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PHOTO BY ERIN MAGLEY

BEARS SIGHTED: About 40 islanders participated in 2023's unofficial New Year's Day polar bear swim at Vesuvius Beach on Sunday. The lively group event had been a muted, dispersed affair in 2021 and 2022, due to the COVID-19 pandemic. With a water temperature of 6 degrees Celsius, Salt Spring's event was among the warmest swims in Canada.

ENVIRONMENT

Flood factors converge in Ganges

Mouat's store sees 40-year record broken

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Despite a lack of "official" forms of record keeping, last week's king tide and weather events may have combined for the biggest flood impact by sea water in Ganges' settled history.

Grant Wickland has worked around Ganges Harbour since 1986, measuring high water and noting the heights of various dock approaches. He supervised and built the Centennial Park seawalk, the incomplete section of the boardwalk by the Ganges Marina and then another 40 docks after that in Ganges Harbour and around Salt Spring.

Last Tuesday he was in the visibly flooded area of the Thrifty's/post office parking lot and the harbour taking measurements.

"With the storm surge, the king tide, the low atmospheric pressure and the abundant fresh water flowing into the harbour, this seems like it could be a record water height and possibly a significant increase from past king tides," said Wickland.

The Weather Network recorded 83.4 mm (3.2 inches) of rain on Salt Spring from Dec. 24 to 27, which followed a total of 47 cm (19 inches) of snow on Dec. 19, 20 and 23.

Wickland compared a December 2020 king tide event with last week's.

"In December of 2020 I noticed on a king tide that the sea water had backed up the four-inch drain that runs from the Thrifty's truck bay under Rotary Marine Park to the ocean at Cudmore's Gap. I measured 28 inches from Thrifty's main-floor height to the water level close to the top of the tide. I was surprised it was so high.

"The recent king tide that flooded the parking lot in front of the post office similarly backed up the drain to a depth of seven inches, while the truck bay depth was 19.5 inches below Thrifty's main floor height. There were piles of cleared snow around the parking lot, and I think the drivers who parked in the lake thought it was fresh water and a blocked drain. It was not fresh water."

Wickland also measured the water level

at Mouat's basement door entrance to the housewares area and found 8.5 inches at the entrance.

"There were coffee cups and doormats floating around inside," he said.

The Mouat's store is no stranger to flooding in its lower level, but the Dec. 27 water level is believed to be the highest ever.

"It really was an extraordinary event," said current general manager Dave Toynbee. "The entire basement floor was flooded, about 14 inches deep in some places. Thanks to the quick work of our great staff, and some family, we managed to get a lot of product up out of harm's way and minimize the loss. They really stepped up. That water was cold."

Toynbee said they were extremely lucky that the flood happened when it did.

"This would have been a real problem if it happened before Christmas, or during our Boxing Day sale."

FLOOD continued on 7



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UTILITIES

Analysis: water costs borne differently between districts

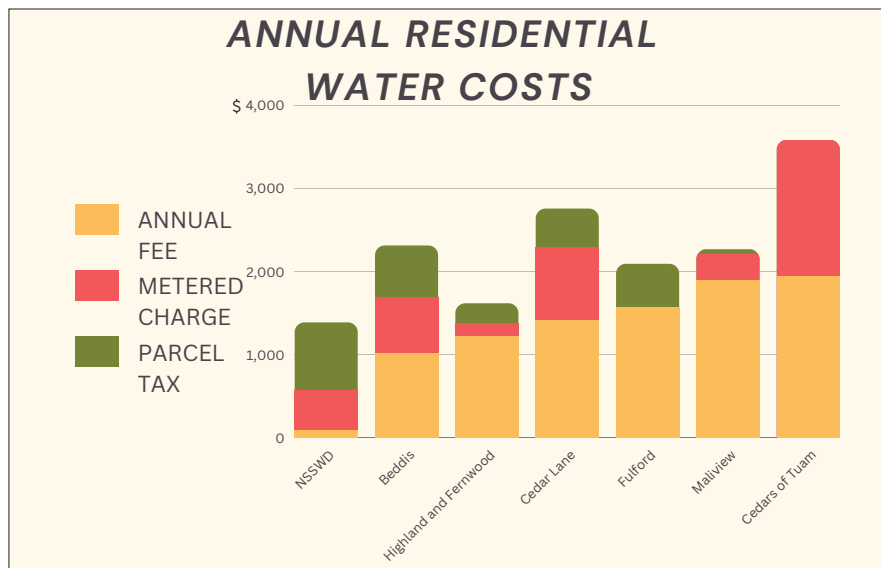


Chart shows average residential property costs for water for various Salt Spring water districts.

Water rates, fees and parcel taxes all used

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A comparison of projected water costs from several providers on Salt Spring Island reveals that while the different districts often have similar approaches to billing, a customer's water use per litre doesn't always have the biggest impact on their bill.

Rate structures can be complicated — and not everyone uses the same amount of water for the same things. A Driftwood analysis attempted to find a relatable comparison by looking at just one kind of water user: the single-family residential customer.

Our chart (above) projects a fictional "average" Salt Spring Island single-family residence's annual water costs for 2023, with new rates and fees as adjusted by October 2022 decisions by both North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) and the Capital Regional District (CRD) for its administered service areas. As the largest water district on the island, NSSWD offers the biggest data set; among its customers, the average single-family dwelling used 40,522 imperial gallons in 2021, or about 184 cubic metres of water per year.

The Driftwood examined what that hypothetical residence would pay in 2023 for its water across several districts. For the purposes of this comparison, we averaged a NSSWD "B" parcel tax class (1-5 acres) with summer and winter rates weighted to reflect 60 per cent of water use occurring in summer months. The remaining districts represented don't shift their

rates seasonally.

Most districts charge progressively more as water use increases. Cedars of Tuam, Beddis and Highland and Fernwood districts charge less for the first 38 cubic metres (in its three-month billing period) than that used after. Cedar Lane bills, similarly, at the 30 cubic metre mark, as does NSSWD — but that district measures consumption over a two-month billing period, and shifts rates upon reaching about 27 cubic metres. Fulford Water Service does not have a consumption charge, and the 16 customers served by Cedars of Tuam are not subject to a parcel tax.

Those differences all have an impact when you add up the year's bill. Our hypothetical Highland and Fernwood water user pays nearly the same annual fee as a Cedar Lane customer but, at just a fraction of the charge per litre, comes out ahead. Beddis' annual fee is considerably smaller than Fulford's, but despite comparable parcel tax rates, Fulford's lack of a metered charge led to a smaller bill for our hypothetical residence there. And, despite a per-litre cost nearly three times Highland and Fernwood's rates and a much larger parcel tax, NSSWD's annual bill is lower, due to its far smaller annual fee. That fee is also sunset, as it's part of a three-year surtax charge to offset costs associated with a water treatment plant at Maxwell Lake.

CRD data show a plurality of dwellings in the Southern Gulf Islands are occupied by two people; that would suggest the average individual within NSSWD's system uses 252 litres of water per day — slightly higher than the CRD-wide estimate of 220 litres, but lower than that of metropolitan centres like Vancouver, which use nearly 400.

PETS

Dog licence deadline extended

CRD gives more time to save on fees

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If you missed the Dec. 31 deadline to renew your dog licence at the "early renewal" discount, you're in luck.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) has extended its 2023 dog

licensing rebate initiative until the second week of January. The extension applies to licensing on Salt Spring and all Southern Gulf Islands. The regular fee structure will take effect after that, as well as a late fee for licences renewed after March 1.

