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Money Matters

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Feb. 8, 2023

63rd year
Issue 6
\$1.50



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

ARTIST AT WORK: Sheya Jordan shows some of her artwork made at an open workshop session held Saturday at the Salt Spring Island Printmakers Society space at SIMS for the Re-Imagined: Transforming Waste Into Art exhibit coming up in March. Some 30 people of all ages came out. Deadline for exhibit submissions is Friday, Feb. 10. Details are at www.ssimprintmakers.ca.

COURT ACTION

Settlement broached in Seabreeze dispute

Lawyers lead talks over former hotel property now owned by Lady Minto Hospital Foundation

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Lawyers were racing against the clock at Driftwood press time to avoid what could be a costly courtroom battle, as representatives for parties involved in the former Seabreeze Inne dispute were scheduled to meet Monday afternoon to consider a possible settlement.

A lawsuit launched in October by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) against Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) and several individuals still allegedly living at the former hotel is currently slated to be heard at a summary trial in March.

According to court documents, the foundation had asked the B.C. Supreme Court for an injunction and damages resulting from SSICS and "its agents and representatives" allegedly trespassing at the property, which it has owned since March of last year and intends to renovate to house hospital staff, among other claims.

But lawyers — representing LMHF, SSICS, BC Housing and some occupants — were reportedly meeting to discuss a settlement that could potentially move the renovation project forward while satisfying everyone involved. That high bar would likely at minimum need to include vacating the property quickly. LMHF has previously said a \$2-million grant to help pay for renovation costs is increasingly threatened as the construction timeline is delayed.

Filed court documents state that seven individuals remain living at the motel, describing varying times when and circumstances under which they arrived there.

An affidavit from BC Housing rep Jennifer Fox indicates space is available for Seabreeze residents at the 154 Kings Lane property where trailers were set up last summer and support services are being provided to several former Seabreeze Inne residents. That set-up is a temporary one until BC Housing's supportive housing development on Drake Road is completed, they hope, sometime this year.

See gulfislandsdriftwood.com for updates to this story.

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8	0739	3.3	10.8	12	0159	2.1	6.9
WE	1329	2.3	7.5	SU	0843	3.3	10.8
ME	1742	2.7	8.9	DI	1609	1.3	4.3
					2339	2.5	8.2
9	0028	1.1	3.6	13	0236	2.4	7.9
TH	0755	3.3	10.8	MO	0901	3.2	10.5
JE	1405	2.1	6.9	LU	1658	1.0	3.3
	1844	2.6	8.5				
10	0058	1.4	4.6	14	0208	2.8	9.2
FR	0811	3.3	10.8	TU	0332	2.8	9.2
VE	1443	1.8	5.9	MA	0921	3.2	10.5
	1959	2.5	8.2		1751	0.8	2.6
11	0128	1.7	5.6	15	0321	3.1	10.2
SA	0827	3.3	10.8	WE	0527	3.0	9.8
SA	1524	1.6	5.2	ME	0950	3.2	10.5
	2136	2.4	7.9		1848	0.5	1.6

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FOOD SECURITY

Community composter excites



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

From left, CRD director Gary Holman, Farmland Trust chair Sheila Dobie, project manager Kevin Chipperfield, Abattoir Society chair Anne Macey and Parliamentary Secretary of the Environment Aman Singh stand in front of the new community composter being readied at its future site at the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm. The composter itself will be powered by a solar electricity system.

'Beautiful array' of islanders prep composter

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It takes a profound patience to grow things.

At every step there are countless moving parts to arrange, plans to lay out that take shape months or years before the first chick hatches, or the first leaf peeks from the dirt. It can take everyone you know — and some you don't — helping out to make it work. And the process is fraught with the chance of failure, whether from honest mistakes or unavoidable catastrophe — and the possibility of having to start over is always looming, even with the finish line in sight.

So the sense was one of cautious optimism — and some well-earned satisfaction — at the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm last week, as a visiting MLA toured the site of Salt Spring Island's new community composter, flanked by representatives of several groups that helped the project along.

Guided by the Farmland Trust's Sheila Dobie and the Abattoir Society's Anne Macey, Richmond-Queensborough MLA and Parliamentary Secretary for the Environment Aman Singh saw a project long-shepherded by an army of volunteers on an arguably shoestring budget, squaring off against the familiar concurrent crises of inflation, staffing, resources and housing.

And while the focus this day was the composter, like everything else in agriculture, it's part of a larger plan.

"We identified three key pieces of infrastructure to support farming," said Macey, who was involved in creating the Salt Spring Island Farm Plan, published in 2008. "The abattoir was the first one we got going; the second was The Root, and now there's the composter."

Quantifying the steps needed to get to this moment requires a chart as complicated as any grower's schedule; every subsequent piece is necessary for the system to work.

Salt Spring's Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman pointed out it took several years and the involvement of multiple stakeholders to initially secure the community farm site in 2010 — a swap with Three Point Properties that traded an additional density for a residen-

tial development in the south end for 65 acres of prime farmland.

Then there's The Root, a "food hub" on land once owned by the Slegg family and contributed through a similar amenity-zoning exchange. That facility on Beddis Road will be opening doors at its 3,000-square-foot food processing and distribution centre for on-island growers this summer.

The Abattoir Society itself was born in 2012 out of necessity, through a long-nurtured partnership between Island Natural Growers and the Farmers' Institute — themselves having joined forces to create the Agricultural Alliance. A non-profit, community-run abattoir is unique in Canada, if not North America; when fully staffed, this one can process beef, pork, lamb, goats and rabbit, along with poultry.

Finally, with grid power so far removed from the Burgoyne Valley site, a partnership with Salt Spring Community Energy for solar panels and storage batteries will provide electricity to turn the composter's giant drum and spin an aeration fan. Project manager Kevin Chipperfield said those panels could also operate pumps to help better utilize wash water from the composter, as well as integrate with a cutting-edge agrivoltaics plan.

Dobie characterized the overarching structure at the community farm — and indeed across Salt Spring — as a "beautiful array of organizations and individuals and businesses" all dedicated to the notion of local food security.

"When we look at land acquisitions, farmers contributing to school food programs, getting procurement arrangements going on with our senior centres and our hospitals, having all that integrated with our local food systems, that's when we start looking at food security in a holistic way," said Dobie. "And that requires people, and energy, and coordination."

"And funding," chuckled Holman.

And Singh agreed. Indeed, his visit came right before a press release was issued from the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, heralding a \$170,000 provincial grant under the CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program.

That press release was, not unexpectedly, aspirational — the composter is neither ready nor legally permitted to produce more than 100 tonnes of compost annu-

ally just today, for example. And it's not clear enough where the majority of compostable material will come from, or how much uptake there will be.

That will come, however. Regulatory issues surrounding what "waste" material from the abattoir and other sources will be used at the composter is expected to be sorted out soon. And any opportunity, Singh said, to burn a little less diesel — and be less reliant on "lettuce from California, where they're running out of water" — was a step in the right direction.

"Salt Spring is the place to do it," said Singh. "The quality of volunteers that you have, and the dedication of people to the environment and the earth, it's amazing."

As for the "black gold" itself — the soil-enriching compost — it will at first only be available for use at the community farm site.

"The land is currently ALR, and because of the way the Islands Trust regulations are on that zoning, we cannot currently sell a commercial product to the community at large," said Macey. "It can only be used on this property, until we go through the process of changing that. We're taking one step at a time."

And there may not be much left over at first, even from such a large composter. The 65 acres is well-used now, and demand is only expected to increase. According to the Farmland Trust, there are four larger local growers and dozens of families utilizing the 90 available plots for food production.

