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PHOTO COURTESY SSIFR

One of 22 firefighters responding to a car and garage fire on a Horel Road property on Sunday assesses the scene partway through the five-hour effort.

FIRE

Horel blaze tasks crews

Minor firefighter injury reported from five-hour call-out

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Horel Road vehicle and garage are a total loss after igniting on a Horel Road property Sunday morning.

Twenty-two firefighters responded to a report of a residential structure fire at 479 Horel Rd. near Cusheon Lake that came in at 10:32 a.m., with one suffering a minor injury.

According to a SSIFR press release from Salt Spring Fire Chief Jamie Holmes, who was also the incident commander, upon arrival crews found a fully involved, two-story double garage and a vehicle on fire in front of the structure.

"Multiple lines were used to contain the fire to the building of origin and protect the adjacent home," said Holmes.

Ten fire apparatus responded to the scene and approximately 6,000 gallons of water was shuttled from the Beddis water system.

The fire was confined, extinguished and overhauled in five hours, said Holmes, with all potential hot spots eliminated.

The garage was unoccupied at the time of the fire and no civilians were injured.

"The fire is currently under investigation but does not look suspicious at this time," he stated.

Holmes also thanked RCMP, BC Ambulance Service and BC Hydro personnel for their assistance with the emergency scene and ensuring the firefighters' safety.

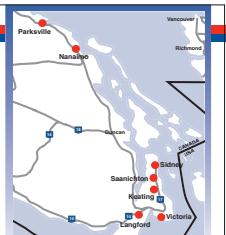
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HEALTH CARE

Lady Minto staff shortage startles patients

Hospital notice tells non-urgent cases to come back in the morning or call 811

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When Salt Spring's Lady Minto Hospital opened its doors in the summer of 1914, patients could expect one nurse on duty — and on Friday night, that level of staffing seems to have returned, albeit briefly.

During a period from Friday, Jan. 6 until 7 a.m. Saturday, Jan. 7, Island Health asked patients with non-urgent concerns to return to Lady Minto "when our staffing levels improve," noting that the emergency department

remained open for urgent cases and emergencies. A notice posted on the door further directed anyone uncertain as to whether they required a visit to the emergency room to call Health-Link BC (811) for advice from a registered nurse.

Community reports indicated there was just one nurse on duty during this period, and while Island Health did confirm the emergency room remained open all night, officials could not confirm how many staff were on duty before press time, noting a statement was being prepared in response to Driftwood queries.

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen said word from his constituents and advocates had been that Lady Minto's situation had been difficult for at least a number

of months, adding that the reported level of staffing was "dangerous."

"We know that anything over four patients per nurse is a very, very dangerous situation for the nurse, and an exceptionally dangerous situation for the patients," said Olsen. "And it's really wearing on the staff. It creates a situation where the stress and trauma of showing up to work puts people off the job — and then the situation becomes more acute. The longer it takes for Island Health to address the situation, the more acute it will become, and the more pressure it puts on the staff who are left."

Medical staff shortages have long been part of Gulf Islands life, but recent troubles have been markedly more worrying for residents. Two summers

ago, patients were temporarily diverted during part of July from Lady Minto to Saanich Peninsula Hospital due to staff shortages. Although Island Health did not share the reason for low staffing, the costs for transfers were absorbed by the provincial Patient Transfer Network.

And last summer, even as construction began on a \$12.8-million emergency department expansion project, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation reported more than 35 staff vacancies at the hospital, and Island Health said it would transfer — when medically safe to do so — any woman on Salt Spring who went into labour elsewhere, advising women in their late terms to move closer to other hospitals to give birth.

Olsen meanwhile said his office had submitted an urgent

request to meet with Island Health to determine how the decision was made to keep the hospital open with so few staff, rather than — as has been seen recently at other Island Health hospitals — issuing a closure notice and diverting patients.

"We've got a health-care system that relies on health-care workers to make ethical decisions about the health and wellbeing of the people they're treating," said Olsen. "Is it ethical to continue to receive patients, knowing that you're not able to staff a full complement? We really put our health-care workers in a moral dilemma when government and health authorities are not providing them the resources or the responses that let them feel that they're being valued and being heard."

PROPERTY VALUES

Province releases assessments

Gulf Islands property value increases track with B.C. average at 12.3 per cent

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islanders got their first look at the province's assessment of home values with the new year, and while increases in value have continued, the rate of growth at least seems to have slowed.

Individual property owners' information went live online Sunday, Jan. 1; market trends were released the morning of Jan. 3. Between July 1, 2021 and July 1, 2022, the BC Assessment Authority assessed an increase in Salt Spring Island's residential property values of 10.3 per cent on average, with the average single-family residential unit increasing 10.1 per cent and strata units increasing 13.2 per cent in value.

On the outer islands — in a "neighbourhood" designated by BC Assessment that included Pender, Saturna, Mayne and Galiano islands — residential properties increased in assessed value by an average of 14.3 per cent.

Combined, overall Gulf Islands residential properties on average increased in assessed value 12.3 per cent, with single-family residential parcels increasing by 12.1 per cent and strata properties increasing 13.2 per cent. That figure stands in some contrast to last year's assessed value increases, which topped 35 per cent across the Gulf Islands. The average single-family home in the Gulf Islands is now valued at \$876,000, up from \$791,000 in 2022 — and from \$584,000 in 2021, showing a 50 per cent growth in assessed value over three years ago.

A few homes in the Gulf Islands found themselves on the province's top 500 valued residential properties — although most were on private islands. The exception was a home and acreage at the tip of Scott Point on Salt Spring Island, valued at just under \$13.2 million — \$2.3 million more than the previous year's assessed value, or about a 20.7 per cent increase from 2022.

A property encompassing a home and land on the entirety of Samuel Island — between Mayne and Saturna islands — was valued at over \$20.7 million. To the south, Forrest Island was assessed at \$15.2 million; Domville Island, at \$17.1 million; and James Island, at \$61.2 million.

The total value of all real estate on B.C.'s 2023 Assessment Roll is over \$2.72 trillion, an increase of

just under 12 per cent from 2022.

The total value of all real estate on B.C.'s 2023 Assessment Roll is over \$2.72 trillion, an increase of just under 12 per cent from 2022.

Those increases generally fall within the BC Assessment Authority's predictions late last year — an anticipated five to 15 per cent rise in value across the province — although Vancouver Island communities saw a wide range of average increases. City of Victoria single-family homes rose in value by eight per cent on average from 2022, while Town of Lake Cowichan homes rose 23 per cent and a home in Port McNeil is now valued 26 per cent more.

Village of Sayward properties grew in valuation the fastest among BC Assessment's geographical areas, at 28 per cent; the Village of Port Alice was the only area that saw an average decline in valuation for single-family homes, dropping one per cent below 2022's valuation.

The province has said a change in assessment value does not necessarily mean property taxes will go up or down by a corresponding amount; taxes are typically only affected if a specific property rises above — or below — the average value change in its geographical area.

