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JANUARY 2023

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PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

NOTHING FOR DINNER: Robert Reinhardt, of Fishes Wish boat charters, picks up another empty trap in Fulford Harbour. He and others are concerned about illegal crab poaching in the area. See our feature story on page 9.

GANGES

New group promotes harbour walk vision

Website invites public participation

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Completion of what is now known as the Ganges Harbour Walk project may face a number of hurdles, but a small group of citizens isn't short on enthusiasm to overcome them.

At an ASK Salt Spring session dedicated to the topic on Friday, Jan. 20, attendees heard about the desire for serious movement on the project, which is now in the hands of the Capital Regional District (CRD), and the launch of a website at gangesharbourwalk.com.

The Chamber of Commerce-led committee aims to raise public awareness about the project, facilitate fundraising and push the CRD and other bodies to keep it moving forward.

"There's too much history and not enough action," said Darryl Martin, a committee member and past president of the chamber, in introducing the other speakers and the rationale for the new committee being formed.

The chamber became involved when the late Matt Steffich was a board member and pushed to get the long-abandoned vision rekindled again in 2014. The result was formation of the Ganges Harbour Walk Steering Committee under the umbrella of the Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission (PARC) and CRD, which Steffich chaired. It saw engineering and environmental assessments of the existing harbour walk infrastructure undertaken in 2017 and 2018, with a report completed by Salt Spring-based Agion Water Technologies Ltd.

At that time, Steffich stated at a steering committee meeting: "There is no deal breaker in this report."

HARBOUR WALK continued on 2

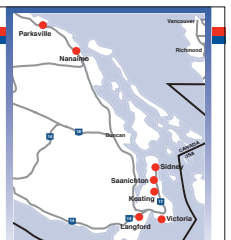
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Community members set oversight function

HARBOUR WALK

continued from 1

Efforts then shifted to determining how to acquire the needed rights-of-way from upland property owners. But the pandemic, other CRD priorities and Steffich's death in June of 2020 combined to prevent the committee from meeting for more than two years.

The most recent official action of that committee was a November 2022 recommendation that the CRD seek a consultant to work with community stakeholders and upland owners and develop detailed designs for two areas: a harbour walk structure on the foreshore connecting Rotary Marine Park and a CRD park area near the corner of Upper and Lower Ganges roads; and a roadside pathway on the harbour side of Lower Ganges Road running from the intersections with Rainbow Road and with Upper Ganges Road.

Karla Campbell, the senior CRD manager for Salt Spring, said Monday that the design contract has not yet been issued or posted.

The group leading Friday's ASK Salt Spring session is not affiliated with the CRD committee, although Martin sits on it as a representa-

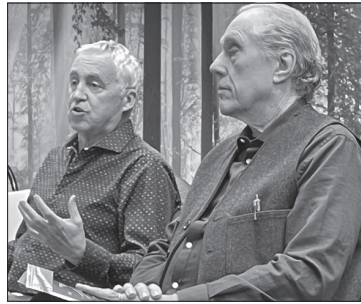


PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG
Bruce Cameron, left, and Darryl Martin at the Jan. 20 ASK Salt Spring session at SIMS.

tive of the chamber.

Bruce Cameron said he first got involved due to Steffich's enthusiasm for the idea. Through his Salt Spring Insights public opinion research, he found that 92 per cent of people queried in 2022 supported the harbour walk concept as a community priority. In the survey it was described as one that would go from the Beachside building next

to Ganges Alley all the way to Moby's Pub. That's what the chamber committee would ultimately like to see.

"Ninety-two per cent — that's almost unheard of on Salt Spring, right?"

How the harbour walk project would be financed is an unanswered question at this point. Some funds would be available through the Community Works Fund (gas tax), the ASK meeting heard, but it's likely a referendum to provide borrowing authority would be required.

Robin Williams, a past SSITC chair who has sat on both the CRD and chamber harbour walk committees, said people should not discount the impact of a community appeal, like the one that raised several million dollars for the new hospital emergency department.

"I am regularly shocked with the support that the community puts behind things," he said.

In acknowledging the project's challenges, Cameron recounted how a friend of Steffich's told him, "You know, Matt wouldn't be hung up on 'We have to do this and we have to do that piece . . . He would say, 'Listen, at least this is a first step. Let's get this first step done.

Because with the first step, you're starting the journey. And you've actually got a destination in mind."

The group hopes community members will connect with them via the new gangesharbourwalk.com website. It includes a video that alternates footage of existing moss-covered, unmaintained parts of the boardwalk project built in the late 1980s, the overall area where a new structure could be constructed, and architectural images of what the harbour walk could look like. There's also a link to a GoFundMe page for donations to the cause.

Cameron said the website content will be "driven by the community. Anything and everything that's said about this harbourwalk, whether it's feasible or not, will be posted on there . . . It's really about education and oversight. And I think it's long past time for some community oversight on this, given the inaction that we've seen."

The Ganges Harbour Walk Steering Committee currently reports to PARC, but it will be part of Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission responsibilities once that body is created after election of four commission members at the end of May.

MARINE FACILITIES

Wharfhead work on schedule



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Salish Sea Industrial Services equipment looms large in Ganges Harbour by the Coast Guard dock as replacement of piles and other infrastructure began on Jan. 16.

Harbour manager says boat crane likely offline until March

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Access to the Coast Guard dock in Ganges will remain open during construction, according to officials, but boaters shouldn't plan on using the wharfhead crane for at least another month.

New harbour manager Stephen Hindley, who took over after Jim Heath's retirement in December, said the work to repair and replace piles and other dock components at the wharfhead is going well so far, and was on schedule for completion by the end of March. Hindley said Salt Spring's Harbour Authority (HASSI) was generally expecting very little disruption as crews prioritized open access to the dock itself.

"There will be a period of time where they're working on that right-hand side and they'll have to control the traffic going through," said Hindley.

That part of the work would not be happening for at least another three weeks, he said. Dur-

ing that time, Harbour Air passengers and others needing access would likely have to be escorted to the dock.

"The biggest disruption right now is that the crane on the wharfhead is inaccessible," said Hindley. "So if you needed to pull your boat out by crane, that won't be available until the end of February at the earliest."

The project is being funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada's Small Craft Harbours (SCH) program, a nationwide effort to maintain safe and accessible facilities for commercial fish harvesters and other harbour users. The federal government considers small craft harbours crucial to the fishing industry, and, by extension, the Canadian culture and economy. The work itself is being done under contract by crews and equipment from Salish Sea Industrial Services.

HASSI doesn't anticipate excessive noise during construction, said Hindley; the vibratory piling equipment should minimize sound in the neighbourhood, and the giant crawl crane on the barge will be repositioned infrequently.

"We're appreciative of [SCH]," said Hindley. "It's certainly a large project, and it will extend the life of that wharfhead quite substantially."



Islands Trust

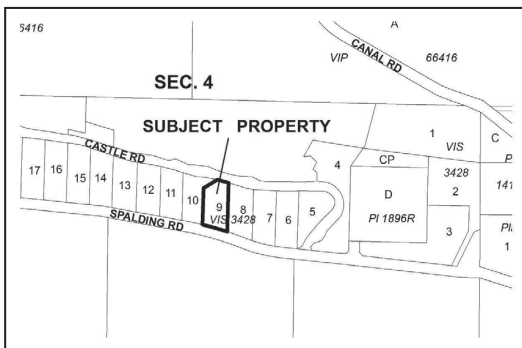
NOTICE SP-TUP-2022.1 SOUTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the South 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 Strata Lot 9, Section 4, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Strata Plan VIS3428 (PID: 023-066-334). This property is located at **9890 Castle Road**.

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 17, 2023** and continuing up to and including **January 27, 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 South Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Kim Stockdill, Island Planner at (250) 405-5157. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., **January 27, 2023**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **11:00 a.m., February 3, 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

CRD

Park-area residents blinded by new light glare

Upgraded streetlight bulb deemed overkill

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A streetlight bulb replacement program has let more light shine on Salt Spring roads in recent weeks, but the results have been overwhelming for residents of Vesuvius Bay Road who live across from the entrance to Portlock Park.

