

inside:



12 Ancient forests exhibit and fundraiser

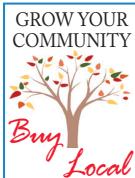


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INSERTS:

- Country Grocer
- Thrifty Foods
- Home Hardware
- The Local Liquor St.
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Driftwood

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Wednesday,
Oct. 19, 2022

62nd year
Issue 42
\$1.50



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

DOING IT RIGHT: Sparky the fire dog gets guidance from Salt Spring firefighter Grant Gussie in practising use of a fire extinguisher at Saturday's open house at the Ganges fire hall. Sparky learned to remember the "PASS" word: P - pull the pin; A - aim at the base of the fire; S - squeeze the lever; S - sweep from side to side.

LOCAL ELECTIONS

Voters choose Patrick, Harris, Holman

CRD local community commission referendum passes with strong support

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring voters chose the tried and true in electing an incumbent Islands Trust trustee and Capital Regional District (CRD) director in Saturday's election, but also opted for a change in CRD governance via referendum.

Gary Holman was returned as CRD director and Laura Patrick as trustee, with Jamie Harris also elected to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee.

Patrick topped the Islands Trust polls with 1,441 votes and Harris was in second place, receiving 1,347 votes. Harris' running mate Don Marcotte came third with 1,286 votes, followed by Gary Gagné with 1,141 votes; Elissa Poole, 1,125; Ben Corno, 1,059; and Jenny McClean, 235.

In the CRD race, Holman received 1,917 votes, Jesse Brown 971 votes and Kylie Coates 941.

A proposal to change the island's governance system to create a local community commission under the CRD passed by a large margin, with 2,297 voting in favour and 1,448 against.

Elected to represent Salt Spring on the Gulf Islands school board are incumbents Tisha Boulter (1,486 votes) and Rob Pingle (2,005 votes), and Nancy MacDonald (1,981 votes). Jenny McClean received 1,101 votes and Anna Szul 636. Even though George Sipos had formally removed himself from the race, his name was still on the ballot and he attracted 561 votes.

A total of 3,916 ballots were cast in the on-island polls at Community Gospel Chapel, the library and Fulford Hall. With 10,041 registered resident and non-resident property-owning voters, according to local returning officer Tony Kennedy, that makes for a voter turnout rate of 39 per cent. Kennedy said the 10,041 figure does not include new registrations, which is not a large number. Approximately 30 people also voted off-island or by mail.

Patrick said she was honoured to have been re-elected by Salt Spring voters and thanked them for the confidence and faith they had in her.

"I want to congratulate Jamie Harris on his well-earned victory," she added. "Salt Spring voters are saying that they want the Islands Trust to do a much better job on housing, the environment and how we manage and solve issues together. I'm looking forward to rolling up my sleeves and getting to work with Jamie on these critical issues."

First-time trustee Harris said he was excited about his new position and looking forward to working with incumbent Patrick.

"I'm sure we can find some major common ground, and I'm excited for Salt Spring, honestly," he said.

ELECTION continued on 3

Zen Master Wolfgang says:

"Money may not buy happiness, but I would rather cry in a Mercedes than on a city bus."

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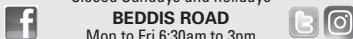
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LOCAL NEWS MATTERS

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Islands Trust

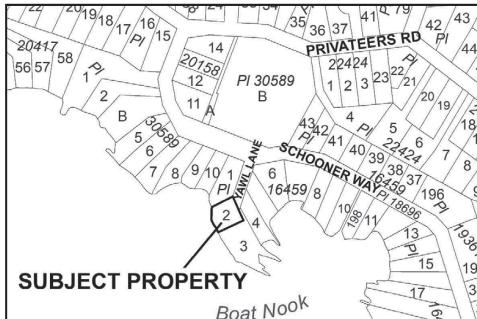
NOTICE NP-TUP-2022.3 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 2, Section 9, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 16459 (PID: 003-971-783). This property is located at **2703 Yawl Lane**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental** use within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached proposed permit. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years.

The general location of the subject property is shown on the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **October 13, 2022** and continuing up to and including **October 24, 2022**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499(2) (c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Kim Stockdill, Island Planner at (250) 405-5157. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandtrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., **October 24, 2022**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:00 a.m., October 27, 2022**.

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

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

ELECTION RESULTS

Southern islands see new faces

Paul Brent wins CRD seat; transportation service question barely fails

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Southern Gulf Islands voters chose a few new faces to add to familiar elected officials in Saturday's local elections.

Longtime Mayne Island trustee Jeanine Dodds received support from 91.9 per cent or 534 of her constituents, while fellow incumbent David Maude earned 65.6 per cent or 381 votes. Challenger Deb Foote received 222 votes.

On Galiano Island, the new trustees are Lisa Gauvreau, 515 votes, and Ben Maberley, 447 votes. They upset incumbent Jane Wolverton, who got 403 votes. John Ronsley received 253 votes.

North Pender Island saw incumbent Deb Morrison returned with 606 votes, though challenger Aaron Campbell received more votes at 705. Mary Beth Rondeau earned 585 votes.

On South Pender, incumbent Cameron Thorn (102 votes) was not re-elected. That island's new trustees are Dag Falck (135 votes) and Kristina Peszel (121).

Saturna's two trustee positions were filled by acclamation with incumbent Lee Middleton and Mairead Boland.

Peter Luckham, current chair of Islands Trust Council, was returned as Thetis Island trustee.

Paul Brent from Saturna is the new CRD director for the Southern Gulf Islands. He received 1,643 votes to North Pender's Ben McConchie at 1,289. Both were Islands Trust trustees in the last term and Brent also became acting CRD director when Dave Howe resigned from the position earlier this year.

A Capital Regional District referendum proposal to establish an integrated transportation service in the Southern Gulf Islands failed by three votes: 1,498 to 1,495. The referendum proposed a maximum annual requisition up to the greater of \$675,000 or \$0.1414 per \$1,000.00 of assessed property value.

CRD election officials did not respond by Driftwood press time to a question about whether or not a recount would be done.

No school board trustee elections were held on the Southern Gulf Islands. The positions on Galiano, Pender and Saturna islands were filled by acclamation. Galiano's new school trustee is Jeanine Georgeson, while incumbent Greg Lucas will continue to represent Pender and Chaya Katrensky will do the same for Saturna. At this point, Mayne Island remains unrepresented on the Gulf Islands Board of Education.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trustees defend tower decision

Opponents point to 2001 and 2021 antenna siting policies not being followed by Rogers

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A federally regulated communications tower may yet be built, but local officials are ensuring their voices against its current site are heard — their technically advisory role in the final decision notwithstanding.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) is amplifying its position — and, once more, defending its decision — rescinding support for a communications tower at a site on Channel Ridge. Trust staff will work with trustee and LTC chair Peter Luckham to craft a letter to Rogers Communications, reiterating the Trust's rescindment of support for the tower siting, and send a copy to Innovation, Science and Economic Development Canada (ISED), the federal authority that could stop construction.

"It needs to be strongly written, defending our rescindment," said trustee Laura Patrick during the LTC's regular meeting Oct. 11. "It has to say that we stand behind this rescindment. We have not changed."

Rogers wants to build a wireless cellular and emergency communications tower jointly with the Capital Region Emergency Service Telecommunications (CREST) organization. Rogers and CREST went through a federal approval process and were given what is called a "letter of concurrence" from the LTC last summer, with Patrick voting against. In March 2022, the LTC unanimously voted to rescind its support for the tower, instructing applicants to follow an antenna siting protocol adopted in 2021.

