

1. A short list:

- Learning loss due to Covid
- Recruitment of teachers and EAs
- School and community culture
- Faith in the entire system

2. Frankly, we can do nothing about what the Fraser Institute does given the flow of information that is accessible to anyone now. Those of us who sheepishly felt proud in the early 2000s when

GISS ranked highly continued to denounce the use of one standardized test to rate schools. I feel strongly that all kinds of data must be shared openly and honestly so the FI isn't the only institution spouting off. How many kids are going in to trades, how many kids to Emily Carr, etc. and then long term, how many kids are building your house or managing your account at the bank. I am a data seeker. In Saanich we tripled our Indigenous grad rate by figuring out the reasons for lack of success. You can smother the FI by bringing in

more information and sharing it publicly.

3. This is a very big problem and we aren't alone. We want teachers (and nurses!) to bring their families here and stay in the community. I have gone on record saying teachers should be paid more because it is wrong that a teacher can't afford to buy a simple home. I propose a task force, where a diverse group could brainstorm ideas and at least engage in options for the education community. If the hospital foundation did some things, why can't we?

JENNY MCCLEAN

1. Although GISS is considered an excellent school compared to other schools, it does face negative cultures within the student population. There is a rise in online trends, and issues affecting all schools also affect or will affect GISS. There is a rise in cyberbullying, and the increase in violence in schools across North America and the world. Salt Spring Island is not really affected as other schools are, but it is better to be preventative. Education is needed on all forms of racism and marginalization.

I would say that my greatest concerns are around a return to overcrowding in the elementary schools. I am interested in protecting the programs that

were unique to SIMS. I hope to keep the option open for returning the SIMS building to its use as a public education building.

Other issues I am interested in include: remote learning options, home learners, working with the Outer Islands, mental health and the use of devices.

Studies show that excessive phone use in classrooms is a detriment to education. There are studies showing a 20 per cent decrease in absorbing what a teacher is saying if a student is online at the same time. I support ways of learning that do not include the need for a handheld device.

2. FSA tests are not a great way of ascertaining the quality of education as a lot of people are not

great at taking tests. It shows more about how skilled a student is at taking the FSA test and does not show much about the quality of education at the particular schools. The use of FSAs has brought in an element of learning as a means to an end, and plays into parental pressures on students.

3. It seems to me that the main issue with retaining teachers in local schools is about housing them. There are currently teachers commuting from Vancouver Island to work on Salt Spring. If they are offered a job in the district where they live, they will stop teaching here. As for solutions, possibly making teacher housing a priority, recruitment and incentives for teachers to teach in this district. Also, hiring people as they study.

ROB PINGLE

1. Mental health is a critical issue facing our schools. I have seen improvements in the district's work to address mental health but the pandemic created new challenges that are being felt everywhere. I will work to ensure the district continues to focus on the mental health of our students and staff to ensure the best educational outcomes.

2. I have never liked the Fraser Institute and how they rank schools. Sharing this information with

real estate organizations is a new low that shows they have no interest in improving educational outcomes for students. That said, I still believe that the Foundational Skills Assessments provide a helpful snapshot of our students' abilities. Our ability to graduate students prepared for the future is aided by the FSAs. I will continue to advocate for the province to mask the school by school data so it is only used by educators best experienced to improve the outcomes of our students.

3. Recruitment and retention of all staff in

the district is an issue and it is also being felt by other sectors locally and the teaching profession provincially and nationally. Locally our district needs to continue to work with local and provincial partners to make housing more affordable and more units available to house all staff in the district. Provincially there needs to be a focus to increase the number of teachers certified and ensure the certification process for out-of-province and out-of-country teachers is made as streamlined as possible.

ANNA SZUL

1. The pandemic has created problems at all levels of society and has disproportionately affected lower-income families and minorities. Although this isn't directly a school-based issue, all societal issues become school issues. I realize that our teachers, support staff and administrators work really hard to create a welcoming and supportive environment for all children, however, I feel that the pandemic has set so many things

backward and the atmosphere in our schools is no exception. In my personal experience, there have been more "behavioural issues/bullying," to use a catch-all phrase, in students recently. The bullying itself is not the issue, however, it is indicative of underlying problems in children's lives. In essence, everyone is under stress and the children are sponges that collect all these feelings and let them out at school.