The discounted fee is \$20 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$40 for an unspayed/unneutered dog. The regular fee is \$5 more.

Licences are mandatory for all dogs aged four months or older in the CRD, and includes a reunification service tied to your licence information should your lost dog be found by CRD Bylaw and Animal Care Services. Dog licences are valid for the calendar year and must be renewed annually.

For more information, visit the www.crd.bc.ca/service/animals-pets/licensing-for-dogs website.

NEWS BRIEFS

MP May meets with constituents

The Member of Parliament representing the southern Vancouver Island riding of Saanich-Gulf Islands will be making several island stops in January, culminating in a community meeting at Salt Spring's Fulford Hall.

MP Elizabeth May announced several dates to discuss issues and learn about her work in Ottawa, beginning at Pender Island's community hall at 6 p.m. on Sunday, Jan. 8. At 6 p.m. Tuesday, Jan. 10, May will meet constituents at the Mayne Island Community Centre, and she will start at 5:30 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 11 at Galiano Island Community Hall. Saturna Island's meeting is at the recreation centre on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 6:30 p.m.

After a Jan. 12 meeting at Victoria's Reynolds Theatre, May will be at Fulford Hall beginning at 5:30 p.m. Friday, Jan. 13 and at Mary Winspear Centre in Sidney on the 14th.

See the ad on page 7 or the elizabethmaymp.ca website for more information.

Assessments released

Property owners curious about the province's assessment of home values got their questions answered Sunday, and while regional analyses were released after press time, officials warned the reported numbers may be slightly inflated for some parcels.

The B.C. Assessment Authority went live with 2023 property assessment numbers on its bcassessment.ca website over the weekend, and homeowners were able to input their residential address and see the provincial reported value. That value, however, said assessor Bryan Murao, is based upon a calculation done earlier this past summer.

"Since July 1, we know that the real estate market has changed as interest rates continue to rise and overall sales volume has declined," said Murao. "As a result, your next property assessment will likely be higher than what the current market value might be, but that will be the same for everyone."

Murao added an increase in assessment value does not necessarily mean property taxes will go up by a corresponding amount; taxes are typically only affected if a property rises above — or below — the average value change in your community.

Murao said most homeowners could expect a five to 15 per cent rise in property value over last year.

Insect talk on tap

Islanders interested in the decline of global insect populations are invited to join a Zoom conference hosted by the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust this weekend.

Master gardener Linda Gilkeson will share her knowledge and perspectives at the trust's latest presentation as part of its Knowledge Series titled Where Have All the Insects Gone? on Sunday, Jan. 8 at 2 p.m. Gilkeson will explain the importance of insect populations in our food supply, for a healthy environment and for the future of wildlife, as well as share the latest research into the many factors contributing to the widespread decline.

Gilkeson will also have ideas for gardeners and growers to help reduce the harm from some of these factors by improving insect habitat on their property.

To register for this by-donation online event, visit the website give-can.keela.co/where-have-all-the-insects-gone. To learn more about the Farmland Trust visit www.ssfarmlandtrust.org.

LIQUID WASTE

Septage options analysis sought

Commission aims to reduce trucking costs and impacts

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The commission charged with making decisions about how Salt Spring's liquid waste is handled is hoping to find a less wasteful and more environmentally and economically responsible option for dealing with it.

At a special meeting held last month, the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Services Commission approved a project charter that will see the Capital Regional District (CRD) hire a consultant to look at options for dealing with the island's liquid waste that don't involve sending it off island as 98 per cent water, which has been done since 2011.

Commission chair Mary Richardson told the Driftwood that islanders currently pay about \$600,000 per year for Coast Environmental to truck the liquid waste from the CRD site at Burgoyne Bay to SPL Wastewater Recovery Centre in Langford once or twice a week. The trucking service is not only expensive in itself — and has doubled in cost since 2015 — but creates unnecessary greenhouse gas emissions. Richardson said the commission hopes to find a cost-effective method of dewatering the waste so less volume needs to be trucked off-island, and ultimately for it to be completely dealt with on-island at Burgoyne Bay.

"There's so many fancy, expensive, high-tech ways of dealing with poop," she said. "But we're hoping to have one that's scalable for Salt Spring. We don't want to put in a \$5-million anaerobic digester or something like that. Our goal really is to dewater it. So instead of shipping off the waste, we would find some method to dewater."

A few of the options the commission has researched are use of geotubes, reed beds and an enzyme treatment process.

Richardson said geotubes are basically



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

CRD's Burgoyne Bay septage facility in 2020. The CRD is seeking a contractor to complete an options analysis to find ways for Salt Spring's liquid waste to be dewatered at the site rather than being shipped off Salt Spring for dewatering elsewhere.

giant black plastic socks with the septage pumped into one end.

"It gravity feeds the fluid through a filter at the bottom of the tube, and basically clear water comes out the bottom and just runs off."

Reed bed concepts have been around for hundreds of years, she said, and work to filter out all the bacteria, toxins and heavy metals.

"And again, you're ending up with just clear water eventually running off, which is great."

A company called Acti-zyme produces "an enhanced biocatalyst product" that has seen great results in sewage treatment as well.

While minimizing the amount of material trucked off-island and the high cost is the current goal, in the long term the commission would like to see the end product kept and used on the island. At present Salt Spring's waste ends up being processed into what is known as a Class-A biosolid and used as fertilizer on Vancouver Island.

However, the CRD does not allow land application of such biosolids. Richardson said she believes the CRD is the only jurisdiction in Canada with such a prohibition. Until that situation changes, Salt Spring will only be able to treat its septage here, with the final product still being trucked

off the island.

"The commission's ultimate goal is to keep everything here, process that properly, get the water out of it and use it here, and not truck anything off island."

The Burgoyne Bay septage facility has a complicated and unfortunate history of work authorized by CRD referendums held in 1993 and 2008 not coming to fruition or working out as planned.

Richardson describes one situation.

"When the lagoons closed we got a Fournier press and — according to the commissioners that were on the commission at the time when the Fournier press was set up — it never worked properly. It always seemed to be broken and struggling. And eventually they just gave up on trying to fix it."

Richardson hopes that kind of situation can be avoided through use of a pilot project for whatever new method is chosen from the options analysis.

The commission agreed to spend \$70,000 on the study from its capital reserve fund, with \$63,000 allotted for the contract and \$7,000 for CRD management of the project.

Richardson said the aim is for the options report to be finished this year. A decision about how to proceed would then be made by Salt Spring's new local community commission.



Islands Trust

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THIS NOTICE STATES THE PLACES TO LOCATE YOUR ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE'S (LTC),
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- North Community Hall: 22790 Porlier Pass Rd.
- Galiano Trustee office: 2540 Sturdies Bay Rd.
- Activity Centre: 1290 Sturdies Bay Rd.
- Daystar Market
- Corner Store
- Marina Bulletin Board

NORTH PENDER ISLAND

- Bulletin Board at Driftwood Centre

SATURNA ISLAND

- Saturna Community Hall: East Point Rd.
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- General Store Bulletin Boards
- Saturna Point Store

MAYNE ISLAND

- Agricultural Hall: 430 Fernhill Rd.
- Mayne Street Mall: Village Bay Rd.
- Fernhill Centre: Fernhill Rd.

SOUTH PENDER ISLAND

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OPINION

2022 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Special Section | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)
Silver - Best Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Bronze - Best Editorial Page

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



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EDITORIAL

The scoop on poop

When a problem is out of sight it is easily out of mind.

