

inside:



**2** MP Elizabeth May reports to constituents



**9** 4-H enrolment now open for 2023

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Wednesday,  
Jan. 18, 2023

63rd year  
Issue 3  
**\$1.50**



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**GRACEFUL DUO:** Claire Whitelaw, top, and Jane Holmes perform in their dance titled With Love and Blindness, which they choreographed to the Sarah Neufeld song of the same name, as part of the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) dance program's Reflections show at ArtSpring on Jan. 12. See page 7 for more photos. Whitelaw and Holmes are also part of the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts program. GISS music students complete the trio of term-end high school performing arts shows at ArtSpring with their Lost Together presentation set for tonight (Jan. 18) and Thursday night beginning at 7:30 p.m.

**CRD**

## Kanaka eyed for bus charging

Project could  
also house parks  
maintenance facility

**BY ROBB MAGLEY**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As the first electric school buses deliver students on Salt Spring, a detailed picture is emerging of how BC Transit's commitment to a fully electric passenger bus fleet will take shape for islanders.

Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman confirmed Friday the CRD was going ahead with detailed design work for a district-owned property on Kanaka Road that will serve multiple uses — as a cost-saving measure.

With continued growth in CRD's operational services on Salt Spring, a concept for the Rainbow Road Recreation Centre's master plan had included a Parks and Recreation maintenance facility to be built on a CRD-owned parcel at 210 Kanaka Rd., he said. In addition to being too small for tool and equipment storage, the modular building currently at the site was identified in the summer of 2021 as being "at the end of its useful life," according to parks staff. Holman said the design work and uses being contemplated now include a bus storage facility with the capacity for charging Salt Spring's planned electric transit vehicles.

"We're combining the design work to achieve economies," said Holman. "That design will also include fast chargers for our buses."

**KANAKA** continued on 3



**Zen Master Wolfgang says:**  
"Don't corner something meaner than you."

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## FEDERAL POLITICS

# MP shares inside view of Ottawa happenings

Elizabeth May gives report to her 'bosses' at bi-annual meeting

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May met with about 70 constituents at Fulford Hall on Friday night, near the end of a string of riding-wide community meetings held this month.

May traditionally hosts such in-person meetings twice a year to report on what she has been doing in Ottawa and elsewhere, but COVID-19 threw several of those onto Zoom in recent years.

She stressed the meeting was a non-partisan affair.

"I'm here because I'm your Member of Parliament, and you are, collectively, my boss, or the 120,000 people — roughly speaking — of Saanich-Gulf Islands are my bosses."

May spoke positively about progress made on a number of fronts, both on some federal legislation and, most remarkably, the United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties (COP) meeting held in Montreal in December. The COP 15 event was originally supposed to take place in September of 2020 in Kunming, China, May explained, was then postponed, and eventually the Canadian govern-



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Saanich-Gulf Islands Green party MP Elizabeth May answers a question from an audience member at a Jan. 13 Fulford Hall meeting.

ment offered to be the physical host instead, though with China still taking the lead role.

Some COP 15 outcomes included agreement to protect 30 per cent of lands and waters on the planet by 2030 and to respect Indigenous peoples and local communities in the process.

As well, May said, "We're committed to more measures to deal with ocean plastics, we're committed to cut the use of pesticides everywhere around the world as much as possible, so that we can save insects and pollinators of all kinds. We are committed to doing all of these things in full partnership with Indigenous peoples all around the world; that Indigenous sovereignty be respected. And the final treaty is full of references to Mother Earth. Referencing Mother Earth is not really normal UN language, right?"

She said the forward movement at the Montreal meeting contrasted with the disappointing UN Climate Change Conference (COP 27) in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt last November.

"I was really surprised and happy that COP 15 succeeded when we really had no good reason to think it would.

And I think because Canada hosted, we have more, say, moral suasion, more potential for embarrassing the federal government if they don't act, because this is kind of our baby — we were at least the midwife — so I think we can push on all the pieces there."

All countries agreed to COP 15 decisions except for the U.S. and Vatican City.

On the domestic front, despite a number of challenges to getting legislation passed in Ottawa, May said some positive steps were made in the past year. Those included bills to ban conversion therapy by amending the criminal code; to provide emergency rent relief due to COVID-19 impacts; and dental care for children in low-income families.

Still to come is legislation to improve the Civilian Review and Complaints Commission, an amendment to the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (Bill S-5), and Bill C-226, which would create a national strategy to address environmental racism and environmental justice. As well, Bill C-22, which aims to help reduce poverty among persons with disabilities

in Canada, has received the support it needs to become law.

May said her Green party colleague Mike Morris, the MP for Kitchener Centre, "made [Bill C-22] one of his top priorities and worked really hard, quietly, nicely, twisting arms in all the parties. A Conservative MP from Ontario, Karen Vecchio, decided to really push her caucus to make it unanimous."

She said a number of details about the bill still need to be worked out, "but we are pleased with the fact it's moving forward."

"I have to say as much as I will disagree with various political parties in Canada, as a group of MPs, we seem to be able to get things done every now and then, which is good."

May included a reminder about the climate crisis for her audience.

"Of course, I'm always fighting against the Trans Mountain Pipeline. I'm always trying to get us to cancel expanding fossil fuels and to live up to our commitments to protect future generations from the worst of the climate crisis. We're no longer obviously talking about future generations. The climate crisis is here. We see it every day on the news, whether we're talking about heat domes in British Columbia or what we're just seeing in the news from California. We know that we're in a climate emergency and trying to get governments to respond and understand that it is an emergency is I'd have to say one of the top issues I work on in Parliament."

Islanders at the meeting had questions for May and made comments on a wide range of issues. They included the freighters anchoring in the Gulf Islands, marine-related debris and pollution in Ganges Harbour, RCMP operations locally and nation-wide, logging on Salt Spring and the housing and health-care crises.

May has been Saanich-Gulf Islands MP since 2011. After resigning as the Green Party of Canada leader in 2019, she recently agreed to be co-leader with party member Jonathan Pedneault, a former journalist and human rights investigator.

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## SD64

# Education assistant training boosted

School district, CUPE local partner to help fund EA certification

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Hopeful educational assistants (EAs) willing to learn on the job have a new pathway to certification, thanks to a coordinated initiative between the school district and the CUPE local.

In a cost-sharing plan detailed at the latest Gulf Islands Board of Education meeting last Wednesday, the expense of EA training and certification will be evenly split between the applicant, the Gulf Islands School District and CUPE Local 788 — up to \$2,000 reimbursement from the district and from the CUPE local, according to associate superintendent D'Arcy Deacon.

"One of the items that continues to be a challenge is recruitment and retention for support staff, in particular educational assistants," said Deacon. "I think

we have been very successful in our recruitment strategies on a local basis to find individuals who are a great fit for the role — albeit not always qualified, but open and willing to learn and grow."

The program is open to all members of CUPE Local 788 — an employee of the school district — so the pathway for anyone interested who is not currently a member would be to apply for casual educational assistant work, and go through that application and interview process, said Deacon.

"We have folks who are in this position, who range from 'I've never done it, I'm not sure I want to' to 'I just need a couple more courses,'" said Deacon.

Uncertified individuals are typically brought into the district categorized as Paraprofessional-3, Deacon added, at which level they aren't eligible to hold a continuing position; full certification brings them to the Paraprofessional-4 level.

"That comes with the stability of knowing that employment exists year over year," said Deacon.

Interested employees should contact Deacon at ddeacon@sd64.org or CUPE president Angela Thomas at pres788@sd64.org for more information.