Also, according to Vancouver Island deputy assessor Jodie MacLennan, these numbers are a snapshot of estimated values in the middle of the summer, not necessarily a fully accurate picture of the market right now.

"While the current real estate market has been trending downwards, it is important to consider that 2023 assessments are based on what your home could have sold for as of July 1, 2022," said MacLennan, "when the market was performing higher."

To see the assessed value of a property, visit the website bcassessment.ca and enter the address or parcel number. Property owners concerned about their assessments can find contact information there as well, if they feel their property valuation or other information noted there is incorrect.

"If a property owner is still concerned about their assessment after speaking to one of our appraisers, they may submit a Notice of Complaint (appeal) by Jan. 31," said MacLennan, "for an independent review by a Property Assessment Review Panel."

The Property Assessment Review Panels operated independent of BC Assessment, are appointed annually by the provincial government, and typically meet between Feb. 1 and March 15 to hear formal complaints.



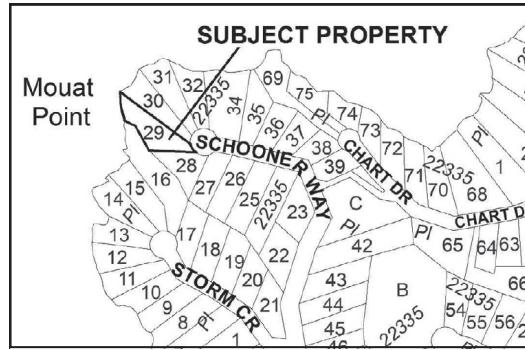
NOTICE NP-TUP-2022.4 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

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 29, Section 9, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 22335 (PID: 003-275-434). This property is located at **1603 Schooner Way**.

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 **January 6, 2023** and continuing up to and including **January 18, 2023**.

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) 405-5170. 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., **January 18, 2023**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:00 a.m., January 20, 2023**.

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

FERRIES

Quinsam return delayed

Supply chain issues blamed

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Quinsam is still not ready to return to the Vesuvius-Crofton route after its refit as scheduled.

"Unfortunately the Quinsam's refit is delayed due to supply chain issues associated with equipment to complete the work," explained BC Ferries communications manager Dan McIntosh on Friday. "We are awaiting a replacement turbo charger."

The new estimated return date is approximately Jan. 19.

Until then the smaller Quintisa vessel will remain in service on the route.

"We certainly apologize to our customers for any inconvenience caused by overloads," said McIntosh.

The Quinsam was originally supposed to return to Route 6 on Dec. 12, and then a Jan. 11 date was announced.

The Quinsam can accommodate 63 vehicle equivalents and the Quintisa only 44.

TRANSPORTATION

First electric school bus on the road



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

SD64 secretary-treasurer Jesse Guy, left, and transportation and facilities director Colin Whyte greet the first high school students to ride on Salt Spring's new electric school bus last Tuesday.

Salt Spring students get emission-free rides

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The bus fleet at Gulf Islands School District (SD64) officially began its transition to electrification after the winter break, as driver Rick Neufeld safely delivered the first students to Gulf Islands Secondary School at 8:37 a.m. Tuesday, Jan. 3, on SD64's new fully electric school bus.

District director of facilities, capital projects and transportation Colin Whyte said the bus would continue to run Route 6, which serves high school, Salt Spring Elementary and Phoenix Elementary students and runs chiefly along Long Harbour and Mansell roads. Once the district's second electric bus is in service, it would pick up and deliver students on Route 2.

"We're still working on the big charger installs," said Whyte, who said they were waiting on parts to have the charging system

fully operational. "Once we get that installed we can run both buses. But we can run one to start, and we won't have to burn any more diesel — at least for one route."

A feasibility study done in 2019 estimated a full transition to electric school buses would eventually save the district some \$50,000 each year in fuel and maintenance costs. To facilitate the shift from diesel, the district is installing 20-kilowatt "Level 3" DC fast chargers; these will generally be charging buses during the day in between runs, as well as overnight.

"It's got enough kick to keep the buses charged, even if we bring them down to almost nothing," said Whyte.

In addition to not burning fossil fuels — or emitting exhaust — the buses are significantly quieter than the diesel vehicles they're replacing. But Whyte said the new bus wouldn't be sneaking up on any unsuspecting pedestrians.

"Below 30 kilometres per hour, it has a noisemaker on it, so people can hear it coming," said Whyte. "It turns off above 30 because the tires are making enough noise to be heard."

SD64 has said the district plans to gradually

replace its diesel bus fleet with electric buses as existing vehicles age beyond service requirements.

"Seeing students riding the first electric bus in the SD64 bus fleet is heartening," said superintendent Scott Benwell. "It shows the district's commitment to a reduced carbon footprint and is but one step in the overall adjustments to operations that will be necessary in the years to come."



Saltspring Island
Fire Protection

**SALT SPRING ISLAND
FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
2023 BOARD OF TRUSTEES
REGULAR MEETING SCHEDULE**

*Meetings will be held at the
Ganges Fire Hall Training Room,
105 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island*

- January 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- February 27, 2023 7:00 p.m. (note: this is the fourth Monday of the month as Feb. 20, 2022 is Family Day)
- March 20, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- April 17, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- May 15, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- June 19, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- July 17, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- August 21, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- September 18, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- October 16, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- November 20, 2023 7:00 p.m.
- December 18, 2023 7:00 p.m.



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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Help for a hospital

MLA Adam Olsen has been hearing a lot about staff shortages at Lady Minto Hospital, and so has the Driftwood in the past week.

While Island Health and the provincial government will keep putting on a brave face for obvious reasons, other people told the Driftwood off the record that the staff shortages are having a severe impact.

One person described seeing the situation there as "a shocker" and heard the phrase "the wheels are coming off the system" more than once while at the hospital. A local physician posted a tweet stating the hospital had only one nurse on duty. "Don't get sick," he said. Another person close to the system said chronic underfunding of health care in Canada has meant that it cannot handle the extra strain caused by COVID-19. "Like loading extra mass onto a bridge as you remove girders and supports, it will fail. It is failing."

That's not what anyone wants to hear at any time and especially not when they attend the emergency department of our hospital, which many islanders must do as they no longer have a family physician.

Several reasons are no doubt contributing to the staff shortage, and a BC Nurses' Union campaign at helpbcnurses.ca illuminates some of them.

Locally, health-care authorities have long identified a lack of affordable accommodation as a major contributor, which is why the acquisition of the Seabreeze Inne by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) for hospital-worker housing was so critical. While the planned-for renovations would not have been completed by now, it is still unfortunate that the project is stalled due to the complicated tenancy conflict.

It's a reminder that creation of affordable housing for renters and purchasers must be a priority for Salt Spring Island in 2023. Phase III of the Croftonbrook community operated by Islanders Working Against Violence was completed last year, adding 34 new units of valuable affordable housing to the island's stock. But much more is needed in order to stabilize our community and its essential services.