That's certainly the case with Salt Spring's "poop problem" and the Burgoyne septage facility operated by the Capital Regional District (CRD).

For the past five years Mary Richardson has chaired the commission that makes decisions about the Burgoyne facility's operation. It has the longest name of all the local commissions: the Salt Spring Island Liquid Waste Disposal Local Services Commission. Also long is the Burgoyne facility's unfortunate history of not operating properly and/or referendum funds not solving problems voters assumed would be addressed when they approved borrowing for infrastructure improvements at the site. That occurred with referendums held in both 1993 and 2008.

THE ISSUE: Burgoyne septage facility

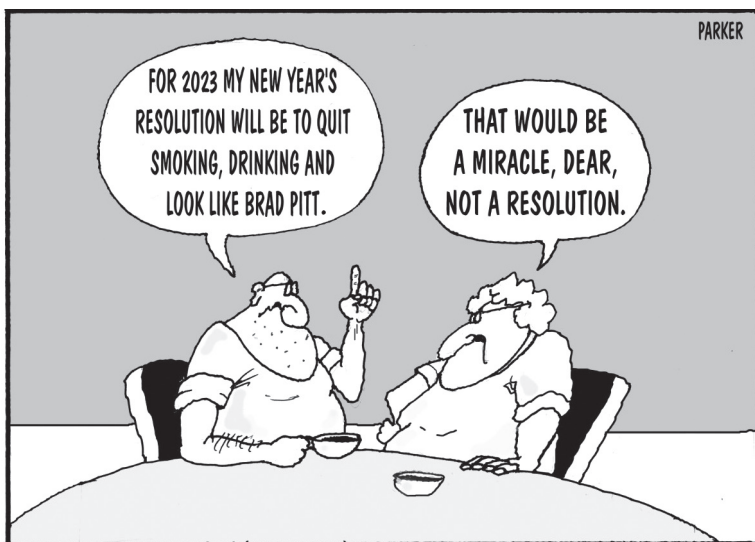
WE SAY: Options analysis a hopeful sign

But Richardson feels the commission's most recent decision, to have the CRD hire a consultant to examine affordable ways to at least dewater the septage on-island rather than truck the whole works off the island for treatment is a step in the right direction. The hope is that a consultant will examine innovative, lower-cost options scaled for Salt Spring's needs and the Burgoyne site.

The 2022 liquid waste service's million-dollar operating budget included about \$600,000 to pay Coast Environmental to truck the waste — which is 98 per cent water — to a treatment facility off island, where it is made into a Class-A biosolid used for fertilizing purposes.

The liquid waste commission would ideally like to be able to create and use those biosolid products on Salt Spring, eliminating the need for any trucking of waste off the island. But Richardson says the CRD prohibits their use in its region, which is not the case in the rest of B.C. or Canada. That is perhaps a policy that should be re-examined by the CRD and changed. Until then, just reducing the volume of septage that must be trucked to a Vancouver Island treatment facility would be a huge improvement.

While past history makes it difficult to have faith that the Burgoyne septic site can operate as envisioned, the beginning of a new year is an ideal time to be optimistic. We hope the options analysis comes up with some workable solutions for Salt Spring's longstanding liquid waste problem.



Close industrial loopholes

BY SONIA FURSTENAU,
COWICHAN VALLEY MLA
ADAM OLSEN,
SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS MLA

VIEWPOINT

If you have been in the Saanich Inlet recently, or live on its shores, you may have seen a growing quarry on the industrial site at the former Bamberton cement plant.

Each time a large industrial or commercial proposal is introduced for the Bamberton area, there is a powerful response from people living near the ecologically sensitive, culturally rich and geographically unique inlet.

This past fall, the property received attention yet again. The owner, Malahat Investment Corporation, has put forth a proposal to expand the existing quarry by 47 per cent. In addition, the operators have applied to expand their foreshore lease, including storage of hydrocarbons in existing tanks, and to store and treat contaminated soil.

Our ridings, Cowichan Valley and Saanich North and the Islands, fall on either side of the Saanich Inlet. We have both received hundreds of emails and calls from residents who have expressed concerns about the proposed quarry expansion. Initial public notification about the proposal was dismal. A single ad in the Goldstream Gazette in fall 2021 directed interested people to view the project documents in-person at the Mill Bay library. While the Malahat Investment Corporation met the meagre provincial requirements for public notification, it is clear that current regulations for public input are far from sufficient.

After many requests for briefings with the provincial ministries responsible for mining and the environment, we learned that the project did not require an environmental assessment under current regulations.

For existing quarries, any amendment that expands operations by 50 per cent or more is defined as a reviewable project; the application for the Bamberton site expands quarry

operations by 47 per cent. Currently, operators are allowed to expand their quarry operations by slightly less than the threshold which would trigger an environmental assessment. During Question Period, Adam asked Minister of Environment George Heyman whether he is going to address this absurd loophole. Minister Heyman stated the regulation is not under review.

However, the Environmental Assessment Office (EAO) is reviewing this project because the Environmental Assessment Act stipulates that "a group or person can apply to have a project designated as reviewable, even if it does not meet the established thresholds for an assessment."

Thanks to the advocacy of many residents, specifically the efforts of the Saanich Inlet Protection Society (SIPS) — who wrote to the minister specifically asking him to review the project — the EAO will now review the request. They have posted the Bamberton project to projects.eao.gov.bc.ca/.

In their excellent submission to the EAO, SIPS illustrated why the Bamberton quarry expansion should require a full environmental assessment, and why the provincial government is required to do its due diligence.

Current regulations in mines and environment limit public information and allow operators to expand their projects without the completion of an environmental assessment. Both loopholes are contrary to the spirit of good environmental stewardship and democratic engagement.

We will continue to encourage the provincial government to close the loopholes that could allow for significant and adverse environmental impacts. And we will continue to urge the government to focus on effective oversight and regulation of land use in this province, and on measures that enhance good governance and public process.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you feeling
optimistic about
the coming year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should the CRD
make pathway snow
clearing a priority?

48 65
NO YES

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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

Agree with columnist's pro-RCMP message

I was much taken by Paul McElroy's Dec. 21 column regarding abuse expressed against our RCMP officers.

On the few occasions that I've been stopped for an alleged traffic violation, I have always been addressed most politely. That is only to be expected, although I imagine that in some rougher communities the response to being stopped may not always be so polite.

It is so true as Paul wrote: "But the fact that [someone might] disagree with a law doesn't make it any less of a law . . ."

Paul offers many specific examples in his article, the details of which I am ill-informed, but I agree pretty

well with the basic take-home message: The vast majority of police officers carry out their public responsibilities in a most respectful manner; we should all be so grateful to have them as part of our Salt Spring community.

REUBEN KAUFMAN,
SALT SPRING

More thoughts on headlight etiquette for drivers

I read with interest Greg Middleton's letter in the Dec. 28 paper regarding headlights.

I too have a hard time with the new headlights that are so bright. I almost feel like I should wear sunglasses. When I learned to drive, I

was taught to look at the white line on the side of the road to stop being blinded. That almost works on Salt Spring, that is if there are any lines on the road.

I have touched my brights to get people to turn theirs off, at times to no avail.

I understand why people use their brights — it's very dark right now — however, if you have a new car with those bright headlights, I would ask that you make sure they are aligned properly. Just because the car is new doesn't mean the lights are in alignment. Also, please dim your brights when approaching another car.

We are fortunate in that our car senses other lights and automatically turns off our brights and then puts them back on when the other car has passed. But if you don't have that feature, then you really need to pay attention to other drivers.