This summer, as Rogers contractors proceeded with construction, community opponents started a picketing action at the access road for the site, blocking contractors until the RCMP arrived. Those actions were blunted as officers informed opponents they would be criminally charged should they continue blocking a public access road.

The tower is meant to improve coverage issues on the west side of Salt Spring Island, from Vesuvius and on to the north. Community opponents, such as the Concerned Citizens of Canvas-

back (CRoC), have been careful to point out they are in full agreement on the need for a tower to improve communications for both first responders and the general public; they are rather opposed to the selected site, pointing to its proximity to existing homes and the availability of what they see as equally suitable — and arguably unpopulated — sites nearby.

CRoC member Julian Clark told the LTC that as of now, Rogers' contractors have removed an excavator and other equipment at the site, and residents have seen no action on the ground since July 28.

"They had dug four or five holes about six feet deep to gain access to power," said Clark at last week's meeting. "They have not filled those holes, they've simply thrown [down] some plywood with red X's across them. Somewhat dangerous, but they are at least covered."

Rogers' application was tendered before the LTC's 2021 antenna siting policy was adopted, but was still likely subject to an existing LTC policy, under which it was nonconforming.

In April 2001, following extensive community outreach and consultation, LTC approved a procedure for cellular phone antenna proposals. Among other requirements was one requiring towers not be installed within 500 metres of "any continuous human activity." CRoC and other opponents of the Channel Ridge tower site have pointed to existing homes lying well within that 500-metre boundary.

Rogers — then Rogers AT&T — was actually the first telecommunications company to use the new guidelines in the spring of 2001, during a siting process for a tower constructed on Mount Tuam. At the time, LTC planners told the Driftwood that while Rogers' application was submitted before the guidelines were finalized, the company had agreed to all the Trust's proposals.

But even in 2001, it was federal authorities — at that time Industry Canada — who regulated antenna applications, only accepting input from local governments; the LTC could not prohibit their installation, but only provide desired guidelines.

"I think the real problem is that the federal government makes these decisions, with or without local approval," said retiring trustee Peter Grove. "But I don't think we can just let this lie. We need to stick our oar in the water."

Electees grateful, humbled, excited

ELECTION

continued from 1

"Hopefully we can really get something happening here in regards to workforce housing, and that it happens sooner rather than later. It's clear we need that. We need workforce housing projects to get started as soon as possible and have provisions made ASAP regarding rezoning or adding on to existing zoning."

The aim would be to have a few projects well underway before the four-year term is up, he said.

"We've got so much room for positive improvement here. It's a matter of allowing forward movement to happen and not holding it back."

Harris said it will also be interesting to see what happens regarding possible review or restructuring of the Islands Trust as a whole, in light of the Great Northern Management governance review report and Trust Council's request for the provincial government to look at changing the Islands Trust Act.

Returning CRD director Holman said it was "an honour to be elected again to represent the engaged citizenry of this island."

He thanked Kylie Coates and Jesse Brown "for their positive campaigns. I know that both of them will be continuing their good work in our community." He also said he looked forward to working with the elected Islands Trust and school board trustees.

"I'm particularly pleased with the decisive referendum result in support of a local community commission (LCC), which will broaden CRD representation beyond the CRD director, and be much more transparent and accountable to voters."

"We've got so much room for positive improvement here. It's a matter of allowing forward movement to happen and not holding it back."

JAMIE HARRIS
Salt Spring trustee-elect

Holman noted there will be significant turnover at the CRD Board due to the election results, but said the new CRD chief administrative officer, Ted Robbins, is very familiar with CRD utilities on Salt Spring as the former senior manager of CRD Integrated Water Services.

Holman also thanked Bob Lapham, who he said "has been CRD's very capable CAO for the past decade and a senior manager before that. I owe him a debt of gratitude for his guidance and support through the years."

Gayle Baker, chair of the LCC

Advisory Committee, which took on an advocacy role for the LCC proposal, said "the hardworking volunteers who so tirelessly spread the word about the benefits of an LCC are thrilled by its decisive approval. Stay tuned for the election of our local commissioners this spring."

Under the terms of the CRD bylaw that received approval on Saturday, four LCC members will be chosen by Salt Spring voters in a forthcoming election, and then in subsequent local government elections every four years.

School trustees are grateful for the chance to serve as well.

"I feel deep gratitude for the privilege and opportunity to work alongside an amazing team in service of public education for another four years," said Tisha Boulter, who is the most recent school board chair. "I look forward to witnessing the successes and identifying areas of our learning edge so we can action positive growth. Thank you to all who voted for me and entrusting me in this role."

Nancy MacDonald, who was also a school trustee from 2014 to 2018, said she looks forward to working with the new board.

"I get a sense that families want to see positive action and transparency. The community often doesn't know what the board does, so we will need to ensure really good communication and share information as much as possible."

She also said it will be impon-

tant to address wellness, student success and community expectations. Key issues to resolve include shortages of staff.

"I will have, as always, a positive mindset in discussions with the new team."

Pingle, who was first elected trustee in 2008, said he was humbled by the support he received.

"This last term was very challenging and I heard from many people that the board could do better. I'm grateful that the people of Salt Spring believe that I am a person who can continue to help the board do better. I look forward to these next four years of improvement in our school district."



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OCTOBER 2022 PST (UTC-8h)							
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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
19	0529	1.2	3.9	23	0328	2.7	8.9
	1358	3.2	10.5		0859	1.7	5.6
WE	2059	2.3	7.5	SU	1526	3.1	10.2
ME	2314	2.3	7.5	DI	2151	1.4	4.6
20	0633	1.3	4.3	24	0426	2.8	9.2
	1426	3.2	10.5		0939	1.9	6.2
TH	2101	2.1	6.9	MO	1542	3.1	10.2
JE				LU	2217	1.1	3.6
21	0105	2.4	7.9	25	0522	3.0	9.8
	0728	1.4	4.6		1018	2.1	6.9
FR	1448	3.1	10.2	TU	1558	3.1	10.2
VE	2113	1.9	6.2	MA	2248	0.8	2.6
22	0224	2.5	8.2	26	0619	3.1	10.2
	0816	1.5	4.9		1059	2.4	7.9
SA	1508	3.1	10.2	WE	1616	3.2	10.5
SA	2130	1.7	5.6	ME	2324	0.5	1.6

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PARKS & REC

Funds for new Maxwell park secured

Community donations and Bloom grant assure 75 acres acquired

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Organizers of a grassroots fundraising effort are celebrating after announcing they have raised enough money to purchase 75 acres on Salt Spring for a new park.

On Wednesday, Oct. 12, the Salt Spring Community Park campaign reported the initiative to raise \$850,000 towards the purchase of forested land on Hwmet'utsum (Mount Maxwell) reached its goal ahead of an Oct. 31 deadline. The goal was achieved thanks to a final push and a generous grant from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, enabled by funds from the trust established for the estate of the late Susan Bloom. Some \$250,000 in community-raised donations and the \$100,000 Bloom grant made up the \$350,000 set as a fundraising goal this summer. Salt Spring's Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) had previously pledged \$250,000, as had a private foundation whose directors wished to remain anonymous. The landowners had also substantially reduced the purchase price.

Plans for the property include the establishment of a multi-use trail network for horseback riding, mountain biking, disc golfing and hiking. Managed and shared use of the park will secure conservation of the area while encouraging outdoor recreation.