2. In my opinion, Foundational Skill Assessments should be used only for their intended purpose of

providing information to teachers, schools and the district. I do not believe results, data and statistics from the FSA should be shared for the purpose of ranking school communities and especially not for real estate purposes.

3. Locally, challenges in the recruitment and retention of all workers are linked to the housing crisis, and teachers are following suit. We need to work with local governments to prioritize affordable housing for critical service providers like teachers.



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PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

JAMMIN': Having fun and entertaining the crowd at the Legion on Sunday afternoon for Blues Jam are, from left in photo at left, Bob Delion, Bert Hollingsworth and Jordan King; and above, from left, Monik Nordine, Frank Huether, Tracie Whitelaw, Michael Fraser, Randall Miron and Hollingsworth. Blues Jams are alternating with Jazz Jams from 3 to 6 p.m. on Sundays. Musicians and listeners are welcomed.

CLASSICAL MUSIC

Collegium musicians visit ArtSpring



PHOTO BY MARK NICOL

Victoria Conservatory of Music Collegium program musicians perform a Berlioz trio in concert.

Performance on
Oct. 23

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

Youth music is hugely important to ArtSpring: whether it's our own Makana Youth Choir program or annual community concerts from the island's music students.

So we're excited to reconnect with the Victoria Conservatory of Music this season, and bring some of the finest pre-professional students in its Young Artists Colle-

gium Program for an afternoon concert on Sunday, Oct. 23 at 1:30 p.m.

Founded in 2006, the Collegium assigns the 12 to 18-year-old participants to chamber ensembles, where they are coached by professionals, learning how to play great classical music and how to work together. For its 2022-23 program, there are 23 seniors and 14 juniors.

The Collegium continues to be highly successful at competitions across Canada. Artistic director Simon MacDonald proudly notes that this year, "Collegium

groups took first place (senior), second place (intermediate) and first place (junior) at the provincials (Performing Arts BC); Collegium groups took first in all of the chamber categories at the inaugural Canada West Performing Arts Festival (24 and under and 17 and under chamber music divisions), and swept to an historic first place in the finals of the National Music Festival (first place in Junior, Intermediate and Advanced Chamber Music)."

Its graduates are launched onto the leading edge of musical (and non-musical) programs, giving them the skills to work collaboratively in any field that inspires them, and the confidence to walk

on stage to present their ideas and their art with conviction.

MacDonald continues, "The Collegium also had two recent alumni, Lexie Krakowski, cello, and Jono Devey, piano, named as part of CBC's 2022 30 under 30 Hot Classical Musicians."

The concert at ArtSpring will see seven ensembles perform pieces by Haydn, Boismortier, Robert Fuchs, Darius Milhaud, Franz Doppler, Mozart and Moritz Moszkowski. In the audience will be cellist Joseph Elworthy, the president and CEO of the Vancouver Academy of Music, who'll join the students onstage for a fascinating feedback/masterclass session.



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AWARDS

Wand earns CFMA nods

Saltwater Heartwood
album honoured

A Salt Spring singer/songwriter's fourth album has garnered a pair of nominations for the 2023 Canadian Folk Music Awards (CFMA).

Local folk mainstay Yael Wand has been nominated for English Songwriter of the Year for the album Saltwater Heartwood. Recorded at Hidden Well Studio, the release also earned Wand and co-producer Corwin Fox a nomina-

tion for Producers of the Year.

Established by Canada's internationally recognized folk music community, the CFMA gives awards in 19 categories. Nominees are chosen for each category through a two-stage jury process. More than 100 jurors, located across Canada and representing all official provinces, territories and languages, determine the official recipients in each category.

The CFMA 2023 Awards Weekend will take place March 31 through April 2, 2023 in Vancouver.

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Real Estate

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, firewood 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...

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MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

Good ferry news

BC Ferries' news release of Oct. 4 is extremely welcomed and timely news for the 2,100-plus petitioners/patrons of Route 6, Vesuvius Bay to Crofton.

Along with the scheduled new terminal facilities at Vesuvius Bay and Crofton the corporation has submitted plans to the BC Ferry

Commission for two new Island Class eco vessels to hopefully be commissioned in the fall of 2026. This will provide service every 35 minutes during peak demand times.

