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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
 April 5, 2023

63rd year
 Issue 14
\$1.50

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OPEN DOORS: Saturday Market in the Park vendor Roger Brunt sets up his space for opening market day on a sunny but chilly April 1, welcoming islanders and visitors with his colourful fairy doors, children's books and tales.

LEGAL DISPUTES

RTB punts to high court

Arbitrator declines jurisdiction; parties await Supreme Court hearing

BY ROBB MAGLEY
 DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The provincial agency tasked with resolving disputes between landlords and tenants has declined jurisdiction to settle some matters at the former Seabreeze Inne, paving the way for B.C.'s Supreme Court to hear the case.

Residential Tenancy Branch (RTB) arbitrator F. Lee dismissed a pair of applications for dispute resolution under the Residential Tenancy Act (RTA) — filed last summer by two of seven people still living in the former motel — noting in the March 28 decision that both individuals have leave to reapply, but that the issue contained in the applications was “substantially linked to a matter that is before the Supreme Court.”

The building has been owned by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) since March 2022; a trespassing case involving LMHF, current occupants and Salt Spring Island Community Services was postponed due to lack of judge availability in March, according to foundation executive director Roberta Martell. It is now due to be heard before the provincial Supreme Court in September.

Under the RTA, the RTB is specifically prevented from making determinations on disputes “linked substantially” to matters before that court; the RTB’s decision notes this, acknowledging that LMHF’s lawyer had argued the trespass action it had begun brought that rule into effect, and that counsel for the two applicants confirmed that the issue was linked.

TENANTS continued on 3

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CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Final CRD budget rests with 5.6% increase

Last-minute CRD-wide housing fund proposal not passed

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board finalized its 2023-24 budget last Wednesday, with the resulting property tax increase being higher than in recent years for Salt Spring landowners.

This year Salt Spring will contribute \$7,640,928 for all regional and island-wide

CRD services and to support the Capital Regional Hospital District. That amount is \$407,376 or 5.6 per cent more than the previous year. The average increase in recent years has been 3.9 per cent.

"The single most significant driver in that budget was the vote to approve the Local Community Commission (LCC)," reported Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman to the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission at its March 27 meeting. "The election is going to cost \$60,000 to \$70,000."

A half year of stipend and laptops or iPads for newly elected commissioners also contributed to the higher amount, he said.

An additional \$66,551 in transit maintenance costs, and increases of \$216,024 to the parks and recreation budgets were the other significant hikes. Holman said impacts of COVID were still being felt in lower revenues from the pool and market vendor fees, for example, so the parks and rec requisition was raised to make up the difference. Operating costs for the new Salt Spring Island Multi Space is another factor.

Owners of an average-assessed residence of \$1.1 million will pay \$97 per month in property taxes for CRD services, which is five dollars per month more than in 2022.

People in specified service areas, such as the various CRD water and sewer districts, will pay additional amounts.

The CRD Board had received a late proposal to add \$3.6 million to the regional Land Banking and Housing requisition this year. Holman said he was among board members not supporting the proposal, which would have bumped taxes up significantly.

The CRD's consolidated operating budget for 2023-24 is \$398 million. A further \$292 million is earmarked for capital projects.

More than 432,000 people live in the CRD area.

WATERWORKS

Trustees to consider Kings Lane water supply each month

Decision to depend on NSSWD lake levels

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The temporary supportive housing complex managed by BC Housing at 154 Kings Lane will continue to receive water service from the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD)

until at least the end of April.

Trustees voted at their March 23 meeting to approve an extension until April 30, with further extensions being considered on a month-to-month basis, depending on district lake levels. Without access to NSSWD water service, BC Housing estimates trucking water in from off-island once a week would cost an estimated \$8,000 per month. BC Housing develop-

ment manager Kirsten Baille told the NSSWD in a letter that ideally they would like approval for potable water access until April of 2024.

BC Housing stated at a March 8 online info session about its proposed Drake Road supportive housing complex that 15 individuals were living at the site. That number was later clarified by BC Housing to be nine.

In other NSSWD news, opera-

tions manager Vaughn Figueira reported that water levels at St. Mary and Maxwell lakes are higher than they were at this time last year.

He said Environment Canada's outlook is "for lower than normal temperatures in March, April and May, which is good in a way because it means evapotranspiration is going to be less. It's going to mean that people are using less water to water

their landscaping and whatnot. In terms of precipitation, though, Environment Canada is not predicting one way or the other. It's equal probabilities for above, average or less than normal precipitation."

The district went to Stage 1 watering restrictions as of Saturday, April 1.

See the northsaltspringwaterworks.ca website for details about what that means.

SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

NOTICE OF NOMINATION THREE (3) TRUSTEES



Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for three trustees will be received between:

9:00 a.m. Thursday, March 23, 2023
and 4:00 p.m. Thursday, April 6, 2023

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road, or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Anthony A. Kennedy at (250) 537-8815 or 647-284-2900

The Trustee positions are for a three-year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday April 24, 2023, and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2026

The Election to be held on Saturday, April 22, 2023, at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Advance Voting will be held on Wednesday, April 19, 2023, at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Only persons who are qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District may nominate Trustees and hold the office of Trustee. Qualified candidates must be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.

Nomination forms may be obtained at the Ganges Fire Hall or from Anthony A. Kennedy, Returning Officer (250) 537-8815 or 647-284-2900. (anthonykennedy10@shaw.ca)

Those persons eligible to nominate Trustees and vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to the election day
4. Be an owner of land located within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as an owner of land, then each owner may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No person may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

Dated at Salt Spring Island, B.C. this 24th day of March 2023.
Anthony A. Kennedy, Returning Officer

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

ICET gets one-time funding

MLA warns future projects may be in jeopardy due to province's lack of support for regional trust

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A rural economic trust that benefits the Southern Gulf Islands will be funded again this fall, according to the province — but at a fraction of what was hoped for by local officials, who fear dwindling dollars signal an end to B.C.'s support for small cultural and economic projects.

The Island Coastal Economic Trust (ICET) will receive \$10 million through legislative amendments to be introduced in late 2023, according to Brenda Bailey, Minister of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation. It's a one-time injection of cash rather than a self-funding endowment as exists in some other regional economic trusts. Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen said ICET dollars support important community projects up and down the coast, and that he'd called on the BC NDP to explain "why this government is allowing this fund to die out."

"ICET has been advocating for a permanent fund of \$150 million for months," said Olsen, explaining that an endowment would allow projects to be funded indefinitely. "Similar trusts in the Interior and North have long-term financial instruments that they use to leverage investments in their communities. Instead, this government offers \$10 million to come in late 2023 or early 2024 following amendment legislation."

Salt Spring Island's Community Eco-

nomics Sustainability Commission (CESC) lobbied for years to be eligible as a non-municipality to apply for ICET funding, and in 2021 was finally included — along with the rest of the Southern Gulf Islands. ICET grants support new infrastructure, enhance small-business opportunities and support Indigenous economic development, and have helped fund several regional projects on Salt Spring; the recent murals in Ganges were supported by grants from ICET's new THRIVE Small Capital Program.

CESC chair Francine Carlin agreed the one-time funding wasn't sustainable, and unless the province changes course, similar future projects would likely go unfunded.

"A sinking fund is like having the sword of Damocles hanging over the heads of our communities," said Carlin. "The government's decision not to establish an endowment fund is a siloed, one-off approach that will not contribute to sustaining islands and coastal community economic development."

ICET was created by the province in 2005 with a \$50-million funding base; it was modelled after the Northern Development Initiative Trust, which had been funded the previous year with \$135 million sourced from BC Rail sale proceeds. In 2018, ICET was recapitalized with another \$10 million — and that's running out, according to Olsen.

"The BC NDP have chosen to kick the can down the road," said Olsen. "It will only be a matter of time before ICET is at risk of closing once more."

Olsen said he'd tabled amendments to lift the cap on ICET funding and to "top up" to what ICET had requested, and called on Minister Bailey to bring them to debate. For more information about ICET projects, visit islandcoastaltrust.ca.

ELECTIONS

Commissioners' duties laid out by CRD staff

Local Community Commission hopefuls hear about responsibilities and remuneration details

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Potential candidates for Salt Spring's newest governing body got an earful from Capital Regional District (CRD) personnel, as a dozen or so met online March 30 to learn a little more about what they might be signing up for.

Island voters this past October approved the creation of the Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC), which will be comprised of four community members to be elected on May 27, and a fifth member — the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Salt Spring Island electoral area director, a position currently held by Gary Holman. The five commissioners will have their first meeting Monday, June 19, each having one vote to bring Salt Spring's desires to the CRD as once voice, on matters ranging from parks and recreation to transportation and transit.

But first, they have to get elected. CRD senior staff members and deputy election officers Karla Campbell and Marlene Lagoa tag-teamed a Zoom presentation followed by a brief Q&A last Thursday, telling potential commissioners about the range of responsibilities and time commitments should they take office.

The LCC's meeting schedule is proposed to be once a month, every third Tuesday, according to Campbell, adding that staff expected those meetings to run between two and three hours.

"We're not recommending any meetings during July, August and December," said Campbell. "However there will be time available for special meetings as required."