Moving this land from private to community ownership will create the largest contiguous tract of protected land in the Southern Gulf Islands. Naturalist and campaign supporter Briony Penn said the purchase would safeguard the forest from further ecological degradation, development and deforestation, as well as bring "enor-

mous benefits" to local biodiversity.

"Just as importantly," said Penn, "it will protect a significant area capable of sequestering carbon for the next seven generations, a critical component of local efforts to combat climate change."

Salt Spring Solutions co-chair Elizabeth FitzZaland said the goal was reached after three years of community partnership involving a coalition of community groups and stakeholders, all coming together to save the land.

"I'm so proud of how the community has jumped in at the end to get us across the finish line," FitzZaland. "So many islanders and friends of Salt Spring Island have contributed in different ways, from cash donations to organizing events, but we owe a special thank you to Foxglove Farm and Bullock Lake Farm for hosting two recent events that made all the difference. We're deeply grateful to the Bloom AlterEco Trust for their timely generosity in helping us complete the funding and the Salt Spring Island Foundation as our charitable partner."

Once the purchase is finalized, PARC will begin to engage the community in the development of a management plan for the land.

Campaign fundraising advisor Christopher Roy said that effort was an important next step.

"Now we begin the work that meaningfully engages local Coast Salish elders and community members," said Roy, "the environmental community, and youth — in planning, protecting and enjoying this new recreation resource on Salt Spring Island."

Further donations received by the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Land Protection Fund, up to and including those dated Oct. 31 will be tax receiptable and contribute to the CRD fund for planning, designing and implementing the park.

For more information or to donate, visit the website: communitypark.ca.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Membership Opportunities

Interested in Serving on a Commission?

Volunteers wanted to serve as members of various Commissions
Terms are for two years, beginning January 1 each year.

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

OPINION

Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Lauding leaders

The unfolding of the democratic process is always fascinating to watch.

Once every few years the citizenry is asked for their opinion about who they want to make decisions on their behalf in certain areas of public life. Individuals wanting to take on that role must articulate their ideas and aspirations for the community and put their best foot forward for about a month before election day. At the same time they must fend off criticisms and tackle the spin of their opponents and those people's supporters.

Running for public office is not for the faint of heart; it demands courage and a ton of work. (Though not as much courage and work as actually being an elected official.) We congratulate and give thanks to everyone who participated this time around.

Few individuals take on political roles to improve their own lives. They may enjoy the work and public interactions, but for the most part a political path is chosen because a person feels qualified and motivated to make positive changes for their community or a wider jurisdiction, or they have been encouraged by others to step into a leadership role.

One person who has been a leader on Salt Spring for the past 11 years is trustee Peter Grove. Perhaps in part due to his skills as a mediator, Grove managed to minimize community conflict and engage respectfully with constituents, sometimes under trying circumstances. He also provided much-valued Trust-wide service as a Trust Council finance committee member and chair. Thank you, Peter, for your years of service, even if the harbourwalk project isn't finished like you promised it would be.

Salt Spring voters also deserve gratitude for approving the local community commission proposal through the Capital Regional District referendum. Because of that change, we will have the chance next spring to elect four more good people, which will result in more transparency about and more control over CRD functions on the island.

We look forward to the changes to come on Salt Spring Island in the next four years, and hope Peter Grove's moderating influence won't be missed too much.

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Bronze - Community Service Award



PARKER

WHAT MONTH
IS THIS?
OCTOBER

YOU SURE?

HARD TO BELIEVE

Debate with 'clear eyes'

BY GORDON CAMERON

Our job is to report the truth. Democracy depends on it.

National Newspaper Week

Was from Oct. 2 to 8 this year, with a theme of recognizing "champions of the truth."

Maybe I'm a bit of a throwback, but when it comes to debating the issues of the day, my style leans more towards persuasion rather than brute force. I like to build my case point-by-point, parry the objections where I can, and when I can't, I like to take them away and have a think about them. While I may have gone into the discussion with my mind made up, facts, evidence and arguments may cause me to change my mind.

And that's a good thing.

Too often, debates move from what should be a free exchange of ideas into a no-holds-barred, zero sum game clash for the ages. No quarter is asked and certainly no quarter is given. Two ideas enter, but only one can leave. Win or lose. Kill or be killed.

And that's a very bad thing.

It's bad because with that winning-is-everything mentality, the lines between truth and "truth" gets blurred. Inconvenient facts get ignored, projections are presented as certainties and counter arguments are dismissed with only the flimsiest of pretexts. Not only that, the tone can range from haughty and superior to ridicule and outright bullying.

And that's no way to come to a decision in a functioning democracy. It's supposed to be the rule of the people, not the rule of the loudest.

That's why newspaper journalism is

VIEWPOINT

so important. At our best, we look at every issue the same. We gather all available facts, we talk to experts and supporters from both

sides, we do our research and then present what we find to our readers so they can make up their own minds. We have no direct interest in which side is right and which side is wrong. We lose nothing by pointing out the flaws in both arguments. Our job isn't to advocate, it's to inform.

As valuable as this is to the community, it doesn't come without a cost. If you treat any challenge to your beliefs as heresy, you come out guns blazing, often attacking not what was reported, but the fact that it was reported. If I'm wrong about something, I'll correct it, but if I'm accused of being pro or anti something just because I contradicted a "fact," that says a lot more about the person complaining than it does about the quality of my journalism.

Truth is neutral. Truth doesn't care if it agrees with your beliefs and desires. Reporting the truth helps the community discuss and debate the important issues of the day fully and with clear eyes.

The ultimate decision on these questions is up to you, but it's our duty to give you all the information you need to decide for yourself.

Gordon Cameron is the group managing editor for Metroland's Hamilton Community News, the Sackem and the Glanbrook Gazette. This column was written as part of a series for National Newspaper Week on the topic of Champions Of The Truth: The Real Superheroes.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you think you would make a good trustee or CRD director?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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



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

Life is at risk due to health-care crisis

It's 2:53 a.m. and I'm awake again in the middle of the night, fuming about the sorry state of health care in B.C.

I just had a test for potential cancer and was told that it could take months to get the results. Months! Months of waiting, months of worrying, months of cancer potentially growing....

Apparently, in B.C., these results take an average of three to four months, while just across the border in Alberta it's two to three weeks and in Washington state one to three weeks. A woman in Saanich recently received her results after waiting for seven very long months.

My life and yours is at risk in B.C.'s seriously flawed "health-care" system. If you are one of perhaps half of Salt Springers without a family doctor or one of the hundreds of thousands in B.C. waiting and worrying for months for a test result, please speak up!

Write to B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix (HLTH.Minister@gov.bc.ca), our MLA Adam Olsen (Adam.Olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca) and likely Premier David Eby (david.eby.MLA@leg.bc.ca). Show up in Victoria at the BC Health Care Matters rally this Saturday, Oct. 22 in front of the legislature, 12 to 2 p.m.

CHRISTINE TORGRIMSON,
SALT SPRING

Islanders should attend upcoming health care rally in Victoria

Family doctor road signs have been with us all summer long on Salt Spring Island.

The small print on those signs states: "EVERYONE DESERVES A FAMILY DOCTOR." They have been placed on our roadways by BC Health Care Matters members.

BC Health Care Matters (BCHCM), under the umbrella of the non-profit Canada Pacific Health Care Matters Society (CPHCM), is a grassroots organization that promotes timely access to appropriate health-care services for all B.C. residents. We are not affiliated with any political party. Camille Currie is the founder and organizer of BCHCM and the president and director of CPHCM.