The silver lining is that the new Cowichan hospital is scheduled to open in the fall of 2026. This potentially means critically ill patients from Lady Minto can be transported to the new full service Cowichan hospital in one hour or less. Route 6, along with Route 4, provide an emergency escape route when the Malahat Highway is closed due to tragic events or main-

tenance and construction.

Patrons of Route 6, take a bow! Your "advocacy" has moved the timeline for improved ferry service on Route 6 up by nine years from 2035 to 2026.

Improvements for Route 4 between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay is suggested in BC Ferries' submission with the MV Quinsam providing an increase in supplemental service during peak season starting in the summer of 2027. This is very welcome news as well. The issue of the day is returning the village of Fulford

Harbour to its residents and the community of Salt Spring Island by providing a proper parking containment area for approximately 160 vehicles, thereby taking vehicles off the roadway and preventing traffic gridlock and one-way traffic gauntlets going forward.

In the last week of the local elections this is the perfect opportunity to ask the CRD and Trust candidates their opinion on how we address the Fulford Harbour traffic gridlock during their term of tenure over the next four years.

Finally, a sincere thank you to the new BC Ferries board of directors and the executive team, and in particular vice president of strategy and community engagement Brian Anderson, and our MLA Adam Olsen for advocating on behalf of ferry patrons for improved ferry service and addressing public safety for all those who live and visit our beautiful island.

DAVID COURTNEY,
SALT SPRING

Fix flaws

During the years I served as alternate to CRD director Wayne McIntyre I gained some insight into how the current CRD system works, and saw some major flaws. I strongly support the coming referendum for a local community commission (LCC) as it would help fix those flaws.

One flaw is that the numerous separate commissions can make recommendations for action, but local CRD staff, led by someone who lives elsewhere, set priorities. That is, they make the decision on which actions will get done in a particular year and which won't. The LCC would have the power to set priorities for the staff, a huge improvement.

Another flaw is that with only one elected position available it is impossible to have both a man and a woman making the decision; or a north-ender and a south-ender. A five-person LCC would make it possible to fix that, and elect a more diverse group.

The third flaw is that the single director is not allowed to have any help reporting to him/her directly, so when the interest of staff and the interest of islanders diverge, it is one individual up against a large well-funded bureaucracy. The LCC would make a dent in that problem by providing four elected people to help research and think through the myriad of issues that we face.

One other point: I am confident that the newly LCC commissioners would recognize the value of the expertise of our volunteers. They would quickly set up informal groups to retain their incredible knowledge without the encumbrances and costs of the current staff-supported commission system.

DARRYL MARTIN,
FORMER ALTERNATE CRD DIRECTOR AND
PAST CHAIR OF THE CRD ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION

For a compilation of local community commission subject letters, see the opinion section at: gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

Capital Regional District



Notice of Election by Voting and Notice of Assent Voting Opportunity (Referendum) | 2022 General Local Election

Salt Spring Island Electoral Area

PUBLIC NOTICE is hereby given that General Voting Day will be held from **8:00 am to 8:00 pm on Saturday, October 15, 2022** to elect persons to serve a four-year term of office as Electoral Area Director for Salt Spring Island on the CRD Board from November 2022 until after the 2026 General Local Election, held in accordance with the *Local Government Act*.

The persons nominated as candidates and for whom votes will be received are:

Salt Spring Island Electoral Area – One Director to be elected:

Given Name	Surname	Residential Address
Jesse	BROWN	146 Bradbury Road, Salt Spring Island, BC
Kylie	OATES	144 Fairway Drive, Salt Spring Island, BC
Gary	HOLMAN	160 McLennan Drive, Salt Spring Island, BC

Notice of Assent Voting Opportunity – Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission

Assent voting will be conducted at the same time for qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area on the following question:

“Are you in favour of the Capital Regional District Board adopting Bylaw No. 4507, “Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission Establishment Bylaw No. 1, 2022”, authorizing the establishment of a local community commission for the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area, to be comprised of four elected commissioners and the Electoral Area Director, to oversee and advise on economic development, wastewater disposal, community parks and recreation, small craft harbour facilities, transit and transportation, street lighting, grants-in-aid, compensation for livestock injured by dogs, and the contribution services for arts, public library, and search and rescue?”