"There's a lot of people farming here, and a lot of the ground needs amending," said Dobie.

That scarcity may eventually help drive demand for the local compost, much as Salt Spring's produce and meat products command a premium from off-island buyers for their quality and ethical production. And the elegance — to say nothing of environmental benefit — of growing crops using island-sourced compost, instead of trucking it in on a ferry, is inarguable.

For now, the short-term goals of project volunteers remain modest. With help from elected officials, charitable organizations and the broader community, there's a lot more within reach. To join them, contact the Abattoir Society through their website, saltspringabattoir.ca, and the Farmland Trust at ssifarmtrust.org.

PUBLIC HEALTH

Drug law change mulled

CRD considers bylaw options

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As the province begins its three-year foray into the decriminalization of people who use drugs, local governments are seeking guidance on what role — if any — they retain in bylaw enforcement.

B.C. has been granted an exemption to the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act from Health Canada, and from now until Jan. 31, 2026, adults will not be subject to criminal charges for possession of less than 2.5 total grams of specific still-illegal drugs for personal use. Simply holding small amounts of certain opioids, cocaine, methamphetamine and MDMA will not be cause for arrest, charges, or seizures — but the devil remains in the details.

For example, provincial officials have been quick to point out that possession of these drugs in any amount will continue to be a criminal offense on K-12 school grounds and at licensed child care facilities. Vancouver International Airport reminded travelers that criminal penalties would still be applied in airports and at borders. And the exemption does not apply to anyone under the age of 18.

But with respect to drug use in public spaces, it's less clear whether existing bylaws already cover related behavior. In the Capital Regional District (CRD), Planning and Protective Services general manager Kevin Lorette told CRD directors it's too early to understand what implications decriminalization will have on the use of these substances in public areas — particularly given questions about whether CRD's Clean Air bylaw could even apply.

"Island Health has expressed a lack of clear evidence of the public health risk of second-hand smoke of controlled substances," said Lorette during a Feb. 1 report to CRD's Hospitals and Housing Committee, "as well as concerns about amending the Clean Air bylaw to include controlled substances."

Since these substances are illegal, explained Lorette, ethical and legal approval for research on them has been historically difficult to obtain, resulting in few studies being

conducted; B.C.'s Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) has been expanding this body of evidence, but there is no consensus.

Amendments to public health bylaw require approval of the Ministry of Health, he added, and likely required medical health officer approval. And while some of these issues are being hashed over by a working group on decriminalization — established by the Ministry of Mental Health and Addictions, and with CRD representation — possible barriers to enforcement in public spaces raised a few eyebrows among directors.

"Cigarettes and alcohol are legal substances, [use of which] in our local parks and recreation facilities is prohibited," said Salt Spring Island electoral area director Gary Holman. "It's hard to enforce, but they are technically banned. If we wanted to apply [drug smoking] policies in our local parks, would we have to change our bylaws to do that?"

"It is possible to smoke crack cocaine, fentanyl and heroin," said Southern Gulf Islands electoral area director Paul Brent. "I guess we have no power against people smoking these substances in our parks?"

CRD Health and Capital Planning senior manager Michael Barnes said that while enforcement couldn't fall under the Clean Air Bylaw specifically, there might be "other opportunities" for enforcement through other bylaws.

"For example, nuisance bylaws," said Barnes. "In the parks, certainly, there's a concern around the danger of starting fires."

Barnes told directors that officers would also be able to enforce the Trespass Act, if someone consuming a substance on private property was trespassing. And Lorette pointed out that even where other bylaws do not apply, a big part of decriminalization should involve officers speaking with people openly using controlled substances to provide them with information about local supports.

"We may have an opportunity under our Clean Air Bylaw in the future," added Lorette, "once recommendations come out of the working group. BCCDC heard all the concerns around the table; it is a two-way dialogue."

Happy Family day

Please note that the **Gulf Islands Driftwood office** will be closed on **Monday, Feb. 20 - Family Day** statutory holiday - and will reopen 9am - 4pm on **Tuesday, Feb. 21**.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood **Wednesday Feb. 22** edition will be **Wednesday, Feb. 15, noon**

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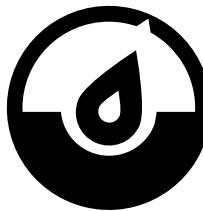
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NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, that nominations for TWO trustees will be received in the District office between:

8:00 a.m. February 8, 2023

12:00 noon March 7, 2023

Nomination of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed and seconded, by two duly qualified electors of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office at or before 12:00 noon, Tuesday, March 7, 2023.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

Both of the Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road and virtually through Microsoft Teams. The link will be posted on the district website for the public to join. The Trustee election will use both a mail-in ballot process for advanced voting, and an in person ballot process for voting on the day of the AGM. Voting packages for advanced voting will be mailed on March 22, 2023 and ballots must be received at the District office by April 25, 2023 at 4:30 p.m. In person voting on the day of the AGM will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. The results of the election will be announced at the AGM as soon as they are available.

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Elections Act*.

Visit the "Who We Are" and "Becoming a Trustee" pages on our website for more information about the role of a Trustee.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office and online in the Documents/Forms section of the District website.

NOTICE OF 2023 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, April 27, 2023 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, and virtually through Microsoft Teams (the link will be available on our website).

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

761 Upper Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1

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OPINION

Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Nancy Johnson
PUBLISHER

nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjuberg
MANAGING EDITOR

gail.sjuberg@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan
PRODUCTION MANAGER

lorraine.sullivan@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Sky Marciano
ACCOUNT MANAGER

sky.marciano@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Derek Capitaine
OFFICE MANAGER

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Cindy Jacobsen
OFFICE ASSISTANT

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Robb Magley
REPORTER

robb.magley@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Hot commodity

Last week a formal announcement about a composting unit set up on the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm lands was released, even though the unit is not yet operational.

But the last chunk of \$310,000 in funding had been approved by the provincial government — \$170,000 from the CleanBC Organics Infrastructure and Collection Program — so it was a good time to report what was going on with the long-awaited project.

Exactly how the composter will be used, either in the collecting of food waste part or dealing with the end product, has not been determined and is complicated by a few current regulations. But it's still a significant addition to island infrastructure, the development of local agriculture and a tool in the attempt to fight climate change.

As the Salt Spring Island Area Farm Plan (SSIAFP) Renewal document from 2020 states: "The lack of available finished compost on Salt Spring Island limits the ability of sustainable, regenerative agricultural production and soil carbon sequestration."

The composter had long been envisioned as a critical element in improving Salt Spring's level of food security. It was one of three facilities identified as essential in the original SSIAFP released in 2008.

The other two were an abattoir for processing local farmers' animals and a cold storage and processing facility for farmers' produce.

So far, the SSIAFP has proven a model for how to get things done on the island. The Salt Spring Island Agricultural Alliance and Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust were born out of that planning process, as well as the abattoir, operational since 2012; The Root storage and process facility set to open this year; and now the composter.

Participants are already well on their way to tackling the three main goals of the 2020 renewal plan: To ensure long-term viability of farming and increase local food production on Salt Spring; to respond to the climate emergency; and to engage the public and governments on the value of buying local food and protecting land for farming.

The Burgoyne Valley Community Farm composter might not have an overnight impact on the lives of island residents, but the growing season is right around the corner, and we can all be inspired to both grow more food ourselves or support those who do it locally this year.