As you may know, approximately one million residents of British Columbia do not have access to a family doctor. People are dying unnecessarily because of long waits in emergency rooms (ERs) or because of the closure of ERs across the province. Many of these deaths are closely related to a patient's inability to get longitudinal care from a family physician.

It is well documented that a doctor-patient relationship that is uninterrupted achieves the best health-care results, while episodic care by a different family doctor at each visit is less than ideal. Not having a family doctor has been proven to hasten death and increase the annual mortality total. In B.C. that means an extra 1,500 to 1,800 people die each year. Apart from this catastrophic number are the huge numbers of people living a less than optimal life because they are not being monitored by a family doctor who understands the patient as a whole.

The Canadian Health Care Act says that all Canadians must have access to physician services rendered by medical practitioners. Except in the case of an emergency, we are to discuss our medical needs with our family doctor prior to having access to a medical specialist or even having a prescription renewed.

Some 2,000 people turned out for the last rally on the grounds of the legislature. The next BCHCM rally in front of the Legislative Building (Victoria) is scheduled for Saturday, Oct. 22 from noon to 2 p.m. Learn more! Take action! Be included!

BC Health Care Matters believes that our government needs to do more. Everyone deserves a family doctor.

CURT FIRESTONE,
BCHCM BOARD MEMBER,
SALT SPRING

Girls need more opportunity

Gaia, we've got a problem. It's the humans. We've made quite a mess of things. Threatening signs abound. Ominous deadlines are looming.

Luckily we have a way out—a vastly underutilized resource of great potential for benefit is available and eagerly waits to be tapped and developed.

Oct. 11 was the UN International Day of the Girl Child. Widely acknowledged international, cross-cultural scientific research in psychological, social, biological, political and economic areas provides strong evidence that the most efficient and economically feasible approach to addressing the most critical issues facing the community of life on Earth lies in protecting, educating, empowering, inspiring and guiding our girls and young women—world-wide.

In order to maximize our collective chance of survival, women must be given at least equal access to positions of power in politics, business and religion. Of course, for this plan to work we must concurrently support and wisely guide the essential, evolving cooperative role of boys and men.

The data are in: a logical, practical, cooperative progressive plan must be developed; and the necessary resources available. We can do it. Let's do it! Now!

RALPH MILLER,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Salt Spring is tree-hugger central. It's got the biggest environmental consciousness per capita of just about anywhere in North America."

KEN WU, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ENDANGERED ECOSYSTEMS ALLIANCE

Wood heating webinar helps reduce air pollution and save money

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN

Many Southern Gulf Islands residents rely on wood stoves as a heating source for different reasons, including self-reliance, backup heating when the power fails during winter storms and using wood as a relatively inexpensive source of warmth.

But, according to Transition Salt Spring's Climate Action Coach Morgan Fraser, heating with wood generates far more pollution than other heat sources.

"Wood smoke accounts for over a quarter of fine particulate pollution in the winter — the kind known as 'black carbon' — and, with the concentration of wood stoves on Salt Spring & the Gulf Islands, that figure is likely even higher," says Fraser. Not only does black carbon pose serious risks to human health, it is a potent contributor to climate warming as the dark material absorbs sunlight and heats the surrounding air, adding to an already dangerous feedback loop.

How can Salt Spring reduce or eliminate these dangerous pollutants? Come to Transition Salt Spring's All About Wood Stoves webinar to find out how.

"As Transition Salt Spring's new climate action coach," says Fraser, "I'm here for anyone on the Southern Gulf Islands who wants knowledgeable advice and resources to lower their carbon footprint and save money."

TSS's free webinar is on Tuesday, Oct. 25 from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. Learn about the most efficient ways to use your wood stove, or better yet, take advantage of the big rebates now available to switch to a heat pump.

Wait . . . you might be thinking, "I've always heard that wood stoves are pretty green!" After all, much of the wood that is burned on the islands is windfall. It's true that most trees will grow back, and they will help to pull carbon out of the atmosphere once again. But, burning wood releases



carbon immediately, and it takes upwards of 40 to 50 years for a tree to start capturing any significant amount of carbon.

Still, the idea that wood burning is a low-carbon fuel is persistent, and is in fact being promoted at the highest levels: witness how the U.K. is importing B.C. wood to heat homes under the banner of "green fuel." Certainly, wood is a renewable resource unlike fossil fuels like coal and natural gas, but it's the carbon release in the removal of trees, and their incineration, that is of concern for its climate and health impacts.

But for some, switching to another heat source isn't an option due to costs, and oth-

ers worry that with increased power outages due to wind and snow storms, having a wood stove is an adaptive back-up option.

Affording a cleaner burning, emissions-certified wood stove is within reach of nearly everyone thanks to generous rebate programs like the Wood Stove Upgrade Rebate Transition Salt Spring is offering in partnership with BC Lung and the provincial government.

According to Fraser, "Even if you are renting, you can gather the information and deliver it to your landlord. Everyone who's taken advantage of this program appreciates the savings, but most people are switching to heat pumps as a much cleaner and more efficient heat source. It's better for the planet and it's better for people."

Providing incentives for removing uncertified wood stoves is one of the recommendations in Transition Salt Spring's Climate Action Plan 2.0, which sets out to lower

emissions and achieve a vision of clean and healthy air for current and future generations.

Salt Spring is among 19 B.C. communities eligible for the rebate program, funded by the BC Lung Foundation. Register today for the webinar, which will walk you through the why's and how's of the rebates and learn how to better use your current wood stove to pollute less. The webinar will also feature Salt Spring Fire Rescue's Assistant Chief Mitchell Sherrin.

Get a clean start this coming winter. Registration is free or "pay-what-you-can" online at: <https://tinyurl.com/TSS-wood>.

One Cool Island is a regular series produced by Transition Salt Spring on how we can all respond to the climate crisis — together. Andrea Palframan is a member of Transition Salt Spring, and volunteer communications contributor. To support Transition Salt Spring's work and read the Climate Action Plan, go to transitionsaltspring.com.

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Fall FIX-IT

ENERGY SAVING

Heat pump water investm

Newer system consumes one-third electricity of conventional heater

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

There's a level of home improvement knowledge known as "just enough to be dangerous." I am most definitely in this category.

As the son — and grandson — of a plumber, I spent part of my youth lifting bathtubs out of trucks, cutting holes in floors, and carrying tools and buckets of fittings around in the mud. From time to time, in horribly tight spaces and under highly critical supervision, I was allowed to "sweat" copper pipe; my connections were inelegant, but watertight. Still a point of pride.

So I might be forgiven for hovering over the two patient, professional plumbers who put in my replacement water heater; they assured me my help wasn't needed, and boy were they right. But I'm happy to report the decision to "splurge" on a sexy new heat pump water heater was a good one, and I'll humbly recommend both the process and result to anyone who uses more than a bit of hot water.

Heat pump technology is hardly new. Engineers and frugal people everywhere enjoy

the notion of "stealing" heat differentials right out of the ambient air. But — like plumbing — the technology has improved quite a bit since the last time I saw it. And while more expensive than absolutely any other kind of water heater, heat pump water heaters can "pencil out" over time — particularly given a few rebate programs designed to get us using them.

First things first, and get ready to pick your jaw off the floor: installed, you're looking at over \$5,000 for a smaller tank, \$6,000+ for a big one. Yes, you read that right. Not for a car, for a water heater. But bear with me.

BC Hydro's rebate program chips away at that; they'll rebate \$1,000 to qualified customers (and they'll tell you in advance if you qualify) who have specific models of super-efficient water heaters professionally installed. And the CleanBC program offers a "pre-bate" (I might've made that word up, but it comes off the bill at the beginning) on a sliding scale based on income; that can be as much as \$3,500.