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## ISLANDS TRUST

# ITC to restart relationship with U.S.A. counterparts

Trust hopes to collaborate with San Juan County

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As travel becomes easier — and with the beginning of a new term — Islands Trust Council (ITC) members are looking to rekindle relationships with fellow islanders who just happen to live south of the border.

The ITC and the three-member San Juan County Council have a longstanding record of “trans-boundary cooperation,” according to Trust area services director Clare Frater, dating back more than two decades and including partnerships on public awareness and stewardship that have reflected the shared values of the communities.

“There has been a really productive and positive relationship between the two governments over the years,” said Frater, addressing the ITC Executive Committee last Wednesday.

“I would say it’s taken a hit since COVID. I don’t think [the relationship] is as strong as I have previously witnessed.”

The San Juan County Council

governs all the islands on the U.S. side between the Saanich Peninsula and mainland Washington State, representing an estimated population of 17,850. The county includes San Juan, Orcas, Lopez and Shaw Islands, as well as a single incorporated city, Friday Harbor (population 2,630) on San Juan Island.

**“I think there’s some really fruitful areas for discussion, even though we’ve got very different legislative frameworks.”**

TOBI ELLIOTT  
*Gabriola Island trustee*

In the past, the two governing bodies have sent joint letters to their respective provincial, state and federal governments on island-related issues, from environmental and maritime safety concerns to housing and economic development.

Over the last term, Frater said, there had been very little staff-to-staff interaction between Islands Trust and San Juan County, and she noted all three current council

members and the county clerk are new to their positions since the last time the two governing bodies met.

“The last councillor we had a relationship with was Jamie Stephens, who chose not to run for re-election,” said Frater.

Stephens had represented the district encompassing Lopez, Shaw and Decatur Islands for 12 years before retiring at the end of 2022.

Trustee Tobie Elliott said there were a lot of commonalities and “some really interesting approaches” San Juan County had taken for planning, having researched some of that body’s recently updated comprehensive plan — roughly analogous to each island’s official community plan.

“I think there’s some really fruitful areas for discussion,” said Elliott, “even though we’ve got very different legislative frameworks.”

“And different budgets,” quipped chair Peter Luckham, who agreed with fellow trustees that a slow restart before fully planned group meetings would be appropriate, as travel costs have increased since before the pandemic. Luckham said he would reach out to San Juan County Council’s chair and “go from there.”

“I’d say it starts off with a conversation,” said Luckham.

## HOUSING

## CRC seeks survey respondents

Islanders’ housing experience stories being collected

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Southern Gulf Islands Community Resource Centre (SGIRC) continues to collect stories of islanders’ housing experiences — and there is still time for additional community input, according to organizers.

SGIRC launched an online effort late last year as part of the Housing NOW Project. The organization provides island residents with resources, referrals, information and support for employment, education, social purposes and well-being. Housing NOW focuses on finding immediate solutions to both the short and long-term housing shortage in the Southern Gulf Islands.

The Housing NOW team has been tasked by the Southern Gulf Islands Community Economic Sustainability Commission with data collection of home and property owners — as well as the collective Gulf Islands’ population — with the intention of creating a better picture of housing opportunities available, needs of the average individual and family, and the community’s viewpoint on what needs to be accomplished, and how.

The survey asks questions about living situations — including things like what amenities are present or needed in housing and in the broader community — and should take about five minutes to complete. All information provided will remain confidential.

For more information about SGIRC, visit [www.sgi-communityresources.ca](http://www.sgi-communityresources.ca). To participate in the survey, visit [linktr.ee/sgihousing](http://linktr.ee/sgihousing).

## All-electric fleet targeted for 2040

## KANAKA

continued from 1

Existing water connections — and close proximity to BC Hydro — have made the location feasible for the project, according to CRD staff. As part of an effort to meet provincial emissions targets, BC Transit has said its commitment to operating a low-carbon, fully electric bus fleet by 2040 would include replacing up to 45 per cent of its buses within the next five years.

BC Transit’s current fleet — more than 1,100 vehicles —

includes just four hybrid-electric buses, but it announced plans last year to acquire 130 all-electric buses between now and 2025. A single demonstration bus is slated to be delivered to the Victoria Regional Transit system this year, although it’s not clear whether that specific vehicle will be put into service there. No timeline has been released for replacement of Salt Spring Transit’s small fleet of buses.

New electric vehicles will replace older fossil-fuel model buses as they approach the end of their use-

ful service, according to BC Transit. An additional 800 buses are planned for purchase by 2031.

“We’re hoping it can happen sooner,” said Holman. “But a key requirement for that is having a place to store and charge buses.”

Gulf Islands School District (SD64) started 2023 with its first electric school bus entering service Jan. 3.

The district plans to run a second electric bus later this year and intends to replace all of its fossil-fuel vehicles with electric ones as they age beyond service requirements.

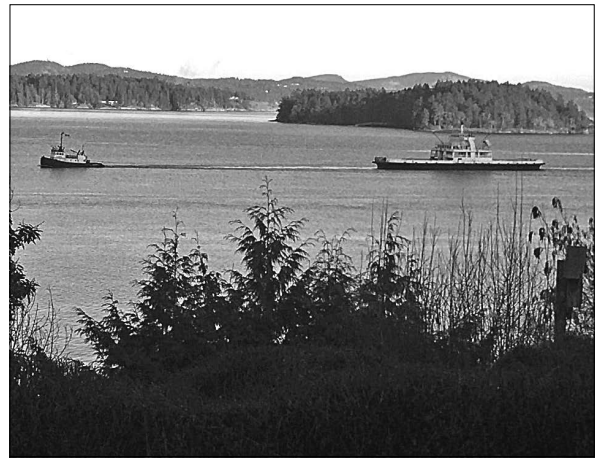


PHOTO BY JOHN MILLSON

**OUT OF PLACE:** Isabella Point residents saw an unusual sight last Tuesday afternoon as the retired BC Ferries vessel the Bowen Queen was in the process of being towed from BC Ferries’ Fleet Maintenance Unit to make space for the Spirit of British Columbia and the Spirit of Vancouver Island, which are scheduled for mandatory refit work later this month. BC Ferries says the refit work is expected to last into mid-March, at which time the Bowen Queen may return to the Fleet Maintenance Unit should BC Ferries’ vessels require the space at Fulford Harbour. In other ferries news, the Quinsam return date on Route 6 was again pushed further away from earlier hoped-for and reported dates to Thursday, Jan. 26.



Islands Trust

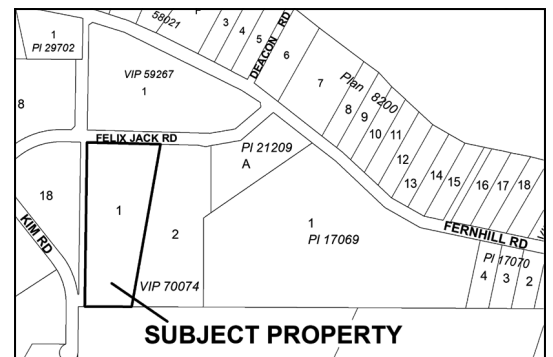
### NOTICE MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE MA-TUP-2022.2

**NOTICE** is hereby given that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit pursuant to Section 493 of the *Local Government Act*. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 1 Section 8 Mayne Island Cowichan District Plan VIP70074. (PID: 024-670-642). This property is located at **500 Felix Jack Road**.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a veterinary clinic to operate on the property.

The establishment of this use would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached permit. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee to have it renewed once for up to an additional three (3) years.