In addition to parks and rec and transportation/transit, the LCC's administrative authority extends to economic development, liquid waste disposal — specifically

the receiving stations and storage at Burgoyne — street lighting, determination of compensation for livestock injury by dogs, the Fernwood dock and approval of grant-in-aid applications — as well as an advisory role to "review and recommend" budgets for Salt Spring services that receive CRD funding, such as ArtSpring, the public library, and search and rescue.

In addition to a CRD email address — and an iPad to administer electronic agendas and relevant documents — commissioners will receive \$10,000 annually, with some limited expenses being eligible for reimbursement. Director Holman has said the remuneration number was, to a certain extent, arbitrary, but it had a rational foundation. Holman said in neighbouring municipalities of similar population, such as Sidney and North Saanich, members of those seven-member councils receive between \$15,000 and \$17,000. But, he added, they have larger budgets and more responsibilities.

[CRD director Gary] Holman said the remuneration number was, to a certain extent, arbitrary, but it had a rational foundation.

"They're responsible for land use management, and here we have [Islands Trust] trustees do that," said Holman. "They're also responsible for roads and policing. So [remuneration] was scaled back accordingly."

The term of office will be until October 2026, after which it will be an even four years; the late election will shorten the first LCC's term by a few months.

Nomination packages will be available online at www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote. Prospective candidates must be nominated by at least two eligible voters from Salt Spring's electoral area, and must themselves be Canadian citizens aged 18 and older on general voting day (May 27, 2023) and residents of British Columbia for at least six months immediately before filing nomination documents.

"Surprisingly, you are not required to be a Salt Spring Island resident to be eligible," said Lagoa. "The requirement is your nominators be eligible to vote here."

The nomination period begins on Tuesday, April 11 at 9 a.m. and ends on Friday, April 21 at 4 p.m. More information about the LCC is available at crd.bc.ca/ssi-vote.

hospital staff. In its lawsuit, LMHF argues, among other things, that people still living there have been trespassing since the termination of a once-extended lease between LMHF and BC Housing on July 15, 2022.

BC Housing constructed temporary supportive housing on Kings Lane, in an effort to provide homes for people displaced from the Seabreeze Inne until a planned 28-unit complex on Drake Road is complete. According to BC Housing, nine people are living at Kings Lane, and the Drake Road project is scheduled to break ground sometime this year.

A building permit for the planned renovation to the former Seabreeze Inne was issued by the Capital Regional District last month — nearly one year to the day after LMHF took possession.



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

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, virtually through Microsoft Teams, and in person at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. The link to the meeting can be found in the top right-hand corner of our website.

NOMINEES FOR 2 TRUSTEE POSITIONS ARE: (Both positions are for a 3-year term)

Elizabeth FitzZaland
Gary Gagné
Steve Lam
Leigh Large

AGM Voter Eligibility and Process

The Trustee election will use an advance mail-in ballot process and an in-person voting process. Voting packages and instructions will be mailed to all eligible voters 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.

Per the *Election Act* and the District's Letters Patent, an eligible elector for the purpose of a Trustee election is a North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayer who meets the following criteria:

- Is a Canadian Citizen 18 years of age or older, who has been a resident of British Columbia for at least the prior 6 months;
- Can only vote once in this election unless the owner is also an authorized agent.
- Is a registered owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area, or the authorized agent of any board or corporation that is an owner of such land, or the legal representative of any owner of such land who has died, become insolvent or insane (written proof must be provided by the representative);
- Has been a registered owner of a property within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area for at least 30 days prior to election packages being mailed out;
- Has an account in good standing;
- Is entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Election Act* and is not disqualified from voting by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment; and
- Spouses or partners who are not registered on title per BC Assessment are not entitled to vote.

www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca

761 Upper Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1S1 (250) 537-9902

Case reset for September

TENANTS

continued from 1

"The Tenant's counsel provided substantial documentary evidence in support that the matter is before the Supreme Court," wrote arbitrator Lee, adding that while the first issue before the court might be a decision as to whether the RTB should determine the dispute, the RTB did not think simply adjourning its hearing "on a possibility that the Supreme Court will order that the [RTB] director hear and determine the dispute" was reasonable.

The upcoming Supreme Court case is expected to resolve multiple issues surrounding the former Seabreeze Inne, which LMHF purchased with the intent to renovate and offer as housing for hos-

OPINION

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

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



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EDITORIAL

Fine art feast

A reputation for fine arts and craft excellence has long been associated with the Gulf Islands and especially Salt Spring as the most populous island in the bunch.