Both programs require your installers to be certified with their program, and of course there's the matter of finding an available contractor, much less with the right bona fides. And there's a lot of paperwork. So, so many forms.

But is it worth it? Let's do numbers.

On average, a family will use enough hot water for their heater to run around three hours per day. My old 4,000-watt electric

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With the busy summer period now over but winter still a comfortable distance away, these next few months are the perfect time to do home and property upgrades in the Gulf Islands.

ment pays off

tank heater, running three hours, could pull 12 kWh through the meter daily.

The new tank, running longer but in heat-pump-only mode, averages between 2 and 3 kWh per day — one-third the electricity.

Conservation aside, that's (say) 10 kWh each day — 300 kWh each month — I'm not buying any more. At Step 1 pricing, that's \$28 per month; at Step 2, it's \$42. Call it \$500 per year, and the math suggests you could be coming out ahead long before the heater needs replacing.

Should you get one installed?

Sure, it's a touch expensive up front, but the price after subsidies gets reasonable. Also (and this can be a positive or a negative) they produce a lot of "waste" cold air from the exhaust port; in the summer, you might really like hanging out in the same room as your new water heater, although by winter you will be glad for the ability to be able to duct that cold air somewhere else.

But the efficiency is hard to argue with. At the end of the day — and billing cycle — it will make a lot of sense for a lot of people. And I think, as I look at the thing humming along just sipping electricity, Dad and Grandpa would've approved.

Visit www.bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/rebates-programs/home-renovation/renovating-water-heater.html and betterhomesbc.ca/rebates/cleanbc-income-qualified-heat-pump-water-heaters/ to learn more about their programs.



PHOTOS BY ROBB MAGLEY

Heat pump water heaters can produce hot water using just a fraction of the electricity consumed by their electric-element cousins.



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CONSERVATION

Sansum land protected

Landowner Gay Young
covenants Moss Mountain

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring has a new protected forest area, thanks to a covenant agreement between islander Gay Young and the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC).

The new Moss Mountain covenant encompasses 112 acres along Sansum Narrows — a critical wildlife corridor identified by ITC between Stoney Hill Regional Park on Vancouver Island and Burgoynes Bay Provincial Park and Mill Farm Regional Park Reserve. The property is protected through the Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP), a program unique to Islands Trust.

"Given the current climate crisis it seemed like a great way to contribute," said Young. "It was a family decision between me and my three grown-up children. We felt the land needed to be protected forever."

The Moss Mountain covenant contains a range of ecosystems, including mature forests, seasonal creeks, wetlands, mossy bluffs, Garry oak and arbutus woodlands, and rocky shoreline. According to ITC, it protects three documented species at risk of extinction (two birds, one bat), and nine provincially listed ecosystems — including the federally endangered little brown bat, which was detected during summer bat



PHOTO BY CARMEN SMITH
Moss Mountain landowner Gay Young.

surveys in 2021.

"We had 112 acres of mature trees," said Young. "I don't want them to be destroyed — they are so important and do a great service for us as carbon sinks. It was our job to protect them."

For qualifying properties over five acres, NAPTEP provides landowners with a 65 per cent property tax reduction for the portion of the property protected by a conservation covenant.

"Conserving land is a direct action individuals can take to prevent biodiversity loss," said ITC board chair Kate-Louise Stamford, "and increase islands' resiliency to climate change."

Since launching in 2005, NAPTEP has resulted in 27 covenants, totalling more than 370 acres of land on Trust-area islands.

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PUBLIC SERVICE

Grove bids adieu to Trust

Retiring trustee proud of
long service

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF



PETER GROVE

After three terms and 11 years with the Islands Trust, trustee Peter Grove made his final motion at the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting Tuesday, Oct. 11.

"It's an emotional time for me, I have to confess," Grove told fellow trustees. "I've been sort of looking forward to this, sort of not."

Grove chose not to run again in the Oct. 15 election.

In 2011 Grove received the most votes of any candidate for trustee, taking a seat alongside fellow electee George Grams. His background in mediation and conflict resolution — and accounting — clearly resonated with voters. Repeat performances showed staying power. In 2014, Grove again receiving the most votes by a substantial margin, and in 2018, when he won again, received only slightly fewer votes than fellow electee Laura Patrick.

"I have to say — mostly — it's been positive," said Grove, thanking current and former trustees, staff and the public one final time. "There have been some bumps in the road, and most of you know which bumps those were," he chuckled.

the pleasure of meeting and working with.

On the Islands Trust itself, Grove said he remained a "firm believer" in the Trust and its mission.

"I think it's a wonderful organization, and I think it serves an important role," said Grove. "It's run by passionate, hardworking, committed and competent people with whom I have been honoured to serve."

Grove said he and his wife Mary have been exploring both the islands and B.C., and intend to see more. He noted that the rural communities he visited elsewhere were surrounded by "commercial sprawl."

"I don't think it's a coincidence that we avoided that to a large degree," said Grove, crediting the role Islands Trust has played.

"Traditionally, for me anyway, I end this sort of meeting with a song," said Grove, to a round of laughter. "I'm not going to sing a song this time. But I am going to say, so long, farewell, auf Wiedersehen, adieu. Thank you."

FARMS & FOOD

Poultry on lockdown

Disease found in local fowl;
wild birds should not be fed

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Discovery of the H5N1 highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) in birds on Salt Spring last week has led to much of the island being declared a Primary Control Zone (PCZ) by the Canadian Food Inspection Agency.

The infected zone boundary roughly follows a five-kilometre diameter circle centred on Ganges; the restricted zone encompasses most of Salt Spring Island north of Fulford. Movement controls are in place per the Health of Animals Act, requiring special permits to move "birds, their products and by-products, as well as things exposed to birds" into, out of, within, or through the PCZ.

Avian influenza (AI), commonly known as "bird flu," is a contagious viral infection that can affect several species of food producing birds as well as pet and wild birds. AI viruses are classified into either low pathogenicity or high pathogenicity viruses, based on the severity of the illness caused in birds. Salt Spring Poultry Club board member Elsie Born said the avian influenza was arriving on migrating birds, and implored islanders to take action to help large and small flock owners — as well as the wild bird population, which should not be fed by humans at this time.

"Limiting food that attracts wild birds, and keeping your birds away from open water sources is critical," said Born. "We know this is hard for everyone, but please buckle down for the time being."

Poultry owners who need to move birds for processing purposes must contact the BC Ministry of Agriculture to obtain a permit.

"Above everything else, please, please do not dump birds this year," said Born. "We as a club want to help, but birds running around are potentially devastating to anyone and everyone on this island."

According to Inspection Canada, avian influenza viruses — such as the H5N1 virus present in Asia — may, on rare occasions, cause disease in humans; transmission to humans occurs through close contact with infected birds or heavily contaminated environments.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



COMMUNITY ARTS

Diverse arts opportunities offered

Multiple Salt Spring Arts application deadlines set for Oct. 31

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts currently has multiple opportunities open that could help people develop their arts projects and careers, but with the submission deadline looming, interested bodies will need to get their applications in by the end of this month.

The community arts council has five separate exciting calls to artists underway that all have an application deadline of Oct. 31. The opportunities themselves are wide ranging in scope.