Until then, people with appropriate rental units for health-care workers are reminded about the LMHF housing information portal, available on its website.

As well, extra respect and kindness expressed towards those keeping our hospital open will go a long way to ensuring it will be there for us tomorrow.

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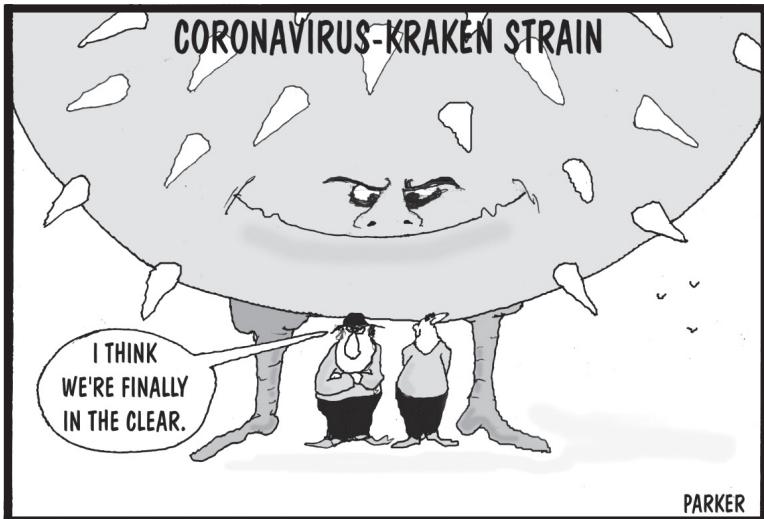
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2022 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Special Section | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)
Silver - Best Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Bronze - Best Editorial Page

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



PARKER

Hoping the NDP wakes up

VIEWPOINT

The following letter was sent to Premier David Eby by Salt Spring Island resident Tamsin McKenzie and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

Happy 2023 Premier Eby,

As Premier of B.C., I hope you would like to know what actions by you would make thousands of new New Democrats sit up and enthusiastically support the BC New Democratic Party.

It is simple.

We want to see policies that address the deadly and costly global climate emergency!

Policies that:

- end fracking;
- prohibit government use of taxpayers' money to subsidize multinational fossil fuel companies
- halt new fossil fuel projects and fossil infrastructure expansion, including the proposed Tilbury LNG expansion on the Fraser River
- require developers to power new buildings with clean electricity, rather than climate and health destroying methane ("natural") gas
- keep the party's promise to act on the recommendations for old-growth forests, and keep these irreplaceable, precious forests intact.

- create a biodiversity law with strong wording that will create enforceable protections for species at risk.

If the BC NDP party creates and acts on the above policies, billions of dollars would be saved in health-care

costs, billions of dollars would be saved by reducing the frequency and severity of extreme weather events.

Just think of the death, destruction and cumulative cost of the weather disasters in B.C. over the past few years!

Yes, housing and cost of living weigh heavily on the minds of many British Columbians at present but, make no mistake, the majority of us desperately want real climate action from our provincial government. We want proof that you are putting the health and well-being of British Columbians over the interests and profits of powerful resource extraction companies!

I hope the huge surge of citizens becoming NDP members prior to the leadership fiasco has been a wake-up call for the party's executive. At 58, I have never before joined a political party, but I jumped at the chance to vote in a premier unafraid to face the climate crisis head-on.

That chance was taken from me . . . or was it? Only you can answer that, through your actions. British Columbians wanting and demanding real climate action form a large and rapidly growing portion of voters.

To you and to the NDP executive I say, to ignore us, to avoid addressing the main causes of escalating climate disasters, would prove a grave mistake, both for the NDP party and our province.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Have you used the LM Hospital emergency dept. in the past year?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you feeling optimistic about the coming year?



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

New Isabella Point Road erosion concerning



PHOTO BY DANIEL DICKMEYER

View over eroded roadside at Isabella Point Road construction site taken on Sunday, Jan. 8. Letter-writer Daniel Dickmeyer and others are concerned the issue is more serious than indicated by officials in last week's Driftwood.

A neighbour recently told me about the damage done to the work on Isabella Point Road because of the wind and rain at the end of December.

The photo by Frants Attorp in the Jan. 4 Driftwood looks a great deal different than what I observed before going to Seattle during the period of those storms.

I beg to differ with Emcon operations manager Andrew Gaetz, who was quoted as saying that "the newly constructed portion of the road [as pictured] had little to-no deformation or sliding, and held up really well."

I stopped and looked at the slide yesterday, which was easily 50 feet long. You could see where a large tree had washed down the precipice, taking a huge amount of fortifying base rock and tarps and forming a shelf below. I noted an area about eight-feet-square that was marked out with orange boundary marks ready to slide at the far end of the area.

Neighbours I have talked to and who have followed the construction are quite concerned that little major work has been done in the last week to prohibit more sliding both now and in the future. Mr. Gaetz's comment that the project would need "further geotechnical reviews and design" applied to this failing cliff is an understatement. It appears that the slide is undermining the newly built-up "wall."

DANIEL DICKMEYER,
ROLAND ROAD

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

Rants + ROSES

Send your submissions to
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Roses

- The Chemainus River overflowed and my granddaughter had to drive the long way around to get to Crofton. Many Boxing Day thanks to the ferry crew who waited the extra few minutes so I could return to Salt Spring after the long trip from Comox and a happy family Christmas. Eileen Wtewael

- A big treasure chest of hugs to all the Salt Spring folks who came to the "Antiques Roadshow" at Steffichfineart in November. Kaeli, John, Bill and Andrew were amazing buyers and appraisers.

- Heart-shaped bouquets to Dr. Halvorsen and the caring and incredibly hard-working team at Lady Minto Emerg! We're all so lucky to have you! Carol & Mark

- Salt Spring Circus and Gymnastics sends a large bouquet of beautiful roses to everyone who helped us with our move this past weekend! Relocating the gymnastics gear from Fulford Hall to SIMS was a massive undertaking, and we couldn't have done it without our dozens of hard-working volunteers. We are very grateful to Country Grocer for providing fuel to keep our moving crew well fed throughout the process. We appreciate you all!

- A tumble-floor covered in roses of gratitude to Fulford Hall for providing a home to Salt Spring Gymnastics for two decades! Thousands of island children were given the opportunity to train within your walls. Thank you!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"The longer it takes for Island Health to address the situation, the more acute it will become, and the more pressure it puts on the staff who are left."

SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS MLA ADAM OLSEN, ON LADY MINTO HOSPITAL STAFF SHORTAGES

Disclosure proves shocking and inappropriate in Prince Harry book

BY GWYNNE DYER

Where do you look when somebody says: "In the age of Apaches and laptops, everything I did in the course of two combat tours was recorded, time-stamped. I could always say precisely how many enemy combatants I'd killed. And I felt it vital never to shy away from that number."