This past weekend saw the opening at Gallery 8 of the Islands – Lake of the Woods show by Randolph Parker, an internationally known artist who has lived on Salt Spring for decades, while work by seven remarkable artists was featured in the Little Pockets of Defiant Beauty show that opened in the ArtSpring gallery space.

Beginning next Friday, April 14, Salt Spring will host the first of two exhibitions in Archipelago: Contemporary Art of the Salish Sea, featuring six of the best artists of the Gulf Islands and six from the neighbouring San Juan Islands. Work by Gulf Islands artists will be at Mahon Hall from April 14 to 30. San Juan Islands artists' pieces will be at ArtSpring from April 21 to May 24. Artist panels, talks and other events are scheduled for the last two weeks of April. The importance of

such an international collaboration in the world of fine art really can't be overstated, and it will add more wattage to the light drawing attention to our islands as exceptional visual arts communities.

The biennial Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) exhibition and Parallel Art Show will also return this fall, and it could be argued that SSNAP efforts helped pave the way for Archipelago.

A Canada Council for the Arts-funded study completed in 2021 found that the economic impact of the arts in the Vancouver Island and Gulf Islands region was much higher than anticipated. Data from 2019 tracked \$910 million in funds flowing directly from the arts and supporting 21,920 full-time jobs. The Digital Innovation Group study also quantified the social impact of the arts as having a 5 to 1 return on investment in areas such as mental health improvement. Attaching monetary or other numbers to the visual arts might seem incongruent somehow, but the time devoted by artists and those who support their work and exhibitions should be appropriately valued for all of its positive impacts.

The next six weeks will be an exciting period for visual arts and arts tourism on Salt Spring. Let's all make the most of it.



OCP review survey floated

BY FRANTS ATTORP

Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick has announced "a focused update" of Salt Spring's official community plan (OCP), and documents show \$90,000 has been requested for a consultant to conduct the public consultation process. But will the fundamental questions about the future of the island be asked? Given that "a major OCP amendment" is listed as the only possible outcome, we could see an expensive public relations campaign rather than a broad discussion of umbrella concepts. I have therefore drafted my own "OCP review survey" and asked trustees to send it to every household. There are no right or wrong answers — just value judgments.

1. Do you support the Islands Trust mandate "to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally . . ." (with the understanding that "unique" means one of a kind and "environment" means natural environment)?

2. Do you agree that environmental protection should be prioritized in Salt Spring's OCP — without excluding human needs? (Our OCP would still have to address housing needs as per Section 473 of the Local Government Act.)

3. Do you agree that, to maintain healthy ecosystems and protect water supplies, the island's population must be limited, and our OCP should continue to have a zoning cap based on credible, up-to-date science?

4. Do you agree that human impact on the environment must continue to be measured in terms of number of dwell-

ings and projected population at build-out, not floor area or percentage of lot coverage?

5. Do you agree that rural character must be protected, and to do so, new development should be concentrated in or near existing settlements rather than dispersed across the island?

6. Do you agree that, while the Islands Trust has housing obligations under the Local Government Act, it cannot, as steward of a protected area, be expected to provide housing for everyone seeking to live on the island?

7. Do you agree that the Islands Trust should continue to facilitate government subsidized housing projects such as Croftonbrook and Dragonfly Commons?

8. Given that many secondary dwellings are going to tourist accommodation rather than long-term rentals; that studies show we may already be beyond sustainable build-out; and that climate change is making the future increasingly uncertain, do you agree that the Islands Trust should not make blanket changes allowing large numbers of new secondary dwellings across the island?

9. Do you agree that, to ease the housing crisis, the Islands Trust should make better use of existing housing stock; for example, by asking to have the provincial speculation and vacancy tax extended to the Gulf Islands, and stepping up enforcement of illegal STVRs?

10. Given that the Islands Trust powers are limited to zoning and it does not have the resources to manage housing issues such as covenants and housing agreements, should non-zoning responsibilities be handled by the CRD's new Local Community Commission?

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you concerned about the impacts of artificial intelligence on society?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Will 2 additional Fulford-Swartz summer sailings be good for Salt Spring?

35 128
NO YES

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at noon or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at noon.

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Missed the mark

The Driftwood completely missed the mark in the ongoing Rogers/Channel Ridge cell tower debacle in their article last week entitled "Residents, Trust continue cell tower opposition."

When the article stated "ISED (the federal regulator) advised the LTC (in May 2022) they did not agree with the LTC's reasons for rescinding their previous decision," the Driftwood failed to mention that the LTC hadn't reported valid reasons for that rescindment until their February 2023 letter to Rogers. And this most recent letter now states for the first time:

"By statements made in their application, the Proponents (Rogers and CREST) clearly knew that completion of the draft Model Protocol was required for concurrence. The Proponents (Rogers and CREST) falsely asserted they had fulfilled the protocol, provided inaccurate information, and omitted material information in their application."