The general location of the subject property is shown in 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 Mayne Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Narissa Chadwick, Island Planner (250) 405-5189. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867; by fax at (250) 405-5155; or by email to [southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca) before **4:30 p.m., January 18, 2023**.

The Mayne Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **1:30 p.m. January 30th, 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

# OPINION

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

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



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### EDITORIAL

## Respect rocks

The Gulf Islands Secondary School dance program show was probably the hot ticket last week on Salt Spring Island.

The presentation titled Reflections was flat-out exciting and a thrill from start to finish. Congratulations to dance teacher Sonia Langer and all of the dancers and technical crew for entertaining us so well.

But what likely came in second spot for entertainment value? Member of Parliament Elizabeth May's Jan. 13 community meeting at Fulford Hall.

That about 70 people came out on a January Friday night to hear what May had to say — when there is no acutely controversial issue before us — speaks to how she is respected in our community and how people want to hear what she has to say. May provided a dramatic, ringside seat description of how negotiations unfolded at the United Nations Biodiversity Conference of the Parties in Montreal in December. She also gave a similar level of detail about how certain bills are making their way to and through the House of Commons and Senate.

**THE ISSUE:**  
Elizabeth May

**WE SAY:**  
MP is a stellar communicator

May is also an entertaining speaker. It wouldn't take much for her to slide into a stand-up comedy career and the business of politics provides ample material, of course.

But a pivotal message she expressed on Friday night was about how well the Canadian parliamentary system can actually work sometimes. She described the process of bringing Bill C-22 — the Canada Disability Benefit Act — into fruition, with her fellow Green party member Mike Morris working hard on getting cross-party support for amendments to the government's originally introduced legislation. She also shared how the literal "luck of the draw" led to her being able to reintroduce a private member's bill to create a strategy to address environmental racism and environmental justice, which a past MP had brought in during the last parliamentary session.

On the other hand, May also noted most political parties are focused on "scoring points, making the other guys look bad and never getting along. And that's the opposite, I think, of what Canadians want. I think Canadians would like to see respectful communication, nonviolent communication and people getting along." Amen.

May will hold another community meeting this fall and no doubt attend other events before then. Don't miss a chance to access the respectful, productive and entertaining side of Canadian politics.



PARKER

## Local trustee looks forward

BY LAURA PATRICK  
SALT SPRING TRUSTEE

During my last term as a trustee I served on the Islands Trust's Executive Committee. This meant that, in addition to my role as a local trustee for Salt Spring Island, I was the chair of local Trust committees on North and South Pender, Saturna, Thetis and Lasqueti islands. I was struck by the many similar issues our communities are dealing with, the only real difference being scale. For example, housing is a common issue but varies in the amount and kinds of housing types needed to sustain diverse communities of islanders. Certainly, each island has its unique island vibe, which was a pleasure to experience.

This term I have a different focus. Using the knowledge and experience gained in my first term, I will be devoting my time to specifically addressing Salt Spring's issues. There are systemic challenges at the Trust that must be addressed before Salt Spring can move towards the solutions it really needs. That's why I have chosen to only sit on two committees this term: the Governance Committee, which is responsible for making recommendations to Trust Council on governance and management issues, and the Regional Planning Committee, which has a number of responsibilities including the allocation of resources to deliver land use planning services, which is the Trust's major responsibility.

The recommendations in the 2022 Governance Review Report are the starting place for the work of both these committees. I intend to improve governance practices to increase transparency in decision-making at both the Trust Council and local Trust committee (LTC) levels. With leadership and political will, we can restore public faith in the organization's work.

Last fall's election told me that voters want

the Islands Trust to do a much better job on housing, the environment and how we manage and solve issues together as a

community.

Our Island neighbours to the south are also realizing that there are underrepresented voices in the community. In the recently updated comprehensive plan for the San Juan Islands, the following statement is made in their 2036 Vision: "... the community realized that life has adjusted course as new factors have entered into the conversation. We know more about the effects of human action on climate change. We are more aware of our limited resources. We recognize that there are underrepresented voices in the community that need to be amplified. Technology ever increases the speed of and capacity for communication. Participants noticed where the Vision excluded some members of the community and took steps to adjust the language to better represent the true make-up of the Islands."

At our first LTC meeting in December, trustees Jamie Harris, Tim Peterson and I discussed how we can be more accessible to the public, such as holding our town halls/public question and comment periods during evening hours. Stay tuned for more information on these changes.

I am always willing to sit down with you and our island community organizations or businesses to understand what matters most to you and to talk to you about my Islands Trust work. You can email me [lpatrik@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:lpatrik@islandstrust.bc.ca) or call 250-538-8170.

One of the easiest ways to keep up to date on what we're working on is to subscribe on the Islands Trust website: [islandstrust.bc.ca/](http://islandstrust.bc.ca/) subscribe/. Make sure to select the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee to receive notifications.

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is a trip to a warm place part of your winter plans?

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Have you used the Lady Minto Hospital emergency dept. in the last year?

72 81  
NO YES

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

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# ISLAND VOICES

## LETTERS to the editor

### Health care coverage appreciated

This is a quick note to commend you on the latest issue of the Driftwood.

Your items on the health care crisis that we face locally — “Lady Minto staff shortage startles patients” story and the “Help for a hospital” editorial — were informative and quite sobering. Hopefully by shining your spotlight on this, it will help.

Thank you.

**MARK PERRY,**  
SALT SPRING

### More iffy road areas

I don't know what “the powers that be” are thinking, but sandbags and a tarp are not good enough.

Those of us who drive Vesuvius Bay Road daily can see the progression of the slide and the road sinking further at Tripp Road over the last year. A second “iffy” spot can be seen further along the road towards Vesuvius.

Hopefully there will be no loss of life when the slide happens. I'm sure the residents of Mobrae Avenue and Woodland Drive are not looking forward to the months of detour ferry traffic passing their doors when it occurs.

Does the roadworks' insurer know about this risk? What about the insurer of the house below on Tripp?

**MARY MCLEAN,**  
SALT SPRING

### 100 Men group makes special invite

It's great to be able to give money away! Especially to worthy local organizations where it can have a huge impact. Do you know someone who might like to join us in this?

100 Men Who Care Salt Spring Island is growing. We are a group of men who care about our community and want to have an immediate and direct impact.

This is how it works. Three times a year, we meet for one hour to hear from three local charities based on the island. By secret ballot, we vote for one of these three member-nominated organizations, and each of our members immediately donates \$100 to the winner. That's \$10,000 to the charity right after each meeting! Plus, each member's donation is 100 per cent tax-deductible. It is a big impact for little effort.

It's that simple! So far, since 2019 we've donated \$87,700.

And now, we're growing. We are looking for a few more good men. Who do you know who might want to help our community in this way?

Moby's Pub is helping. Join us on the



PHOTO BY RON WATTS

From left, Scott Howe, Rod Martens, Stella Weinert (of winning charity Salt Spring Literacy), Iain Pennington and Kirk Laidlaw at the most recent 100 Men Who Care event, holding a \$10,000 cheque for Salt Spring Literacy.

evening of Monday, Jan. 23 when Moby's is hosting a Find Out More special dinner so you can come with someone who might be interested in joining 100 Men Who Care. They are offering 25 per cent off the entire food menu for your table if you bring someone. And we'll give a five-minute stage presentation about the 100 Men Who Care program.

A special shout-out to supporters of 100 Women Who Care: bring the men!