"So, my number: Twenty-five. It wasn't a number that gave me any satisfaction. But neither was it a number that made me feel ashamed."

That was Prince Harry fulfilling his contractual obligation to spill his guts in his new book 'Spare'. ("An heir and a spare": he is second-in-line to the British throne.) And to my surprise, I was shocked by what he said. Not by what he did, but by the fact that he put a number on it.

I have been in close contact with the military world for much of my life, as a naval officer, an academic, a journalist, and a documentary film-maker. I have interviewed at least a hundred veterans about their experienc-

es in war — and none of them ever mentioned how many people they had killed. Well, almost none.

There is no formal ban on talking about your 'kill count', but it's in extremely bad taste. As retired Col. Tim Collins, formerly of the British Army, put it: "Harry has badly let the side down. We don't do notches on the rifle butt."

Rear Admiral Chris Parry, ex-Royal Navy officer, said: "Over 35 years of service, I've never heard anybody in the Armed Forces say what their score is. I think it's highly unusual and I think, if we're going to be kind, it must be the ghostwriter who has put these words into Harry's mouth." Probably, but Harry must have had a final veto on the content.

I know what happened to him. He took \$40 million from his publishers for four books, but this is the only one that matters and they wanted their money's worth. They needed shocking material, and the contract Harry signed obliged him to produce it.

So they deployed enough

GUEST COLUMN

"friends," editors (and maybe lawyers too) to get it all out of him — drug use, frostbitten penis, kill count, quickie behind the pub, punch-up with his brother, everything. By the end, he was probably too dazed even to notice that he was breaking a basic military taboo, and would not be forgiven.

Enough about Harry, but what an extraordinary thing! The whole business of soldiering, when you get down to basics, is efficient killing, and yet that is the one and only aspect of their profession that soldiers will not talk about. I don't think they are ashamed of it, but that's not what they were brought up to do. Nobody was.

Many years ago I interviewed William Manchester, an American writer who fought as a Marine in the Pacific War in 1944-45. He told me about the first time he killed a man.

"I was utterly terrified — petrified — but I knew there had to be a Japanese sniper in a small fishing shack near the shore . . . And there was nobody else to go, and so I ran towards the shack and broke in.

"I was absolutely gripped by the fear that this man would expect me and would shoot me, but it turned out he was in a sniper harness and he couldn't turn around fast enough. He was entangled in the harness, so I shot him with a .45 and I felt remorse and shame."

"I can remember whispering foolishly 'I'm sorry,' and then just throwing up . . . I threw up all over myself. It was a betrayal of what I'd been taught since a child."

In almost every other walk of life, killing somebody is the ultimate crime; in war, it is the soldier's duty. And in ground warfare, you are actually aware of the humanity of the people you are killing. Even if you are in the artillery and rarely see the enemy, you see the consequences

of what artillery does to human flesh and bone.

It creates at the very least a discomfort, an uneasiness that is best dealt with by not talking about it. So while soldiers will talk about other aspects of battle quite frankly, at least among themselves, only a few misfits would ever mention how many people they have killed.

Insert a little distance into the equation, however, and everything changes. Fighter pilots are happy to talk about their "kills," and even have a system where five "kills" makes you an "ace." An infantryman who talked like that would be viewed as a head-case.

And perhaps this can be Harry's excuse. He was flying a helicopter gunship, and viewing the results on a screen. The distance between him and the men he killed wasn't very great, but in practical terms his insulation from reality was almost total.

Gwynne Dyer's new book is *The Shortest History of War*.

PUBLIC SAFETY

Fourth-quarter RCMP call details provided



A car and tree collision in Ganges was one of several motor-vehicle-related incidents Salt Spring RCMP investigated in the last quarter of 2022.

PHOTO COURTESY SSIRCM

Year-end numbers also in report

SUBMITTED BY SSI RCMP

As of Dec. 31, 2022, Salt Spring Island RCMP responded to 2,747 calls throughout the year, averaging 7.5 calls per day.

That number is a decrease from the 2021 total of 2,948 calls and the 2020 total of 2,978 calls, respectively. It's an eight per cent decrease in total call volume over a three-year period (2020 versus 2022).

Salt Spring RCMP officers conducted over 760 proactive traffic stops in 2022, resulting in warnings or violation tickets being issued – a 60 per cent increase in proactive traffic-related stops when compared with 2020 (480 stops).

In the fourth quarter of 2022, Salt Spring RCMP responded to 534 calls for service and conducted 296 foot patrols through Centennial Park and other island areas. A total of 254 violation tickets or traffic warnings were issued, and 109 licensed premises checks (bar walks) were conducted in the Oct. 1 to Dec. 31 period. Statistically, this means that during this 92-day period, police conducted about one bar walk per day, three foot patrols per day and two traffic stops per day – all in addition to the seven to eight calls for service each day.

Types of calls in this fourth quarter included 42 mental health-related calls, 20 impaired driving reports, 27 vehicle collisions, nine sex-related offences and four firearms-related calls.

Some 2022 fourth quarter calls are detailed below:

OCTOBER

- Police responded to a domestic violence call; police attended and ensured both parties were safe and were subsequently separated with one party moving out from the shared residence.
- A missing youth from Sunshine Coast was located on Salt Spring Island and was returned to her father by police.

- RCMP were advised of a boat in distress in Samsun Narrows; police investigation and communication with Coast Guard confirmed the boat's passengers were not in distress.

- RCMP were contacted by a father requesting assault charges be laid against his 14-year-old daughter because she punched her younger brother; the situation was mediated and no charges were laid.

- RCMP conducted a proactive traffic stop that resulted in a vehicle being found with no insurance. A violation ticket was issued, the driver was provided with a ride home and the uninsured vehicle was secured by police.

- Police responded to a collision on Fulford Ganges Road.

- Police responded to another collision where a vehicle drove into a tree in downtown Ganges.

NOVEMBER

- RCMP investigated a workplace accident on behalf of WorkSafeBC where a worker was momentarily pinned between an excavator and large commercial vehicle. Thankfully the injuries were relatively minor.

- Police responded to a complaint of an abandoned vehicle. The registered owner was given ample time before police had it towed.

- A sexual assault was reported to police. A male, who was known to the victim, was subsequently arrested by police, his phone seized, no-contact conditions put into place and charges are being recommended to crown counsel.

- Police responded to a check well-being request for an unconscious male in a vehicle and upon arrival, they found the driver to have used illicit drugs and was not safe to drive. A driving prohibition notice was given and the male was arrested for possession of illicit drugs for the purpose of trafficking.

- RCMP responded to a report of another male who was unconscious and had overdosed on heroin. The male was taken to hospital for medical assessment and later discharged.

- A report of a female blocking Walker's Hook road with her body and her car was reported to police. It was determined she had blocked the roadway to ensure her safety while watching for any whales possibly swimming past. The road was subsequently re-opened.

- A shoe containing bones washed up on shore on Salt Spring. Police liaised with the BC Coroners Service and determined the bones in the shoe were not human.