Jill and William Schulze have had their sleep disturbed as their home now fills with bright light from a 114-watt streetlight bulb installed earlier this month.

"The light impacts our entire property and has made it impossible to sleep in the bedrooms facing the road, even with blackout blinds. It also has an impact on our farm animals," said Jill Schulze.

BC Hydro did the bulb replacements, but under the direction of the Capital Regional District (CRD), which is in charge of streetlight services. Two different wattages are available, said Schulze, with the 114-watt level appropriate "for areas like the Pat Bay Highway." The other main option is a

75-watt bulb, which has been used in most other places, including just down the road from the Schulze home at the four-way stop intersection at Central.

Schulze said, half-jokingly, that a person could read a book without their glasses under the light outside her home at midnight.

She feels the CRD didn't do their research in making the choice of bulbs, with the brighter ones not appropriate for areas close to homes. She said they have been bounced back and forth between the CRD and BC Hydro since first making the complaint.

"We have asked for the streetlight to be removed but the CRD refuses, so we have requested a 39-watt 3,000-Kelvin bulb be used in front of what is a day-use park with no accident history."

Karla Campbell, the senior manager for the CRD on Salt Spring, told the Driftwood the residents' concern about the light across from Portlock Park is being reviewed.

Streetlight bulb replacement is occurring all over the province, with new LED bulbs, which are more energy-efficient, being used. As well, federal regulations were enacted in 2008 requiring all light ballasts containing poly-chlorinated biphenyls greater than 50



PHOTOS COURTESY JILL SCHULZE

At left, glow from a 114-watt streetlight bulb illuminates Vesuvius Bay Road and area residents' yards and homes. Above is material used by the Schulze family to try to reduce the light entering their home.

ppm to be removed by the end of 2025, the BC Hydro website explains.

In addition to the 75- and 114-watt differences, 4,000- and 3,000-Kelvin options are used, with the latter producing a softer light.

Schulze said the issue has been raised by a number of communities on Vancouver Island, where the brighter lights were

installed in residential or rural areas.

Campbell said the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission passed a motion in May of 2021 "to ensure the street lighting be replaced with the lowest, most yellow — softest — wattage possible to keep with the rural character of the island and to add night shields where possible."

TRANSPORTATION

Isabella Point Road safe, but downslope needs work

'Teams of people' addressing road issues

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Geotechnical engineers and provincial ministry officials say a stretch of roadway on Isabella Point Road is in no immediate danger of collapsing, but additional work is necessary to shore up downslope

sections that residents have noted washing out during recent heavy rains.

Emcon's South Island Division operations manager Andrew Gaetz said Friday access for equipment adjacent to the downslope was a "tricky spot," but that crews were confident they could get in to do the work as soon as engineers on site finalized plans. At this time, according to Gaetz, the geotechnical engineer has advised that there's no imminent risk of failure, adding that despite signs of

erosion, the engineers who visited the site last week stood behind their work.

"All the construction that's been done so far is holding up really well," said Gaetz. "I can assure everybody that there are teams of people working on this; now they're looking at the attack plan for the downslope."

Construction on the roadway has been under some constraints, according to officials, due to private property access issues and environmental concerns that were flagged

early in the project by Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Spawning habitat for several species at the foreshore are mapped as critical, as they are a food source for endangered species — including Southern Resident Killer Whales, according to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI).

As a mudslide and at least one large tree has come down to the foreshore, that downslope has caused alarm for some residents and a flurry of conjecture on social media. But MoTI project manager

Michael Bateman confirmed that the assessment from "appropriately qualified professionals" sent there by the ministry was that the road was stable and safe.

"The ministry does not anticipate that downslope work will require closing the road at times," read a press statement sent late Monday. "Drivers can expect travel times through the site to remain the same. In the event closures or increased travel delay times are required, advanced notice will be provided to the public."

BC FERRIES

Ferries head named

Nicolas Jimenez makes jump

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

B.C. Ferries has hired its next president and chief executive officer.

Nicolas Jimenez, who is currently the president and CEO of the Insurance Corporation of B.C., was selected following an international executive search.

"Nicolas Jimenez is the right leader at the right time for BC Ferries," said BC Ferries board chair Joy MacPhail. "He is a change leader with a proven track record of success. He is customer focused with a deep commitment to financial accountability and rate affordability."

BC Ferries said in a Jan. 17 press release that "Jimenez is a strong, strategic leader who led structural reforms at ICBC in recent years, returning the auto insurer to financial health and delivering more affordable insurance to customers."

He has a Master's Degree in Public Administration from both Harvard University and the University of Victoria as well as a Bachelor's Degree in Political Science from Wilfrid Laurier University. Over the last 20 years, Jimenez has held a number of senior roles at ICBC, taking over as president and CEO five years ago.

Jimenez takes the BC Ferries role effective March 6.

He will replace Jill Sharland, who was named interim CEO in July 2022 after Mark Collins was let go from the position he held since 2017.

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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:**

- stand out when it comes on the market on a day when there are few other new listings - buyers are waiting;
- 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!"

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C.) - GOLD AWARD 2021 (VREB)

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Marketing

Don't pull back on advertising

When business revenue streams are choked by circumstances like the coronavirus pandemic, it can be tempting to sacrifice the marketing budget. Cutting back on advertising is not the best strategy, however.

Businesses that maintain visibility through tough times will thrive when compared to competitors that remain silent and give up their share of voice. Revenue growth for businesses that advertise has been found to occur in the short term, definitely, but even more so in the long term.

Nancy Johnson
PUBLISHER

dgiMEDIA

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OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Bright lights

Complaints about streetlights being too bright have probably never been uttered on Salt Spring Island. Most people comment about how dark our streets appear at night.

But in the case of at least one spot where the bulb was recently replaced on a BC Hydro pole light standard as part of an island- and province-wide program, complaints have been aired and are justified.

Jill Schulze, who lives on Vesuvius Bay Road across from the entrance to Portlock Park, contacted the Driftwood to share the story of how she and her husband have had their sleep disturbed, and their chickens too, since the old bulb was replaced with a new LED 114-watt unit. The options are a 75-watt bulb, which is the dominant type replaced on the island, or a 39-watt bulb.

THE ISSUE:
Vesuvius Bay Road streetlight

WE SAY:
Change to less bright bulb needed

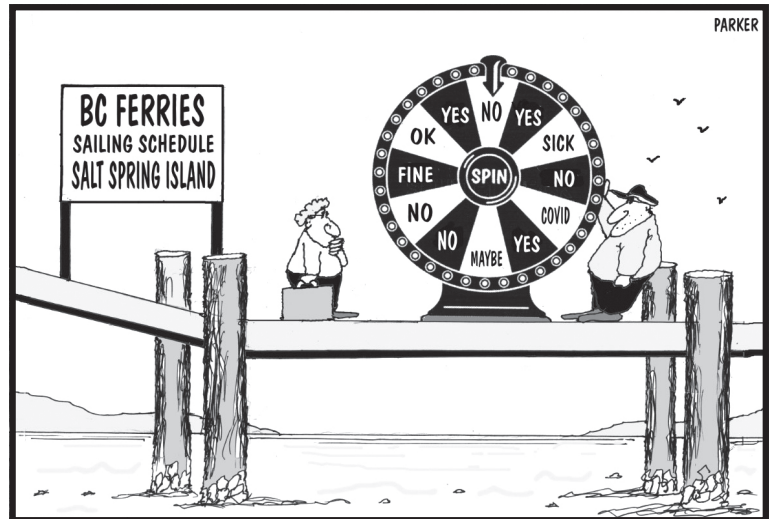
An evening drive by the area confirms that the 114-watt bulb installed is much brighter than needed. And if residents are truly affected by the change, which is beyond a doubt in this case, then it should be replaced by one of the less-bright options.