Otherwise, join us the next night at the meeting. Come early for a drink and snacks and to network if you want and stay for the one hour of presentations and voting. It's super interesting! The Harbour House

Hotel, across from Moby's, has graciously offered Woodley's for the meeting. There are absolutely no obligations. Come and help us make a difference.

Here are the details:

Monday, Jan. 23, anytime from 5 to 7 p.m. at Moby's Pub for their “Find Out More” special dinner discount night. And/or come on Tuesday, Jan. 24 to Woodley's restaurant at 6 p.m. for social time and 7 to 8 p.m. for the presentations and voting. Reserve a table, or just show up!

**100 MEN WHO CARE,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE OPINION** continued on 6

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“I have to say as much as I will disagree with various political parties in Canada, as a group of MPs, we seem to be able to get things done every now and then, which is good.”

SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS MP ELIZABETH MAY

## Thirteen recommended actions to provide basic medical services

The following was sent to B.C. Health Minister Adrian Dix and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

BY CURT FIRESTONE

The problems at Salt Spring's Lady Minto Hospital are synonymous with the systemic problems throughout the British Columbia health-care system. In a very piecemeal approach, you and the Premier have started to resolve the crisis, yet there is a long way to go. The public has yet to see the comprehensive B.C. plan to resolve our health-care crisis. There does not seem to be any plan for rapid resolution of the huge shortage of primary care providers, including family doctors.

This is a recommended list of actions that are necessary if we are going to insure that the million B.C. residents without a doctor are going to get the basic level of medical services that a modern health-care system delivers in other first-world countries.

1. Drop the barriers for Canadians to practising medicine when they have obtained their medical education and training in other countries. This starts with the creation of a list of those countries where medical education is equal to the best medical education provided in Canada. If a doctor is licensed to practise medicine in any of the U.S.A. states and has received a medical degree from an accredited school of medicine, completed a recognized internship and/or specialty training, then that person should automatically be given a licence to practise in British Columbia.

2. Provide moving expenses to doctors for relocation to B.C. with the condition of multi-year B.C. residency and medical practice as the repayment for the moving expenses.

3. The B.C. government recruitment program is very fragmented and poorly implemented. Sophisticated, modern-day family doctor and nursing recruitment programs must be quickly

implemented.

4. End the multi-year delay in approving the Ministry of Health's Community Health Centre Plan, thereby enabling communities to create non-profit community health centres. Provide implementation funding to communities. The province should provide operational funding for family doctors/primary care providers through one of its medical service payment programs.

5. Rapidly approve all the pending applications for primary care networks and assist with funding their implementation.

6. Instead of increasing the doctor shortage by pulling family doctors out of their outpatient offices, it is time for Island Health to hire emergency/urgent care medical staff for the new emergency department being built with community funds at Lady Minto Hospital.

7. Island Health operates six Victoria area and one Nanaimo urgent care/primary care centre. They are plagued with staffing and administrative problems. They must convert to primary care centres with the family doctors carrying a full caseload of patients. Currently urgent care is offered at Lady Minto Hospital and it rightly belongs at each emergency medical location.

8. Facilitate group medical practices that demonstrate economies of scale. These will be attractive to new family doctors who do not have the resources or the desire to establish or purchase a private practice.

9. Fund housing for new family doctors and nurse practitioners where housing is either unavailable or unaffordable for the newly graduated.

10. Nurses and nurse practitioners take a huge burden off current family doctors, allowing them to spend more time with patients. Doctors must integrate nurses into their practices. The

province must fiscally support nurses in all multi-doctor office settings.

11. Expand the medical and nursing education programs in the province to meet the current and future needs based on population criteria.

12. Laboratory and radiology services are not meeting current needs and therefore family and specialist doctors are not able to do their work in a timely fashion, which has physical and mental impacts on the health-care system. The ministry must quickly fund and staff laboratory/radiology programs in accordance with population needs.

13. It is long overdue that the Ministry of Health releases a health-care crisis resolution plan to its citizens. Secrecy is a deterrent and fails to recognize that we pay for our health-care services through our taxes.

The writer is a Salt Spring Island health-care advocate.

## INDEPTH

# Protecting B.C. biodiversity a priority for 2023

In December, thousands of delegates from 192 countries gathered in Montreal for COP 15, the United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity.

This is a critical topic for world leaders to be discussing. While they negotiate at the global level it is important to recognize that many of the actions that need to be taken to protect biodiversity will be done at the sub-national and local level.

Unfortunately, British Columbia has a deeply established culture in our provincial government that prioritizes the economic values of natural resources over protecting ecosystem health. However, with the direction given by Premier David Eby to his cabinet it appears protecting biodiversity may be a priority.

Managing ecosystems for health and well-being protects biodiversity and is essential for maintaining natural functions so they can continue to produce the clean air and water that are necessary for our survival.

Resilience and adaptability are key fea-



Adam Olsen  
MLA'S  
COLUMN

tures of biodiverse ecosystems, both of which minimize the frequency and severity of droughts and extreme weather events that are the result of climate change.

Protecting biodiversity has been, and continues to be, a priority for me as the Member of the Legislative Assembly for Saanich North and the Islands. It will continue to be a priority in 2023.

Over the past year, I have been challenging our provincial government on their lack of political will to follow through on commitments to legislate species-at-risk and

biodiversity protections. I pressed former Minister of Forests Katrine Conroy repeatedly on the destruction of countless indigenous plant species with herbicides such as glyphosate and manually with brush cutters. I have presented legislation to ensure the provincial government is protecting bear dens.

The BC NDP's own Old Growth Strategic Review panel recommends that the provincial government "declare conservation of ecosystem health and biodiversity of British Columbia's forests as an overarching priority and enact legislation that legally establishes this priority for all sectors."

The government has repeatedly promised to deliver on all the recommendations made in that report and consistently responded to my questions by asserting that their current policy protects biodiversity. Yet, they are reluctant to put those protections in law.

All it takes is to drive out of the city limits to see the result of managing for timber

harvest value instead of ecosystem health.

Premier David Eby has appointed Nathan Cullen as the Minister of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship. Eby has asked Minister Cullen to turn his attention to biodiversity. Specifically, to develop conservation-financing, implement the Old Growth Strategic Review and Together for Wildlife strategy recommendations, and to protect 30 per cent of British Columbia's land base by 2030.

These initiatives could be a game-changer for protecting biodiversity in our province. With two years left before the next general election, Minister Cullen will need to work quickly to achieve these ambitious goals.

I am excited by the potential of these initiatives and Minister Cullen can count on my support of his efforts to achieve them. However, I will be watching closely, asking questions and urging the provincial government to deliver on the transformative change they have promised.

## Salish Sea Trail Network support sought

The following letter to Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob Fleming was penned by Bob Mackie, chair of Island Pathways' Bicycle Working Group, Salt Spring Solutions co-chair Elizabeth FitzZeland and Transition Salt Spring chair Bryan Young, and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

Dear Minister Fleming,

We are writing to you as a coalition of Salt Spring Island community organizations to urge the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to commit to the completion of the Salish Sea Trail Network. We would also like to offer our collective commitment to support this project in the community and help pave the way for its completion. Our coalition represents thousands of Salt Spring residents who all want safe active transportation infrastructure on Salt Spring for the benefit of visitors and residents alike.

At numerous public consultations, the Salt Spring community has consistently voiced their concern about the dangers of Salt Spring's roads for cyclists, pedestrians and other active transportation network users. Because we have witnessed countless dangerous accidents involving cyclists and have advocated for active transportation infrastructure for decades, we know these long-discussed changes are long overdue.