YES or NO?”

Synopsis of Bylaw No. 4507

Bylaw No. 4507 would establish Salt Spring Island as a local community governed by a “local community commission” or “LCC”, a body of elected officials with the authority to administer a scope of Salt Spring Island-specific services in place of the Capital Regional District Board or other CRD commissions. The proposed LCC is made up of four individuals elected by the Salt Spring Island electors, as well as the Electoral Area Director. The individuals are elected on a general voting day, typically the same as that of the Electoral Area Director, and hold office for a similar term.

The proposed services which the LCC would oversee and advise on are as follows:

- ▶ Economic development
- ▶ Island-wide wastewater disposal
- ▶ Community parks and recreation
- ▶ Pool facility
- ▶ Parks and recreation facilities
- ▶ Small craft harbour facilities (Fernwood Dock)
- ▶ Transit and Transportation services
- ▶ Street lighting
- ▶ Grants-in-aid
- ▶ Compensation for livestock injury by dogs
- ▶ Salt Spring Island arts, public library, and search and rescue contribution services.

Please note that this synopsis of Bylaw No. 4507 is not intended to be or understood as an interpretation of the bylaw. A copy of the complete bylaw and this notice may be viewed at CRD's Salt Spring Island Administration Office, 108-121 McPhillips Avenue, or at CRD's Victoria Office, 625 Fisgard Street. The bylaw and other information may also be viewed at www.crd.bc.ca.

Voting Opportunities

GENERAL VOTING will be open to qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area on **Saturday, October 15, 2022, from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm**, at:

Salt Spring Island Electoral Area

- ▶ Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC
- ▶ Fulford Hall Seniors' Centre, 2591 Fulford Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC
- ▶ Salt Spring Island Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC
- ▶ Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church, 9296 East Saanich Road, North Saanich, BC

ADVANCE VOTING opportunities will be available on **Wednesday, October 5, 2022 and Wednesday, October 12, 2022 from 8:00 am to 8:00 pm**, at:

- ▶ Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC
- ▶ Salt Spring Island Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue, Salt Spring Island, BC
- ▶ Saanich Peninsula Presbyterian Church, 9296 East Saanich Road, North Saanich, BC

Mail Ballot Voting

Mail ballot voting is open to all resident and non-resident property electors. To register to vote by mail, electors must submit a completed mail ballot application form and return to elections@crd.bc.ca before **October 1, 2022** to permit time for mailing. Application forms are available at www.crd.bc.ca/vote. To be counted, the elector is responsible for ensuring their mail ballot is received by the Chief Election Officer **no later than 4:00 pm on Friday, October 14, 2022** at the addresses below:

Hand Delivery: Capital Regional District, Legislative Services, 5th floor, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC V8W 1R7

Mailing by Post: Capital Regional District, Legislative Services, PO Box 1000, Victoria, BC V8W 2S6

Elector Qualifications

Resident Elector - You are entitled to vote as a Resident Elector if you are 18 years or older on general voting day, are a Canadian Citizen and have resided in British Columbia for the past six months. If registering on voting day, you must provide two documents proving identity and residency (one must have a signature). Please note the CRD is using the Provincial Voters List for Resident Electors.

Non-Resident Property Elector - If you are 18 years or older on general voting day, are a Canadian Citizen, have resided in British Columbia for the past six months, have owned and held registered title to property within the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area for the past 30 days, and do not qualify as a Resident Elector, you may vote as a Non-Resident Property Elector if you: a) have registered on or before August 23, 2022, or b) register at the time of voting. The following information is required at the time of registration:

- ▶ a recent title search, state of title certificate, or property tax notice, showing the names of all of the registered owners,
- ▶ two documents proving identity and residency (one must have a signature), and
- ▶ in the case of more than one owner of the property, a completed consent form signed by the majority of the owners, designating you as the person entitled to vote for the property. A copy of the consent form is available at: www.crd.bc.ca/vote

Identification

The following are examples of acceptable classes of documents for proof of identity: BC Driver's Licence; BC ID card (BCID); BC Services Card; Social Insurance Card; Citizenship Card; property tax notice; credit card or debit card issued by a savings institution; and utility bill.