The Driftwood article glossed over this important discovery that Rogers and CREST falsified their antenna siting application! In addition, the Driftwood didn't report that in an October 2021 email message, ISED told the LTC that concurrence could be rescinded if inaccurate or incomplete information was provided during the application process.

Given this crucial information, shouldn't the Driftwood have questioned why our LTC can't prevent this cell tower siting which was based on false assertions? The Driftwood didn't ask why our LTC chair said, "The Islands Trust

doesn't have the power to issue a stop-work order." They didn't ask if the LTC's inability to stop development under a falsified application means that any and all development could move forward under false pretenses.

Instead, the Driftwood reported Rogers corporate speak about expanding coverage and enhanced public safety, and CREST's assertion that the process undertaken was "probably the most rigorous" period of public consultation CREST has ever participated in.

Meanwhile, what residents of Salt Spring Island really need to know is whether our Islands Trust form of local government is up to the task of "preserving and protecting." If Rogers and CREST can avoid meeting the development requirements by falsifying their application and bullying their way forward, then what hope do we have to stop others from doing whatever they please in our community? That's the real mark the Driftwood missed!

JULIAN CLARK,
FOR CONCERNED RESIDENTS OF CANVASBACK

Better solution

CREST should be allowed to move forward with expansion plans with Rogers next to the approved cell-tower site that TELUS is on (in Channel Ridge). Unfortunately, the picketing residents are coming across as "unjust" and high-conflict people.

TELUS has had a tower on site for 20+ years that cannot be expanded on. According to lawyers, the residents have no basis for stopping the approved work at the site, or

stopping TELUS from doing 5G upgrades to their tower. Perhaps the Islands Trust could be spending taxpayers' money more wisely and come up with a solution that works for not only the residents but also the providers.

KEVIN PARKER,
SALT SPRING

Viewpoint right on

I loved Mike Stacey's "Survival of the fittest fails" Viewpoint in last week's Driftwood. I agreed with every point he made, and laughed at many of them.

In fact, I've almost run over all of them.

GREG MIDDLETON,
SALT SPRING

Bring on the colour

"One can speak poetry by arranging colours well."— Vincent Van Gogh

"Colour is the sign of the existence of life."— Etel Adnan

As a colourist I heartily agree with the call for more fearless and imaginative colour decisions for our town's architecture.

My pet peeve is the overused trend of painting a building, from foundation to roof, a heavy and harsh charcoal colour. Rather than being interesting or welcoming, the dark buildings feel bleak and remind me of Ukraine's bombed-out towns or the remains of a house fire. All greys are equally unremarkable. And all-black time must have seemed exciting and easy after that fad.

Hopefully the next colour trend will be

colour itself! There are thousands of shades and hues in a colour palette.

MONA FERTIG,
GANGES

Invasive species

Maybe like me you've been following with mounting dread the latest flurry of news about chatbots and AI (artificial intelligence) and how they're going to displace human beings and probably take over or maybe even end the world.

Nathan Labenz, an entrepreneur who builds AI video technology, says that AI, deployed at scale, reminds him of an invasive species: "They start somewhere and, over enough time, they colonize parts of the world ... They do it and do it fast and it has all these cascading impacts on different ecosystems. Some organisms are displaced, sometimes landscapes change, all because something moved in."

What little the rest of us can do to fight back might start with language. Emily M. Bender, a computational linguist at the University of Washington, suggests adopting an alternative name for AI: "Systematic Approaches to Learning Algorithms and Machine Inferences." Then, she tells us, at least we would be out there asking, "Is this SALAMI intelligent? Can this SALAMI write a novel? Does this SALAMI deserve human rights?"

MURRAY REISS,
FULFORD

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Surprisingly, you are not required to be a Salt Spring Island resident to be eligible. The requirement is your nominators be eligible to vote here."

MARLENE LAGOA, CRD DEPUTY ELECTION OFFICER, ON LCC CANDIDATE REQUIREMENTS

Road to becoming a wealthy and adored influencer is full of potholes

I'm planning on becoming an influencer. I've seen them and they are either grimy adolescents, unsavoury louts or hyper-voluptuous young women with pouts you could land a helicopter on, all making bucket loads of money and I want some.

I'm not entirely sure what it is they actually do for their money, but I think there's room in the market for me and I'd rather like to selfie myself with a Maserati or in the seat of my private jet.

For a start, I've begun recording a podcast which, for you older folk out there, is rather like a radio program on the wireless but mostly not as good and usually thrown together in the podcaster's mom's basement.