If the CRD's rationale for the higher-watt option is that it lights the vehicle entrance to Portlock Park, then that doesn't make sense since the park is not set up for night use. If the CRD hopes to discourage vandalism to its Portlock Park building or other facilities with a brighter area light, that does not justify disturbing area residents and their farm animals with an unnecessarily glaring orb.

As well, it's easy enough to see vehicles with their headlights on at night. It's pedestrians who need to be served by brighter lights in areas where they regularly walk and should be seen by vehicle drivers. The CRD has been in charge of street lighting on Salt Spring since 2018, with property owners paying approximately \$25,000 per year in taxes for the service. (It fell under the purview and taxation authority of the fire department before then.)

BC Hydro charges a fixed amount of money for each unit it services on their poles. It takes between 20 and 30 minutes to make a change. Cost should not be a consideration in this case.

The CRD and BC Hydro need to do the right thing and give relief to Jill Schulze and her neighbours as soon as possible.



Deep sea mining a concern

BY LUCY DIWA AND
DAVID WILLIAMS
PACIFIC PEOPLES' PARTNERSHIP

The Victoria-based Pacific Peoples' Partnership is calling for a moratorium on deep sea mining (DSM) exploration in the Pacific Ocean. We ask that no new contracts for these activities be issued.

In support of Pacific nations Vanuatu, Samoa, Palau and Micronesia, and in partnership with Pacific Blue Line Collective and Mining Watch Canada, the Pacific Peoples' Partnership urges the Canadian government to join other member nations of the United Nations such as Germany, France, Spain, New Zealand, Costa Rica, Chile and Panama in support of a moratorium on mining and exploration in the Pacific Ocean.

Not enough is known about the impacts of DSM and exploration on the ecological health of oceans or on the cultural and economic lives of Pacific Islanders. We ask that a moratorium stay in place until it is clear that these activities can be carried out in ways that do not harm deep sea ecosystems, and in accord with the precautionary principle.

Past harms to Indigenous peoples who rely upon the ocean must not be repeated and thus we call for full free, prior and informed consent from both Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples wherever this activity is contemplated. Mechanisms must be put in place to achieve this by the International Seabed Authority.

VIEWPOINT

So far the International Seabed Authority has refused to impose a moratorium.

Canadian mining companies like The Metals Company have already contracted with South Pacific countries like Cook Islands, Tonga, Papua New Guinea and Nauru to begin exploration in their territorial waters. It is becoming an unregulated "gold rush" as companies take advantage of cash-strapped countries and the world's effort to wean itself from fossil fuels. The search is on for minerals like cobalt, nickel, manganese, selenium and others, believed to lie in large quantities over vast stretches of the ocean floor.

There are far better and safer options set within a circular economic model in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

Human activity in international waters is regulated by the International Seabed Authority, made up of 167 member states and the European Union, and mandated by the UN Convention of the Law of the Sea. So far the International Seabed Authority has refused to impose a moratorium. This body must, without bias or undue influence from industry, exercise its authority responsibly and impose a moratorium. Canada, home to 75 per cent of the world's mining companies, must add its voice to those calling for a moratorium on deep sea mining and exploration.

For more information please contact Lucy Diwa at lucy@pacificpeoplespartnership.org or David Williams at 250-381-4131.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should a completed Ganges Harbour Walk be a community priority? ☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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

30 107
YES NO

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

Saanich Inlet a treasure that should be protected

Regarding the Bamberton quarry expansion proposal, "Close industrial loopholes," Jan. 4 Driftwood Viewpoint by Green MLAs Sonia Furstenau and Adam Olsen, I lived in the southern part of the Cowichan Valley for 30 years.

During that time, I spent five years fighting the proposed housing project promoted by David Butterfield and Guy Dauncey. Along with many others, we spent hours and hours informing locals and government about why we opposed the plan. The proposal was for a self-sustaining village of 12,000 people who would work from home

and spend their free time drinking cappuccinos on their porches.

The Saanich Inlet is one of four in the world unique for its depth and the fact that it is rarely flushed due to a high ridge at the mouth of the inlet. It was and still is home to numerous rare aquatic species that would have been endangered by the runoff from the building process and the existence of a large "village." Most likely, the intention was to up-zone the hill and then sell it off at a great profit.

The environmental situation hasn't changed. This is a B.C. treasure and really, a Canadian treasure. It is long past time for the province to protect the inlet from further industrial development and protect this rare gem as a laboratory to research the rare species that live there.

DOROTHY FIELD,
VICTORIA

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

Roses

• A bouquet of special roses to the kind and thoughtful customer who made the volunteers feel very appreciated when buckets of roses were presented to the Lady Minto Thrift Shop for Christmas. The roses were wrapped individually in cellophane in bunches of threes for our hardworking ladies. Thank you.

• Oodles and oodles of forget-me-nots to Isabella Point and Roland Road neighbours and friends who noticed our Lotus Jade Blossom kitty, feeding her and letting us know they saw her. She is now home, after seven and a half months away (this time), a bit thinner but in good health! And it was just in time to be our Chanukah and Solstice miracle! In unending gratitude,
Wendy and Corrie

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"There's too much history and not enough action."

DARRYL MARTIN, CHAMBER OF COMMERCE PAST PRESIDENT AND GANGES HARBOUR WALK STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBER, ON THE GANGES HARBOUR WALK PROJECT.

Let's hire the pigeons to take on evil drug cartels and 'Big Courier'

You might have missed it, but a twisted piece of weirdness went down just before New Year's Eve a few weeks ago.

Apparently, prison guards at the Pacific Institution, a minimum, medium and maximum federal penitentiary in Abbotsford, discovered a pigeon strutting its stuff near the inmate unit yard within the prison walls. Now, when I say pigeon, I don't mean a "stool pigeon," a term used to describe a police informer placed inside prison bars whose job is to snitch on bona fide inmates. No, I'm talking about a real pigeon with two legs, a pair of wings, and a feathered tail.

What's so weird about seeing a bird hopping about in a prison yard, you ask? Nothing really, except this pigeon happened to have a homemade backpack strapped to its body, inside of which were stuffed 30 grams of crystal meth. It's difficult to estimate the value of the pigeon's contraband, but if it were sold by the dose on the streets of Vancouver, it could be worth as much as \$3,000. That's not exactly chicken scratch for these narco pigeons turned drug "mules" who have flown the so-called coop.

As it turned out, after a fair bit of chasing around [imagine the Three Stooges], the guards were finally able to corner the pigeon and relieve it of its payload. And for you bird fanciers out there in the reading public, you'll be happy to know that the offending pigeon, after receiving

a severe lecture and having its backpack confiscated, was let fly without any charges being laid.

What this criminal incident demonstrates is just the thin edge of the wedge of how modern high tech is being replaced by an old "technology" that was supposed to have been made obsolete. In the case of smuggling drugs across borders and into prisons, the use of drones had been the method of choice for the last decade or so. However, noise detection methods and newer remote interception strategies employed by law enforcement bodies have severely cut into the business of smuggling by drone.

Enter the pigeon. Scientifically classified as *Columba livia*, our little pigeon has long been a party to nefarious activities. For centuries now, during times of armed conflict, they were often sent back and forth between battle lines and headquarters as a means of communicating messages and secret codes to participating sides. Their homing instinct, that innate genetic coding which allows the bird, using a combination of smell and magnetoreception (navigation using the Earth's magnetic fields) to fly up to 1800 kilometres in order to find its original nesting spot.

It's no small wonder, therefore, that our little cooing dove has been pigeonholed by criminal minds to do the dirty work of transporting narcotics and other illicit substances beyond the watchful eyes of controlling



**Shilo
Zylbergold**
**NOBODY
ASKED ME
BUT**

agencies. Here's the math. Carrier pigeons can carry up to 10 per cent of their body weight when in flight. A 500-gm bird could therefore carry a payload of 50 grams. That could translate to \$5,000 worth of cocaine for a single trip!