For more information, please contact the Capital Regional District at 250.360.3642 or Toll Free 1.800.663.4425 local 3642, or by email at elections@crd.bc.ca.

Dated this 28th day of September, 2022
Kristen Morley
Chief Election Officer

www.crd.bc.ca/vote
www.crd.bc.ca/LCC-vote



ISLAND LIFE

SAFE GRAD 2022

Grad fundraising underway

Donations needed for online auction as activities continue

SUBMITTED BY SAFE GRAD 22 COMMITTEE

This year's Fall Fair game booths raised \$3,500 for the high school graduating class, according to the Safe Grad 2023 committee.

For several years the children's booths, this year coordinated by Jocelyn Ferguson and run by Grade 12 students, have been one of the main fundraisers for the graduating class of Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS). Parents also contributed to the fundraiser funds by selling game tickets and managing the Fall Fair traffic on Rainbow Road.

"We are very happy with the efforts of the students and the parents, especially with the Fall Fair being a week earlier and just after the start of school," said Janine Fernandes-Hayden of the Safe Grad 2023 committee. "It is the first step to organizing a safe and inclusive grad party."

Safe Grad relies completely on the fundraising efforts of grad parents, said Fernandes-Hayden, and a portion of the fundraising also goes to support a legacy project as a gift from the grads to the high school.

While the amount raised at the Fall Fair makes a dent in the efforts, the parent group still has 70 per cent left to raise. The next fundraiser will be the Holiday Auction, run for the third year in a row by Julie Nowell. The online auction started in 2020 when fundraising was difficult due to COVID-19 and turned out to be hugely successful.



PHOTO COURTESY GISS SAFE GRAD

Evan Shoolbraid, right, at one of the GISS grad class fall fair games booths. The fundraiser brought in \$3,500 for 2022 Safe Grad events.

ful. This year's auction can be found on Facebook (Gulf Islands Safe Grad 2023) and will take place from Dec. 6-8.

Anyone who would like to support Safe Grad 2023 can join the online fundraising event. To support this initiative by donating an item or a service, please contact safegradgiss@gmail.com.

The group is also trying to connect with all parents of the 2023 graduating class, and requests they send an email to get onto the distribution list for information on Grad 2023 activities.

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Doug Griffiths

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

OCTOBER 2022 PST (UTC-8h)
When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
12	0723	3.1	10.2	16	0237	0.9	3.0
	1212	2.3	7.5		1145	3.2	10.5
WE	1727	3.1	10.2	SU			
ME				DI			
13	0033	0.8	2.6	17	0327	1.0	3.3
	0826	3.1	10.2		1240	3.2	10.5
TH	1308	2.6	8.5	MO			
JE	1745	3.0	9.8	LU			
14	0112	0.8	2.6	18	0425	1.1	3.6
	0933	3.2	10.5		1324	3.2	10.5
FR	1420	2.7	8.9	TU			
VE	1759	2.9	9.5	MA			
15	0152	0.8	2.6	19	0529	1.2	3.9
	1041	3.2	10.5		1358	3.2	10.5
SA	1622	2.8	9.2	WE	2059	2.3	7.5
SA	1749	2.8	9.2	ME	2314	2.3	7.5