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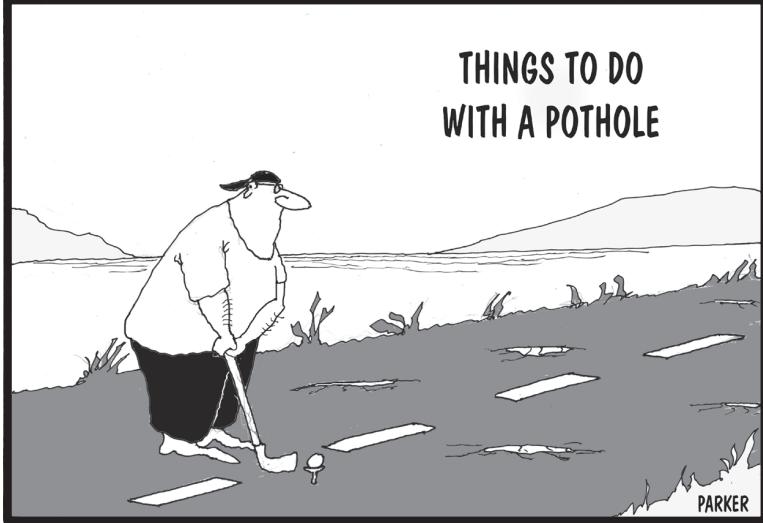
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Silver - Best Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Bronze - Best Editorial Page

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



SSIWPA must justify funds

VIEWPOINT

The following was sent to the Islands Trust by Salt Spring Island scientist David Rapport and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

In response to your request for comment from Salt Spring residents on the special tax requisition for the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance (SSIWPA) included in the Islands Trust's proposed 2023-2024 budget, I submit the following assessment:

I've been a vocal critic of SSIWPA ever since its inception in 2014. In my view, SSIWPA never had anything of demonstrable relevance to show for the hefty tax that was levied on Salt Spring taxpayers year after year for SSIWPA's continued operations. Now, belatedly, the LTC is asking for input from the public on the proposed levy, before Trust Council considers the 2023-2024 budget.

Had you cared to do your homework before putting out a frankly uninformative survey on this matter, you would have found an abundance of comments and questions about the validity of SSIWPA published in the Driftwood over the years, many of which, including my own, have decried the wasteful expenditures on SSIWPA activities. SSIWPA has never meaningfully responded to the essential question: What have taxpayers gotten for the roughly million dollars of tax dollars given to the organization thus far?

Before throwing good money after bad, you need to at long last address that question. In particular, what was the scientific validity, if any, of the few "studies" SSIWPA coordinated or commissioned on watershed issues? What did we learn, if anything, that we didn't know already about the state of our watersheds? And while you

are at it, how about asking the Salt Spring water districts that SSIWPA was designed to serve, what, if anything, they gained from SSIWPA's "coordination" activities over all these years? Last, but not least, what useful actions were taken on the island, if any, that would not likely have come about without SSIWPA?

Other than a website that records the minutes of countless SSIWPA meetings and adds documents seemingly without the least bit of quality control, SSIWPA is, in my view, the "Emperor that has no clothes." Upon examining a few of the early SSIWPA reports, years ago I came to the conclusion that they were amateurish at best, displaying a dishearteningly naive lack of understanding of the complex issues of water on our island, never coming to grips with our ever-worsening water crisis, and never proposing viable paths towards solutions. After reading their material, my conclusion years ago was that SSIWPA is a "made on Salt Spring" boondoggle (a boondoggle being defined in the Oxford Dictionary of American Political Slang as "an extravagant and useless project"). I'd be more than delighted to find out that this has changed since — but let the public hear directly from them, loud and clear, about what significant, useful results they can claim to have produced over all these years of taxpayer support. This, in my view, constitutes essential due diligence before considering allocating any more taxpayer funds to this activity.

Bottom line: unless SSIWPA can categorically and unequivocally demonstrate and substantiate "value for money" right now, prior to approval of yet another special requisition, then it's more than high time to disband this questionable organization.

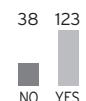
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you compost food waste at home?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support an open net pen fish farm ban on B.C.'s coast?



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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Inne situation frustrates

I came through town from the Fulford ferry on my way home from Vancouver one day last week and saw again the old Seabreeze Inn waiting for renovations for much-needed hospital staff. Then I read the Feb. 1 front-page Driftwood article on staff shortages at the hospital.

There are seven people living in the old hotel. There are spaces for them in the new Kings Lane complex. With the rest of us paying the bill for these folks to have a nice place at the Kings Lane complex, the hospital would be able to get on with the renovations so we could have the staff we need at the hospital.

I do not get it. Why on earth are these seven people able to hold the island hostage? It's totally unconscionable. Surely there must be some laws that would help our community.

The situation makes me sick — grrrrrr.

KISHORI HUTCHINGS,
SALT SPRING

Health care workers should not be cogs to fill holes

Kudos to Dr. Clare Rustad for pointing out the disconnect between those who work in the field and those who "manage" them ("Housing staff shortage persists," Feb. 1 Driftwood).

Patients present in many forms, requiring different skill sets, all requiring an appropriate balance of education and experience. To be seen as a cog, easily plugged into any hole, is disturbing. Could this be the reason so many are dropping out of the work force?

A possible analogy comes to mind. Just as generals in war directed the action from well behind the lines, health authorities work their systems from afar, protecting the bottom line while managing to swallow a disproportionate amount of our health transfer dollars while they are at it.

RUTH TARASOFF,
SALT SPRING

Sidney's active transportation plan inspires

The nearby town of Sidney has a draft active transportation plan out for review with a price tag of \$10 million for walking, cycling and motorized scooter infrastructure improvements over 10 years.

It's inspiring to see that a neighbour local government for a community of 12,000 people with existing safe active transportation infrastructure wants to do more.

Sidney's plan will enhance the safety and convenience of cycling on the Capital Regional District's Lochside Regional Trail, with its connection to the Swartz Bay Ferry Terminal and to Salt Spring Island.

This is motivation to have a similar level of safety and convenience for cyclists when they arrive on Salt Spring.

STEVE NEW,
WHIMS ROAD

MORE OPINION continued on 6

Rants + ROSES

Roses

- A huge bunch of Girl Guide blue roses to Jason Griffin at Tour Salt Spring for donating his van to take Salt Spring Island Pathfinders to Vancouver for our camp last weekend. Couldn't have done it without his generosity.

- A huge bundle of roses to Gulf Islands Septic for coming late on a recent Sunday to rescue me and my household from septic back up. Thank you! *Claire*

- Carefully and slowly (I am 95 years old), pushing the Country Grocer cart towards my car, I felt a strange bump. I stopped and turn to see a slim young gal bending to capture my flyaway lemon pepper chicken wings and put them back into their broken container. "Sir, if you wait here I will return this to the deli and bring you a new pack." GONE. Just as I put the last bag into the trunk she handed me the new pack, smiled and was gone. I called "Thank you, sweetheart" to her back. Now I enjoy my wings with a special grateful, thank-you smile. Only on Salt Spring!

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Salt Spring is the place to do it. The quality of volunteers that you have, and the dedication of people to the environment and the earth, it's amazing."

AMAN SINGH, PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR THE ENVIRONMENT, ON THE SSI COMPOSTING PROJECT

Magnitude of Salt Spring housing crisis and future needs quantified

BY ERIC BOOTH

We all know Salt Spring has a housing crisis. However, few amongst us appear to understand the magnitude or complexity of the crisis.

The 2021 Census stated there are 6,340 people on the island receiving employment income, which is about half of our total existing population.

If we estimate two employees live in each dwelling, about 3,000 homes on Salt Spring are now occupied by employees.