The recent pigeon hijinks in Abbotsford is a local incident, but this type of smuggling is trending internationally. The first recorded instance of this illegal activity involving homing pigeons flying drugs into penal institutes occurred at several prisons in Russia in 2006. Since then, similar shenanigans have been pulled off in countries as diverse as Costa Rica and Kuwait.

It's not difficult to understand why the drug lords prefer to use pigeons instead of motorized drones. We have already made mention of the reduction in noise output due to the pigeon's lack of propeller and motor. Add to this the pleasant aesthetics imparted by the soft cooing sounds accompanied by the gentle flutter of feathered wings, plus the much cheaper start-up and maintenance costs, and you can understand why nine out of 10 narcotic smugglers choose the

carrier pigeon for their deliveries.

Mind you, there is that little problem of the mess these pigeons leave behind as they tend to their business. In-transit rest stops, which most commonly take the form of civic statues and national monuments, show definite signs that flocks of carrier pigeons have come to earth for a well-deserved flight intermission as well as a lightening of the proverbial load. According to our London cousin they are known as "flying rats" due to their numbers and odiferous debris.

What puzzles me is what do these pigeons get out of this smuggling business? Certainly, they should be able to cut a better deal for all their hard work and dangerous risk-taking than a handful of birdseed and a thank you very much. Yes, it's high time these birds of a feather organized themselves.

Why not? If you want to take on the drug cartels and Big Courier like FedEx, UPS and Amazon, you have to have strength in numbers. No more fly-by-night operations and triple shift work, to say nothing about working with the criminal element. Say goodbye to dangerous working conditions and no holiday pay. From now on, it will be "Power to the Pigeons" with a strong pension plan, weekly study sessions and a policy of work to rule. If that isn't enough, there's always the threat of mounting a national aerial march on Parliament Hill where tens of

thousands of *Columba livia* members and their affiliates fly in formation, à la Snowbirds or Blue Angels aerobatic teams, to Ottawa to leave their mark on the capital. Alternately, for the right price, they could switch sides, provide crown evidence to CSIS and actually become "stoolies," the slur that for so long has smudged their reputations.

And why stop at just pigeons? Once UPS (United Pigeon Service) is up and flying, I'm sure that eagles and seagulls will want to get in on the action. Heavy bulk freight operations could be funnelled to the Canada geese wing of the movement.

Let's not leave out chickens. These free rangers could be responsible for cornering the slower overland routes. What did you think were in those egg cartons anyway? At last we'll know that the answer to the age old question of "why did the chicken cross the road?" is "to get to the other side of the prison fence."

Nobody asked me, but drug smuggling could take on a whole new look if our feathered friends flock together and exercise their creative power. Gone will be the days when a single pigeon can be chased around a prison yard, frisked, and then strip-searched. It will be the pigeon who calls the shots.

And when it has done its delivery, it will leave through the front gates on its own little feet and in its own sweet time. And it will take along its reusable backpack too.



DRIFTWOOD STAFF PHOTO

FOUND ON THE BEACH:

Islander Marie Beaudoin found the cork circle pictured at left on the Ruby Alton Reserve beach on Isabella Point Road earlier this winter. She wonders if it was important to someone, and if so, it is now at the Driftwood office for that person to pick up, if desired.

Director summarizes CRD and housing initiatives



Gary Holman
CRD DIRECTOR'S
REPORT

The following is a summary of community projects and initiatives underway this next term — through 2026 — in which the Capital Regional District (CRD) has or can play a role.

Affordable Housing

Construction and planning of new affordable housing will continue on a number of properties already designated or zoned for that purpose. BC Housing's supported housing on Drake Road and the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's Seabreeze Inn for health workers will be completed. CRD will prove additional water supply on, and has leased to BC Housing, the entire Drake Road site, which has significant additional development potential. CRD is also working with the Dragonfly proponents on Drake Road to establish a water utility, allowing this owned, worker housing project to proceed.

The Lookout Society has purchased the Land Bank's Dean Road property and is now renovating it for additional tenants. Lookout is also exploring other possible opportunities on Salt Spring Island. Another NGO has an accepted offer on the Land Bank's Rainbow Road property and is undertaking the due diligence necessary to hopefully complete the purchase and begin re-development of the site. GISRA is re-designing its Meadow Lane project, which can begin once the temporary accommodation for Seabreeze tenants at this site is no longer needed.

The six projects and properties outlined above could provide more than 200 affordable and supported housing units, many of whose tenants and owners will also be working in our community. Most of these projects will prioritize Salt Spring residents, which means they will also free up existing rental housing. Provincial and senior governments are continuing their substantial investments in affordable housing from which Salt Spring will continue to benefit. The CRD will also renew its regional housing program, which together with BC Housing and CMHC committed \$120 million to affordable housing last term. I'll continue supporting gas tax funding for housing-related infrastructure (particularly potable water alternatives in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's moratorium area), continue advocating for inclusion of Salt Spring Island in the Speculation and Vacancy Tax program, and work with our local homeless shelter and housing council to help secure permanent funding.

Community Infrastructure

There are a number of important CRD-supported infrastructure projects that will be completed this term, most importantly a new fire hall and a new emergency room at Lady Minto Hospital. The middle school — now called the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) — leased by CRD from the school district, is now providing affordable rental space for a number of community organizations, including our local emergency program. If longer-term tenure can be secured, the feasibility of relocating CRD administration and building inspection offices (now paying commercial rents) to SIMS can be examined.

The feasibility of re-purposing the Ganges fire hall property will also be undertaken this term.

Upgrading of the geothermal system by CRD at our public library will allow its use as a summer cooling centre. I'll continue supporting gas

tax funding to improve the climate resiliency of our community halls and refurbishing of our arts facilities.

The Malivue sewage treatment plant will be rebuilt to ensure regulatory compliance, and continued improvements and an assessment of treated water reclamation at the Ganges plant undertaken. Lower-cost on-island disposal of our liquid waste will be evaluated and implemented.

The first large-scale composting facility on Salt Spring will be completed, initially selling soil amendment to Burgoyne Community Farm operators, and ultimately marketing them more broadly. The fire district and CRD are collaborating on FireSmart initiatives, including chipping as an alternative to burning, which can also provide feedstock for the composting facility.

The Root facility on Beddis Road will be fully operational, increasing Salt Spring's local food storage and production capacity. The CRD stormwater service will continue to fund water storage tank rebates administered by the Transition Salt Spring Society.

The repaving of Ganges hill to Cranberry Road, with widened shoulders for cyclists and pedestrians, will be completed, serving as a model for completing the Salish Sea Trail route. The Ganges active transportation plan and an inter-agency working group for the Fulford terminal will facilitate pedestrian and cycling safety improvements in these villages.

The Merchant Mews pathway, designed by Island Pathways, will be built. Detailed designs for completion of sidewalks on Rainbow Road and fronting Ganges Harbour, as well as detailed designs for the Ganges Harbourwalk will also be completed. We will also be expanding our transit system and EV charging infrastructure if provincial funding can be secured to match the already available local contribution.

The recent shared daycare/recreation additions at the pool will be fully utilized. Other recreation-related projects will include continued swimming pool repairs, upgrading of Centennial Park, development of the management plan for the Salt Spring Community Park on Mount Maxwell, and detailed designs for bus storage/charging and a new PARC maintenance facility on Kanaka Road.

Note that completion of detailed designs and costing aren't "just more studies." They are required for infrastructure grant applications and other fundraising. Salt Spring has been very successful in accessing infrastructure funding, securing over \$30 million in regional, provincial and federal grant funding commitments in recent years for a number of housing, infrastructure and other initiatives, most of which are summarized above.

Governance / Service Delivery

A sea change in CRD governance will be implemented this term with the election of a local community commission (LCC) on May 27. An elected LCC, which includes the CRD director, will broaden CRD representation and take over the services now overseen by Salt Spring's four, island-wide appointed commissions, thus consolidating and improving accountability for CRD service delivery. I hope that voters elect commissioners who are dedicated to collaborative decision-making and getting things done for our community. The LCC will conduct their regularly scheduled, public meetings in the SIMS building.