COVID saw a significant increase in on- and off-island cyclists and e-bike riders on Salt Spring. While this shift benefits our health and our environment, we also know that without safe active transportation infrastructure on Salt Spring's most important transportation corridor, users risk serious injuries in riding this corridor as it is today. Scores of others, including members of our respective organizations, want to ride but will not; our main road corridor is simply not a safe active transportation option.

During this same period, significant funding has been made available to local communities from Victoria to Nanaimo to improve their active transportation networks. As a result, residents and visitors can now ride hundreds of kilometres on bike paths and trails all over Southern Vancouver Island. This fantastic network connects some of Vancouver Island's most populated and stunning parts via the Lochside, Galloping Goose, Cowichan Valley and E&N trails.

A critical missing link to this regional trail system, known as the Salish Sea Trail Network, remains a lost regional climate action opportunity. Completing the network would result in a 156-kilometre loop connecting Swartz Bay to Salt Spring, through the Cowichan Valley and back to Victoria. Its completion would deliver for the entire region a significant active transportation asset while finally bringing safe cycling to Salt Spring. The remaining 20-kilometre gap from Fulford Harbour to Vesuvius Bay on Salt Spring would be used by thousands of residents and many thousands of visitors who come to Salt Spring.

As discussed at a well-attended webinar interview with you on March 31, 2022, our organizations have committed to working with MoTI to help implement



Salish Sea Trail Network shown in black on southern Vancouver Island, with missing Salt Spring link circled in red.

this challenging project. In that discussion, we discussed tax deductions or credits that exist for property owners to donate land to add to MoTI rights of way.

Our organizations, working jointly, commit to working in our community to encourage property donations and build support for this important infrastructure project.

Furthermore, Gary Holman, the CRD electoral area director for Salt Spring, has repeatedly voiced support for CRD and Community Works funding to facilitate the project.

We are grateful for your 2022 commitment to complete a Fulford to Vesuvius study of this potential route, now awarded to the Vancouver consulting firm Urban Systems; it's an excellent very good first step. We note, however, that this project was scheduled for completion by September 2022. However, this important preliminary piece of work is yet to be released.

Climate change demands modal shifts to carbon-free options. Salt Spring's GHG profile is high in large part because of a lack of active transportation infrastructure. Our single biggest source of direct emissions is road transportation. To lower emissions and increase public safety, we cannot afford to wait to complete the missing link in the Salish Sea Trail Network.

This active transportation objective aligns with Salt Spring's official community plan, the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan, and the B.C. government's own CleanBC Roadmap.

We therefore urge you to please take the necessary steps to commit to completing the Salish Sea Trail Network. Future generations will thank you for it and current generations commit to working with you to make it happen.

## MONEY MATTERS

### SHOWCASE YOUR EXPERTISE

"Money Matters" will be publishing in 4 editions of the Driftwood during the month of February with a focus on investments, taxes and financial and estate planning.

This is a perfect opportunity to highlight your financial services and grow your business.

Contact us today to book your space!  
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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

**WOWING THE CROWD:** Just two of 20 dance numbers presented at ArtSpring in the Gulf Islands Secondary School dance show called Reflections last week were, from left, the opening whole-group number called Rainbow choreographed by dance teacher Sonia Langer; and Lucie Luke, left, and Lyla Luke dancing to their own choreography for rapper Tory Lanez' song Say It. Enthusiastic audiences at the Jan. 11-12 shows couldn't get enough of the varied music and dancers' innovative choreography.

## CONCERT PREVIEW

# Legendary blues acts perform Sunday

Lloyd Spiegel and Suzie Vinnick talk about visit to Salt Spring and show

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

As one of Australia's top 50 greatest guitarists of all time, according to Australian Guitar Magazine, blues artist Lloyd Spiegel has been touring since age 11, has 10 albums to his name, and decades of experience on the road touring Europe, the United States and New Zealand.

Somewhere he's never been? Salt Spring Island. Or British Columbia, for that matter. So it was with great excitement he joined Canadian blues icon Suzie Vinnick to set out on their colourful tour of our own West Coast outback. In addition to Salt Spring, tour stops include Bowen Island, Hornby, Nanaimo, Victoria and more, before heading out to Ontario.

"I've been to Canada before and was struck by the themes of kindness, stunning views, and of course, comedy," Spiegel smiles. "Naturally, I Google places I'm headed to, and when I saw Salt Spring Island, I had one of those moments where I felt so blessed to do what I do. It just looks so beautiful. That, and I know Harry Manx lives there!"

For Juno-nominated Vinnick, she played the Tree House Cafe years ago, but has since gone on to win 10 Maple Blues Awards, one Canadian Folk Music Award and twice won the International Songwriting Competition – Blues Category. She is thrilled to be back.

This marks the first time the duo has worked together, although plans were in the works since pre-pandemic days because of their mutual respect. While they play their own sets, audiences can expect a rollicking jam together by the end of the show.

"Musically, Lloyd and I are both blues-based but appreciate and work other styles into our music," said Vinnick. "For me, I'm known for folk and blues, but I incorporate a little jazz, a little rock, a little country to shake things up."

Spiegel agreed. "One of the most common things I hear from people is 'I'm not into blues, but I love your music.' I always take that to mean some people have preconceived ideas of what blues music is and that my show challenged and



PHOTO AT LEFT BY WARREN MCCOLL JONES; PHOTO AT RIGHT BY KEVIN KELLY PHOTOGRAPHY

Australian blues guitarist Lloyd Spiegel and Suzie Vinnick, a Saskatchewan native who now lives in Ontario, who will play a double bill at ArtSpring this Sunday evening. They are also leading a free workshop for musicians on Monday at 3 p.m.

changed that idea. I love breaking stereotypes."

Both artists are serious about their influences and inspirations. With parents who were blues lovers, Spiegel was just nine when he started going to blues jams and by 13 was touring Australia.

**"I hope [Harry] Manx reads this, and that he feels like coming for a jam!"**

**LLOYD SPIEGEL**  
Australian blues guitarist,  
singer-songwriter

"I was invited to meet Brownie McGhee in California when I was 16. He was my all-time blues hero so I was on the first possible flight out."

Before long, Spiegel would grow up to support the likes of Ray Charles, Bob Dylan and Etta James, as well as developing his own commanding voice and sound.

With her sultry voice, sassy style, and impressive guitar and bass chops, Vinnick is circumspect when asked about playing blues as a woman.

"There have been many female artists performing blues over the years – Bessie Smith,

Koko Taylor, Bonnie Raitt and more," said Vinnick. "In my early days, I tended to see more male performers but in these past few years, many more young women are embracing singing, playing, and writing blues and other styles of music."

Another signature approach the duo shares is their love of bringing storytelling, humour and a playfulness to their performances. Spiegel enjoys telling quirky stories of being on the road, and with the people he has met so far in Canada, he promises his stories have just gotten even funnier.

"I could do a whole show of what Canadians in one province say about Canadians in another province."

Saskatoon-born Vinnick knows all too well. She also likes to keep things loose, lively and impromptu.

"I may perform Save Me for Later, the Lonnie Mack song Oreo Cookie Blues, a heart-felt ballad like Drift Away, or the rollicking I Need a Cowboy," she winked. "You never know."

What also is not known is if Australian's guitar legend will get his wish.

"I hope Mr. Manx reads this, and that he feels like coming for a jam!"

After their Sunday evening show, Vinnick and Spiegel will be back at ArtSpring on Monday at 3 p.m. to host a free musicians' workshop for the community.