KISHORI HUTCHINGS,
SALT SPRING

Rants + ROSES

Roses

A big armful of Kenyan hothouse roses to Salt Spring for supporting the Ninth Annual Festival of Trees. Also great thanks to the organizations that put up the trees. The winning tree, with the most donations for the food bank and Copper Kettle, was from the Friends of Kenya. A huge amount of food will help to fill food shelves for the new year. *Lynda Turner*

A rose to the entire group of people that it took to open the water bottle on Thursday at Country Grocer: a big fat thank you! And lots of roses too! P.S. Happy New Year! *Jewel Eldstrom*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"There were piles of cleared snow around the parking lot, and I think the drivers who parked in the lake thought it was fresh water and a blocked drain. It was not fresh water."

GRANT WICKLAND, FORMER DOCK BUILDER AND HARBOUR OBSERVER, ON THE DEC. 27 FLOODING

Why on earth would octagenarians want to keep being politicians?

I think I may have mentioned once or twice that I own an Apple Watch (\$529 from any good Apple retailer. Other makes of digital wrist computers may be available.)

Anyway, one of the many very clever things it does is to keep track of my diary which, in all honesty, isn't THAT great a challenge since my diary is never exactly overburdened with interesting stuff. In fact, the tiny watch screen invariably announces "No Events Today," which suits me fine. Who needs Events when you're in your 70s? Events are for people who don't resent having to get up from their armchairs.

And it's on that basis that I've recently been thinking about politicians. Not that I have the slightest intention of becoming one, they are mostly a dreadful bunch of scoundrels and scallywags in my opinion, but I've taken to wondering why on earth anyone would want to be one in the first place.

I can just about understand how a thrusting 30-something with aspirations beyond getting their selfie on Facebook or chalking up a few dozen likes on Twitter might see politics as an avenue to fame and fortune, which it invariably isn't. There was a time when I suffered from ambition myself, right up until my mid-40s, after



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

which I just wanted to be left alone. It was never a political ambition, though, it was more a professional aspiration to earn more money than my peers, which was not especially laudable, but I'd long considered the only lot worth bettering was my own. Not so much now.

There are certainly politicians who signed up because they planned to put the world to rights, but those lofty aspirations are invariably overwhelmed by the bafflegab of party politics.

Today I'm more perplexed by the motivations of those senior citizens, elderly men and women who should be sitting down to a nice cup of tea, a chocolate Hobnob and a good book instead of putting themselves through the circus hoopla of political office.

Specifically, Joe Biden and the scrofulous Donald Trump, two men who are both a good deal older than me and will likely be in their dotage by 2024. I know I shall be, which is

why I don't plan on being president, thank you very much. If re-elected, Biden will be 85 or 86 by the time his second crack at ruling the world has run its course. Trump (assuming he isn't working in the laundry inside Florida's federal penitentiary) would also be well into his 80s. I fail to understand why these two old codgers would plan to do anything more challenging than playing the occasional round of golf or pickleball and watching repeats of Downton Abbey. Leader of the Free World? Come on! How long before they forget where they left the key to the nuclear arsenal or turn up to a World Summit in their slippers?

Unless these two men are medical marvels who have somehow miraculously avoided the miseries that afflict most gentlemen of a certain age, I can't even begin to imagine how they get through a summit without needing the little president's room every 30 minutes, especially mortifying if you are sitting next to the Prime Minister of Finland who appears to be a teenager and is certainly younger than their grandchildren. Wreath laying would be particularly challenging because it invariably involves standing around in the cold which is miserable enough without wondering if

anyone would notice if you nipped behind the Cenotaph to deal with nature.

Today I'm more perplexed by the motivations of those senior citizens, elderly men and women who should be sitting down to a nice cup of tea, a chocolate Hobnob and a good book instead of putting themselves through the circus hoopla of political office.

And then there is Senator Chuck Grassley, who is only slightly younger than America and at 89, has just been re-elected to serve Iowa for the umpteenth time. Why? It's like asking your 90-year-old granddad to run the local hockey team. My old nan was as sharp as a whip until she went the way of all good Anabaptists in her late 80s, but as sharp as she was it didn't preclude her from scooping horse manure into her purse to take back to her garden. No one minded

much, except that she would regularly forget she'd collected it and left it to fester beside the aniseed balls and Scottish mints she also carried in her purse.

Oscar Wilde, a clever fellow with a definite way with words, had it right: "Wisdom comes with age, but sometimes age comes alone." Which is as true a truism as you'll find anywhere. I might THINK I'm smarter than my sons because of the advantage of my age, but the older I get, the more often I discover that just isn't the case.

Old age, though, is possibly a virtue in the Senates, here and over the border, as it is in the U.K.'s House of Lords because, frankly, they don't do very much and snatching 40 winks is relatively safe while another octogenarian drones on about "the impact on Canada's public finances of the NDP-Liberal agreement entitled Delivering for Canadians Now, A Supply and Confidence Agreement." Be still, my beating heart . . .

They are, after all, the houses of considered second opinions and nobody said you had to rush those opinions. In any case, dozing on the plush seats of the Senate for \$165,000 a year plus expenses is not an entirely unattractive proposition.

Where do I apply?

HOLIDAY PROGRAMS

Santa's elves delight children for 35th year

Volunteers and community members come together to make the season bright for kids

SUBMITTED BY SANTA'S WORKSHOP

Santa's Workshop 2022 was a huge success this year with many very positive changes made.

Some 71 families and 127 children were provided gifts and gift certificates. Sixteen volunteer elves worked tirelessly over a month to make this happen under the leadership of Wendy Eggertson, head elf.

Their workshop held this year in the basement of the Baptist Church was a wonderful addition to a 35-year tradition. Also new this year were loaded Christmas baskets (one per child!) and drawing cloth wrapping bags, generously provided for and made by one of our star volunteers, Diane Kray. Our volunteers this year — too many to name individually — went beyond the call of duty and generously donated many hours towards providing toys to children who may not otherwise have received them.

Rob Wiltzen of Salt Spring Island Community Services stepped in to make the online application process understandable to recipients and volunteers alike.



PHOTOS COURTESY SANTA'S WORKSHOP

From left, Santa's Workshop head elf Wendy Eggertson and other helpful elves Deb Cade, Robyn Huntley, Glynis Finer and Diane Kray with toys for the 2022 children's gift program; and more toys set for distribution to Salt Spring kids in the workshop in the Baptist Church basement.

"My child had a fabulous Christmas," said one recipient. "He enjoyed all the gifts from the Santa's Workshop crew. He had no other toys this year. Thank you all for making our Christmas merry. Blessings!"

Many recipients were single parents who have struggled tremendously with the increased cost of everything this year. Several expressed that they were having trouble just paying for rent and food with nothing left

for anything else. They said that Santa's Workshop filled this void. We are always happy to do so.

Many thanks to several individual donors this year, including one donation made in honour of their deceased son. Such a lovely gesture and a touching way to spread joy to the children of Salt Spring Island on Christmas morning. Other donations were made by our always helpful merchants,

including Country Grocer, West of the Moon, Mouats, Pharmasave, Salt Spring Books, the Capital Regional District (pool passes) and our "Pie Ladies" (the Women's Institute).

And as always, Salt Spring Island's very generous motorcycle group, who organize the Salt Spring Toy Run. Without them, we would not be able to operate. When you see members of the group, give thanks to them. For as many years as

we have been operating, they have been quietly fundraising for us behind the scenes.

It is at this time of year that we are most amazed at how our little community comes together to support the less fortunate of Salt Spring Island. We are indeed fortunate to live in such a caring place.