- Police responded to a five-vehicle collision on Rainbow Road.

DECEMBER

- Police were advised of a sexual assault; a male, who was known to the victim, was subsequently arrested and charges recommended to Crown Counsel.

- Police were advised of a sexual assault where a youth was victimized by a family member; the investigation is continuing with the assistance of other police agencies.

- SSI RCMP responded to a cannabis overdose where the caller was paranoid and scared; police met with the complainant and left her in the care of her friends after determining no criminal/medical intervention was required.

- An impaired driver was reported to police, who located the male, still driving, who refused to provide a breath sample. Documentation for an impaired refusal charge was completed and the male lost his driver's licence. His vehicle was impounded for 30 days.

- An individual currently facing drug-dealing charges resulting from a Salt Spring RCMP investigation was found to be on Salt Spring contrary to his bail conditions. The male was subsequently arrested with charges of breach recommended to Crown for another court appearance.

- A male was arrested for public intoxication and, upon being searched, an excessive amount of cannabis for personal use was found, along with small plastic bags and scales. Charges were laid and the male spent the night in jail.

- RCMP were called to stop two bald eagles from fighting each other. Police attended and separated the two birds without further injury. The RCMP encourages people to call conservation officers in future similar situations.

- Police mediated a dispute regarding snow clearing from neighbours' driveways.

- Police were called for a dog-walker who had left her dog's poop on a person's lawn. After some direction from police, the dog-walker returned to the property and removed her dog's poop from their lawn.

- RCMP investigated a child pornography complaint where child pornography was downloaded on Salt Spring Island. The investigation is continuing.

- Police were advised of diesel fuel being stolen from vehicles in Ganges. There are no suspects at this time.

- RCMP are assisting the Smithers RCMP detachment in an investigation where it is alleged that a father was producing child pornography reportedly using his own children. Multiple police agencies are currently involved in the investigation.

- A male who was intoxicated in a public place was arrested by police and housed in a cell overnight until he was sober and could be legally released.

- An impaired driver was stopped by police during a traffic stop. An excessive amount of beer, many of the cans open, were found in the cab of the vehicle within reach of the driver. The driver was charged with impaired driving, had his driver's licence seized for 90 days and his vehicle impounded for 30 days.

Salt Spring RCMP wish to thank the Salt Spring community for its support throughout this past year, whether expressed by word of encouragement or the gifts of cookies, snacks and teas during Christmas time. RCMP members are thankful for the opportunity to serve this island. We wish everyone a safe and prosperous 2023!

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LIVE THEATRE

GISS murder mystery entertains crowds



At left, GISS Theatre Company actors in a scene from *Murder on the Orient Express* where a passenger has been shot. Countess Andrenyi (Xzana Nesbitt), kneeling, left, comforts Mary Debenham (Olivia Das), with Colonel Arbuthnot (Tija Cooper) sitting behind. Standing, from left, are Helen Hubbard (Olive Goddard), Hercule Poirot (Tadhg White), Princess Dragomiroff (Alma Walsh) and Greta Ohlsson (Sonja Reynolds). In the photo at right is Monsieur Bouc (Nick Rankin), left, and Poirot (White) after the body of Ratchett (Luisa McCarville-Russo) is found. The show played to full houses at ArtSpring on Jan. 5 and 6.

On-stage and technical work shines

BY GAIL SJUBERG
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School performing arts programs have suffered along with the rest of the live entertainment field due to COVID-19 restrictions in the past few years.

So it's no wonder the students in grades 10-12 appeared to be having so much fun on the ArtSpring stage in front of a full house last Thursday night for their production of *Murder on the Orient Express*.

Adapted from Agatha Christie's novel for stage by Ken Ludwig, this was a technically complex show, with lots of scene and lighting changes, background music and sound effects, and a highly effective use of screens and rolling images to illustrate snow falling outside the train's windows. The props and costumes instantly transported us back to 1934 in Europe. The technical crew deserves accolades for putting together such a visual and aural feast throughout. Some students also had both behind-the-scenes and on-stage roles.

If I had seen any film versions based on Christie's famous story in the past, I had certainly forgotten the "who actually did it" part of the story. That let me thoroughly enjoy letting my imagination follow along with famous detective Hercule Poirot and the train's passengers and crew as the complicated story unfolds. We are certainly as suspicious as Poirot, who finds himself drowning in clues after the murder of Samuel Ratchett (played by Luisa McCarville-Russo), puzzled by which ones are useful for solving the crime.

Tadhg White played Hercule Poirot, with an unemotional and logical demeanour that worked beautifully and contrasted effectively with some of his high-strung or even hysterical trainmates. (They were, notably, Olivia Das, playing Mary Debenham, Sonja Reynolds



PHOTO BY METTA ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY
 Michel the train conductor, played by Kay Garbe, on the phone.

as Greta Ohlsson and Olive Goddard as Helen Hubbard, who raised tensions in a split second with a scream or hyperbolic statement or gesture.)

White's closing monologue, where he ponders the ethical impacts of his decision to not turn in the murderous gang, was particularly effective. By then we really knew his character and how difficult a dilemma it would be for him.

The play also had a number of funny moments, such as Monsieur Bouc (Nick Rankin) having to repeatedly correct declarations that Poirot was a "Frenchman" when he is actually from Belgium.

The international flavour of the story also came through well with the actors using various accents convincingly. And kudos to Clara Wardlaw for executing the role of Hector MacQueen when Makenna Taylor was unable to take the stage as planned.

Friday night's show was also sold out.

GISS dancers present their term-end show tonight (Jan. 11) and Thursday night at ArtSpring at 7:30 p.m. The high school's music students then take the stage next Wednesday-Thursday (Jan. 18-19), also at 7:30 p.m.



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SEE OUR
*What's On
 Calendar*
 ON PAGE 8

ADVERTISING FEATURE

BC Ferries in your community

Keeping you informed — Keeping you connected

As part of our ongoing efforts to improve the way we engage the communities we serve and to be more accessible and transparent to all community members, BC Ferries recently launched online pages for minor route communities. Our goal is to provide easy access to updates and information to keep community members connected.

These new community pages act as both a record for route-specific information and a place for community members to connect with BC Ferries and fellow community members about their ferry service.

Content on the pages include:

- Interactive community feedback forums to support in-person events
- Community updates
- Key community event dates

- A document library containing engagement reports, materials presented at community drop-in sessions, formal responses to community requests etc.
- A sign-up link to receive proactive updates when new information is added to the page
- Contact information for our community relations team

Communities can expect to see in-person drop-in sessions being offered regularly now that COVID restrictions have lifted. Community pages will help support sessions by helping us determine the topics that are of most interest so we can bring answers, information and discussion themes the next time we visit.

Please check out your community page at bcferriesprojects.ca/in-your-community.