Below is a brief summary of each program or award currently on offer:

• **Arcraft Winter.** The arts council states this is Salt Spring's ultimate Christmas craft fair, beating out all others in terms of duration, location and quality control. Participation in the annual show and sale at Mahon Hall provides southern Gulf Islanders with the opportunity to sell their handcrafted goods and fine artwork for four weeks straight leading up to Christmas. Arcraft artists who have been juried into the summer show and other artists who haven't gone through the jury but have been approved by the Arcraft manager are eligible to register.

• **Project Grants.** Grants are awarded to assist groups and individuals undertake projects of cultural benefit to the community. The program



PHOTO COURTESY SS ARTS

Artist Patrick McCallum speaks at a past Easter Art Show event. A curator for the 2024 show is one of several current Salt Spring Arts calls.

seeks to catalyze new artistic approaches and collaborations and facilitate the public presentation of those initiatives. While not a condition of eligibility, applicants are encouraged to use Mahon Hall as the venue for their events. Applicants must be based on Salt Spring and be members of Salt Spring Arts.

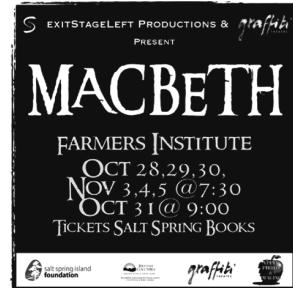
• **Susan Benson Award.** This fund was established by Susan Benson to respond to her knowledge of the historical and continuing unique challenges faced by female visual artists, especially in regard to material expenses related to creating and exhibiting works and

generally being recognized. Established as a limited-term donor-directed fund, this grant is available to visual artists living on Salt Spring. Preference will be given to support female artists, but all island-based artists are eligible.

• **Guest Curator.** Salt Spring Arts is seeking a guest curator for the 2024 Spring Art Show. Since 2007, a curated anchor exhibit of fine art and contemporary works by artists from the Southern Gulf Islands has been held each spring at Mahon Hall. During the 10-day event, Mahon Hall also hosts a variety of public events that showcase the fine and performing arts and that complement the theme of that year's exhibition. The curator is responsible for creating the parameters of the show and all aspects of the exhibit. An honorarium of \$2,000 is included.

• **Artist in Residence.** Islanders are invited to share this call widely with artist friends living in other communities, near or far. Open to both Canadians and to people from anywhere else in the world, this program gives art professionals the creative space to focus on developing work. The successful applicant will receive six weeks' accommodation and studio use on Salt Spring, from March 18 to April 30, 2023. The artist will also receive a \$1,000 honorarium. The award requires a community engagement component such as hosting an open studio, a demonstration or a performance.

For more information and the online application forms, visit the Calls page at saltspringarts.com. All forms will be closed after Oct. 31.



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what's on this week

Wed.

Oct. 19

ACTIVITIES

Teen Lounge. Youth aged 13 to 19 meet in the library's Teen Zone every Wednesday. 4 to 5 p.m.

Thur.

Oct. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sharon Bailey Album Release. With Dylan Stone at Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Mother Goose. Program of rhymes, stories and songs for babies, young children (0-4 years) and their parents/caregivers. Salt Spring library. In partnership with Family Place on Thursdays from 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Seniors Lunch. Enjoy lunch at Salt Spring Seniors every Thursday at 11:30 a.m.

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

Fri.

Oct. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Boom Human. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Friday StoryTime. Story telling by Brian Day and Marie Beaudoin and activities for kids aged five and up. Salt Spring library children's area. 11 a.m.

Seniors Coffee Time. Enjoy social time over coffee at Salt Spring Seniors. 10 a.m.

Fri.

Oct. 21

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. General discussion: "Election 2022: Where To From Here?" in ASK Salt Spring's new location in the lobby of the former middle school. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Book Reading & Launch: Kim Woolcock. Local author presents It's Tough to be Tiny in the Salt Spring library program room. 1 to 2 p.m. Ideal for kids aged seven and up.

Sat.

Oct. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Everyday People. At the Legion. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

Buck Dodgers Band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Daryl Chonka & Band. With opener Ian Skorscha at Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

The Met: Medea. Luigi Cherubini opera in the Met's Live in HD series. ArtSpring. 10 a.m.

Raymond Charlie Author Event. Penelakut elder and author of In the Shadow of the Red Brick Building gives a talk at the Salt Spring Public Library program room. 2 p.m.

Fabulous Flea Market. Community flea market with a huge range of goods at Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. A fundraiser for the hall.

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

Sun.

Oct. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Victoria Conservatory of Music: Young Artists Collegium Program. Chamber music concert performers on winds, strings and piano at ArtSpring. 1:30 p.m.

Blues Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Family Adventures in Nature: Halloween Spooktacular. Drop-in activities for children (3 to 12) and their adult. Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. 1 to 4 p.m.

Tues.

Oct. 25

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market. Last weekly market of the season in Centennial Park. 2 to 6 p.m.

VIA ZOOM

All About Wood Stoves Webinar. A Transition Salt Spring event from 6:30 to 8:15 p.m. Get the link through <https://tinyurl.com/TSS-wood>

Wed.

Oct. 26

ACTIVITIES

Weekly Meditation Program. Star of the Sea Centre presents a weekly meditation program. St. Mary's Church. Fulford. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Info: www.starofthesea.ca

THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Don't Worry Darling** runs from Friday, Oct. 21 to Tuesday, Oct. 25 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. 14A. For more movie info, see thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Ancient Forests of BC** – photographs by TJ Watt — runs at Mahon Hall from Wednesday, Oct. 26 through Sunday, Oct. 30, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Presentations by Watt and Ken Wu of Endangered Ecosystems Alliance and the Nature-Based Solutions Foundation on Thursday, Oct. 27 at a 6:30 to 9 p.m. fundraising event for those organizations.

• **Watermark – A Show & Sale of Recent Prints and Ceramics** by SSI Printmakers and SSI Potters Guild members at 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 Wicklund 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.

Fabulous Flea Market

At Fulford Community Hall
Saturday, Oct. 22, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

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ISLAND LIFE



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

SERVICE WITH A SMILE: Salt Spring recipients of the 2022 Islands Trust Community Stewardship Award were honoured Tuesday, Oct. 11, and presented awards by trustees Peter Grove, Laura Patrick and Peter Luckham (flanking, left to right). Holding awards are Catherine Valentine and Kees Ruurs. Valentine accepted the award for Salt Spring Island Natural Cemetery's "Creation of a Sustainable Cemetery that Protects Forested Lands"; Ruurs was honoured for his "Fourteen Years of Community Service." Also honoured with an award, but unable to be present for the ceremony and coffee social, was Ruth Waldick, who was recognized for "Building Lake Maxwell's Watershed Resiliency and Forest Fire Resilience."

LITERARY EVENT

Penelakut elder speaks at Oct. 22 library event

Raymond Charlie addresses residential schools experience

SUBMITTED BY SSI LIBRARY

Penelakut elder and author Raymond Tony Charlie will offer a short talk at 2 p.m. on Saturday, Oct. 22, at the Salt Spring Island Public Library's program room.

He will speak on his experience with the violence of the Kuper Island "school" and his own healing journey as detailed in his new book called *In the Shadow of the Red Brick Building*.

Charlie is an educator, artist, public speak-

er, author and residential school survivor who is committed to holistic healing for true reconciliation. He gave testimony as part of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission hearings in Duncan in 2012.

As a child, Charlie attended both Kuper Island (now Penelakut) residential school and St. Mary's residential school in Mission, B.C. Writing his book is one of several ways he has patiently shared his struggles and healing journey — to help people understand what really happened at these institutions, and to support others in their own healing.

Copies of the book will be available for signing at the event.