Blessings to all in 2023! And if you would like to volunteer for next year, please call Wendy Eggertson at 250-537-2658.

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COMMUNITY

Stocking stuffers reach seniors

Organizers plan to repeat successful event in 2023

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Brad Hefferon and Sylvia Andress launched Stocking Stuffers for Seniors, they hoped their efforts might brighten the holidays for a few of Salt Spring Island's seniors.

But the generosity of the community far surpassed their expectations, and with the help of a quickly assembled volunteer squad, the new program put gifts — from wish lists, and some requests for necessities — into hands on every corner of the island.

"We had an incredible turnout," said Hefferon, who created a temporary website to help coordinate donations. "Ninety individual sponsors from on- and off-island signed up, pledging to sponsor 147 seniors by donating stocking stuffers or cash."

The admittedly last-minute push was bolstered by contributions from local businesses and organizations — Hefferon thanked Salt Spring Kitchen Co., Embe Bakery, Country Grocer, Pharmasave, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92, the Salt Spring fire department and Salt Spring Golf and Country Club members — and sent volunteers in the "snow, ice and slush" to speed deliveries to island seniors.

"In total we delivered over 220 gifts to several communities, including Brinkworthy, Greenwoods, Meadowbrook, Braehaven, Roscommon and Pio-



PHOTO COURTESY STOCKING STUFFERS FOR SENIORS

Table filled with stocking stuffers, bags and decorating materials used in the first Stocking Stuffers for Seniors program started by Sylvia Andress and Brad Hefferon.

neer Village," said Hefferon, "and to our senior neighbours on the north end, south end and everywhere in between."

Hefferon also thanked co-organizer Andress for her hard work and "amazing support," and said Salt Spring would definitely see a return of Stocking Stuffers for Seniors in 2023 — with one difference.

"Next year we plan to start much earlier," he laughed, "and promise to be much better organized."



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

The downstairs merchandise tables at Mouat's – as well as housewares supervisor Michelle Keown – dry out this week after a tidal surge and other factors brought sea water into Ganges. "It was crazy," said Keown. "As we're cleaning stuff up, we're putting things on sale upstairs. There are still some good deals for people."



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG

Unusually high water level under the boardwalk next to Shipstone's last Tuesday morning.



PHOTO BY FRANTS ATTORP

The shoulder by a section of Isabella Point Road being reconstructed sloughs after last week's heavy rains. Road officials said the new construction area fared well, however.

New road work endures

FLOOD

continued from 1

Toynbee was grateful to customers and community members who expressed their good wishes and support.

The housewares department was opened Monday, but had been closed off with dehumidifiers and fans going last week. Toynbee said customers were being served "at the top of the stairs with staff running up and down the stairs to get customers their needed items."

A "flood sale" is set up on the main floor. "Most items are still perfectly functional, but the box or packaging is ruined or the tea towels, etc. need a wash before use."

Toynbee's uncle, Tom Toynbee, Sr., is a former general manager of Mouat's. He said last week's store flooding incident broke the previous record set on Dec. 15, 1982 by about three inches.

"It was by far the worst," he said of the Dec. 27, 2022 water level at the building constructed in 1910.

He also said readings at Patricia Bay near Sidney last week put the actual king tide at 14.6 feet rather than the predicted 12.5 feet, indicating the effect of the storm surge and low atmospheric pressure.

For water watchers like Wickland, and others, last week's high tide and weather combo

was fascinating. People posted photos and commented on social media about unusually high water levels in various parts of Salt Spring.

"There are a lot of variables in this equation, but the world trend in most places with stable geology is that sea level is rising and that Ganges' 'future problem' may be quietly sneaking up on us," observed Wickland. "Parts of our coastline are still rebounding from the weight of two miles of ice from the last ice age, which depressed the rock crust we live on, so that mitigates some of this rise. That could be good news as long as it lasts."

At the other end of the island, the Isabella Point Road repair site was impacted by the heavy rains. However, Emcon's South Island Division operations manager Andrew Gaetz said the contrast — between the sliding area and the built-up portion — was actually a testament to how well the new road will endure water flow events, such as the recent storms.

"If anything, this is a really good demonstration of the sound construction in the work that has been completed so far," said Gaetz, adding there would likely need to be further geotechnical reviews and design applied to the outside slope in the future. "Our crew remarked that the newly constructed portion of the road had little-to-no deformation or sliding, and held up really well."



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG

Mouat's/Thrifty's/post office parking area flooded by sea water on the morning of Dec. 27.



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG

Water laps at the harbour-side entrance to the Beachside building.



Join Elizabeth May M.P. at an in-person community meeting! Discuss the issues important to residents of Saanich-Gulf Islands and learn about Elizabeth's parliamentary work in Ottawa.



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Mayne Island Community Centre
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GALIANO ISLAND
Galiano Island Community Hall
141 Sturdies Bay Rd.
5:30 - 7pm



SALT SPRING ISLAND
Fulford Community Hall
2591 Fulford-Ganges Rd.
5:30 - 7pm



SIDNEY
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2243 Beacon Ave.
7 - 8:30pm



SATURNA ISLAND
Saturna Recreation Centre
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ARTS FUNDING

Salt Spring Arts grants announced

Several groups and individuals benefit

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts has announced the successful applicants for its fall 2022 grants and awards funding cycle, along with the first group of local artists to benefit from the new Susan Benson Award.

Lucy Austin, who chairs Salt Spring Arts' grants and awards committee, said the group was impressed with the number of applications this year, and took extra time to deliberate and ask questions about the intended projects.

"Although we were unable to award all the funds available to us, we felt we gave full consideration to all applications," Austin reported. "Some applicants advised us of plans to delay their projects and those we will encourage to apply again for 2023 grants."

"We are looking forward to what 2023 brings by way of applications and artistic projects Salt Spring Arts can support," she added.

Successful SSA grant applicants

- Archipelago: Contemporary Art of the Salish Sea. (Richard Steel)

Steel received \$825 for catalogue printing costs related to the Archipelago exhibition, which will form the basis for the Spring Art Show at Mahon Hall in April 2023. The project is also part of a wider exchange of visual art between the Southern Gulf Islands and the San Juan Islands, with exhibitions to take place in Friday Harbor and at ArtSpring. It will highlight the similarities and differences between the two island communities while strongly drawing on living and making art while being influenced by the Salish Sea.

- Re-Imagined, A Community Workshop. (Nora Layard, Salt Spring Printmakers Society)

The printmakers society received \$200 to help host a workshop as part of a community-wide exhibition taking place at ArtSpring in March 2023. The Re-Imagined exhibition will celebrate transforming waste into art and is open to all artists on the

island, in addition to an extensive school program for K-12 students. The workshop in early February is for community members who would like to create works for the show.

- Creative Healing for Survivors. (Islanders Working Against Violence)

IWAV received \$800 to host Stefanie Denz for group art therapy sessions for five to seven individuals living at The Cedars, a second-stage transitional housing development. The art therapy sessions will provide participants with a source of healing, personal exploration, connection with others, and allow for discovery of new tools for self-expression.

Susan Benson Award

The newly established Susan Benson Award is meant to provide artists in the community, and women artists in particular, with access to art supplies they might otherwise find difficult to afford. The committee elected to divide the \$1,000 available for this year between three applicants.



FILE PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Salt Spring artist Susan Benson, who established a fund to support artists with specific costs.

Ceilidh Divers and Josephine Fletcher were granted \$350 each for ceramic and painting supplies, respectively. Sal Wiltshire was granted \$300 for website costs.