Currently, the lowest-priced home for sale on the island is \$639,000. To qualify, with a 25 per cent down payment (\$159,750), a family income of \$141,500 is required... far beyond the reach of average family income. The median house price is \$985,000, and the average home price is \$1,300,000. It doesn't take a rocket scientist to understand that Salt Spring real estate has already outpaced the ability of the average employee to own.

Meanwhile the number of rental homes continues to decline, due to new owners purchasing and moving to the island. Investors, who bought

rental homes years ago, are taking advantage of the current increased values and are selling to new owners who plan on living here, and, more importantly, have no plans to rent their new purchase. At the same time, rental rates continue to rise.

Adding another 3,900 workforce housing units with 2.0 people per dwelling in them totals an estimated future population of about 24,000.

Adding to the crisis is the baby boomer retirement bubble. The average number of years someone works can be generalized as 50 years (15-65). As each island employee retires, a new employee must take their place. The average employee lives for 15 years after retirement and continues to occupy their home. Thus,

GUEST COLUMN

every time someone retires, a new home is required for the replacement employee.

Thus, the oft referred to 200 affordable housing units, currently in various stages of planning, will not even cover the projected loss of rental units by the time those units become available. We aren't winning, or even keeping even. We are falling behind each year.

Given the above facts, we can approximate the total "workforce housing units" (WHU's) we need going into the future as being 3,000.

The assumptions are:

(a) currently virtually no employee can afford to buy a home now, at today's prices.

(b) as retirees die, their homes will be bought by people "from away" who are wealthy enough to buy.

(c) as a result of (b) the number of homes occupied by existing employees (who own their own homes) and retirees (who own their own homes)

will continue to decline eventually to zero.

(d) if a current employee (who owns their own home) decides to relocate, their home will not be bought by an employee because of (a).

Thus, as we move into the future, ALL properties on the island will eventually be occupied/owned by non-employees, the residents who depend upon employees for all of the services we currently enjoy/require.

Assuming 3,000 WHU's are needed, long term, to house our existing workforce, we can assume another 30 per cent will be needed to house retiring employees (15 years/50 years = 30 per cent). $3,000 \times 1.3 = 3,900$ dwellings.

What does this mean with respect to our future population on the island? Currently it's estimated there will be about 8,000 market homes on the island. Using a density of 2.0 people per dwelling = 16,000 population. However, there are some potential offsets, such as the trend towards summer occupancy vs all year round

occupancy and, any market properties that will be acquired for WHU's.

Adding another 3,900 WHU's with 2.0 people per dwelling in them totals an estimated future population of about 24,000. While anyone can argue with some of the above assumptions, the magnitude of the housing crisis is crystal clear.

The next step is looking at the challenges we face as we move towards solving the crisis, assuming of course our community actually wants to solve it, as opposed to giving it just "lip service."

Stay tuned for Part Two – "Where WHU's - Up or Out?"

P.S. I realize the above will create numerous questions. I have set up an interactive Facebook Group to respond to any questions you may have. Search for "Salt Spring Workforce Housing."

The writer is a long-time Salt Spring resident and island realtor. The above is the first in a column series by Eric Booth about the housing crisis.

Trust staff intervention requested by islander

The following was written by Salt Spring resident Frants Attor and sent to Stefan Cermak, the Islands Trust director of planning services, and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

I'm sure you are aware that major land-use changes are afoot on Salt Spring Island. This raises the question of public involvement in the planning process.

Salt Spring's Official Community Plan (OCP) has not been reviewed for 15 years, about three times longer than standard practice. It now seems that major changes will be made to the island before the public has had an opportunity to address the big questions regarding the future. Questions such as: What needs to be saved for future generations given that we are governed by the Islands Trust Act? Should additional densities be concentrated in appropriate locations or dispersed across the

island? How much development is sustainable? And what is the strategy for dealing with a never-ending housing crisis?

A major OCP amendment is planned for later this year, but in classic cart-before-the-horse fashion, the new Local Trust Committee (LTC) is already proceeding with proposed Bylaw 530 to rezone large swaths of the island for "accessory dwelling units (ADUs)." Trust lawyers have stated that an amendment to the OCP is required since key parts of our OCP could be violated by the addition of a large number of ADUs. These include "few and minor" densities (already used up), "zoning changes incrementally" and "limits to growth."

Despite these potential OCP violations, the previous LTC instructed staff to avoid the OCP amendment process. Why? It seems trustee Laura Patrick has done everything in her power to make sure

INDEPTH

umbrella issues are never discussed. (In her last term, she helped quash a full review of our OCP in favour of a fragmented approach that avoids a broader discussion.)

I am now wondering when we'll ever get a chance to discuss the big picture. It seems our only opportunity will be when a bylaw allowing more development comes to a public hearing. But that severely limits the scope of the discussion. In the meantime, the debate about the future of the island has unfolded in the media and political arena, replete with misinformation, political spin and personal put-downs. This discord is testament to a planning failure.

Until a new vision for the future is agreed upon through broad public consultation, no major land-use decisions should be

made. It would be a travesty and colossal waste of time and money to ask the public their opinion after the fact.

Trust planners have an ethical duty to maintain their independence, prevent illegality and ensure there is broad public consultation.

But I do not want to plead my case to two trustees who appear to have so little respect for the preserve and protect mandate: one who has vowed to "Stop the Islands Trust," and the other, a former member of the island's economic development commission, who approved a major

tourist resort on coastal flood hazard land and dismissed 100 well-argued letters of opposition, who has focused on the short-term uptake of blanket rezoning while ignoring long-term build-out numbers, and co-sponsored a Trust Council motion that negates the whole purpose of the Islands Trust.

Trust planners have an ethical duty to maintain their independence, prevent illegality and ensure there is broad public consultation. They do not have to take marching orders from politicians and lobbyists who are chasing an impossible "housing for everyone in perpetuity" dream that is now morphing into a wider economic development agenda. Please intervene in the community planning process to ensure it reflects best practices and provides a safe, politically neutral place where residents can discuss the future of the island in a respectful manner.

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Dr. Danièle Behn Smith
Deputy Provincial Health Officer,
Indigenous Health

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Volunteer group thanks transportation commission

BY JEAN GELWICKS

Before the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission (SSITC) is no longer and the transition into the elected Local Community Commission (LCC) takes place, Island Pathways (IP) and the Partners Creating Pathway (PCP) Committee of IP would like to say a huge thank you to all the islanders who volunteered to be SSITC commissioners (past and present) and everyone else who sits around the Transportation Commission table, for all your hard work with IP volunteers since the commission's creation some 15 years ago.

Island Pathways was one of the transportation commission's first delegations, at the request of Gary Holman (CRD director at the time), who formed the commission. He was keen to promote community pathways around Ganges village. He wanted to introduce the commissioners to IP and their PCP Committee in the hope that we could work together on a community pathway network. This network of pathways into and around Ganges had been the dream of the Salt Spring Island community for years but was just not happening. Two Parks and Recreation Commission task forces had recommended the idea. Gary Holman also wanted to get a local transit system up and running.

The good news is . . . all these years later, we have an award-winning community transit system and the dream of the Ganges Village Pathway Network is a reality.

We are so proud of what we have accomplished. We are very aware of our pathway users. We see young students, older folks and everyone in between on the pathways at different times of day. We see dog walkers, parents with kids in strollers, family groups, runners and running groups, hikers and bikers from on and off island, school groups and mobility scooter users. We have even seen a unicycle, a young lady on a horse and a few wheelchairs. We have seen users in the early morning going to work or school, and using pathways through the



PHOTO COURTESY ISLAND PATHWAYS
Walkers and mobility scooter users on the Atkins Road pathway, one small part of the Ganges Village Pathway Network.

day, to the evening and in the dark. We see them in all kinds of weather, from sunshine to rain and even in the snow.