Another key service delivery issue to be addressed this term will be to secure consistent funding for some of our amazing NGOs to revitalize Ganges, promote local food production, take action on climate, and facilitate affordable housing options. Inter-agency working groups will also be convened to explore community safety, better management of Ganges Harbour, and planning of seniors care facilities on the Lady Minto/Greenwoods site.

As always, contact me at directorssi@crd.bc.ca with any questions or comments.



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PHOTOS BY ROBB MAGLEY

GRAND FINALE: From left, Sóley Lapp, Christina Kennedy, Maya Perez and Isabelle Muir sing – backed up by cellist Cedar Lopatecki, drummer Alessandro Perez and Salome Cullen on lap steel guitar – during GISS Music's Lost Together student performance, held Jan. 18-19 at ArtSpring.



Violinist William Acken and guitarist/vocalist Salome Cullen, above, perform Cullen's original piece, Pretty Little Flowers; Isabelle Muir, left, sings her original song called Fragile. The showcase event featured performers from the high school's music composition class, Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts (GISPA) music students, the GISS concert and jazz bands, and the GISS choir.

FILM

Oscar-nominated film up next in series

The Blue Caftan at ArtSpring on Feb. 1

BY STEVE MARTINDALE
SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

In the bustling Moroccan medina of Salé, a master tailor and his devoted wife find themselves in a love triangle with a handsome apprentice in Maryam Touzani's award-winning drama *The Blue Caftan*, screening at ArtSpring on Wednesday, Feb. 1 as part of the Salt Spring Film Festival's ongoing Best of the Fests series.

To keep up with their demanding customers, Halim and Mina hire a young man to help them in their traditional caftan store. Youssef eagerly dedicates himself to learning the art of embroidery and tailoring from his perfectionist employer, until Mina begins to suspect that their relationship involves sharing more than traditional craftsmanship. What lies ahead for this adoring trio will break all three of them open in unexpected and heart-wrenching ways.

For her empathetic portrayal of the high-spirited Mina, a woman passionately in love with a man whose physical attractions primarily lie elsewhere, Lubna Azabal, a Belgian actress of Moroccan descent, was named Best Actress at the 2022 Valladolid International Film Festival in Spain.

A Moroccan, French, Belgian and Danish co-production, *The Blue Caftan* is the quintessentially memorable art-house film, featuring a subtitled foreign language spoken in an exotic locale, gorgeous cinematography, highly relatable characters with familiar wants and needs confronting cultural norms and orthodoxies which may initially seem foreign to us, but which differ from our own only by matters of degree.

Written and directed by the celebrated Moroccan filmmaker Maryam Touzani, *The Blue Caftan* greatly benefits from also having a woman behind the camera, the award-winning Belgian cinematographer Virginie Surdej. She imbues otherwise mundane domestic scenes



THE BLUE CAFTAN FILM STILL

A scene from *The Blue Caftan*, with, from left, Youssef (played by Ayoub Missioui), Mina (Lubna Azabal) and Halim (Saleh Bakri). The award-winning film screens at ArtSpring next Wednesday, Feb. 1 as part of the Salt Spring Film Festival Society's Best of the Fests series.

with tender intimacy and radiant sensuality.

Whether focusing on close-ups of a man's veined hands stitching elaborate gold embroidery on luxurious blue satin, or the everyday eroticism of a woman peeling a tangerine, the painterly eye of Surdej's camera is reminiscent of the work of the late Canadian artist Mary Pratt, whose hyperrealist techniques were profiled in Kenneth Harvey's documentary *It Was All So Wonderful*, which screened at the Salt Spring Film Festival in 2020.

This would likely have been a very different film had it been written, directed and filmed by men. Despite its undeniably homo-erotic undertones and very brief nudity, *The Blue Caftan*'s focus is firmly on the various forms of love and adoration — both sensual and platonic — that exist between respectful adults, including the in-sickness-and-in-health devotion within a loving marriage that transcends and ultimately outlasts physical desire.

Co-presented by DAISSI, this richly erotic and deeply moving festival favourite won the prestigious FIPRESCI Prize at Cannes, the Jury Prize at the Marrakech International Film Festival

and the Audience Award at the Athens International Film Festival, where it also won the Greek Film Critics Association Award for Best Film. It has also been shortlisted for the Oscars in a select group of 15 films chosen from among those submitted for consideration by 93 countries in contention for the coveted Academy Award for Best International Feature Film.

The "Best of the Fests" series also includes Phyllis Nagy's *Call Jane* on Jan. 25 and continues on Feb. 8 when Vancouver filmmaker Kat Jayme will 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 one-night-only screenings at ArtSpring. Tickets are \$13 each (and a student rate of \$8 is available for *The Grizzlie Truth*) and are 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).



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CONCERT PREVIEW

Jasmine Jazz presents Chinese-jazz fusion

Next week's ArtSpring Presents concert on tap

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

On Friday, Feb. 3, Jasmine Jazz takes to the ArtSpring stage, offering audiences the unexpected and exquisite interplay between traditional Chinese and jazz instruments.

Featuring three musicians from the Vancouver Chinese Music Ensemble — Jirong Huang (playing erhu), Sarah Yusha Tan (guzheng) and Zhongxi Wu (suona) — with some of Vancouver's finest jazz artists, including Bill Coon on guitar and James Danderfer on clarinet/sax, the group is led by Juno-nominated bassist and composer Jodi Proznick.

"Jasmine Jazz is about musical conversations," explained Proznick. "An east meets west experience full of beauty, harmony, mutual respect and interplay."

The repertoire mixes songs pulled from jazz repertoire, traditional Chinese folk music and original compositions. Chinese classics like Jasmine Flower and Shanghai Night, as well as the con-

temporary Taiwanese song Moon Represents My Heart, are interwoven with a selection of jazz standards such as McCoy Tyner's Contemplation, Billy Strayhorn's A Flower is a Lovely Thing, Bill Evans' Turn Out the Stars and Freddie Hubbard's Little Sunflower.

Formed in 1989, the Vancouver Chinese Music Ensemble is the first professional Chinese music organization established in Canada. The ensemble consists of accomplished instrumentalists who combine technical mastery with a passionate approach to music. Based in Vancouver, they continue to inspire contemporary compositions and interdisciplinary projects for Chinese instruments in Canada.

Proznick has been a featured performer with the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra, the Vancouver Chamber Choir, the Elektra Women's Choir and the Vancouver Bach Family of Choirs. She accompanied Michael Bublé in the closing ceremonies and soundtrack of the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Winter Games. She is currently head of the jazz department at the Vancouver Symphony Orchestra School of Music.



PHOTO BY MICHELE MATEUS

Members of the Jasmine Jazz ensemble who will perform at ArtSpring on Friday, Feb. 3.

This concert also celebrates the release of Jasmine Jazz, the first album by this excellent sextet, recorded in July 2021 at the Warehouse Studio in Vancouver.

Thank you to Carol and Ted Brown and Kate Merry for sponsoring this performance. Tickets are now on sale at ArtSpring.

what's on this week

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.

Family Literacy Week Math Pathway. Salt Spring Literacy and the Salt Spring Island Public Library have partnered to offer the activity-filled Math Pathway daily at the library through Jan. 28.

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. 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. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Family Literacy Week Math Pathway. See Wednesday listing.

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.

Green Drinks. Stimulating conversation at the Legion main lounge on what's new in renewable energy, electric school buses, electric aircraft, lawnmowers. 5:30 to 7 p.m., beginning with a short 10-minute video at 5:30 on the Legion's big screen.

ONLINE

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Special Business Meeting. Link at islandtrust.bc.ca on the Salt Spring page. 1 to 3 p.m., with an in-camera portion scheduled at 1 p.m.