The so-called influencers who make the big bucks mostly talk to a camera, but I'm not certain the world's computeratti is ready for me to present myself in the flesh, so to speak, so for the moment I have decided to keep to the radio waves. Or cable waves or whatever. And to be perfectly truthful the demographic I'm most likely to influence is generally not entirely au fait with

the 21st century and would likely be challenged trying to find me on the internet.

First, I must decide who I intend to influence, and what special skills I possess that will have impressionable people lining up to sit at my feet, metaphorically, while I influence them and invite them to send me their money. According to Google, an influencer is "someone who has the power to affect the purchasing decisions of others because of his or her authority, knowledge, position or relationship with his or her audience."

The problem is that the influencers I've most recently come across are a loathsome pair of brothers who are currently under arrest in Albania or Romania for something involving young women, fast cars and a shedload of money. They are a singularly unpleasant pair with neanderthal views on just about everything, but depressingly they have millions of viewers or followers, mostly young men who can't get girlfriends and are never likely to.

So there's not much sense in my emulating them. "Come, come



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER
THING

boys! Girls are nice and the only reason you can't find one of your own is that you are truly repulsive and have the IQ of a house brick."

Cristiano Ronaldo, the somewhat famous soccer player (or football, as it's called in civilized society), is the world's most influential influencer with 443 million followers. That's 443 million wretched souls who hang on every word of a guy who failed Grade 6 and was expelled for throwing a chair at a teacher who "disrespected" him. Hah! If I'd thrown a chair at every teacher who disrespected me, I'd never have made it through kindergarten.

And the truth is, I just can't be bothered to find out what's so influential about Ronaldo since he's not likely to recommend any good books and I'm as interested in

so-called soccer as I am in knitting socks.

Kylie Jenner is another mega influencer with 359 million followers, and I'd possibly make that 359 million and one if I only knew who the hell she was! From the look of her, she's not a soccer player and I don't imagine she's spent much time in the kitchen in a T-shirt and baggy track pants, so despite her apparently becoming a billionaire by peddling makeup, I think I'll give that one a miss too.

The next problem is that most influencers seem to rely on something called TikTok, which, if you believe the FBI, the CIA, the American Republican Party and Canada's Conservatives, is run by Chinese techno-hoodlums on behalf of Xi Jinping in his government's dastardly plot to take over the world when Trump and Putin are finished with it. And frankly, I could never forgive myself if I'd been responsible for the overthrow of Western civilization.

The most viewed non-celebrity celebrity is a young man called Khaby Lame, who never says a word but nonetheless has about 100 million followers. Apparently,

he makes hilariously funny mini-movies and presently earns about \$5 million a year, which is far too much for a 22-year-old to handle and it will likely end in tears.

But 100 million followers is impressive. I have three, and have so far not even been able to persuade my sons to follow me. When I asked one of them why he didn't follow me on Facebook he told me: "What for? You don't DO anything."

And there's the rub. In order to become an influencer I'm going to have to do something interesting, and frankly, at 73 (as of two weeks ago) I don't have an interesting bone in my body. I do a rather good indignation, my "quite cross" can sometimes be impressive and I make a fine shepherd's pie that has been variously described as "tasty" or "nice." Nobody in their right mind would turn to me for advice on what to wear or how to remove a skin tag or an unwanted partner.

But there must be something that doesn't involve getting out of my chair or thinking about stuff. So, it's a work in progress, but in the meantime, please send me some money. Thank you.



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

ISLANDS NEAR AND FAR: At left, Gallery 8 owner Razali May stands by seven of 40 paintings by Salt Spring painter Randolph Parker in his Islands - Lake of the Woods exhibition that opened on Friday. Parker has also included some paintings from Salt Spring Island, including the view from Hope Hill, with a large acrylic painting (left, top) and a smaller watercolour version, which were among several pieces in the show that sold quickly. The exhibit continues daily through April 17. This Saturday, April 8, Parker will be in the gallery from 1:30 to 4 p.m. to meet with art lovers and sign copies of the Islands - Lake of the Woods coffee-table book. A larger exhibition of Lake of the Woods paintings ran previously at Mayberry Fine Art in Winnipeg.

Trustees represent more than communities

BY SUSAN YATES

I wish to respond to John Money's In Depth column in the March 29 edition. I would refute a number of his criticisms but will focus on only two which are important to me.

First, let me state that I respect Mr. Money's long-time, dedicated community work on Saturna Island; for about 10 years (between 1986 and '96) I was a trustee from Gabriola while he was a Saturna trustee, and I always enjoyed his company and wise words at the council table.