The very good news is . . . they are all walking/cycling/mobility scooting safely on off-road pathways. Before these pathways were constructed they were all using the side of the roads, dodging the traffic (that kept increasing) and each other . . . not very safely.

We are very proud of our relationship with the transportation commission and the network of pathways we have created together. Thank you for community pathways: open 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, for absolutely everyone, and free.

We look forward to working with the new LCC on expanding the network of community pathways to the whole island.

The writer is an Island Pathways board member and chair of the Partners Creating Pathways Committee.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



FILM

Screen icons revisit '9 to 5' working comedy

Film festival opener: Still Working 9 to 5

BY STEVE MARTINDALE

SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton headline the invigorating opening night film of the Salt Spring Film Festival, *Still Working 9 to 5*, at Gulf Islands Secondary School on March 3.

These legendary screen icons revisit their 1980 hit comedy *9 to 5* to shine a light on how much — and, unfortunately, how little — has changed for women in the workplace over the past 43 years.

Released in 1980 alongside Dolly Parton's catchy theme song, *9 to 5* became one of the highest-grossing films of the year, shattering the long-held belief that only men could headline a financially successful buddy comedy. Mixed in with plenty of belly laughs and screwball antics, the film delivered a serious message that the indignities and inequalities facing working women were really no joke.

Directed by award-winning filmmakers Camille Hardman and Gary Lane, *Still Working 9 to 5* examines



From left, Jane Fonda, Lily Tomlin and Dolly Parton, who star in *Still Working 9 to 5*, the Salt Spring Film Festival's opening gala film this year.

the correlation between the cultural inflection point of the original film and the subsequent evolution of women's rights, tracing the history of the Equal Rights

Amendment, the gender pay gap and changing attitudes towards sexual harassment, from Anita Hill to the #MeToo movement.

Featuring interviews with Dabney Coleman, Rita Moreno and Allison Janney, this empowering and unapologetically feminist crowd-pleaser was named Best Domestic Feature by the jury of the American Documentary Film Festival and Film Fund and won the Audience Choice Award at the Nashville Film Festival.

Returning to Gulf Islands Secondary School for the first time in three years, the film festival weekend features over 40 documentaries from around the world, many of them presented by the filmmakers themselves. Full festival passes are available for advance purchase via the ArtSpring box office.

The festival's Best of the Fests series concludes tonight (Feb. 8) with the screening of *The Grizzlie Truth*, the wildly entertaining documentary in which basketball superfan Kat Jayne tries to get to the bottom of why the Vancouver Grizzlies departed for Memphis in 2001. Don't miss this one-night-only screening at ArtSpring, with filmmaker Kat Jayne in attendance. Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

LIVE PERFORMANCE

Show to remember hits ArtSpring stage



PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER

Dancer Vanessa Goodman in *Graveyards and Gardens*, which comes to ArtSpring on Feb. 16.

Graveyards and Gardens explores nature of memory

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

Highlighted by *Stir* digital magazine as one of the most stand-out Vancouver theatre moments in 2021, *Graveyards and Gardens* is the collaborative performance installation conceived, created and performed by Pulitzer Prize-winning musician and composer Caroline Shaw and award-winning choreographer and contemporary dance artist Vanessa Goodman. The performance comes to ArtSpring on Thursday, Feb. 16 at 7:30 p.m. and includes a post-show "talk-back."

Part dance, part concert, part analog, part digital, the experience has been heralded as "mesmerizing" and "highly innovative." Unlike 2021 audiences who had to stream it online due to the pandemic, Salt Springers will greatly benefit from taking in this memorable, experimental performance live and in person.

"Memorable" is a fitting description. The work examines, as its theme, exactly that — memory. The duo's creative conceit is that memory is a process of reconstruction rather than an exact recall of fixed events, and when we remember and recall, we are embracing the various elaborations, distor-

tions and omissions that get laid down and repeated.

From a stage minimally dressed with its loops of orange sound cable, vintage record and cassette players, thrift-store lamps and green houseplants, Goodman commands as the sole dancer. The lines between dance and music start to dissolve as muscle memory of the body is echoed by loops of music, voice, samples of old recordings replayed, technological filters, static and distortions, all layered into a dazzling composition that evokes how our brains and bodies remember.

Shaw is a New York-based musician — vocalist, violinist, composer and producer — who performs in solo and collaborative projects. She is the youngest-ever recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for Music, which she was awarded in 2013. Shaw has studied at Rice, Yale and Princeton, currently teaches at NYU, and is a creative associate at the Juilliard School.

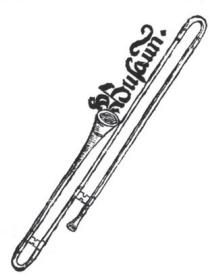
Goodman is an SFU alumni and currently the artistic director of Action at a Distance Dance Society. She has received several awards and honours, including The Iris Garland Emerging Choreographer Award, The Schultz Endowment from Banff Centre for Arts and Creativity, and the Space to Fail program in New Zealand, Australia and Vancouver.

Shaw and Goodman will also lead a workshop on Wednesday, Feb. 15 at ArtSpring

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at 5 p.m. It will explore the collaboration between sound and movement and work with themes of repetition, decomposition and regeneration. The \$20 session is limited to 25 people. Register through ArtSpring.



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ARTSPRING

Community and blues artists thrilled with visit

Experiences recounted

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON

FOR ARTSPRING

Last month, first-time blues collaborators and icons in their own rights, Lloyd Spiegel from Australia



Part Dance, Part Comedy, Part Greek Tragedy.

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Tara Cheyenne Performance

Body Parts

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\$30 adult | \$5 youth

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and Suzie Vinnick from Saskatoon, landed on Salt Spring as part of their B.C. tour.

It would become a memorable experience for artists and audiences alike, but it was also a community connection that ArtSpring is keen to see moving forward.

"The Suzie Vinnick/Lloyd Spiegel performance will go down as one of the legendary shows at ArtSpring. Suzie and Lloyd's incredible musicianship and storytelling captivated an almost sold-out house," said ArtSpring executive and artistic director Howard Jang. "I was thrilled they could stay an extra day to give a wonderful workshop that was a gift to many of our talented musicians from the community and GISS."

It is this workshop and the extended time on the island, social media postings and shared experiences that have been creating the extra buzz.

"Staying two nights anywhere is a rare and welcome occurrence on tour and giving workshops is a true passion of mine," said Spiegel, ranked one of Australia's greatest guitarists of all time. "After a wonderful local coffee or two, I was thrilled to have 30 people arrive with their instruments for the workshop. It was particu-



PHOTO BY HOWARD JANG

Australian blues guitarist Lloyd Spiegel leads a workshop at ArtSpring as part of his and Suzie Vinnick's visit last month. Vinnick worked with vocalists at the same time.

larly encouraging to have school students get involved and connect with what I was teaching."

ArtSpring technical director Malcolm Harris remembers, "At one point Lloyd handed his guitar to one of the students who didn't have one, and he let them try some of his techniques on his own instrument. That was great to see."

Vinnick, in the midst of winning Female Vocalist of the Year from the Maple Blues Awards, took 10 of the participants aside for vocal lessons.

"The ages were mixed from

young to older folks. We started off with a vocal warmup, then sang a few blues standards together. I encouraged everyone to grab a verse and sing it on their own, accompanied by me on guitar," said Vinnick. "Everyone was enthusiastic and jumped right in."