The next Salt Spring Arts funding period opens on March 1, with an application deadline of April 30, 2023. For more information, visit the Grants and Awards page under Programs at saltspringarts.com.

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PERFORMING ARTS

Nayana Fielkov offers clown workshop

Jan. 14-15 weekend

Performing artist Nayana Fielkov will present "Fools Proof," a clown workshop from noon to 5 p.m. Saturday and Sunday, Jan. 14-15 at Salt Spring Island's Lions Hall.

Fielkov describes the workshop as an invitation to "expand and develop play and personal presence" on stage and in everyday life.

"Through a series of experiential awareness building games and exercises, we will cultivate curiosity, explore emotional range and practise the bravery of sharing our willingness and openness," said Fielkov. "Through following the body and our impulses, we can be in delight with the discovery of the moment."

Fielkov said the workshop is perfect for performers, non-performers, dancers, actors, musi-



PHOTO COURTESY NAYANA FIELKOV

Clown workshop instructor Nayan Fielkov.

cians, storytellers and "anyone interested in building their personal presence and sensory awareness in performance and everyday life."

Fielkov is co-creator of and a performer in multi-award winning shows Falling Awake,

Hotel Vortruba, A Can of Worms, UNDERBELLY, Habitats and Out of time from The Myrtle Sisters. She is a founding member of ensemble theatre/clown troupes the Poupon Parade and The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret.

Fielkov has studied extensively with many teachers, including David MacMurray Smith, Deanna Fleysher, John Turner, Peter Bingham and Ruth Zaporah.

She has been teaching for over a decade, both internationally and throughout Canada, bringing together the mediums of clown, dance, mask and physical comedy.

The maximum workshop size is 16 people, and if cost is a hindrance there will be two spots subsidized for those in need. For information or to register, email nayanafielkov@gmail.com.

POETRY

Ellie Sawatzky takes guest poet slot Thursday

Poetry Open Mic at the library

The first Poetry Open Mic of a new year at the Salt Spring Public Library runs this Thursday, Jan. 5 and features guest poet Ellie Sawatzky.

Sawatzky is a writer, editor and teacher who grew up in Kenora, Ont. and now lives in Vancouver.

A past winner of CV2's Foster Poetry Prize and a finalist for the 2019 Bronwen Wallace Award, her work has been published widely in literary maga-

zines across North America. Sawatzky's debut poetry collection, *None of This Belongs to Me*, was published by Nightwood Editions in 2021.

On Thursday at 6:45 p.m., people can sign up for the open mic part of the evening, which begins

at 7 p.m. Readers can present one poem to a maximum of three minutes. Sawatzky will read at 7:30 p.m.

The Poetry Open Mic runs on the first Thursday of each month in the community program room at the library.

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ISLAND LIFE

FOOD SECURITY

Holiday hamper program overcomes weather

Festival of Trees event wraps up for another year

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Despite a snowy holiday week, the Salt Spring Island Food Bank was able to deliver holiday hampers and seniors meals thanks to the generosity of donations, several successful food drives and a host of volunteers who helped out as the weather closed in.

"Our volunteers were outstanding," said Cora Platz, Salt Spring Community Services' food programs manager. "Some of them were unable to make it to the food bank due to the weather, but those who did went above and beyond to make up for the shortage of labour."

In all, according to Platz, they prepared 174 holiday hampers under "very adverse" conditions. And several islanders stepped up at the last minute to help deliver. Many of them hadn't been part of the process in years past.

"We had many people from the community who had not previously volunteered with the food bank respond to

our call for drivers with four-wheel-drive vehicles," said Platz. "In the end, we managed to deliver all of the hampers and the Harvest Home Meals for seniors."

Platz said that while they did not yet have a final tally on donations for the month of December, it did seem like an increase from last year — usually a very active time for food bank donations.

"Although December is our busiest month of the year, we would like the community to keep us in mind the rest of the year as well," said Platz.

For information about Community Services' food security programs, visit saltspringcommunityservices.ca/food-security/food-bank.

As well, the food bank benefitted from the Ninth Annual Festival of Trees held at the Harbour House Hotel and organized by Lynda Turner and friends, which wrapped up on Monday. It saw the Friends of Kenya tree declared the winner, having attracted the highest number of food items placed under it.

The Copper Kettle Community Partnership, which helps families and individuals in need on Salt Spring, is also a beneficiary of the Festival of Trees program.



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

From left, organizer Lynda Turner, food bank manager Cora Platz and Copper Kettle administrator Cherie Geauvreau pose with the Friends of Kenya Christmas tree — which had the most donations placed beneath it during the 2022 Festival of Trees — inside Harbour House as the event wound up Monday, Jan. 2. Gifts beneath all the trees, put up by various groups, will help replenish stocks at the food bank and Copper Kettle after the busy holiday season. Platz said despite inclement weather that may have kept some families from accessing the service, 20 more holiday hampers were distributed this year than last. "Had it not been for the weather, I think we would have done about 50 more," said Platz. "There were so many people that just couldn't get to us on Tuesday."



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HISTORY

Princess boats faced name change

60 years ago

Verbatim from the Driftwood edition of Jan. 3, 1963:

• A quick romp through our file of the year's Driftwoods shows that 1962 was another eventful year and worth recording. It was a year of some changes that will leave permanent marks on Salt Spring Island.

It was in January that we learned the Ferry Authority had purchased land at Long Harbour for a future ferry terminal. That same month brought news that German interests had purchased a huge block of Salt Spring Island for unknown future uses, and that Premier Bennett planned to build a summer retreat here. February seemed a little dull, but March let us have it with 21 inches of snow.

April brought the good news about the power rates being lowered. Summer was wet, a Chamber of Commerce Information Booth went up, and the tourist business went down. The referendum for the gymnasium-auditorium-science room was defeated and the liquor store was robbed. The Ferry Authority announced the new \$2-million ship the Island Queen was a-building and would be ready by next July to service a Long Harbour-Tsawwassen run.

Typhoon Frieda hit us with a nasty blow, the winter rains came, the sun went away, Christmas weather was the best in the nation and here we are ready to start another year.

• The Motor Princess and the Delta Princess may be no more.

ALOOKBACK

It is reported that the BC Toll Ferry Authority is planning to change the names of these two ships. The Motor Princess, Salt Spring Island's own, now servicing the other islands after several years on the Fulford-Swartz Bay run, was purchased, refurbished and loved by a gallant group of Salt Spring Islanders. She will be raised to the rank of queen and named the Pender Queen.

The Delta Princess, unwieldy, unloved, a stranger, a relative newcomer to our island, will also now be misnamed and known as the Salt Spring Queen.

As one worried seafaring type who loved the Motor Princess said, "Don't they know that it is considered unlucky to change a ship's name?"

• Dear Editor: it would be a lot easier driving a car about our highways these dark and rainy nights if all pedestrians wore white clothing, or at the least a wide white armband. Walk always facing oncoming traffic, and never walk at night without a flashlight.

30 years ago

Verbatim from the Driftwood edition of Jan. 6, 1993:

• At the stroke of noon last Friday, in the heat of the midday sun, 34 would-be polar bears ran, walked, or tiptoed into the chilly waters of Vesuvius Bay. It was

the 14th annual Vesuvius Inn Polar Bear Swim.

The air temperature was two degrees, the water five; last year the temperatures were both eight degrees. For all the swimmers and spectators at the event, there was coffee, hot chocolate and hot dogs at the Vesuvius Inn. The inn has traditionally allowed people to warm up there after braving the bay.