Fri. Jan. 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Rough & Tumble. 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

Family Literacy Week Math Pathway. See Wednesday listing.

ASK Salt Spring. Island cycling enthusiasts are guests in the SIMS lobby 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.

Creative Wellness - Movement and Expression. With Shauna Devlin of Dance Your Ability. For seniors/elders and a younger guest. Free. Lunch provided. All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church. Noon to 3 p.m. RSVP to jburgess@ssics.ca or 778-882-2857.

StoryWalk. This week's story leading from the library through Mouat Park is The Invisible Boy by Tracy Ludwig.

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

Sat. Jan. 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Doug and His Buds. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw from 5 to 7 p.m.)

ACTIVITIES

Family Literacy Week Math Pathway. See Wednesday listing.

Salt Spring Forum: Has Liberalism Killed Democracy? Guest is Luke Savage, a young Canadian author whose recent book is The Dead Center. In the ArtSpring gallery. 3 p.m.

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

Sun. Jan. 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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



ACTIVITIES

Hike with the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club. Meet at ArtSpring at 12:30 p.m. to join in a hike. Non-members may attend up to 3 hikes per year. For more details, see saltspringtnc.ca.

Mon. Jan. 30

ACTIVITIES

Medical Assistance in Dying. A presentation by the Palliative and End of Life Team from Island Health. Salt Spring Public Library. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. All members of the community welcome

Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission. Regular monthly meeting at the SIMS board room. 1:15 p.m.

Tue. Jan. 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Hike, Walk or Ramble with Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club. Non-members may attend up to 3 hikes per year. For destinations see saltspringtnc.ca.



Wed. Feb 1

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Film Festival Presents The Blue Caftan. Award-winning film by Moroccan filmmaker Maryam Touzani shows at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Teen Lounge. See last Wednesday's listing.

Swing Dancing. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **The Fablemans** runs Friday, Jan. 27 to Tuesday, Jan. 31 at 7 p.m., plus Sunday matinees at 3 p.m. Rated PG, 2 hours and 30 mins.

See thefritz.ca for more info.

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.

• **Sheri Standen** has 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.

Family Literacy Week

Math Pathway

Fun family activities at the Salt Spring Public Library, daily through Jan. 28

Co-sponsored by the library and Salt Spring Literacy

THRIFTY FOODS

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ISLAND LIFE

FISHING

Fulford Harbour crabbers coming up empty

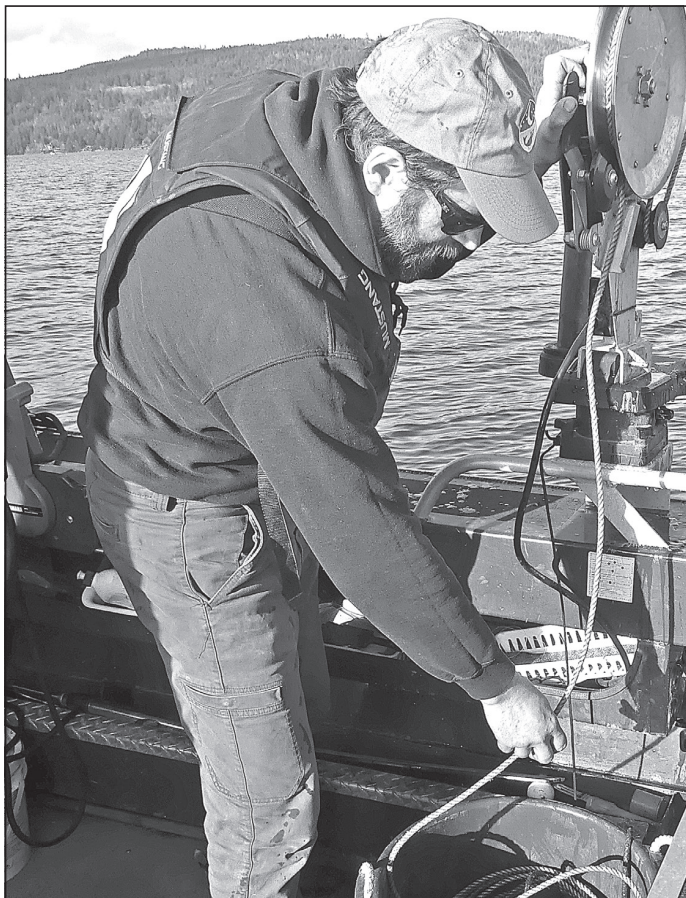


PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Robert Reinhardt gets set to pull up a crab pot he set in Fulford Harbour last week. He and others have seen evidence of increased poaching since last summer.

Evidence of poaching disappoints locals

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Squinting into the sun, Robert Reinhardt thinks he's spotted another boat pulling alongside one of his crab pots.

"Wouldn't that be something," he says excitedly, and noses his boat out of Fulford Harbour, burying the throttle.

Reinhardt is captain and crew, owner and operator of "Fishes Wish" boat charters, and today heads out under a midwinter blue sky. He's in the usually upbeat business of creating great memories for vacationers — mostly in the summer, but increasingly over the cooler, wetter months. When weather and regulations permit, his days are often filled shuttling hopeful tourists between his favourite fishing spots, hooking salmon — or not hooking them, as the case may be.

Today, the business is a little more sombre; he's on the lookout for crab poachers.

When it comes to crab fishing, the west side of Fulford Harbour might be the worst-kept secret in the Southern

Gulf Islands. The sea floor here boasts vast underwater forests of eelgrass, at just the right depth for Dungeness crab to thrive; indeed, the popularity of the harbour among commercial crabbers led to years of overharvesting, and at one point pushed Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) to halt crab fishing altogether.

As the Dungeness population recovered, restrictions were relaxed to allow non-commercial harvests, delighting local crab lovers. Opinions vary as to whether Fulford's "Dungees" are sweeter than those hauled up elsewhere, but Salt Spring Islanders fully embraced the return of recreational allowances. There are dozens of floats speckling the water today, and while the brimming-full overnight pots of the past haven't fully returned, a good "soak" for several days will still bring in the daily limit.

But evidence of poaching has put local crabbers on edge; weekend pot-pullers are worried their laid-back practices are being exploited. Traps that aren't checked as often are coming up curiously empty, sometimes with access panels unlatched.

"It was very consistent until this past summer," said Reinhardt. "That's when we started finding weird things, like only one trap would have crabs and another

two wouldn't have anything."

The empty traps would have suspiciously clean lines connecting them to their respective buoys; generally, even after just a few days, a layer of biological growth builds up on the rope.

"If I check a line I haven't checked for a while, and it's got no growth on it," said Reinhardt, "I know — especially if it's summer — I know someone's pulled it."

Reinhardt's wire traps, like many out in Fulford, are heavier than one might expect; no small percentage of recreational crabbers on Salt Spring are former commercial fishers, and even though they're now harvesting at recreational limits — four crab per day, two traps per fisher — they're partial to heavy-duty equipment designed to last multiple seasons.

"It's not someone going out in a row-boat from Fulford," said Reinhardt. "They're going to need a mechanized way to pull these up."

Crab poaching's effect on the tourist economy here is surprisingly direct, an aftershock of restrictions put in place to protect a different sort of visitor. In recent years, large stretches of the Salish Sea have been closed to salmon fishing when the first Southern Resident Killer Whales are spotted each summer — off the west and south coasts of North Pender, South Pender and Saturna islands, as well as between Prevost and Mayne. While the orca are fishing, people have to try their luck elsewhere, usually until the end of October.

Retired fishing guide Sean Hart said for small-scale charter fishing operations on Salt Spring, a loop back to a full crab pot made for a good end to the day for a client who might otherwise be going home empty-handed.

"We have limited fishing here, with the restrictions in the summer months," said Hart. "Sometimes one of the only things these guests are going to take home with them is a couple of crab for dinner. It's tough to swallow when they all come up dry."

Hart still drops his own crab traps in Fulford Harbour, and said the resource there is a special one.