John Moore of the Salt Spring Jazz and Blues Society said Spiegel did not blow them away with his virtuosity, but rather concentrated on demonstrating patterns that they could manage, then had them play them. He was very supportive.

"And with Suzie, she got everyone involved and that was appreciated," said Moore.

"One thing I really try to get across with our favourite guitarists is they're entirely unique. You know it's BB King or Santana or Buddy Guy within three notes. While it's important to learn their riffs and understand their style, the true goal should be to be inspired by their uniqueness to find our own sound rather than to emulate," explained Spiegel.

Spiegel himself had never been to British Columbia, much less Salt Spring.

"Sometimes I look around where I have arrived and think how did I get here?" he said. "The beauty and the culture here is something in all my years of touring I have not experienced. I want to bring my family here, to rest, and to write."

Vinnick has been having a laugh at her friend's expense on social media with the hashtag #spiegalsighting, including their visits to Salt Spring Coffee, up Mount Maxwell and to the Salt Spring Cheese shop.

Having played at the Tree House Cafe back in the day, it's a full circle moment.

"I hope to return," she said.

what's on this week

Wed.

Feb 8

Fri.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Film Festival Presents The Grizzlie Truth. VIFF Audience Award-winner directed by Kathleen S. Jayne shows 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.

Feb. 9

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

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Regular monthly business meeting at the School District 64 Learning Hub (former middle school shop area, below the SIMS centre). 9:30 a.m. Town hall and trustee reports at noon. More business in the afternoon.
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.

Feb. 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Don Alder. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. (Preceded by the meat draw from 5 to 7 p.m.)
Fridays With DJ Boomtown. Fridays at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Feb. 10

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are Shayne Williams, CEO of Lookout Housing & Health Society, as well as Lee King, Lookout's Vancouver Island director of operations. 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.

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

ACTIVITIES

Tree-making Workshop. For attendees at the Feb. 25 Rally for Old Growth in Victoria. SIMS Maker Space room. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
CHIR.fm Record & CD Sale Fundraiser. Saturdays at the portable classroom at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Feb. 12

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 1 p.m. to join in a hike. Non-members may attend up to 3 hikes per year. For more details, see saltspringtnc.ca.

Feb. 10

ACTIVITIES

Mayne Island E-Bike Ride. Join a merry group of Island Pathways e-bikers for a morning ride around Mayne Island. Start by catching the 7:15 a.m. ferry from Long Harbour to Village Bay, where maps will be handed out. The group will return on the 12:55 p.m. sailing. Register at GoByBikeBC.ca to win prizes.

Resilient Gardens for a Changing Climate. Zoom presentation by Linda Gilkeson. A Transition Salt Spring event. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Visit tinyurl.com/TSS-Resilient-Gardening to enrol.

Mon.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Forum: Bringing the Red Planet to Life. Tanya Harrison, who has worked on multiple NASA missions to Mars as a scientist and mission operations specialist, is the Forum's guest. Mahon Hall. 7:30 p.m.

Feb. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Songwriters Circle Acoustic Open Mic. At the Legion. 6 p.m.

Celebration of Bill Turner. Diverse and Inclusive SSI (DAISSI) welcomes 2SLGBTQIA+ members and all friends to a celebration of love for recently passed community advocate Bill Turner. An evening of poetry, story, music, memories and queer culture. ArtSpring. 7 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.

Feb. 12

ACTIVITIES

Dance Composition Workshop with Caroline Shaw/Vanessa Goodman. An ArtSpring Presents event exploring collaboration between sound and movement. ArtSpring. 5 p.m.

Rematriation Film Screening & Q&A With Briony Penn. Film about the move to protect B.C.'s old-growth forests. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

Teen Lounge. See last Wednesday's listing.
Swing Dancing. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

The Banshees of Inisherin runs Friday, Feb. 10 to Tuesday, Feb. 14 nightly at 7 p.m., plus a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Rated PG, 1 hour and 54 mins. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

EXHIBITIONS

• Julianne Slomka presents a show called **What Moves Me** in the ArtSpring lobby through February.

• Marilyn Walker exhibits her paintings and sculptures in the library's community program room this month.

• Sheri Standen has her watercolour paintings at **Harvest Moon** in the Country Grocer mall. Hours are 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. most days.

Re-Imagined

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Friday, Feb. 10

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Money Matters

Hire a pro and make your money grow!

Why some ethical funds include pipeline companies

BY ROD MARTENS, RIS
ETHICWEST

For many B.C. residents, pipelines built across mountains and along rivers, often on unceded Indigenous territory, are a touchy subject. Pipelines have immediate consequences and long-term risks to the environment, particularly when they are meant to fill tankers needing to navigate our treacherous west coast marine environment to distant lands. The fact that this toxic cargo, when consumed, adds to our climate crisis is the icing on the cake.

It might then surprise a climate investor to see Enbridge as a holding in several ESG (environment, social, governance) mutual funds and ETFs such as ESGA. But Enbridge would argue that it's not just a pipeline and fossil energy company; by virtue of its many wind farm installations, it is now a significant Canadian renewable energy company, exceeding the efforts of any of its fossil-

based peers. Nevertheless, it'll be a while until Mother Earth feels comfortable buying its shares.

Other climate-focused investors might be betting that Enbridge becomes the next Ørsted. Previously Denmark's national oil and gas company, Ørsted transitioned over the last 20 years to a point where, in 2025, 99 per cent of the energy it produces will be renewable, mainly in the form of off-shore wind. Investors showed so much interest in 2016 when it converted to a publicly traded company that it briefly overtook BP, formerly British Petroleum, in market value. Ørsted is a common face in ESG funds, including the BMO Brookfield Global Renewable Infrastructure fund.

Supporting the most progressive companies in a problematic industry or completely divesting from those industries is a matter of personal ethics and, consequently, there are plenty of professionally managed mutual fund choices for each.

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CRA filing deadlines explained

May 1 is general date for returns and payments

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) is advising that people will be able to file their 2022 income tax and benefit return electronically starting on Feb. 20.

The deadline for most Canadians to file this return is April 30, 2023. Since April 30, 2023 falls on a Sunday, returns will be considered filed on time if the CRA receives it, or it is postmarked on or before May 1, 2023.

If you or your spouse or common-law partner are self-employed, you have until June 15, 2023 to file on time. Filing your return before the respective deadline will allow you to avoid interruptions to any benefit or credit payments you may be entitled to.

If you owe money, your payment is due on April 30, 2023. Your payment will be considered on time if the CRA receives it, or

a Canadian financial institution processes it, on or before May 1, 2023.

Seniors may also be eligible to receive the Guaranteed Income Supplement (GIS). It's a monthly benefit for old age security pension recipients who have low income and are living in Canada. If you already receive the supplement, by filing your return on time, you'll avoid interruptions to your payments and you won't have to reapply.

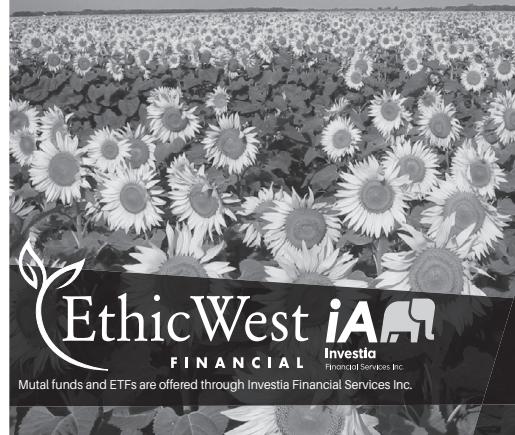
When anyone files a return, they may be eligible for benefits and credits that put more money in your pocket. You can find out what benefits and credits you're eligible for and how to apply on our Tax credits and benefits for individuals page on the CRA website.