"You don't want them to be standing out in the cold," pub manager Jim Walsh said.

This year the inn prepared 240 hot dogs, 10 gallons of hot chocolate and 16 pots of coffee to warm toes, hearts and other cold parts.

The inn also provides each swimmer with a certificate to prove how silly they were and a souvenir hat or T-shirt. Walsh said he was too busy cooking wieners to go swimming this year.

• More than a foot of snow in the last 10 days has made the weather the main topic of every conversation.

Islanders have acted for the most part with patience and understanding while various service organizations have tried to cope with the winter weather. Road crews have been working nonstop, taxis and tow-trucks have been extremely busy and volunteer groups have also been coping well. There are 12 staff members, two graders and five other trucks to clear more than 300 kilometres of department of highways and transportation roads on Salt Spring. The ferry routes, the bus routes and main roads higher than a six per cent grade are cleared first.

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NEWS UPDATES

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what's on this week

Wed.

Jan. 4

ACTIVITIES

Teen Lounge. Activities for youth aged 13-19 every Wednesday afternoon at the library's Teen Zone. 4 to 5 p.m.

Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Thur.

Jan. 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Murder on the Orient Express. Presented by the GISS Theatre Company at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

12 Days of Christmas Carolling With Valdy. Merry Monday reprised after being cancelled by the snowstorm on Dec. 19. Salt Spring Mercantile parking lot. 6:15 p.m.

Poetry Open Mic. With featured poet Ellie Sawatzky. Salt Spring library program room. 7 p.m.

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

Craig's Karaoke. Moby's Pub. 7 to 11 p.m.

Fri.

Jan. 6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Murder on the Orient Express. Presented by the GISS Theatre Company at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

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

Friday's With DJ Boomtown. At Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Fri.

Jan. 6

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. MLA Adam Olsen is this week's guest in the SIMS lobby from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Neighbourhood Friday StoryTime. Drop-in session of stories read by community members, for ages 5+ at the library. 11 a.m.

Youth Games. For ages nine to 13 at the Salt Spring library. 2 to 4 p.m.

Sat.

Jan. 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Christmas Tree Chipping. At SSIFR fire hall at Central. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. By donation to the food bank. Sponsored by SSI Wood Chipping.

Sun.

Jan. 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz Jam. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m. Every Sunday afternoon alternating with the Blues Jam.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club Hikes. Regular Sunday hikes begin. Non-club members may attend up to 3 hikes per year. For more details, see saltspringtnc.ca.

Sun.

Jan. 8

VIA ZOOM

Knowledge Series Zoom Conference: Where Have All the Insects Gone? SSI Farmland Trust hosts master gardener Linda Gilkeson as she shares her knowledge and perspectives on the crash in global insect populations. 2 p.m. See ssifarmlandtrust.org for the registration link.

Tue.

Jan. 10

ACTIVITIES

Spiritual Conversations - What Feeds our Spirits? Facilitated by Heather Martin and Brian Day at St. Mary's Church, Fulford. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at starofthesea@gmail.com.

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club Hikes. Regular Tuesday hikes begin. Non-club members may attend up to three hikes per year. For more details, see saltspringtnc.ca.

Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed.

Jan. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Dance Presents Reflections. Term-end performance by GISS dance students at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Teen Lounge. See last Wednesday's listing.

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **Puss in Boots: The Last Wish** runs Friday, Jan. 6 to Tuesday, Jan. 10 at 7 p.m. nightly, plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. Rated PG; 1 hour 43 minutes. For this week's movie info and holiday hours, see thefritz.ca.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Photography Club** annual exhibition runs in the ArtSpring lobby.

• **Steve Chisholm** has artwork on display in the library's community program room through January.

• **Sheri Standen** has a last-minute art exhibit of her watercolour paintings at **Harvest Moon** in the Country Grocer mall for the month of January. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. most days.

Murder on the Orient Express

A GISS Theatre Company show at ArtSpring
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Obituaries



Bill Turner 1945-2022

It is with great sadness that we write to let our community know that Bill has died. He was taken from us far too suddenly by complications arising from cancer treatments.

Heidi, his daughter, writes, "thank you to everyone for helping me through this time and for all your love of my Dad. I know he loved you all too".

Bill was a beautiful, heart-full Salt Spring character who had many friends through his diverse interests and community volunteering - his professional work, his Bridge group, Tai Chi practice, sharing his reading finds, DAISII board director and volunteer, and attending cultural events to which he invited dear friends, old and new.

Bill's parents, Beulah and Jack, predeceased him and he is survived by his daughter Heidi (Scott), 3 grandchildren Adam, Julia and Sadie and his treasured pets Joanie, Jesse and Joyce.

Bill ran the Birdsong Bed and Breakfast with his beloved husband Edward Poole who died on Dec 9, 2012. Bill and Edward were together for 26 years.

A passionate educator, Bill retired from full-time teaching when he moved to Salt Spring Island in 2006. His desire to connect with and support youth did not end, he continued as teacher-on-call at Gulf Islands Secondary School for a number of years, where the students called him Billy T. He was instrumental in founding the first GSA (Gay Straight Alliance) at GISS. Bill continued to advocate for queer and trans kids at the High School and District level until his death.

Bill was a life-long learner. He was lead by his heart, his profound empathy and care for others, to shift old ideas. He kept stretching and growing to embrace new points of view and understand other people's struggles. Bill stood up and stood out with love.

Bill was a founding member and long time board member of GLOSSI, (Gays and Lesbians of SSI), an activist organization, which expanded to become DAISII, (Diverse and Inclusive SSI). He was its only continuous board member, his service spanning the 18 years of GLOSSI/DAISII's work curating Pride. He was an active supporter in bringing Pride to SSI for years, made possible in part by Bill's fundraising efforts around town, developing positive relationships as he went. He was instrumental in fostering acceptance and offering support to the 2SLGBTQIA+ community on Salt Spring and beyond.

Bill is remembered as a kind person, generous with his heart, good natured, a lover of poetry and music, a story teller, and an enthusiastic interior decorator. Bill was an opera lover who, with his husband Edward, visited opera houses around the world.

Bill loved extravagant galas and dinner parties, was known for his outgoing hospitality and is recognized by his black and white boa and matching top hat. Bill knew how to glam it up!

Bill was lovingly supported in his last weeks by his friend from afar - Felix Bañuelos.

DAISII and friends of Bill are planning A Gathering for Bill on February 14, a high holiday in the queer community, as a day to honour Love. Details will follow in a few weeks on www.prideallyear.ca. At this gathering we will have an opportunity to reflect on and honour Bill's impact and legacy in our community, his tremendous work to improve the lives of queer people on Salt Spring in more ways than we can name, and the deep and personal meaning of his life as he shared it with all of us.

May we all be bearers of the warm hospitality Bill so richly shared with us all.