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what's on this week



Wed. Oct. 12	Fri. Oct. 14	Sun. Oct. 16
ACTIVITIES Local Elections Advance Poll. Salt Spring Public Library program room and Community Gospel Chapel. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Dance as Prayer. Hosted by Star of the Sea and led by Lolita Devindsch at All Saints By-the-Sea from 2 to 4:30 p.m. For more info and registration visit starofthesea.ca. Teen Lounge. Youth aged 13 to 19 meet in the library's Teen Zone every Wednesday. 4 to 5 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Friday StoryTime. Story telling and activities for kids aged five and up. Salt Spring library children's area. 11 a.m. ASK Salt Spring. CRD director Gary Holman is the guest. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Workshop on Bird Flu. A Ministry of Agriculture and Food session for small-flock poultry owners at Lions Hall. 8:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Bowing Our Heads In Dutiful Submission. History talk by Ken Mackenzie at Mahon Hall. 12:30 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Jazz Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.
Thur. Oct. 13 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Liquid Drum & Bass Night. With mystery headliner at Mateada Lounge. 9 p.m. to midnight.	Sat. Oct. 15 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Buck Dodgers Band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.	Mon. Oct. 17 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Vetta Chamber Music: Inspiration. Vetta musicians with pianist Jane Coop at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
Fri. Oct. 14 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Zoe Guigueno & Meg Iredale. Zoe brings full band to Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:30 p.m.	Sat. Oct. 15 ACTIVITIES Local Elections General Voting Day. Salt Spring Public Library program room, Community Gospel Chapel and Fulford Hall seniors annex. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Saturday Market in the Park. In Centennial Park from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Open House. Annual Fire Prevention Week event at Ganges Fire Hall from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. and also learn about becoming a paid-on-call firefighter.	Tues. Oct. 18 ACTIVITIES A Quiet Morning. St. Luke's Day. Luke, beloved Physician, artist and author of the Gospel of Mercy. Hosted by Star of the Sea and led by Richard Stetson. St. Mary's Church at Fulford. 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. For more info and registration visit starofthesea.ca. Tuesday Farmers' Market. Weekly market in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Top Gun: Maverick** runs from Friday, Oct. 14 to Tuesday, Oct. 18 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. For more movie info, see thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

- **Margaret Mackenzie** shows a 40-year retrospective of her paintings at **Mahon Hall** daily through Sunday, Oct. 16, from 10:15 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.
- **Watermark - A Show & Sale of Recent Prints and Ceramics by SSI Printmakers and SSI Potters Guild** members is sat **SS Gallery** on Tuesdays through Saturdays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Oct. 25.
- **An Eclectic Convergence** features work by Judith Borbas, Peter Eyles, Don Hodgins, Wendy Wickland and **Dulcy Wilson.** ArtSpring lobby on Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. and before all theatre and gallery events through October.
- **Shannon Wardroper** presents an exhibit called **Doomscrolling & An Antidote** at the Salt Spring Public Library Program Room through October.
- **Rolando Lampitoc** has artwork showing at **Dragonfly Art Supplies** this month.

SSIFR - Open House

Activities for the whole family, plus safety and recruitment info at Ganges Fire Hall.
SATURDAY, OCT. 15
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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COMMUNITY

Men's Shed program launches on Salt Spring

Organizers see value to community and members in workshop space

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new men's organization on the island is seeking tool and materials donations — and, even more importantly — new members.

The Salt Spring Men's Shed officially opened its workshop doors Wednesday, Oct. 12, at 154 Kings Lane — a location being provided by the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association (GISRA). It's part of a larger, global movement of creating such spaces, designed to provide men with "somewhere to go, something to do and someone to talk to" — all the while contributing to the wider community by building and fixing things.

There are more than 2,800 Men's Sheds worldwide according to the Men's Shed Association of British Columbia. Salt Spring's will



MEN AT WORK: Men's Shed founder Tristan Laurillard, left, and member Brad Forster find time to hone woodworking skills in anticipation of the official launch of the Men's Shed space. The community workshop is seeking new members and ideas for projects, as well as contributions of tools and materials.

be one of more than 20 planned or in service within the province.

"Friendships will be made here," said founder Tristan Laurillard. "Our members are good men — happy to chat, work on a creative project together or build

something useful for the community."

Men's Sheds are described as places for men to work alongside one another — fixing, building, sometimes just tinkering — and to socialize. Many (but by no

means all) Men's Shed members are retired, often at an age when they begin to miss the sense of collaboration and purpose jobs once provided. In countries such as Australia and Ireland, according to organizers, Men's Sheds are

included in national public health strategies — staving off social isolation or various stigmas associated with health conditions and/or aging.

Organizers say the sheds are also an opportunity to learn or pass along skills, and be truly useful for the community. From park benches to tiny libraries to wheelchair ramps, the Salt Spring Men's Shed is on the lookout for people and projects where their skills can be of assistance.

"The support we have received thus far has been tremendous," said Laurillard. "People really want to help with making this project happen."

He said that in addition to funding from the Salt Spring Island Foundation and United Way of BC, letters of support have poured in from local MP Elizabeth May, the Salt Spring Community Health Society, Salt Spring Community Services, GISRA, the Wagon Wheel Housing Society, and other agencies.

For more information, to donate or to join, call the shed at 250-999-1033 or visit the www.saltspringmensshed.ca website.