"I've crabbled all over the Gulf Islands, and it's just been beaten up so hard commercially, it's really hard to find them anywhere," said Hart. "Fulford is one of the only spots we have locally that isn't open to commercial fishing. Then just all of a sudden, this last year we've been noticing our traps have been pulled, gates left open, bait cups missing — and obviously, no crabs."

Today, the suspicious-looking boat Reinhardt sighted by his traps is just passing through. Relieved, he re-tells a story of the old days, when "poaching" sometimes just meant an anonymous neighbour had emptied out your pot, but left behind a six-pack of beer.

"At least they left something in the trap," chuckles Reinhardt. "But now I'm getting concerned about the numbers, because if they're working more frequently than we are, that's obviously going to impact crab populations."

A check of DFO's published data suggest convictions for crab offences under the Fisheries Act are relatively rare —

there were three in the province in 2022, each resulting in a \$345 ticket for retaining undersized crab.

It's difficult to spot a crab poacher, unless they're doing something obviously illegal, like working in a restricted area, or setting and hauling traps at night. In the past, people on shore recognized boats and even trap buoys, and would call owners if they spotted someone hauling a friend's trap, or anything else suspicious. But there were plenty of Dungeness to go around.

Today, suspicion is in better supply than crab.

"Yesterday I was just going out fishing," said Reinhardt. "I saw some guys speeding away from the traps, and I'm like 'Oh, I wonder if that guy just poached me.' It's so hard to know, right?"

DFO has a phone and online reporting system for violations of Fisheries Act regulations — the Observe, Record and Report or "ORR" system — which can be accessed by calling 800-465-4336 or by email at DFO.ORR-ONS.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca. DFO also suggests anyone who has had their equipment destroyed or stolen should report the incident to the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JAN/FEB 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
25	0046	0.5	1.6	29	0054	2.6	8.5
	0829	3.6	11.8		0346	2.5	8.2
WE	1436	2.2	7.2	SU	1012	3.3	10.8
ME	1857	2.7	8.9	DI	1813	1.0	3.3
26	0127	1.0	3.3	30	0249	2.9	9.5
	0856	3.6	11.8		0517	2.8	9.2
TH	1536	1.8	5.9	MO	1036	3.2	10.5
JE	2034	2.5	8.2	LU	1900	0.8	2.6
27	0208	1.5	4.9	31	0353	3.2	10.5
	0922	3.5	11.5		0739	3.0	9.8
FR	1632	1.5	4.9	TU	1105	3.1	10.2
VE	2234	2.4	7.9	MA	1946	0.7	2.3
28	0252	2.0	6.6	1	0437	3.3	10.8
	0947	3.4	11.2		0937	3.0	9.8
SA	1724	1.2	3.9	WE	1145	3.0	9.8
				ME	2029	0.6	2.0

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IN MEMORIAM

Stuart Margolin's island connection remembered

Actor, writer and director influenced Salt Spring arts scene

BY VALERIE ROGERS
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Last month, at the age of 82, actor, Emmy-award winner and one-time Salt Spring Island resident Stuart Margolin died in Staunton, Va., surrounded by family.

Salt Spring Island had been one of Stuart's favourite places. In 1969, he purchased the old Spencer farm in the north end, consisting of a rambling farmhouse on 20 acres that straddled North Beach and North End roads. The field below the house featured some of the salt springs that helped name the island, where salt grass grew in clumps amidst the white dust. With not another house in sight — with the exception of Captain Perry's barn — the property stood in sharp contrast to Stuart's Los Angeles home. Jim Spencer, the realtor who reluctantly showed him the property, did so with some disbelief that a Hollywood actor could be interested in this ramshackle family farmhouse.

During the "draft dodger" movement, actors like Gary Burghoff ("Radar" on M*A*S*H) had explored the possibility of moving north to an untouched paradise in Canada; through Stuart's occasional work on M*A*S*H, it was

Burghoff who introduced him to the Canadian Gulf Islands.

The farm was intended as a place to write while enjoying a pioneering life that would soon be dominated by a dynamic acting career. The old farmhouse had a wood heater in its kitchen, a wood fireplace in the living room and little else to provide sufficient heat. Located at the end of a dirt road in what felt like the middle of nowhere, it offered the perfect retreat for a Los Angeles writer. When the provincial highways authority erected a briefly misspelled sign in 1975 off North End Road — "Margoline Drive" — Stuart was ecstatic, quipping that he had been immortalized without ever being required to pursue his acting career. (The name has since been corrected.) Several years later, Stuart enlisted the services of renowned Salt Spring Island architect Hank Schubart to replace the century-old homestead with one of Schubart's Frank Lloyd Wright-influenced designs.

Stuart envisioned Salt Spring as his sanctuary away from the maddening crowds of Hollywood where shows like *The Love Boat* and *Nichols* had made him famous. Rockford Files was still a twinkle in the eye when Stuart drove north to Canada in his 1967 Citroen, his luggage consisting of boxes of books by such playwrights as Eugene O'Neill and his all-time favourite, Anton Chekhov, all of whom he'd studied while at Pasadena Play-

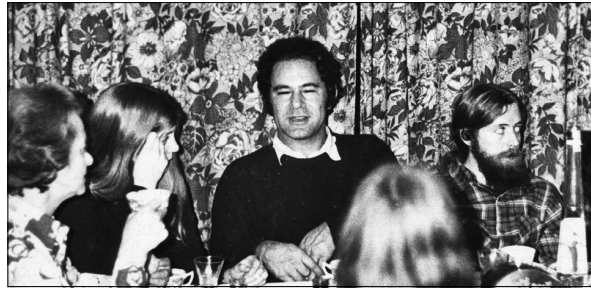


PHOTO COURTESY VALERIE ROGERS

Stuart Margolin at a dinner with the Richards family, owners of the Driftwood newspaper, including, from left, Barbara Richards, this article's writer Valerie Richards (now Rogers), Stuart Margolin and Driftwood managing director Tony Richards in 1972.

house — the acting school where writers such as Tennessee Williams and F. Scott Fitzgerald would hold world premieres.

The then-32-year-old actor had just finished writing and co-producing *The Ballad of Andy Crocker* when he moved north. During his early years on Salt Spring, he completed the script called *Pure Escape* that received attention from well-known producers in New York and further encouraged him to continue his writing career along with his pursuit of the performing arts. He brought a number of celebrity artists to his "perfect paradise," including recording artist Jerry Riopelle and wife Naomi, as well as writer/actor George Furth of *Blazing Saddles* fame.

Stuart wanted to create a fine arts retreat on Salt Spring, providing summer theatre whose criteria would include mounting a never-before-presented play. He envisioned Salt Spring becoming what Banff eventually did: a fine arts retreat that featured well-known names starring in summer productions and offering creative arts workshops.

On Aug. 17, 1973, Gardner McKay's *Sea Marks* opened at Fulford Hall for all of two nights, starring Hollywood actor Joshua Bryant and Canadian-born (and later of Superman fame) Margot Kidder. The show was a huge success, selling out the entire weekend with first-time theatre goers star-struck by the performances, so neatly dispensed by Stuart's impeccable direction.

For nearly 22 years, Stuart commuted from Salt Spring Island to Hollywood and to film locations around the world, often with his wife Pat and her three children. He was also enlisted by the Canadian TV and film industry to work on numerous projects, establishing long-lasting friendships within its performing arts community.

As an actor and director, Stuart worked on a series of productions that included *Wonder Woman*, *Magnum P.I.*, *The Mary Tyler Moore Show*, *Rhoda* and *The Love Boat*. He played in *Guns, Smoke, Matlock*, *Hill Street Blues*, *Saturday Night Live* and *30 Rock*, and a slate of movies that included dozens of prominent roles, all of which garnered him affection from across the industry.

With a colourful and vibrant career that spanned 60 years, Stuart became most recognized for his role as Evelyn Martin, or "Angel" in *Rockford Files* for which he received on two occasions (1979 and 1980) the Primetime Emmy Award for Most Outstanding Supporting Actor in a Drama Series — a two-time privilege only five other actors have enjoyed.