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## FILMS

# Call Jane leads up to annual island film festival

Three Best of the Fest films at ArtSpring; full festival returns to GISS

BY STEVE MARTINDALE  
SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

The Salt Spring Film Festival will be back at Gulf Islands Secondary School from March 3 to 5 for the first time in three years, featuring 40 new documentaries from around the world, a number of which will be presented by the filmmakers themselves.

The return to the film festival's usual location, after a hiatus during the pandemic in which smaller film series were held at Fulford Hall and ArtSpring, means that the popular Social Justice Bazaar will also be returning to highlight the work of local nonprofits and community organizations who set up display tables in the festival's central hub throughout the weekend.

The festival has traditionally featured films on a range of social justice issues, and this



CALL JANE STILL IMAGE

Rally scene from Phyllis Nagy's *Call Jane* historical drama about the underground abortion movement of the 1960s in the U.S.

year will be no exception, as the soon-to-be-announced program line-up includes a number of engaging documentaries on Indigenous resurgence, environmental concerns and LGBTQ+ resilience, gripping exposés on international political intrigue and economic upheaval, and celebratory explorations of visual arts, modern dance and music legends.

Starting next week, the film festival will also present three award-winning films on Wednesdays at ArtSpring in the ongoing Best of the Fests film series, which began in November

and December with two sold-out music documentaries on Leonard Cohen and Buffy Sainte-Marie.

Elizabeth Banks and Sigourney Weaver lead an all-star cast in Phyllis Nagy's *Call Jane*, a crowd-pleasing and timely historical drama on the underground abortion movement of the 1960s, which screens at ArtSpring at 7:30 p.m. on Wed., Jan. 25.

In the role of her career, Banks portrays Joy, a conservative housewife in 1968 Chicago facing an unexpected health crisis who seeks out a clandestine network of women known as The Janes, who help women terminate unwanted pregnancies at a time in America when abortion is in most cases illegal. Joy's determination to safely resolve her own predicament leads her to risk everything in order to provide other women with the options she herself had been denied.

This surprisingly entertaining drama about a very serious subject was nominated for Best Film at both the Berlin International Film Festival and the Bei-

jing International Film Festival, where Sigourney Weaver was awarded the prize for Best Supporting Actress.

The Best of the Fests film series continues on Wednesday, Feb. 1 with *The Blue Caftan*, Maryam Touzani's richly erotic and deeply moving Moroccan drama about a master tailor caught in a taboo love triangle, which has won awards at multiple festivals and has been shortlisted for the Oscar for Best International Feature Film.

Vancouver filmmaker Kat Jayme will be in attendance on Feb. 8 to present her wildly entertaining documentary *The Grizzlie Truth*, which won an Audience Award at the Vancouver International Film Festival, in which she doggedly investigates the scandalous 2001 relocation of the Vancouver Grizzlies to Memphis.

Don't miss these three one-night-only screenings at ArtSpring. Tickets are \$13 each and available online at artspring.ca, or at the ArtSpring Box Office from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Tuesday through Friday (either in person or by phone at 250-537-2102).

## what's on this week

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.** Activities for youth aged 13-18 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.

Thur. Jan. 19

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**GISS Music Presents Lost Together.** Term-end performance by GISS music students at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**Open Mic.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw from 5 to 7 p.m.)  
**Craig's Karaoke.** Moby's Pub. 7 to 11 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Mother Goose.** Rhymes, songs and storytelling for babies and children to 4 years of age and their parents/caregivers. Presented in conjunction with Family Place at the library. 10:30 a.m. to 12 noon.

Fri. Jan. 20

### 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.** Bruce Cameron and other Ganges Harbour Walk enthusiasts are guests in the SIMS boardroom from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
**Neighbourhood StoryTime.** Drop-in session of stories read by community members for ages 5 and up at the Salt Spring library. 11 a.m.

Fri. Jan. 20

### ACTIVITIES

**StoryWalk.** This week's story leading from the library through Mouat Park is *The Snowy Day*, Ezra Jack Keats.

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

**Friday Game Night.** Join all kinds of players of all skill levels in a safe space to dive into our massive board game collection, learn the rules of new games, and hang out with friends. Ages 13 to 19. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

Sat. Jan. 21

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

### ACTIVITIES

**CFUW: Maureen Gix on Community Health.** Canadian Federation of University Women guest speaker event at the Salt Spring Island Baptist Church. 10 a.m. Public welcome.

**Inspiration for the Re-Imagined Show.** Artists Stephanie Denz, Rae-anne Huth and Shirley Command will share their works and ideas for transforming waste into art. SIMS. 1 p.m.

**CHIR.fm Record & CD Sale Fundraiser.** Saturdays at the portable classroom at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sun. Jan. 22

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**ArtSpring Presents: Suzie Vinnick & Lloyd Spiegel.** Blues performers at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

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

Sun. Jan. 22

### ACTIVITIES

**Nourishing Communication: A Workshop to Re-connect With Ourselves and Others.** Led by Marcia Burton. St. Mary's Church, Fulford. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register at staroftheseasi@gmail.com.

Mon. Jan. 23

### ACTIVITIES

**Musicians Workshop.** Free event led by blues performers Suzie Vinnick and Lloyd Spiegel. ArtSpring. 3 p.m.

**100 Men Who Care Find Out More Dinner.** Discounted dinner at Moby's Pub for men wanting to learn more about Salt Spring's 100 Men Who Care organization that helps local charitable groups. 5 to 7 p.m.  
**Creatives Mixer & Table Read Workshop.** A Salt Spring Island Filmmakers, Dramaturges and Thespians event at the Legion. 7 p.m. Info: johndavidhutchison1@gmail.com.

Tue. Jan. 24

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

### ACTIVITIES

**100 Men Who Care Meeting.** Woodley's restaurant in the Harbour House Hotel. 6 p.m. for social hour, 7 to 8 p.m. for charity presentations and voting.

Wed. Jan. 25

### ACTIVITIES

**Labyrinth Walk.** Need a time and place to reflect? All walkers welcome. Music will create a reflective atmosphere. Just put one foot in front of the other, and you will find your way. Upper hall, All Saints church. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Wed. Jan. 25

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Film Festival Presents Call Jane.** Award-winning film directed by Phyllis Nagy and starring Elizabeth Banks and Sigourney Weaver runs at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  
**Teen Lounge.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**Swing Dancing.** See last Wednesday's listing.

### CINEMA

• **Avatar: The Way of Water** runs daily 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. See thefritz.ca for more info.

### EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Photography Club** annual exhibition runs in the ArtSpring lobby.  
• **Pamela Thornley** has artwork on display in the library's community program room.

• **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.  
• **Annika Siemsen** has photographs hanging at **Switchboard Cafe**.

## Lost Together

GISS Music Program concert  
at ArtSpring  
Wed.-Thurs., Jan. 18-19  
at 7:30 p.m.  
Tickets through ArtSpring

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# ISLAND LIFE

## YOUTH ACTIVITIES

# Local 4-H enrolment opens for fresh season



PHOTO BY LORETTA RITHALER

Salt Spring Island Women's Institute rep Angela Thomas at the 2022 awards ceremony with club reporter Hannah Rowthorn.

## Salt Spring club marks 42 years of youth development

MATERIAL SUBMITTED BY SSI 4-H

If your child is between the ages of six to 19 years and is interested in animals or meeting new friends, organizers hope you will consider participation in the Salt Spring Island 4-H Community Club.

The year 2023 marks the club's 42nd year, according to club leader and registrar Loretta Rithaler, who said the return to in-person activities has allowed the club to once again flourish.