PHOTO COURTESY SS MEN'S SHED

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THIS WEEK'S *Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer*

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

The Sun in the final 3rd decan (10 degrees) of Libra indicates a time of increased curiosity, desire for knowledge, information and answers, and communication and exchanges of the above. With Mercury and Venus both currently in Libra as well, this impulse is amplified, along with an emphasis on equality, fairness and justice on one hand, and harmony, beauty and cooperation, on the other. This influence will continue even into Scorpio time that begins on Oct. 23 due to the fact that Mars, the co-ruling planet of Scorpio is in Gemini. While the impact of the coming Solar Eclipse on Oct. 25 will emphasize this theme, it will add a shift toward finances and the economy which have been steadily building momentum after the stagnation created by Covid-19. Of course, the emphasis is now on the emerging battle between natural versus renewable energy and the question of climate change. While many hold matter-of-fact attitudes about this important topic, considering how easily anything can be politicized is a cornerstone of critical thinking regarding realities that affect us all.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Your focus has likely taken a strong turn toward your relationship life. A yearning for love, beauty, harmony and companionship, in general, is featured. Do you feel fulfilled in this department? Who do you feel attracted to and why, and is this a good time to do something about it? These are all likely thoughts on your mind.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) The emphasis of Libra currently is on creating more beauty and harmony in your lifestyle and living environment. This includes clearing the old to make way for the new. You may find yourself busy with unfamiliar activities that leave you feeling a little humbled, yet determined.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) This time of year is one when you are naturally inclined to be more playful and creative, on one hand, while more intellectually interested to gain knowledge and be aware on the other. Giving time and attention to both of these fronts can prove fun and also prove fulfilling regarding quality time shared.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Your aesthetic sensibilities are likely to be heightened at this time. This implies beautifying your home, which can include fall cleaning, re-arranging the furniture and adapting the décor to the changing season. Yet the impulse can just as easily be enjoyed as a time of peace and harmony, if your home is settled.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) Change is activated from both within and without and both can be recognized as synchronicities of destiny. Of course, circumstantial realities play a role, yet these too can be recognized as expressions of larger and deeper realities because everything is connected. Above all, trust and cooperate with the flow.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) Libra time is one of inner work or projects attended to behind the scenes. With all the air sign activation currently, your attraction to knowledge is heightened as well. With a steady flow of returns for past efforts, you are likely busy yet have reason to feel at peace, unless the past few years have been wayward.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) A stronger assertion of your thoughts and views of late may be understood as finding your voice. This exuberant impulse could also manifest as creative interests. Either way, your higher energy levels may be experienced by others as having a cutting edge. Aim for expressions of beauty that uplift and inspire.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Stepping out of the public eye for a while continues. Ideally, this retreat includes bouts of rest and rejuvenation. You could also find yourself quite busy there due to a steady increase in your ambition levels. This growing drive will be with you for a while so be sure to recharge and re-centre now.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Striking a balance between your own sense of individuality and that of others is an important theme of your destiny and is emphasized now. Which way the scales lean is for you to decipher. Ideally, sharing and exchanging views equally reveals a democratic spirit that requires you to uphold by leading by example.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) A window of opportunity to be seen, heard and acknowledged remains open but not for much longer. So, if you feel you have earned the right to have more or to advance your position, but have not taken the initiative yet, this is your cue. Don't wait though; by next week it might have closed again.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) The influence of Libra in your life is to help you to achieve a wider scope that invites fairness, inclusivity and justice for all. With Sun, Venus and Mercury huddled closely there currently, this theme is highlighted. Engage your creative intelligence to empathize more fully.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) To make changes, we sometimes have to remove the blocks and clear the clutter. We can also paint new coats, colours and textures over the old ones to gain a whole new perspective. However you do it, such endeavours to replace the old with the new will prove liberating and reinvigorating.

Doreen Cooke

July 9, 1930 – September 14, 2022

On September 14th, with the same intention and grace she gave to all things, Doreen waived goodbye. Over the years she cultivated a love of gardening, good design, great books, fine music, intelligent conversation and a wicked sense of humour.

Doreen loved with her whole heart, her husband George, her brothers and their families. As well she formed many rich friendships, near and far, that she held dear. She said many times what a truly wonderful, fun filled life she had had and held that these relationships were a large part of that joy.