BCFerries

expert **ADVICE****Real Estate****IS IT BETTER TO LIST NOW OR WAIT UNTIL SPRING ARRIVES?**

Often sellers will say to me "I want to wait till my spring garden blooms". Many, many homes have lovely spring gardens; the better plan is to get the jump on the season and avoid undue competition as the listings supply expands later in the year. **By listing now, your residence will:**

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- possibly be the only listing that a buyer receives instant email notification about, when listed this time of year;
- have a better position in the market-price-pointwise, BEFORE all the new competition is available;
- many "last year" temporarily off the market (while owners vacation) listings, burst back onto the market in April & May... your listing can stand out more effectively - SOONER.

I sell more homes in winter through March that may not have sold at the same price later in the year, due to more supply, hence competition, or better buys coming on the market as the spring progresses.

This old adage is really true for real estate:

"Why Wait till Spring? - Do it NOW!"



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CONCERT PREVIEW**Victoria Baroque gives Bach feast**

Works by J.S. Bach and son Carl Phillip Emanuel Bach on the program at ArtSpring

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

The much-loved British harpsichordist and music director Steven Devine returns to ArtSpring this week to direct Victoria Baroque.

The program includes exhilarating works by Johann Sebastian Bach and his son, Carl Philipp Emanuel Bach, including Orchestral Suite No.3, with the heavenly Air on a G String, and Bach's only Italian cantata, Non sa che sia dolore.

The program is aptly entitled Devine Bach and is being staged this Sunday at 2:30 p.m. It promises to make an ethereal afternoon experience for audiences with a robust orchestra of violins, viola, flute, bassoon, soprano Jennifer Turner and masterful harpsichord by Devine.

Devine comes with a respected pedigree. He is the principal keyboardist with the Orchestra of the Age of Enlightenment and also the principal keyboard player for The Gonzaga Band, The Mozartists, and performs regularly with many other groups around Europe.

Devine made his London conducting debut in 2002 at the Royal Albert Hall and is now a regular performer there. He has conducted the Mozart



PHOTO BY JAN GATES

Victoria Baroque in a recent performance. The group will perform at ArtSpring on Sunday, Jan. 15 at 2:30 p.m.

Festival Orchestra in every major concert hall in the United Kingdom and across Switzerland. He is music director for the New Chamber Opera in Oxford and with them has performed repertoire from Francesco Cavalli to Rossini. He is currently conductor and artistic advisor for the English Haydn Festival in Bridgnorth.

Devine also works regularly with the Norwegian Wind Ensemble, Trondheim Barokk, the Victoria Baroque and Arion Baroque Ensemble in Montreal. He is early keyboard consultant to the Royal Birmingham Conservatoire and Royal Welsh Colleges, and teaches fortepiano at the Royal Academy of Music. Finally, Devine is thrilled to be a member of the ground-breaking Art of Moog: an electronic music group specializing in the performance of Bach.

Now in its 12th season, returning to

ArtSpring, Victoria Baroque presents dynamic, personal and engaging performances of music from the baroque and classical periods. The ensemble brings together early music specialists from Vancouver Island and beyond for explorations of chamber, orchestral, vocal and choral works. Playing on instruments of the 18th century, Victoria Baroque says it "brings audiences closer to the sound-world of the period, embracing the dance-driven rhythmic vitality, as well as the lyrical and conversational aspects of baroque music."

From the stately to the sublime, interplaying performance pieces from both father and son, the Bach story comes to life in an afternoon of music that isn't to be missed.

ArtSpring gives thanks to Michael Pidgen for sponsoring this performance.

**FOR BREAKING NEWS SEE:
gulfislandsdriftwood.com**

what's on this week

Wed.

Jan. 11

Fri.

Jan. 13

Mon.

Jan. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Swing Dancing. Every Wednesday at the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

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

MP Elizabeth May Community Meeting. Join local MP at Fulford Hall. 5:30 to 7 p.m.

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

Sat.

Jan. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ashton Bachman. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw from 5 to 7 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

The Met: Fedora. Umberto Giordano's exhilarating drama returns to the Met repertory for the first time in 25 years. ArtSpring. 10 a.m.

Sun.

Jan. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Victoria Baroque. British harpsichordist and music director Steven Devine directs the Victoria Baroque ensemble in a program of works by Johann Sebastian Bach and his son, Carl Philipp Emanuel. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.

Blues Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m. Every Sunday afternoon alternating with the Jazz Jam.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club Hikes. Meet at ArtSpring at 12:30 to join in a hike. For more details about the club and its activities, see saltspringtnc.ca.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Trustees Meeting. Ganges Fire Hall training room. 7 p.m.

Tue.

Jan. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Spiritual Poetry. From Star of the Sea, a monthly evening of sharing spiritual Poetry, with this month's topic of Sacred Poetry, with Brian Day. St. Mary's Church, Fulford. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club Hikes. Hike or walk with the club. Non-club members may attend up to three hikes per year. See saltspringtnc.ca for destinations.

Wed.

Jan. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Music Presents Lost Together. Term-end performance by GISS music students at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Teen Lounge. See last Wednesday's listing.

Swing Dancing. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **Avatar: The Way of Water** runs daily from Friday, Jan. 13 to Thursday, Jan. 26 at 7 p.m., plus Sunday matinees at 2 p.m. (Note the earlier-than-usual matinee time.) Rated PG, 3 hours and 12 mins. For more movie info, 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.

Reflections

A GISS Dance program show at ArtSpring

Wed.-Thurs., Jan. 11-12 at 7:30pm

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw from 5 to 7 p.m.)

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

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. CRD director Gary Holman is this week's guest in the SIMS lobby from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.



ISLAND LIFE



LOOKING CHIPPER: From left, Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Capt. Warren Nuyens and firefighters Jodi Banford, Krystal Capranos and Dan Smith pose with "retired" Christmas trees collected for a tree-chipping food bank fundraiser held Saturday at Fire Hall #3.

LOCAL ECONOMY

Food industry experts lead farmland trust workshops

Two events planned for Salt Spring this month

SUBMITTED BY SSI FARMLAND TRUST

Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust kicked off its new Knowledge Series of community seminars and workshops this past Sunday with an almost two-hour Zoom presentation and Q&A with master gardener Linda Gilkeson, which was attended by almost 100 participants.

Next up on the January schedule are two highly anticipated two-day workshops led by industry experts for those interested in how to create a business plan for, operate, brand and understand the health regulations behind launching a commercial food or beverage business.

"These workshops are perfect for farms looking to add value to their agricultural products through processing, farm stands who want to up their game and small-to-medium-sized food entrepreneurs in any stage of development who want to bring their products to the wider marketplace," said Sheila Dobie, co-chair of Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust.

"Salt Spring is not only renowned for its farming community, but increasingly for its food culture and food products," adds Kirsten Bolton, who handles communications and community outreach for the trust. "From artisanal cheeses, organic coffee and cookies to packaged preserves, salt and ciders, there have been many successful food brands emerge from the island that now sell provincially, nationally or across North America. There is a definite appetite

here to share Salt Spring's unique taste of place."