... friends of Billy T



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In Memoriam



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Cancer (Jul 22 - Jul 22) Some new seeds of possibility were planted in your relationship life. These could well be primarily directed to your public and professional life. Some measure of delayed reaction should be more noticeable now. Focusing to maintain your equilibrium is ideal yet requires you to advance, if slowly.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23) Changes in your lifestyle will be evident by now. This could include commitment to a healthier diet or daily routine. Positively, you feel more disciplined and committed than you have been able to in this regard in the past. Your willingness to make changes to be healthier and more confident will have a positive impact on others.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22) A strong, creative impulse has been guiding your focus for a couple of weeks now especially. This focus continues and includes innovative approaches designed to emphasize your sense of individuality and unique approach. Your determination to be authentically you will bring rewards, so decipher what this means.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) Some important changes close to home were activated by the recent New Moon. These include a slow but sure progression to do things differently, to break with tradition. In some respects, this has produced some complications, but your best bet is probably to not overanalyze the matter and follow through.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) The seeds of new perspectives have been germinating for a couple of weeks now. The question is: are you resisting it or are you working to support the process? Say yes to new opportunities, if simply to take a closer look. Trust what is happening but reserve the right to have the final word.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) A growing determination to feel solid in 2023 should already be evident. This includes a willingness to consider alternative interpretations and approaches. A learning curve is implied, but it may remain a little unclear what exactly it involves unless they began last year. Change is in the air - embrace it!

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



In Memory of Sandra Norma Bellamy (aka) Jesse

It's been one year now since we lost you on December 26, 2021.

Sandra, your family and friend miss you, with sadness in our hearts, every day. We celebrate your life as we look back at all those whose paths you crossed and lives you touched over the years from Richmond, Fort St James and Squamish, to Victoria, Salt Spring Island, Tahsis and Woss on Vancouver Island.

Salt Spring Island, that you loved very much, was by far, the most special and memorable of times for you where you were better known as 'Jesse.'

Your love of gardening was your happy place. You were able to share that love with your then partner Caroline Burch, all of your friends and family at the property you bought with Caroline in 1991.

You were one of the founding members of the original GLOSSI (Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island) and was a strong advocate for not only gay rights but for women's rights as well.

You will be sorely missed by your Salt Spring Island community.

Our memories bring us comfort now, especially as we talk about our precious traditional, sister get-togethers by the ocean in Qualicum Beach. We have always returned to our childhood vacation spot as adults, never missing a summer. The four of us... you, Verna (whom we lost in 2015) Lenora and Debra would story-tell, reminisce about our childhood in Port Coquitlam and laugh about anything at all until we cried. Your beloved Rocky dog would join in, always watching over her pack, that consisted of 'the aunts.' You will always be loved and missed Sandra.

"SISTERS ARE FLOWERS FROM THE SAME GARDEN"

All of Sandra's family want to thank her special Woss friends and caregivers for their continued, invaluable help and support as we all grieve.

We love and miss you; from your son Dale, daughter Lara, sisters Lenora and Debra, nephews Daniel, Darrell and Brent, niece Jody, grandchildren Claudia, Ursula and Aldous and all their families. Sandra also has a precious great granddaughter, Gwendolyn, born to Claudia and Adam shortly after she passed.

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Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) Assessing your current social and professional status is in the spotlight. Your focus has been somewhat soberly engaged in this regard for some weeks. Taking a traditional approach may not prove to produce confidence so you will be taking an innovative approach and everyone at home needs to understand.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) You have been focused on seeing a bigger picture. This probably worked initially, but it may seem like you are contending with fog obscuring your vision. Positively, this is leading you to get imaginative regarding the possibilities. Your confidence levels may feel a bit shaky, but by February all will be... clearer.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) Some important changes transpired over the festive season. Certain traditions may have been interrupted, possibly never to return to be what they once were. Positively, this has moved you to look forward to alternative options. Focus on what makes you personally feel secure and pay attention to the finer details.



SPORTS + RECREATION

ROAD RACING

Sneakers prep for season with prediction run

Fundraiser for island's food bank nets \$1,172

BY SUSAN GORDON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Saturday, Dec. 10 saw the annual running of the Sneakers Prediction Run event, a non-race in which participants predict their finishing time over a course revealed the morning of the event.

The entry fee is a donation to Salt Spring Community Services. After contributions were tallied, organizer Julie van Soeren presented the organization with \$1,172 for the food bank and noted that "raising money while having fun is a perfect combination."

Conditions were typically cool and wet, but the enthusiastic crew took off from the start line for either a 5K or 10K distance along Walker's Hook Road, each



PHOTO COURTESY SS SNEAKERS

Salt Spring Sneakers set for the annual Prediction Run, the group's yearly food bank fundraiser.

managing their pace by "feel" as nobody was allowed to wear a timepiece.

Some runners end up within a mere second or two of their stated time, which had been passed on in advance to the official event director, Eric Ellis.

Tied for the first-place trophy were Janice Dickie and Lise Fra-

ser at just one second over their predicted 5K time. Winning the "Predictionally Challenged" category for the second year in a row was Anne Synnes, at five minutes, six seconds faster than she predicted her 10K. We're happy that Anne is joining the racing team this year! If this was an actual race, Pat Peron won it

by completing the 10K course in 50:35.

After an unscheduled holiday break, thanks to the weather, the Sneakers are continuing to prepare for the upcoming Vancouver Island Race Series, which begins on Sunday, Jan. 8 in Sidney with the Harriers Pioneer 8K. This is an eight-race series

with courses measured as per World Athletics and Athletics Canada specifications for accuracy. Runners with membership in B.C. Athletics also qualify for provincial and national standings and local championships. More information can be found on the VIRA website: www.islandseries.org/.

The Sneakers invite all interested runners to try a few group workouts, fine-tune their racing and training protocols, or run entirely for fun and camaraderie. As some members have moved away or retired from racing, Team Captain Eric Ellis would enjoy welcoming newcomers to the roster of competitive Sneakers. Our membership and workouts are free and include guidance from coach Susan Gordon. Find us on Facebook groups at the Salt Spring Sneakers and request to join if you're interested in running for recreation or racing purposes.

SOCCER

Island soccer club celebrates competitiveness and teamwork

Contributors on and off the field make for strong start

With the fall part of Salt Spring United's soccer schedule having closed and the holiday break continuing until Jan. 14, it is time to review the fall program and give thanks to all who made it a success.

Salt Spring United has four full-field teams and five small-sided teams playing in Victoria leagues, along with our women's Div 2 team. We started a four-team boys U-9/10 group playing in a house league and had our usual U-6 to U-9 group playing in house development groups. We also had 35 youngsters



Malcolm Legg
SOCCER
ROUND-UP

in our successful tots program (for two- to four-year-olds).

On top of this the club ran a fall academy on Fridays that had over 30 youths participating, led by technical director Josip Bratanovic and his youth assistants. Sue Spencer also ran a goalie training clinic on Sundays, with more to come in the new year.

This successful program has been the work of a dedicated group of directors: Ciaran

Ayton, Willy Schulze, Jeff Knutson, Maggie Montague, Colin Walde, Dylan Laister, Greg Staicesku and myself. They deserve a big pat on the back.

Our teams' competitiveness in all groups — in fact, three have been so good they moved to gold level — is due to the hard work of the coaches, assistant coaches and managers who put in many hours to make these teams successful. Thank you all.

Our development coaches, as well as some youth coaches, have done a fabulous job with the house program, and our solid group of coaches in the house league also have done great work. Thank you all. I wish I could list all the names, but there are just too

many. I hope Santa spoiled them all.

Thanks must also go to all our adult and youth referees who officiate games; the concession staff for providing Saturday goodies; the field crew for setting up/taking down goals and other tasks; the employees of PARC and School District 64, who give us great fields to play on and gyms to practise in.

There is plenty more soccer to come in 2023, with cup games and tournaments just around the corner, the spring academy and of course the spring league.

And you thought the World Cup was exciting! Watch our website at www.saltspring-united.com for more information.

COMING SOON

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will be published in January, watch for the magazine in your Gulf Islands Driftwood.

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CONTRACTORS DIRECTORY

JANUARY 2022

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