You can register for direct deposit and file online to get any refund you may be eligible for faster. To file online, the CRA has a list of certified tax software products that are easy to use, fast, and secure, some of which are free.



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Obituaries

Gwyn Strike

(Margaret Elizabeth Gwynedd)

Gwyn Strike (Margaret Elizabeth Gwynedd), born June 29th 1930, age 92 passed away peacefully on January 23rd 2023 with her beloved husband of 65 years by her side.

Mom lived a life full of travel and adventures with Dad, moving to new and exciting destinations, with vastly different cultures and climates. Born in Pwllheli, Wales, Mom spent her early years enjoying the ocean, headlands, wilderness and wildlife surrounding her childhood home. She left for university to obtain her teaching degree. Education was extremely important to her and she was very proud to be an English teacher. After meeting Ken during her time at the university, they married in 1957. They started a new adventure when they moved to Guyana and started raising their young family of three.

A job opportunity for Ken had them moving in 1968 from the heat of Guyana to the winters of Ottawa. They eventually settled in Kemptville in 1972.

In 1989 they packed up once again for a cross Canada trip to their home on Salt Spring Island. They kept busy in their retirement here with their hobby farm and gardening, as well as with many church and social activities.

Moms' knowledge and enjoyment of calligraphy and writing, sewing and quilting, being a Girl Guide leader, camping, hiking, church activities, gardening, baking have all been activities shared and appreciated with her children and grand-children. She could always be found in her huge vegetable garden, or in the kitchen cooking and preserving.

Mom spent her last few years under the exceptional care of the staff at Greenwoods Elder Care on Salt Spring Island, BC. We would like to express our deep gratitude for the thoughtfulness and care of Mom during this time.

Predeceased by her parents and brother Fred. Survived by her husband Ken, sons Richard (Pam), Trevor, daughter Karen (Greg), granddaughters Christine (Tyler), Kayla (Jesse), Angela, Chelsea (Mark), Katie and great-granddaughter Ella.

Please join us, celebrating her life on Saturday February 18th at 2:00 pm at All Saints by-the-Sea (110 Park Drive)

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Greenwoods Eldercare or Lady Minto Hospital.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Radha (Leslie) Louise Fournier

August 4, 1961 - January 16, 2023



Radha (Leslie) Louise Fournier of Salt Spring Island, BC, passed away Monday, January 16, 2023 in her sleep after a long battle with cancer. Radha is survived by her siblings, Karen Fournier (CA), Bill Fournier (TX) and Steven Fournier (OR). Also Radha's adopted daughter AmanDa Bapty and her grandson Benjamin Bapty (SSI). Radha was predeceased in death by her older sister Diana Fournier (1997), her mother Donna Mast Fournier (2006), and her father James Damon Fournier (2019).

Radha grew up in Mt. Angel, Oregon. She graduated from Silverton Oregon High School in 1979. She attended University of Oregon from 1979-1985 majoring in Music Education and minoring in German. In 1982, she studied a semester abroad in Cologne, Germany. In 1984, she returned to study again in Germany, this time in Tubingen.

Post college, Radha moved to Portland, Oregon. In 1986 she continued her travels spending 6 months in Australia. While there, she worked as a helping hand on a large sail boat. This is where she discovered her love of sailing.

In 1987, she returned to Portland and worked at various jobs: Spaghetti Factory (waitress), Blackwell Book Depository (administrative assistant) from 1988-1993; INTEL (customer support, programmer, data-base manager) from 1993-1998 and again from 2001-2003.

In 1990, Radha received her certificate to teach sailing. In 1992, Leslie received her associates degree from Portland Community College in Computer Science.

In 1993, Radha bought and moved onto her houseboat in Scappoose, OR.

In 1996 she met Jay Fraser who shared her passion for sailing. Radha and Jay sailed their boat "Kestrel" from 1998-2001 all along the west coast starting at Puget Sound and moving south along the coast through Mexico and ultimately to Central America. Upon Radha's return, she and Jay returned to Scappoose, Oregon. From 2003-2006 she worked at Oregon Aero. In 2004, Radha and Jay married and moved to Salt Spring Island, BC (SSI) in 2006.

Once on SSI, Radha worked as a payroll administrator for the SSI school district (2006-2016). Even though Radha was retired, she continued working part-time work at the local grocery, Thrifty Foods off and on until she passed.

In 2009, she ran a radio station called "Green FM CFSI". Then she created her own radio program called "Heart of the Islands Satsang", which ran from 2009-2015. In 2016, she was instrumental in starting a new community radio station, "Gulf Islands Radio" (CHIR FM).

Radha suffered from various illnesses over the last 20 years. Despite her troubles, she had a huge heart. Radha was very positive and had a compassionate outlook on life. She always found peace. She was pragmatic and direct and clear about her point of view and boundaries.

She adored SSI - loved the people, their friendliness and relaxed nature. And of course, she loved the natural beauty of the island. She found joy in her dogs, going into town for her daily chai at Barb's and going for walks in nature. She loved spending time with her adopted daughter and grandson who brought laughter and joy to fill her life.

She was loved by all those who met her and is sorely missed. Her presence was a ray of sunlight brightening your day.

"When someone you love
becomes a memory
the memory becomes a treasure"

Obituaries

Obituaries

Marjorie D. Martin

April 16, 1923 - January 31, 2023



Born and raised in North Vancouver, Marjorie finished school at Grade 11 and went to work in the Vancouver shipyard as a file clerk. She took evening classes at the Vancouver Art College to develop her creative skills.

She married Thomas Martin in 1948 and they moved to Calgary where they resided for 30 years and raised their three children.

On retiring, Tom and Marjorie built a home on Salt Spring Island on land her father had purchased in the 1940s.

Marjorie loved her garden, sewing, knitting and volunteering in many capacities.

She had a deep faith and was active in her All Saints by-the-Sea community.

Marjorie moved to Rose Manor in Victoria in 2020 to be close to son Lindsay, and slowly declined over the past three years.

Husband Tom died in 1986, so Marjorie was a widow for 37 years and one day. She was also predeceased by her granddaughter Caitha in 2005 and son Tom in 2019.

She is survived by daughter Paula and husband Laurie Anderson, grandsons Aidan and Rhys and four great grandchildren all of Grande Prairie, AB.; son Lindsay Martin and daughter-in-law Somjit Napua of Victoria, BC; nieces and nephews.

She died peacefully at Royal Jubilee Hospital with her children, niece Colleen, and rector Gyllian Davies by her side. Many thanks to Dr. Maskey for her care and understanding.

Memorial service has already taken place and we thank all who helped pull together a lovely tribute on such short notice.

Our wonderful mother lived a full and happy 99 years. What an example she set of a life lived with kindness, generosity, curiosity, humility and humanity. Thanks for everything! Fly on!

In Memoriam

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ISLAND LIFE

NATURE

'New' bird species tallied on island

Record participation in annual bird count; Great Backyard Bird Count also needs volunteers

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's Christmas Bird Count (CBC) numbers are in, and with a few surprises, according to organizers.

The 34th annual event, conducted this year by Nature Salt Spring, was completed on an overcast Sunday, Dec. 18, with temperatures around freezing, "some snow in

the air and more on the ground," according to Tim Marchant, who said a record 191 counters participated in the field and at backyard feeders.