"4-H offers opportunities to learn how to become productive, self-assured adults who can make their community — and country — a good place in which to live," said Rithaler. "We are very proud of our club members' achievements, at the district, regional, provincial and national levels, earning and gaining recognition with camp/

leadership opportunities, bursaries and secondary school course credits."

The goal of the 4-H program is youth development, with the objectives of knowledge, leadership, citizenship and personal development. This is fostered through project and program work, such as learning and practising animal husbandry, skill development, public speaking, encouraging confidence, and of course making new friends — with the support, encouragement and guidance of volunteer leaders and 4-H alumni from the Salt Spring community.

To inquire about whether the club will be a good fit for your child, send an email to [lrithaler@telus.net](mailto:lrithaler@telus.net), subject line "4-H Enrolment Inquiry."

The annual membership fee is \$125, with the possibility for membership fee assistance, according to Rithaler.

New member enrolment is open until Feb. 15.

The club is also seeking volunteer leaders and welcomes inquiries to [lrithaler@telus.net](mailto:lrithaler@telus.net) with the subject line "4-H Volunteer Inquiry."

## President's report illuminates activities

Outings, district events, fall fair and more

*Following is the text of Salt Spring Island 4-H Community Club past president Parker Proudfoot's year-end activity report presented to fellow 4-H members, leaders, parents and sponsors at the group's awards ceremony. It provides a picture of a typical year in 4-H.*

I would like to thank you all for coming to our award ceremony! I hope you enjoy yourselves.

This year in 4-H we did a lot! Every month was something new; a new activity, a new event. It was like we got to explore every aspect of 4-H. I believe that through this some of us learned to do new things, or found something that they love to do and will someday lead to a future career. I learned that I like public speaking and, due to that, found my love for theatre and the performing arts.

Back in January my friend and I took a step up to Districts for public speaking. I found there that even though I was nervous, I loved being able to tell stories and perform for people. January was just the start of the year and I had already found something I loved; that is when I realized that although we didn't know it at the time, 4-H will shape the way we live and our future, for the better.

February is when we really started to get to know each other, we got more into how we would run

our meetings, our agenda and our pledge, but it was just the start. In March, April and May we took some big trips to Ted and Christine's houses. It was amazing being in Ted's garden. We went two times and the difference between March and May was unbelievable. It was like walking into a fairytale.

In April the club visited Christine's house where they got to see her ducks! I was not able to go to this event but I heard that there was lots of fun with ducklings. July was when we got to see each other's farms, during a farm check. It was very interesting seeing everyone's work and accomplishments! August was when we had an early barn cleanup preparing for the fall fair.

In September the fall fair happened. We helped our sponsor Country Grocer with the Spin to Win games and had a poultry show with our friends from Saanich Fowl Creatures and displayed all our projects. October was when we had the election for the coming year as well as a small potluck. We also lent a helping hand to the local food bank with a fundraising event and participated in the Christmas Shoebox project at the Community Gospel Chapel.

Through all of this we helped the community while learning our own skills and interests.

I enjoyed being with my fellow 4-H members and I loved how I got to know them as the year went by. Next year I hope to go even farther with public speaking and exploring new skills by our motto, "Learn to Do by Doing."



PHOTO BY LORETTA RITHALER

Entertainment committee members Emma Hoffman, left, and Ivy Hennessy at the 4-H club's awards event.

## 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	FEET
18	0431	3.2	10.5	22	0658	3.6	11.8
WE	1138	3.1	10.2	SU	1134	3.1	10.2
ME	2011	3.4	11.2	DI	1526	3.4	11.2
		0.3	1.0		2318	0.0	0.0
19	0510	3.4	11.2	23	0730	3.6	11.8
TH	0829	3.2	10.5	MO	1231	2.8	9.2
TH	1224	3.4	11.2	MO	1629	3.2	10.5
JE	2057	0.1	0.3	LU			
20	0547	3.5	11.5	24	0003	0.2	0.7
FR	0941	3.3	10.8	0800		3.6	11.8
FR	1322	3.4	11.2	TU	1333	2.6	8.5
VE	2144	-0.1	-0.3	MA	1738	3.0	9.8
21	0623	3.6	11.8	0046		0.5	1.6
SA	1039	3.2	10.5	0829		3.6	11.8
SA	1424	3.4	11.2	WE	1436	2.2	7.2
SA	2232	-0.1	-0.3	ME	1857	2.7	8.9

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## Spirit OF Salt Spring

Salt Spring's Viva Chorale community choir perform in their Dec. 16, 2022 fundraising concert at ArtSpring, where they raised a whopping \$6,088 for the island's food bank — the most ever from the choir's annual event.



The Spirit of Salt Spring is a regular feature in the Driftwood for local businesses and organizations to publicize charitable donations. First-come, first-served basis as space permits.  
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## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam

**Mike Arnott**

March 20, 1934 - December 27, 2022

Born in North Vancouver and taught most of his career on the North Shore, Mike was a never to be forgotten character who saw the humour in every situation and was happy to share his enjoyment of life with everyone he met.

Mike will be much missed by his wife Boodie, his children Steve, Erin and Kevin, his step children and grandchildren and many of his students from over the years.



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## In Memoriam

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## Legal Notices

Donald Karl Boulton, deceased, formerly of 107 Village Terrace, Salt Spring Island, BC, are required to send full particulars of such claims to the undersigned administrator, William Stephen Boulton, 3 Foxberry Bay, Winnipeg MB R3R1X7, on or before the 17th day of February 2023, after which date the estate's assets will be distributed, having regard only to the claims that have been received.  
- William Stephen Boulton, Administrator [se29].

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## THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

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

Aquarius time begins on January 20 and is followed by the first New Moon to officially begin in 2023. Interestingly, the Aquarius New Moon is the activation event for Chinese New Year and specifically launches the Year of the Water Rabbit. These new cycles are the beginning of a series of major events destined this year. Saturn enters Pisces on March 7, Pluto enters Aquarius on March 23, Jupiter enters Taurus on May 16, and the Lunar Nodes enter Aries and Libra in mid-July. This is the short list of events, but each represents new impulses and activations of the themes of destiny each implies. Of course, they are all parts of a greater whole. The key to understanding them better requires ever-larger cycles which provide the background context. This includes the Aquarian Age still in the final years of its dawning process. Many high hopes and lofty ideals have been attributed to this 2160-year period, but the realities of the many complexities that challenge our modern civilization imply that a good deal of spiritual work is required first.

**Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)** Even though the Sun enters Aquarius, your focus will remain practical and sober for the next few weeks anyway and this one especially. The time is right to do whatever work is required and which will allow you to relax more in the coming weeks. Business before pleasure is your best bet now.

**Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)** The time is right to seek attention or earned rewards and recognition for prior efforts. You will likely push harder this year than you have in the past. The fact that you have been contending with a confusing influence due to Mercury Retrograde suggests that a big boost is now required.

**Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)** You have been moving through a period of change. Positively, it includes a process of purification and transformation. While the spell will break somewhat, there will be a lingering introversion. This can be directed to self-inquiry or research to unearth buried memories or hidden knowledge.

**Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)** The time has come to take a deeper plunge into illuminating waters. You have likely been splashing around there for some time already. Assistance from others, perhaps including professional help, remains a good idea. All being well, a whole new self-concept and view on reality is emerging.

**Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)** Your focus will shift to relationship fronts this week. A social mood will advance to the next level, yet it may not last long so get it in now. There also likely remain some details to attend to regarding practical realities that require closer attention. Balance practical duties with social engagement.

**Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)** Aquarius time is one during which shifts and changes in your daily routine and rhythm become more emphasized. A weave of adventure and discipline to integrate new knowledge is featured. The two could also be combined as you gain access to knowledge that transports your mind to new horizons of perception.

**Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)** A playful and creative cycle begins with the Sun now in Aquarius. The harmonization of air element signs tends to prove inspiring and energetic. With your share of challenges in the larger background, perhaps especially linked to health, this cycle will prove helpful to boost your spirits.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)** The spotlight has shifted to the home front. This could well include your actual living environment but also points to the more figurative notion of feeling at home with yourself and your current circumstances. If you do not feel aligned, you are likely to deliberately push for changes.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)** Aquarius time is one during which you tend to experience new realizations that can have a lasting change on you. This is extra likely this year and these will prove both illuminating and sobering. Yet, they could also produce subtle rifts with significant others, including friends.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)** You are eager to get more traction. Some measure of innovation may be required. Investing creative thought and action is featured. Assessing what you have already and what you will need will prove necessary and could amount to building your inventory. Fortunately, your ability to concentrate will steadily rise.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)** The Sun in your sign indicates a cycle of new initiatives. This could also manifest as various changes in your career and/or public life. All the while a playful and creative impulse has been seeing you through and this will continue for some months even, so make the most of it.

**Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)** A yearning for a retreat will become increasingly obvious. Yet, rather than simply rest, drift and dream, you could find yourself busily engaged in creative projects. Yet, the more you can avoid the pressures of deadlines, the better. Balancing a period of flow with creative inspirations will prove rejuvenating.

### DONALD IRWIN

1938-2023



After a struggle with cancer, Don passed away gently and surrounded by family at the Ty Watson House in Port Alberni on January 4th.

Don was born in Port Alberni and eldest of six siblings, after moving to many locations and finally settled on Salt Spring Island. He will be dearly missed by his three children, five grand-children and five great grandchildren.

He worked at the local gas station before owning his own autobody shop. He was an enthusiast outdoors man and supported his family by hunting, fishing and diving.

He was a man who always kept busy, in his mid thirties he started to train for motocross, years later he traded this sport for a Harley. Don and his wife started the Salt Spring Island toy run with approx. ten bikes which is now conducted by a local committee and had blossomed into a weekend event for many local charities.

He was a prominent community member of the Salt Spring Island Fire Department and later in life became a Salt Spring Island Trustee.

The family was blessed to have Don taken care of by the loving and caring staff of Ty Watson House in Port Alberni.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to the Ty Watson House in memory of Donald Irwin. A community Celebration of Life will be held on Salt Spring Island on April 22nd from 12-4pm at the Royal Canadian Legion #92, in Meaden Hall.

Dad after you passed, we saw a rainbow the next day and knew you found your pot of gold.

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## ROAD RACING

# Sneakers hit the road

Runners off to flying start in new Vancouver Island Race Series year

BY SUSAN GORDON  
SALT SPRING SNEAKERS

The opening event of the 2023 Vancouver Island Race Series, the Prairie Inn Harriers 8K, was also the B.C. 8K Championships and was held on Jan. 8 in Sidney.

Out of a total of 612 finishers, the small but talented team of runners from the Salt Spring Sneakers garnered nine top-10 placings and landed the team fourth out of 72 competitive groups registered for the series.

Salt Spring native Mira Byron claimed the gold medal in her F20-24 category. Jill Thompson upped her personal best 8K time to 35:00 amid a tough group, including the winner — Olympian Natasha Wodak — who won the overall women's division in an incredibly fast 26:20.

Sneakers team captain Eric Ellis was second in his age group, and Catherine Bennett earned the bronze medal in her category.

Sunday, Jan. 22 sees the next race in the popular series, the Cobble Hill 10K, unfold. Information can be found at the VIRA website, [www.islandseries.org](http://www.islandseries.org).

The Salt Spring Sneakers are on Facebook, and those interested in running with the group for recreation or racing may request to join.



PHOTO COURTESY SS SNEAKERS

Sneakers with ribbons and medals are, from left, back row, Marion Young, Eric Ellis, Eric van Soeren, Julie van Soeren and Anne Synnes. From left in front, Mira Byron, Jill Thompson and Anna Ford. Missing are Pat Peron, Doreen Peron and Catherine Bennett.

## READING

# Salt Spring library shares top book picks for 2022

Top-three titles in several categories

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Book borrowers on Salt Spring Island were entranced by art design, engaged by mysteries and enthralled by historical fiction in 2022, judging by the library's list of most-circulated titles.

Salt Spring Island Public Library information technician Sophia vom

Bauer Jackson said the full lists for the year were broken down into several categories, and represented the books — and graphic novels — that were in and out the doors most often.

In adult fiction, Claire Keegan's 2021 debut novel *Small Things Like These* topped the list, followed by Amor Towles' 1950's Nebraska-set adventure *The Lincoln Highway: A Novel*. Rounding out the top three was Louise Erdrich's *The Sentence*.

Nonfiction readers picked the first volume of Jim Gilbert's *Learn-*

ing by designing: Pacific Northwest Coast Native Indian Art, along with biologist Merlin Sheldrake's book on the world from a fungal perspective, *Entangled Life*. Number three in 2022 was fitness expert Oonagh Duncan's bestselling self-helper *Healthy as f\*ck*.

Mystery fans checked out *The Benefit of Hindsight* most often last year, the 10th Simon Serrailier crime novel by Susan Hill, followed by Martin Walker's *The Coldest Case* and Susan Juby's *Mindful of Murder*. The graphic novel list was, per-

haps unsurprisingly, dominated by Neil Gaiman, whose *Dream Country*, *The Doll's House* and *Sandman* books took the top three.

Young adult nonfiction was fully invaded by *Dungeons & Dragons* sourcebooks, with *Strixhaven: a Curriculum of Chaos*, Tasha's Cauldron of Everything and the *Dungeon Master's Guide* taking top spots. Angeline Boulley's *Firekeeper's Daughter*, Karen M. McManus' *One of Us is Lying*, and Neal Shusterman's *Scythe* held the top three in YA fiction.

The youngest readers — and those reading to them — checked out Gary Weitzman's cat training guide *Pounce!* and Mary Pope Osborne's *Dinosaurs Before Dark* most often under children's non-fiction and fiction, and the top children's picture book was Alison Farrell's lyrical journey through the natural world, *The Hike*.

For the full list of Top 25's in each category, visit us online at [gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or follow each month's Top Reads at [saltspringlibrary.com](http://saltspringlibrary.com).



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# Salt Spring's first baby of 2023

*Lillian Dragoni Goodbrand*

*"Lily" for short or*

*"Lily the Little Dragon"*

*Born Friday, January 6th, 2023*

*at 1:35 p.m.*

*weighing 8 lbs and 1/2 an ounce*

*Proud parents*

*Meghan & Tyler Goodbrand.*



Lily will receive the following gifts from these generous island businesses; a \$50 gift certificate from **West of the Moon**. A \$50 gift certificate from **Pharmasave**. A \$50 gift certificate from **Salt Spring Books**. A baby onesie, Solmate sock bundle and Baby Baa from **Old Salty**.

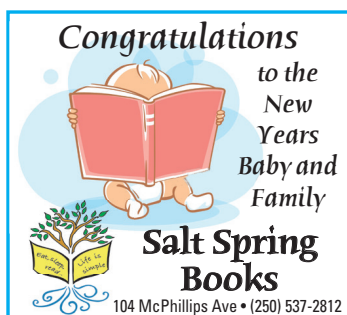


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