Money says, "Many of the

IN RESPONSE

trustees have no true understanding of their mandate. This should be spelled out clearly." I have two responses to that assertion: first, while following the Islands Trust election campaign last fall, it was clear to me that some candidates ran on platforms that did not support the Trust mandate, but rather other community or perhaps personal goals. Second, there are trustees who do not avail themselves of the comprehensive and carefully

planned program of education developed specifically in order to bring new trustees up to speed on the Trust mandate, policies, procedures and the job of a trustee locally and on council.

Mr. Money also contends that "The Executive Committee has moved into a position of power and seeks to control the trustees that have been duly voted in to represent the people." That is far from what I have observed from reporting on and watching Trust Council for several decades, and definitely not true with the current Executive Committee,

all of whom were voted in fairly and I believe thoughtfully at the November council meeting. The current committee has three members who are brand new to the executive and one who is new to council; they are well-respected by their fellow trustees and certainly do not bring any a priori agendas regarding the control of other trustees.

The Executive Committee makes decisions and prioritizes council work at the behest of Trust Council; when the majority of council asks the Executive Committee to work with staff and get something done,

that is how the work proceeds. There is no other instigation for the Executive Committee's work.

Trustees are elected to represent their community. That is clear when the votes are counted at election time. But their job also includes supporting Trust Council and making decisions to support the Islands Trust, not just for the benefit of fellow citizens, but for the benefit of the province. That is why it is called a Trust and that is why the province deemed it so in 1974.

The writer is one of two trustees for Gabriola Island.

SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NEW MEETING FORMAT



NEW MEETING FORMAT

Town halls, delegations, and Trustee reports at the BEGINNING of the meeting

NEW MEETING LOCATION

64 Learning Hub, 122 Rainbow Road
(next to Skate Park)

The next Salt Spring Island LTC meeting is on
April 13, 2023, 09:30AM - 04:00PM



Islands Trust

E: ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca
T: 1-250-537-9144
<https://islandstrust.bc.ca/>

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Funding goal achieved

Members of the Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers group are immensely grateful for community members' contributions to our 15th Annual Scrabble Fundraiser for the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign.

With our events on island and our online site, we are able to send over \$10,000 for projects in Africa to help grandmothers raising children orphaned by HIV/AIDS.

Our small and determined group had a wish this year to bring our cumulative total over the years to \$250,000. Thanks to you we made it!

If you are interested in finding out more about the Grandmothers Campaign or in joining us, please get in touch via our Facebook page.

JILL TARSWELL,

SALT SPRING GRAND(M)OTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS

Star of the Sea seeks community support

Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice is seeking community support so that it can continue to offer a range of programs related to spirituality and faith.

Since 2016, we have presented programs including meditation, chanting, kirtan, sacred poetry, spiritual conversations, and presentations and workshops on themes including end of life, inter-faith dialogue and the arts. Most Star events take place at St. Mary's church

in Fulford (generously offered without charge by the Anglican Parish of All Saints by-the-Sea), and some take place on Zoom. Star programs are organized by a small dedicated planning team, and that team is now asking for support to ensure that programming can continue and flourish.

We invite community members, and especially those who have attended Star events, to consider the possibility of helping by becoming a Friend of Star of the Sea. Options for helping include (but are not limited to):

- joining the planning team
- hosting an event, either in person or by Zoom (using Star's Zoom account)
- being a 'welcoming host,' opening up the building and saying a few words at the beginning of a program
- providing small needed repairs to the building
- offering a one-time or recurring program
- recommending some who could offer a program
- providing financial support (of any size) to support the heating and upkeep of the building, as well as Star's advertising and other ongoing expenses.

We would greatly appreciate hearing from anyone who might be willing to help out in some way. If you are interested, please send an email to starofthesea@ssic.com and a member of our team will respond to you. We will also provide direction needed for any of the tasks, and will contact you to ensure that any jobs can be performed at a time convenient for you.

We are committed to Star of the Sea continuing its offerings to the community, but we need your help to make this happen. We will be very grateful for any contributions. Thank you.

For a look at upcoming offerings please see starofthesea.com.

STAR OF THE SEA PLANNING TEAM

Let's take steps to improve our water service

Editor's note: A Q&A with the four North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustee candidates will be published in next week's Driftwood. As well, candidates have been given the option of submitting an opinion piece for publication in advance of the April 27 election (with a mail-in ballot also available). The following is the first of those pieces submitted.

BY LEIGH LARGE

Water is a precious resource that lies at the heart of all healthy communities, and we urgently need to improve our water service. That's why I'm running for trustee for North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD).

On Salt Spring, we are inundated with water during the fall and winter months, and in summer we sometimes endure drought conditions that require we access more than our licensed quota, which is replenished in the following rainy season. This cycle has been part of island living for many generations.