Marchant said a total of 12,400 specimens representing 96 species were tallied over a combined 228 hours of counting. Comparing this year to the past 10 counts, half had lower and half had higher totals, with generally between 82 and 97 species recorded.

"The most numerous variety — as it often is — was the dark-eyed junco," said Marchant, "with 3,221 sightings, up from their average of 1,931."

Marchant's numbers put the American robin in second place at 1,067, fewer than

their average of 1,809. The most numerous on the water were Canada geese (560), American widgeon (436) and bufflehead (339). One species barely made an appearance this year — pine siskins, with only 70 sightings compared to 3,452 in 2020 and a 10-year average of 622.

There was also some good news to share.

"We recorded the cackling goose for the first time in our 34 years of records," said Marchant. "They are similar to, and are often seen mingling with, Canada geese. They can be identified by their smaller size."

Also, Marchant said after three years of zero or single sightings, counters tal-



lied 14 Eurasian collared doves this year, which was the highest count since the first sighting of this new-to-area bird in 2011.

"Only one quarter of the 12,400 sightings were 'shore/water birds,'" said Marchant, "while three-quarters were 'land birds.' This ratio is usually closer to one third-two thirds. As always, the weather may have affected this."

Nature Salt Spring co-chair Kathleen Maser said backyard birders should be on the lookout for the upcoming Great Backyard Bird Count running from Feb. 17-20. For information and to participate, visit naturesaltspring.org and birdcount.org.

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Coming Events

You are invited to the "Celebration Of Love" inspired by the late **Bill Turner** at ArtSpring on Feb. 14 from 7-9pm

Remembering through performance and sharing our 2SLGBTQAI+ people who have passed on.

Option to donate at the door.

Information

Lady Minto Hospital AUXILIARY is offering three "Back to School" Bursaries

Applicants must be mature adults who wish to pursue a career in a health related field. Information & applications at: www.lmhias.ca/bursaries

Application deadline is March 31, 2023. Complete applications can be sent by email to: contact@lmhias.ca or by postal mail to: LMHAS Scholarship Committee 328 Lower Ganges Rd, SSI, V8K 2V3

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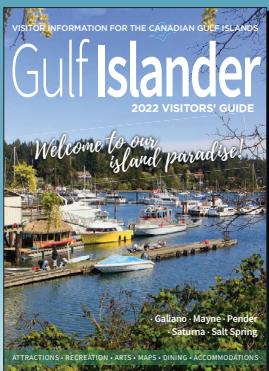
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Salt Spring Island Community Drop-in



Delivering the best service to coastal communities, means knowing what is important to those who live, work and play in them each day. Drop by and chat with our team.

Date: February 28, 2023
Time: 5:00 pm - 6:30 pm
Location: Harbour House Hotel, 121 Upper Ganges Road

A Ferry Advisory Committee meeting will be held prior to the community drop in. Public are welcome to attend.

Help shape the conversation:

Visit bcferriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island and share your comments, questions and ideas with us.

For more information contact:
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Scan the QR code to learn more.

HIGH SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

GISS hosts robotics competition



PHOTOS COURTESY CYBER/SCORPIONS

Some of the 30 GISS Cyber/Scorpions team members work on robots at the 2023 VEX Robotics Competition hosted by GISS on Saturday. From left in photo at left are Sophia Wilson, Maiya Baxter and Gemma Kelly; from left in the photo at right are Tadhg White, Corbin Roome and Cutlass Johnson.

Whole community contributes to program

BY CHRISTIE ROOME
FOR CYBER/SCORPIONS

Salt Spring Island is famous for disc golf — most notably at Mouat Park and the Salt Spring Golf Club. But why get tired or risk a rotator cuff injury by throwing the discs yourself when you can get a robot to do it? That's what Gulf Islands Secondary School Robotics team thought when they entered Spin Up.

On Saturday, Feb. 4, the Cyber/Scorpions hosted their first regional competition, where 34 teams from Vancouver Island came to Salt Spring to compete in the 2023 VEX Robotics Competition. Each year, VEX announces a new challenge. In May 2022, they revealed Spin Up, a robotics competition where teams build robots to compete in what amounts to a robotic disc golf game.

The Cyber/Scorpions program started in 2017 and the team has competed almost annually. During COVID, they didn't travel to competitions, but competed via webcam. Last year the Cyber/Scorpions competed in three regional competitions on Vancouver Island. This year's team is the largest yet, with 30 students from grades 8 to 12 participating in this year's VEX competition. These students have been meeting weekly since September to build robots in small teams. Seven teams have made seven thoughtfully designed robots fabricated and programmed to operate both remotely and autonomously to meet the competition's specifications and goals for the game-based engineering challenge.

Teacher Rachel FitzZaland leads the team, assisted by five mentors from our community: Dan Perry, Lochinvar Roome, Paul FitzZaland, Richard Swann and Alex Pym. These industry professionals with skills in engineering, industrial design and computer science meet with the team weekly to support the students with their builds. The Robotics program aims to increase student interest and involvement

in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) by engaging youth in designing and building robots. Students of different ages, abilities and interests who might not otherwise play on sports teams or belong to extracurricular groups engage in teamwork, leadership, communication, critical thinking, computer-aided design, programming and engineering. Students working with industry professional volunteers can gain more knowledge about future careers and educational pathways.

Although there is no cost to students, the program is expensive. In addition to yearly VEX registration costs and individual competition registration costs for all Cyber/Scorpion teams, the program has to pay for field elements, robotics components, materials, tools and equipment to build the robots and practise for the competitions. Access to enough robotics equipment is vital to keep teams small and ensure student equity and inclusion on the robotics team. The Cyber/Scorpions are grateful for financial support received from the Wilding Foundation, Salt Spring Island Foundation, Country Grocer and GISS's Parent Advisory Council. Without financial support from these companies and organizations, this program could not exist.

This tournament really became a community event with equipment loans and donations from: Salt Spring Inn, Salt Spring Film Festival, Salt Spring Lions Club, Royal Canadian Legion Branch #92, Country Grocer and Yerba Matte.

ENVIRONMENT

Rematriation film screens

Old-growth protection film and Q&A with Briony Penn

BY PAULA JOHANSSON
FOR THE UNITED FOR OLD GROWTH RALLY

Communities from all over the province have been co-organizing to come together in a massive show of solidarity to support The United for Old Growth Declaration.

It's the broadest grouping ever to sign on together in solidarity with First Nations insisting that the logging of old-growth forests stop now. On Feb. 25 there will be a huge rally and walk in Lekwungen Territory/Victoria.

To educate, inform and inspire our community about why it is important to come together for this soon-to-be-memorable rally and walk, the Salt Spring Public Library, Transition Salt Spring and Nature Salt Spring will be hosting a film screening of Rematriation with a live question and answer session with Briony Penn on Wednesday, Feb. 15 from 7 to 9 p.m.

The event is free to the public and located at the library.

Rematriation was filmed during the heart of the Ada'itsx/Fairy Creek Blockade. The blockade is Canada's largest act of civil disobedience in protecting old growth in B.C. The film follows concerned First Nations land defenders and B.C. citizens exploring the scientific, cultural, economic and sociopolitical dynamics that revolve around this issue.

Penn is a highly respected educator, consultant, artist and author, well-known on Salt Spring and throughout B.C. for her work in biodiversity and climate change. She'll respond to questions about the film, and share information about The Mother Tree Network, her current collaboration with scientists and author Suzanne Simard and others.

A bus is organized for Salt Springers who want to come to the Feb. 25 rally. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. The bus will leave from Ganges and take Salt Springers to Centennial Square. Reserve bus spots by emailing lynxlightwalking@riseup.net.