Doreen wanted to thank her Salt Spring community for their many kindnesses and kindness. She wished to thank Dr. Gummesson, and all the nurses and caregivers who tended both her husband George and herself with care and kindness. Her heartfelt thanks to Dr. Slakow who walked with her in her last hours.

Ram Dass says that we are ultimately walking each other home. Auntie Doreen, thank you for letting us walk with you.



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

SHERRIL (SHERI) LYNN NIELSON (NEE BLUNDEN)

June 28, 1954 – July 14, 2022

With great sorrow we announce the unexpected passing of Sheri Nielson of a heart attack on July 14. Sheri was born in Calgary, Alberta, but after spending some time in Manitoba and the Fraser Valley (with many adventures along the way), she settled on Salt Spring Island in 1986. Sheri quickly fell in love with the Island and its community, serving in the early years as an RCMP reserve officer and working as a paramedic first responder on the Island for many years.

One of Sheri's many talents was her ability to manifest whatever she envisioned and make it reality. Sheri was an avid gardener and foodie. She became involved in the Food Safety industry and developed a passion for researching all aspects of the industry and helping others to learn about safe practices of food handling and preparation from farm to plate. Along side this, Sheri became a certified Farm Auditor and On Farm Food Safety Advisor, helping farmers across BC and the USA to meet and maintain the standards for certification.

Sheri was a tireless worker and dreamer. Her vision was to build a sustainable food system and school with a science-based approach where she could teach others how to grow, harvest and preserve their own food. Along with her partner, Dudley, she had begun the realization of that dream on Salt Spring Island.

Sheri's life was governed by her sense of justice, and she was a strong ally for family, friends, and farmers alike. She was everybody's mother, everybody's teacher, everybody's advocate, and she did it all with passion. She had the ability to listen without judgment and lead without being overbearing; she seldom told you what to do, but would guide you to discover the answers for yourself.

Sheri is survived by her long-time partner Dudley Nielson, her son Jasper Nielson, her brothers Danny and Joe Blunden, her sisters Vicki Wearmouth, Lori Haywood, Karli Blunden, and numerous extended family and friends.

At Sheri's request, there will be no memorial service.

*Due to Sheri's unexpected and untimely death, a GoFundMe account has been set up to help the family with her estate during this difficult time. Your support would be greatly appreciated. <https://gofund.me/10c635ba>



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Membership Opportunities**Interested in Serving on a Commission?**

Volunteers wanted to serve as members of various Commissions
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Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation Commission

Includes 8 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The PARC serves in an advisory role to the CRD and is responsible for the establishment, ongoing operation and maintenance of facilities, community parks, trails and recreation services. Three positions available.

Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission

Includes 8 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The Commission serves in an advisory role to the CRD and to BC Transit on matters related to the transit service and to transportation related community needs and projects. On transit matters, the Commission advises on bus service funding, schedules, routes and other details of the service. Five positions available.

Salt Spring Island Community Economic Sustainability Commission

Includes 7-9 members of the public, plus the CRD Director for Salt Spring. The Commission works cooperatively with adjacent local governments on economic sustainability projects. Four positions available.

Please submit your letter of interest and background information no later than **November 9, 2022** to:

CRD Electoral Area office
Suite 108-121 McPhillips Avenue
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2T6
or by email to: sburnham@crd.bc.ca

For more information, phone 250-537-4448
or visit: www.crd.bc.ca

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SLICK OPERATION: Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) vessels Hecate Sentinel and Sentinel 30, above, partner with responders from RCM-SAR Sidney Station and Malahat Nation for an oil spill training deployment on Sept. 28, at Galiano Island's Whaler Bay. At left, Malahat landing craft captain Stephanie Spencer and crew Dwayne Goldsmith, Andre Goldsmith and Andrew Sheriff deploy an oil slick containment boom. The exercise was part of WCMRC's Coastal Response Program, involving spill response protection strategies for the Gulf Islands.



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BROWN**

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working people and families"

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and October 15th.**

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Salt Spring vibrant!"

**Find out more about Jesse,
and where to vote at
www.saltspringtogether.ca**

Authorized by Jesse Brown, Financial Agent, jesse@saltspringtogether.ca