Elder Charlie is featured in the CBC Podcast series about Kuper Island, which is suggested listening prior to attending.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Notice of Disposition & Intention to Provide Assistance

Grant of Interest in Land: 161 Drake Road, Salt Spring Island - Registered Lease

Public notice is hereby given, pursuant to Section 286 of the *Local Government Act*, RSBC 2015 c.1, that the Capital Regional District ("CRD") intends to grant a leasehold interest to the BC Housing Management Commission as represented by the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation (the "Lessee"), for the property located at **161 Drake Road, Salt Spring Island, Range 3 East, Cowichan District, Plan EPP20136** (the "Lands"), shown below in with a dashed line, collectively marked "Lease Area", to allow for the construction and operation of a housing development. The lease commences November 1, 2022 for a term of 60 years. The consideration payable to the CRD by the Lessee for the grant will be \$10.00 for the term.



In accordance with Section 272 of the Local Government Act, RSBC 2015 c 1, the CRD gives notice that the grant of the Registered Lease to the Lessee for nominal consideration is a form of assistance that the CRD intends to provide BC Housing Management Commission as represented by the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation.

For more information, please contact the CRD. Tel: 250.360.3000
www.letstalkhousingbc.ca/salt-spring-island-supportive-housing

EDUCATION

Study finds teens at low risk of problematic phone use

Screen time not an indicator of internet addiction, says local researcher

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If you're a Gulf Islands parent concerned increased screen time during the pandemic has created an internet-addicted teen, an expert in developmental psychology says her research suggests there's no need to panic.

Two years into a four-year longitudinal study on local adolescents, evidence continues to point toward what may be a surprising result: pandemic changes in habits notwithstanding, teens aren't becoming internet addicts — at least, not at increasing rates. UBC developmental psychology professor and Galiano parent Dr. Jenna Shapka said she and her team's emerging findings paint an altogether brighter picture than some expected.

Teenagers spend a lot of time online, said Shapka, and this is normal; adolescents' social needs are high, and during the early stages of the pandemic, trying to fulfill those needs shifted online — social media, Zoom and Facetime made those developmentally important connections possible.

Decades of research show that if a teen's social needs are not met, they become increasingly at risk for "maladaptive outcomes," according to Shapka, such as anxiety, depression, dropping out of school or drug use. Many parents may have instinctively recognized the importance of those social connections, and shifted — or dropped — their pre-pandemic screen time limits accordingly.

"Then there's this moral panic among parents, educators and policy makers, and in the

media," said Shapka. "With the pandemic and the kids using technology for all of their activities — schooling, socializing and even some of their extracurriculars — I think a lot of parents were worried that teens would become addicted to the internet."

Fortunately, the data support a different conclusion. For the second year, thousands of students filled out open-ended questionnaires for her *CyberTeens Research Study* — from schools on Salt Spring and the Lower Mainland. Participants ranged from grades 8 through 12, distributed relatively equally by grade; their answers were examined and categorized. Of those participating at the end of last year's school calendar, just four per cent met the criteria for "problematic smartphone use" — the term Shapka uses in place of "internet addiction." And notably, that number is down from seven per cent the previous year.

"Problematic smartphone use" is more than just a choice to spend a lot of time online, according to Shapka. It's associated with a compulsive need to go online and stay online, which often causes disruption to other aspects of one's life and deep feelings of shame and guilt. What's more, the adolescents who exhibit those traits also tend to show evidence of struggles elsewhere in their lives, suggesting that problematic smartphone use is a symptom rather than a cause.

And while Shapka said some studies find links between technology engagement and mental health, the impact is exceedingly small; one particularly large study of 350,000 kids in the U.K. found the impact of screen time on depression and anxiety was smaller than that from having to wear glasses, she said.

"My main message to parents and teachers would be to be aware and involved," said Shapka. "Talk to your teens as much as they will let you. But don't panic about the screens."

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RONALD BERTRAM PERRING

1942 – 2022

Ronald Perring died peacefully on July 8, 2022 in Lady Minto Hospital. He was fighting cancer for two years and had suffered unbearable pain for several months. In the middle of May he was told by his oncologist there was nothing more that could be done for him. Ron went into hospital on May 25th when it became obvious that he could no longer be cared for at home. His quality of life was diminishing so he made the decision to put an end to the pain and signed up for M.A.I.D. (Medical Assistance in Dying).

Ron Perring was born in England and grew up in Acton with his sister Laraine and his brother Victor. In 1967 he came to visit Canada with a friend and decided to stay. He started in Ontario and made his way west over the next couple of years. He arrived in Vancouver at a time when things were 'happening' and he soon made lots of friends. Ron met Doris St Germain in 1971 and they were together for 51 years, living in Vancouver, Burnaby, North Vancouver and the last 30 years on Salt Spring Island.

In 1992 he went to England when his mother died, and reconnected with his daughter Katherine Perring and a few years later met his granddaughter Phoebe Person.

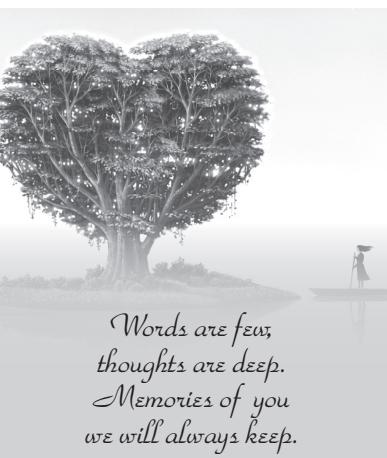
He was an amazing man that could turn his hand to whatever was needed. He was never bored and was always working on some project. He learned welding in England, but took up roofing in Vancouver with his very good friend John Warren. In the 80's Ron was the president of the B.C. Dart Association, so he decided to make darts and obtained a metal lathe, then taught himself how to operate it. After moving to Salt Spring in 1992, he wanted to build a shop and studied everything about timber framing, which lead to building three others on the island. He became a sawyer and operated a portable sawmill, cutting lumber for many island folk. Ron loved all kinds of wood and received many calls from friends who needed fallen trees cut up or removed – many pieces of which ended up in his shop for some future project. He recently took an interest in bee keeping, which lead him to building bee boxes.

Playing guitar was one of his hobbies, so of course Ron had to make them. He made acoustic guitars, electric guitars, cigar box guitars and banjos. For many years he enjoyed playing music and singing with his friends Avril Kirby and Ron Miville. They were the Backyard Band and played for tennis club parties, friend's events, and just together as music lovers. Ron was a member of the Salt Spring Tennis Association for years and played every Monday morning with his friends, as well as whenever a spare was needed.

One of his projects was the restoration of a sports car that he could not finish, despite trying for 28 years. He joined a group of other car enthusiasts hoping for help to get it done, but his health did not allow it and he sold it to one of the group. Ron had a special event on June 30th when his car group, the Crank Cases, along with the Salt Spring Cruisers, did a drive by for him around the hospital. The nurses rolled his hospital bed outside and parked it in the ambulance bay. He was happy to see his bright red 1959 MGA fully restored – he was smiling and enjoying the parade.

Ron felt he was extremely lucky to live on Salt Spring Island where he was so well looked after by the staff of Lady Minto Hospital and by the Community Health Services Nurses. On his appointed day, just before the doctor started the infusion, he asked if he could sing a little ditty. Then he started singing the first few lines of Into the Mystic. His passing was peaceful and we had to let him go just as he wanted. He is sadly missed by everyone who knew and loved him.