First up on Jan. 17-18 at Lions Hall is the Ag-Food Business Planning workshop led by Greg McLaren, who claims to have "one foot in a dress shoe, and one in a gumboot."

McLaren is the managing director and chief strategist of the Vancouver-based market research, brand marketing and business consulting firm FARM FOOD DRINK, which specializes in growing local and regional food economies, producers and farm businesses throughout B.C.

Participants will delve into such topics as components of a food and drink business plan, market channels and distribution, pricing, operation and financial plans.

The second workshop on Jan. 23-24 at the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute meeting room is BC HACCP Planning for Commercial Food Processing, led by food scientist, food consultant and UBC faculty member Nancy Ross, who has assisted the owners of many micro- and small-scale food processors. Ross also helped design the Commissary Connect Laurel Street facility, which is B.C.'s first regional full-scale food innovation and processing hub.

Her workshop will tackle Canadian and B.C. health regulations, handling, commercial kitchens, labelling, allergies, cross-contamination and ensuring your packaged products are safe.

Courses run from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. each day. Fee is by donation, which can start for as little as \$10 with the help of the Rural Dividend Fund and the Small Scale Food Processors Association.

The Farmland Trust stewards the farms and community plots at Burgoyne Community Farm and is launching Salt

Spring's first official food hub The Root, with commercial kitchen, cold storage, seed bank, regenerative gardens, equipment rentals, education and events. Its mission is to help create a more viable, secure, sustainable and prosperous local food community.

People can register for the by-donation workshops at www.ssifarmlandtrust.org/news-blog.

Ag-Food Business Planning for Commercial Food Products

- Jan 17-18
- 8:30 am-4:30 pm each day
- Lions Hall
- By donation

HACCP Health & Safety Practices for Commercial Food Processors

- Jan 23-24
- 8:30 am-4:30 pm each day
- SSI Farmers Institute Meeting Room
- By donation

More info:
ssifarmlandtrust.org/news-blog



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HONOURS

Griffiths earns first Judy Burch Memorial Award

Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue creates annual award

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Bill Griffiths is the first recipient of the Judy Burch Memorial Award presented by Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR).

The award recognizes outstanding service and professionalism, which Griffiths has provided to SSISAR during his more than 20 years as a member.

Burch was a long-time member of SSISAR who



PHOTOS BY ALAN BIBBY

From left, Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR) senior SAR manager Zeke Blazecka, left, presents Bill Griffiths with the first Judy Burch Memorial Award at a recent outdoor meeting of the group; Griffiths with a certificate and tree-themed plaque.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour						
JANUARY 2023 PST (UTC-8h)						
When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table						
DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES
11	0052	0.8	2.6	15	0259	2.1
WE	0901	3.5	11.5	1022	3.4	11.2
WE	1532	2.5	8.2	SU	1807	1.3
ME	1758	2.6	8.5	DI		
12	0123	1.0	3.3	16	0211	2.5
0922	3.4	11.2		0342	2.5	8.2
TH	1615	2.3	7.5	MO	1042	3.3
JE	1913	2.4	7.9	LU	1846	0.9
13	0154	1.3	4.3	17	0348	2.8
0942	3.4	11.2		0513	2.8	9.2
FR	1653	2.0	6.6	TU	1106	3.3
VE	2103	2.2	7.2	MA	1927	0.6
14	0225	1.7	5.6	18	0431	3.2
1002	3.4	11.2		0658	3.1	10.2
SA	1730	1.6	5.2	WE	1138	3.4
SA	2325	2.2	7.2	ME	2011	0.3
						1.0

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died in October of 2020. She was a member of the founding group in 1989, and also coordinated the AdventureSmart and Hug-A-Tree programs on the island for many years, giving children the tools they needed to stay safe if they were lost in the woods. She was also a stellar tracker and taught others in SSISAR that important skill.

"Judy was very well regarded and respected," explained SSISAR president Conrad Bowden, so the group thought creating the award was an ideal way to both honour Burch and to recognize dedicated members who

demonstrate Burch's qualities and level of commitment.

Nominations for the first Burch award were sought from SSISAR members and then a three-person committee determined team leader Griffiths would be the inaugural winner.

SSISAR is an all-volunteer group operating under the Emergency Management of B.C. agency. Its members are trained to find and assist individuals who are missing or lost on land or inland waters and shorelines, and to provide assistance to community members during natural disasters.



FILE PHOTO BY ALAN BIBBY

The late Judy Burch during a past SSISAR tracking exercise.



WE VALUE BC

If you're among BC's approximately 2 million property owners, you should receive your 2023 property assessment in the mail early in January. If you haven't, call us toll-free at 1-866-valueBC.

Access and compare property assessment information using our free assessment search service at bcassessment.ca.

The 2023 assessments are based on market value as of July 1, 2022.

If you have questions or want more information, contact us at 1-866-valueBC or online at bcassessment.ca.

The deadline to file an appeal for your assessment is January 31, 2023.

For more property information and assessment highlights, visit bcassessment.ca



BC ASSESSMENT



BC FERRIES

Fulford terminal sewer upgrade on through May

Portable washrooms in place as project undertaken

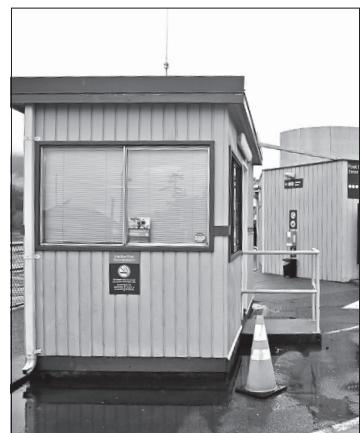
BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A sewage facility project at Fulford will run through the next four months at the ferry terminal there, shuttering the washrooms and putting additional pressure on vehicle holding capacity.

During a construction period that began Monday, Jan. 9 and is expected to run through Wednesday, May 24, BC Ferries said it will be replacing the Fulford Harbour terminal's sewage treatment plant. Portable washrooms will be available until construction completes, according to BC Ferries, while the terminal's washroom facilities remain closed.

In addition, to facilitate construction activities, there will be a "slight reduction" to terminal vehicle holding capacity, according to officials; traffic control will be in place to manage overflow onto the roadways as required.

"Drivers and customers are asked to follow the direction of staff, signage and traffic control employees," said BC Ferries, "and are encouraged to arrive at the terminal earlier than usual for their intended sailing when travelling as a foot passenger."



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO
Fulford ferry terminal buildings where a sewer upgrading project has begun this week.

A service notice also advised that construction equipment involved in the replacement project may increase normal sound levels within the terminal area. BC Ferries said it would make "all efforts" to minimize noise for its neighbours, and that work would only be completed during daylight hours.