In 2014, drawn to wanting closer proximity to family and amenities, Stuart and Pat retired to Virginia, where Stuart could enjoy easy access to New York as well as the occasional hole in one at his favourite golf course in Greenbrier County.



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Among the more interesting influences currently is the fact that both Pluto in Capricorn and Neptune in Pisces are "unpected." When a planet is unpected it tends to manifest as a wild card and is less predictable. People with planets in the birth chart often experience added challenges comfortably integrating into social groups and mainstream society, in general. On the high side, this special distinction can lead to unique and original accomplishments. In fact, accepting the challenge to "go it alone" is probably the best strategy. As it is, Pluto unpected in Capricorn indicates that governments generally are currently out of touch with the citizens of the locations they govern. As for Neptune in Pisces, because it is in its own ruling sign, it points to an even more mystical influence that could break the spell of traditional religious convictions. These conditions won't last long, but they will occur again, intermittently. The main point is that these short time periods represent breaks in long-standing patterns and structures, which can have an exponential effect over the longer term.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19) An expansive and social mood should be evident by now. Yet, practical considerations are still strongly influencing your focus. As well, an inclination towards retreat is also present. How will you harmonize all three impulses? Perhaps give each their time and aim for synthesis.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20) You want to be seen, heard, and heeded. If this is not naturally forthcoming, you may resort to leverage tactics such as increased diplomacy, charm, or the sharing of grand visions and elaborate strategies. Any and all such measures are a good idea along with reminding others of prior efforts and of your worth.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21) Aquarius time is one during which you tend to wax philosophically. Intellectual ventures are also more likely. These could well manifest as desires to explore new places by way of travel. If you can't go literally, journeying through a good book might do the trick. Narrow the gap between dreams and reality.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22) A process of deep changes and transformations, even veritably amounting to some kind of metamorphosis, has shifted into high gear. The larger feature of this process has already been underway for the past 2 to 3 years yet has arrived at its final and perhaps deeper stages. Tune in and cooperate.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23) A growing commitment to solidify foundations for the sake of public and professional success is getting a big boost now. The Aquarius impulse is synchronizing with meeting new people and engaging in new modes of communication. Make your mark on the world with precision.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22) Shifts and changes in your overall lifestyle continue. Positively, you are consciously aware of these inclinations and are following through with deliberate action. This is your invitation to enter into a whole new level of higher-quality living and health. What can you do to embrace this opportunity?

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22) Fun, play, and creativity are floating on your airwaves. Given other, more sobering realities, these could be combined to come up with new ideas, methods, and strategies to adjust to changing circumstances. You probably know that meaningful changes are required so get down to business with all this fun.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21) You are coming to a clearer realization of who you are and are not, who you love and do not, and what you want and need and do not. This process of turning on the lights in the core of your being could manifest as important changes on relationship fronts as well, including both beginnings and endings.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21) Many new realizations are coming to your conscious awareness. This process will continue for a few more weeks especially and could amount to you seeing yourself and the world, and yourself in the world in new ways. Be willing to take note of the incoming realizations with the intention to elaborate upon them.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19) This time of year is one during which building upon new foundations is important. This can include increasing your network of friends and key people in positions of power and authority. Yet, it can also be a good time to let go of associations with people who seem to be a negative influence.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19) A pioneering impulse is leading you to be more assertive. This can manifest as an increase in social activity. Yet, it also indicates that some changes close to home are part of the plot as well. A reassessment of your values and priorities is likely with spiritual ideals on one hand countered by practical realities.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20) A busy time behind the scenes is extra likely now. It includes the formulation of new concepts and approaches. The time is right to prepare the ground for bigger projects yet to begin. To this end, focus on getting as organized as you can, tying up loose ends, and focusing mentally and emotionally to enter the zone.

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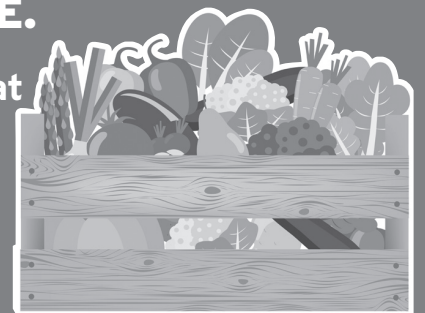
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ATHLETICS

McIntyre on world championship cheer team

UVic team rises to the top in Florida

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

As a teenager, Darby McIntyre was one of the best gymnasts in our country. Since studying at the University of Victoria, she has found a new passion: cheerleading.

McIntyre's skill and passion recently contributed to the Vikes cheer team winning gold at the University World Cup Cheerleading Championships.

The Salt Spring woman and her teammates trained for the world championships for over two years, as the event was cancelled two years in a row due to the pandemic.

In Disney World from Jan. 13 to 15, the Vikes not only won their all-girls team division, but also the Nations Cup, awarded to the highest-scoring team out of all 15 teams from around the globe.

"It is crazy, I still can hardly believe it," said the 23-year-old McIntyre. "We didn't have any expectations going there. Our coaches wanted us to just do well and get experience at this level. At the first day of the event, which is an exhibition, we saw our competition and we hoped that we could make the top three."

On the second day, the Vikes team pulled off a technically perfect routine, which was rewarded by the judges without any deductions.

"We had an amazing routine and made no mistakes, but when



PHOTO COURTESY DARBY MCINTYRE

University of Victoria's cheer team, including Salt Spring's Darby McIntyre (fourth from left in the middle row) after winning the world championship university cheerleading team title in Florida this month.

we heard that we won, I was definitely in shock," she said.

McIntyre, born and raised on Salt Spring Island, competed as a gymnast at a national level. She commuted daily to Duncan to train, but retired from gymnastics in 2017 to focus on her last year of high school.

After a gap year, when she coached gymnastics on Salt Spring Island, McIntyre started at the University of Victoria. With one more year to go, she is completing a major in Psychology and a minor in Indigenous Studies.

"I started playing softball in my first year, but when I was at Thunderfest, the kick-off festival of the school year, the softball booth was right across from the cheerleading booth. I recognized a girl who was also in gymnastics and she told me to come to the try-outs."

McIntyre made the team and

"I love how I can incorporate my gymnastic skills in cheerleading. It has a lot of similarities to gymnastics but it is also very different."

DARBY MCINTYRE
UVic cheer team member

eventually chose cheer over softball.

"Cheer is just a better fit for me. I love how I can incorporate my gymnastic skills in cheerleading. It has a lot of similarities to gymnastics, but it is also very different. Gymnastics is such an individual sport, and now I

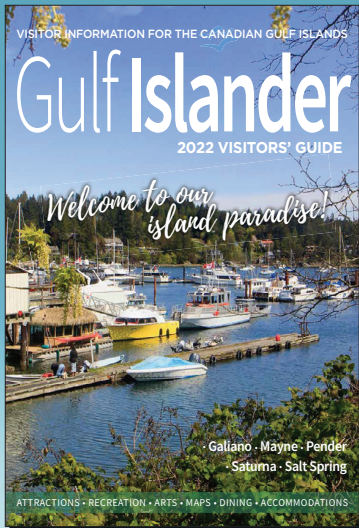
am working towards goals as a team. It is so special when you can share your successes with others."

In the squad, McIntyre is one of the main "bases" and "pyramid posts," which means that she has one or two girls on her shoulders and lifts flyers into the air.

"When we form a pyramid, I am at the bottom," McIntyre explained. "The back bases are usually the tallest girls, the main bases are a little bit less tall, and the flyers are the lightest girls. I also do a lot of tumbling, which was my best event in gymnastics."

The Vikes Cheer Club is undefeated in B.C. since 2017. The next big event for the team is the B.C. provincial championships on March 4-5 in the Victoria Conference Centre.

McIntyre is looking forward to it: "Our goal is to keep winning!"



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