'Let your soul and spirit fly Into the mystic'

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THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

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TIFF OF THE WEEK: [READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UPS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.](#)

The Sun enters Scorpio on Oct. 23 this year and is followed by a Solar Eclipse on Oct. 25. Scorpio is commonly referred to as the sign of death, sex and taxes, generally referring to complexities of life. Accordingly, this time period is ever one of mystery, depth, inward reaching, change, regeneration and transformation. Whether it's Halloween, All Saints Day, Remembrance Day, etc., the key to success is to work with these themes, as is true of each of the 12 time periods designated by the signs of the Zodiac. The fact that the Earth/Sun relationship is very much the same as it has ever been since the time of recorded history and prior, is testimony to the power of these times, as nature responds in like manner along with the angle of relationship and the cast of the Sun's light. The Total Solar Eclipse, the true Super Moon, in terms of power and effect, at 2 Scorpio 0 is closely aligned with Venus at 2 Scorpio 33, forming a rare and foreboding triple conjunction!

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) A shift from a strong focus on relationships will prove somewhat gradual this week. Yet, this shift will also be definite as Mercury joins Sun and Venus in Scorpio on Oct. 28. You will feel this both in relation to your overall power position in the world and as your energy levels undergo adjustments.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) The mix of planets in Scorpio and influencing your relationship sector is a recipe for passion. Positively, the emphasis will be upon love, romance and pleasure, yet it could also shift into feelings of jealousy either from or towards you. Especially this week, exercise more empathy and diplomacy.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) While a playful and creative mood lingers, a steady shift toward more serious matters will be proven evident this week. You will be asked to give more somehow. It could be an excellent time to do an organ cleanse or clear the clutter. Yet, the greater emphasis could be on helping others.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Scorpio is the sign of the designer of the Zodiac. This can be directed to many types of designs, which includes strategies, schemes and plans. This highly creative and technical impulse can be harnessed for success if you align with it. Thanks to the eclipse, this influence will linger until next spring!

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) A deep dive into beautifying your home will be a source of inspiration for the next several weeks. Positively, this period could prove extra imaginative. You may choose to direct this influence in other ways as well. Making improvements is emphasized and all of the above could come with an innovative twist.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) Getting clear regarding what you want and what constitutes your priorities continues as a central theme. It will progressively prove to be an excellent time to attend to projects begun but left incomplete. This influence will last for several months but may not come again for a very long time, so get organized and focused.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) Desires for more freedom will become increasingly apparent starting this week. What you want freedom from or for is relative to your specific circumstances. In the short term, it includes new modes of self expression, making this a good time to start new projects or hobbies.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Hopefully you have made the most of a period of relative retreat because it is now coming to its completion as a new cycle begins. Especially due to the eclipse in your sign, you will experience a powerful impulse to take new leads and initiatives. It is likely that you will be busy on a variety of fronts.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Scorpio time is generally one during which you are inclined towards retreat. This will prove especially strong this year and progressively so this week. There does remain an impulse to mix-it-up in terms of engagement with others. An impulse to activate and agitate, guided by empathy and vision is likely, and ideal.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) The sign shift currently underway will activate your sense of individuality. By extension, your focus will be directed to people with power and influence who you admire and recognize to possess attributes or leverage that you desire. However you do it, the time has come to make some power moves.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) This time of year offers you an invitation to step out somehow. True to the nature of your sign, while others experience the impulse to go within, it is your cue to make key moves. These may be deemed career builders or making specific improvements with emphasis on creativity.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

A visionary mood is rising. This presents an excellent time to expand your view both of what is possible and with longer timelines in mind. This can be described as the 5-year plan, for example. Weave vision with intention and strategic measures and pro-activity to get a lot done in a short time.

ENVIRONMENTAL CAUSES

Exhibit raises funds to preserve ancient forests

TJ Watt photos at Mahon Hall, plus Watt and Ken Wu presentation

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders who care about preserving old-growth forests and love world-class photography won't want to miss an event coming to the island next week.

From Oct. 26 to 30, an exhibition of photographs by TJ Watt titled Ancient Forests of B.C. will be on display at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily.

On Thursday, Oct. 27, a fundraising event from 6:30 to 9 p.m. will feature a presentation by both Watt and Ken Wu, who are co-founders of the Ancient Forest Alliance and continue to work on saving B.C.'s old-growth forests and other valued ecosystems.

Wu is also founder and executive direc-

tor of the Endangered Ecosystems Alliance and also created the Nature-Based Solutions Foundation (NBSF), which are the two groups benefitting from the Ancient Forests of B.C. fundraiser.

The Salt Spring event is the first large-scale photography show Watt has done in more than a decade.

"Some images are of the beautiful, coastal old-growth landscapes of British Columbia, as well as some of the before and after images that I've shot, which show those contrasting images of a tree standing and then cut down . . . and then some wildlife shots as well."

As a photographer and campaigner for Ancient Forest Alliance, along with other environmental activism commitments, he has been too busy to mount an exhibition of any kind. But then he met Salt Spring Islanders Sibeal Foyle and Peter Pierobon, who he says were "the right people at the right time" to organize an exhibit.

"So right away we started working together to put this on and decided to



TJ WATT PHOTO

Award-winning nature photographer TJ Watt stands next to a still-standing old-growth cedar, with the stump of a recently cut tree nearby in the Caycuse watershed on southern Vancouver Island. An exhibit of Watt's photographs runs at Mahon Hall from Oct. 26 to 30, with a fundraising evening set for Oct. 27.

do it as a fundraiser for the Endangered Ecosystems Alliance and our conservation initiatives in forests in B.C. and across Canada."

Wu said that the Endangered Ecosystems Alliance, formed in 2018, primarily organizes policy and legislative campaigns to protect endangered ecosystems and old-growth forests.

The Nature-Based Solutions Foundation is even younger, having been established last December. Wu explained that its role is to help transition "land-embedded communities" into undertaking economic activities that don't damage environmentally sensitive lands. First Nations communities, primarily, but also ranchers, trappers or woodlot owners are involved, he said.

"Funding is needed for those communities in order for them to have economic alternatives and some softer-touch economic activities that are consistent with protected areas. We can help build eco-tourism and non-timber forest product industries, sustainable seafood, or clean energy industries, in some areas."

Just last week the NBSF announced it had purchased an eight-acre property of diverse old-growth forest in the Fraser Canyon, which it is gifting to the Kanaka Bar first nation with a conservation covenant to guarantee its preservation. The Kanaka Bar Band is already working on major conservation projects throughout their territory.

Watt got into photography shortly after finishing high school and ended up taking photos in the Walbran Valley in about 2005 after meeting Wu in Victoria.

"That was my first introduction to both old-growth forests and old-growth logging," said Watt.

"I just totally blew my mind to see these trees that were 16 feet or five metres in diameter, well over 1,000 years old, but also, stumps of the same size from trees that had just been cut down."

After going to photography school he focused on using his images as a powerful storytelling tool for conservation.

"And it was a great intersection of my interest in and love for adventure and exploring, hiking and art."

Tickets (\$35) for the Oct. 27 event are available by scanning the QR code in the poster, through www.endangeredecosystemsalliance.org/about or for purchase at the door. Wine and appetizers are included in the price.

While influencing people who are not already committed environmentalists is an important part of their work, Wu and Watt are looking forward to their visit to supportive territory.

"Salt Spring is tree-hugger central," said Wu. "It's got the biggest environmental consciousness per capita of just about anywhere in North America."

For people who can't attend the event, donations may also be made on the Endangered Ecosystems Alliance website.

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