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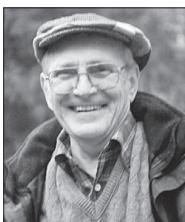
Obituaries

Obituaries

Concrete & Placing

John Kenneth Woodward

June 21, 1927 – January 3, 2023



John Kenneth Woodward, born in Surrey on June 21, 1927, passed away peacefully at home on January 3, 2023.

Survived by his loving wife of 31 years, Linda Stafford, her daughters Melanie (Iain) and Lisa (Micah), and three grandchildren, Lukas, Grey and Ruby; his son Jack Woodward and daughter Linda Stanton, three grandchildren, Sarah (Jason), Alisa (François) and Elizabeth (Brock), and five great-grandchildren, Emma and Ryan, Laughlin and Kira, and Adélie; and his sisters Beverly Spetch and Ruth Sather.

Coming from a pioneer family, John had a great interest in farming, and was for many years a Director of the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute, where he made many friends, in particular Tony Threlfall, Merv Walde, George Laundry and John Fulker.

John had a long and successful career in real estate, and was a Past President of the Fraser Valley Real Estate Board. He was instrumental in the Board's acquisition of a valuable piece of property in Surrey, the proceeds of which have been used to establish the Fraser Valley Realtors Charitable Foundation.

John will be remembered by many people driving his 1929 Model A Ford pickup truck, which he has donated to the Island Farmers' Institute Foundation.

John wanted to express his thanks for their kind assistance to Dr. Gummeson, Dr. Slakov, the home care nurses and care aides, and the Health Equipment Loan program for their support, enabling him to stay at home, as he so dearly wished.

There will be a memorial at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Salt Spring Foundation, Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, or the Island Farmers' Institute Foundation.



*If I had a flower
for every time
I thought of you,
I could walk
in my garden forever.*

- ALFRED LORD TENNYSON



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Celebration of Life on January 28, 2023 at Fritz Movie Theatre Saltspring Island from 1-3 pm.

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The Sun now enters its last week in sobering Capricorn. The even bigger story is the fact that it will make its annual conjunction with Pluto on January 18. Pluto is still in Capricorn until March 23, 2023, when it enters Aquarius. Since Pluto entered Capricorn, the sign of governments and establishment power in early 2008, we certainly have experienced significant changes in this very important department. These are complex and sobering times. We are challenged to adapt and respond intelligently, avoiding fear-based reactions. Doing so in ways that contribute to raising the overall vibration and fallen state of the human condition is especially ideal. Beyond the prospect of making a meaningful difference, and every bit counts, from kind gestures to large projects, doing so will uplift your spirits and ignite your passions. From positive intentions to visionary purposes, it all begins with thoughts activating feelings and followed through with action. The secret sauce to success in these regards is to be authentically you, and I can help.

Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) Your mind is riveted on adapting practically and powerfully to our complex times. As you assess the results of previous efforts and focus to strengthen your overall foundation, managing worry and stress is a cornerstone focus. Mars turning direct in Gemini will push you to respond with realism and strategy.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) Despite a growing determination to identify and direct your focus and energies to every task on your list, you may be contending with obscured vision due to Mercury retrograde. It has about another week to go followed by the shadow period, so you are probably wise to slow down and trust the flow.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) A new round of deep, inner change is underway. This will manifest as shifts in your attitude and priorities in general. Meanwhile, both cultural events and a growing determination to be as aware and alert as you can be is the counter theme. Patience now, the coming New Moon in Aquarius will uplift your spirits.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) A series of shifts and changes on relationship fronts are having a powerful effect on you. It may feel as though you are being transformed as old perspectives fade and new ones take their place. Positively you are sensing the new growth of wings: inspired feelings to embark upon new adventures.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) By now you will be aware of feelings at least and perhaps also deliberate actions to create a healthier lifestyle. This includes strategy, focus and determination. Replacing rebellious resistance with revolutionary vision to make the changes you know will be beneficial is a central theme.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) A strong creative cycle continues. This is a good time to harness ideas, complete projects and generally direct your focus to creative accomplishments. You may be contending with complex thoughts regarding the deeper and darker sides of life. If so, use this energy by directing your focus to what you can change and achieve.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) New activations close to home and with family continue to unfold. The pace has likely been rather slow and tedious and has included complexities involving deep inner realizations and the changes they imply and require. In some respects, the answer is to surrender to the truth of how you actually feel.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Seeds of change are germinating regarding your perspectives and interpretations. Specifically, what feels real and what might be better understood as wishful thinking and fantasies is up for review. Chances are you are on the right track but simply need to make some key adjustments in your strategy.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) Taking a more realistic and practical approach continues. The twist is that what is needed may require a holistic perspective to clearly understand. In other words, what is needed may be something other than money. Holistic implies body, mind, heart and soul; where do you feel you need to focus?

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) A pioneering impulse was activated by the New Moon in your sign late last year. It probably requires the paying of certain dues. These can come in the form of fees, investing in education, sacrifices of your time, extra efforts specifically directed, or discipline required to break habits. Think about it, then just do it.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) A busy time behind the scenes continues, but you are coming to a turn that will bring about some changes and new activities close to home. Although these might be leaving you feeling a bit nervous, there are indications that they will prove positive and meaningful. Don't worry, be happy.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) It is likely that many innovative thoughts and strategies are flowing through your mind. It is important that you bring your visions of possibility into clear view. It may not yet be time to fully implement them, however, so take note at least and establish a foundation for them. Focus on ideas, plans, strategies, and blueprints.

RECREATION

Gymnastics program begins new SIMS chapter

Circus, gymnastics groups team up for more offerings

Members of the Salt Spring Gymnastics group had a busy Sunday moving equipment from their longstanding home at Fulford Community Hall to the Salt Spring Island Multi Space gymnasium.

They documented the transition with photos throughout the day, as seen on this page in images provided by Salt Spring Gymnastics and Circus.

The island's gymnastics and circus programs have now merged and will share the space where Tsunami Circus originated as a school program.

"It was a bittersweet move," said gymnastics and circus parent Michelle Bennett. "Fulford Hall has been the home of Salt Spring Gymnastics for many years, and thousands of island youth have trained in the hall."

Classes begin today (Wednesday, Jan. 11) and run until the end of April. Four-week workshops begin next week, and space is still available in several classes. People should visit www.ssicircusandgymnastics.com for more information and details on how to register.



Christian Stepaniuk, left, and gymnastics coach Sarah Robinson work to disassemble the Tumbl Trak at Fulford Hall. Robinson has taught gymnastics locally for nine years.



Coach Kristi Reynolds moves gear to the truck waiting outside the hall.



Moving team members, from left in back, Haley Van Watt, Kira Schaffer, Sarah Robinson, Hailey Rasmussen and SoRa Einerson. From left standing are Christian Stepaniuk and Kristi Reynolds.



Rigger and coach Chantelle Nickel checks the rigging at the SIMS gymnasium.



Gymnastics coaching team members take a break after everything is set up in the new home at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space. For more moving day photos, see gulfislandsdriftwood.com.

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will be published in January, watch for the
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