NSSWD has administered water access and distribution for over 100 years, through committed staff members and the volunteer contributions of hundreds of board members. But times are changing and the approaches that worked in the past need to be adapted to our new realities.

We are at an important crossroads when it comes to our water resources. That's why I decided to run for NSSWD trustee. Having been involved in this community and in business on Salt Spring for over 50 years, I know we can build on the many achieve-

ments of staff and trustees, past and present. Drawing on my business perspective, I want to address NSSWD challenges in a cooperative, transparent and realistic manner. Experienced business leadership, innovative thinking, private sector participation, and science-driven water resource stewardship is what we need at this critical moment on Salt Spring.

We have a medical care crisis on our island. I worry about critical staff shortages at the hospital deteriorating even further. It's a very tough situation. I've seen firsthand the challenges of finding homes for our workers at Country Grocer. The shortage of housing for health care providers and first responders is even more serious, and lack of access to water is at the root of that problem. I know we can improve the water supply availability within the existing system, without financially impacting the ratepayers. Additionally, the outstanding lawsuit hanging over our heads pertaining to the Channel Ridge fiasco must be resolved.

The current system of governance and finance in place to address our water challenges is woefully inadequate, and it's not because the people involved don't care or don't know what the challenges are. It comes down to a glaring lack of coordinated action and investment by and between regional, provincial and federal governments to facilitate building the water treatment plant at Maxwell Lake mandated by the provincial government and to fix the many kilometres of aging and leaking pipe infrastructure where the daily loss of water is apparently 20 per cent-plus.

Many residents and ratepayers of the NSSWD may not realize that our water system is a \$50-million asset. To manage such a large investment, we need water quality control as well as strong financial and business acumen. A critical part of that financial management includes securing access to government funding.

If elected, I look forward to being a part of a pragmatic, action-oriented approach to get the necessary planning and implementation process underway. Water supply is an essential service for today and for our future. Let's together make it happen.

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April 24th, 13:30pm to April 25th all day
Salt Spring Island Rod & Gun Club, 223 Long Harbour Road



Roses

- A mountain of Girl Guide cookies covered in roses of gratitude for Country Grocer for hosting the Salt Spring Pathfinder/Ranger barbecue and car wash on Saturday, March 25. The kids didn't let the snow and hail put a damper on their fun, and they are very appreciative of every community member who turned up to support them as they fundraise for their upcoming trip to England. Thank you all!

- Salt Spring Public Library sends 2-bit coded roses and Lego robot applause to the Wilding Foundation for their ongoing support of STEM programming at the library. March Break Tech Camp, Video Game Design and Lego Robotics 1 & 2 could not be happening without their generous support. Our FabLab is also funded by the Wilding Foundation. Make an appointment today to make (almost) anything . . . and be prepared to be amazed!

- One large bunch of chocolate roses for the PARC work crew for all the repair work to the Ganges Village Pathway Network (GVPN) they have been doing for the last while. The GVPN is looking really good. Thanks for all your hard work. *Partners Creating Pathways Committee of Island Pathways*

- The Salt Spring Public Library thanks Forsyth Farm for their very generous donation of compost and mulch — including delivery! When we wrote



PHOTO COURTESY SS PUBLIC LIBRARY

Piles of material to replenish the Salt Spring Public Library's garden areas, donated and delivered by Forsyth Farms Gravel Mart.

Forsyth Farms asking for prices on compost and mulch, Michele Forsyth immediately wrote back, offering to donate two yards of compost and two yards of mulch, and to have Grant deliver it as well. Our gardening volunteers were on hand to use it to keep our plantings healthy and strong. Thanks for your community spirit!



PHOTO COURTESY SS PATHFINDERS

Working at a fundraising car wash at Country Grocer for a Girl Guides trip to London, England next year are, from left, Pathfinders Miya DeRoos, Blossom MacAlister, Shelly Bennett-Peters and Megan Lizotte.

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- **Harbour Air ePlane demo**, Ganges Harbour Airport May 6, 10am-4pm
- **Electrifying Issues** Panel discussion, GISS May 6, 2pm-5pm

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CONCERT PREVIEW

Chamber and world music upended

Ladom Ensemble performs
April 12 at ArtSpringBY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

When CBC's Errol Nazareth gave a glowing review of Ladom Ensemble's first self-titled album, it spoke volumes: "I can honestly say that this is the first time I have heard such a fascinating mix, and it really works well," he said. "The music can be very elegant and contemplative, and it can also be rocking and fiery; there is no denying the passion of the four musicians."

Taking to the ArtSpring stage on Wednesday, April 12 at 7:30 p.m., Ladom Ensemble combines piano, cello, accordion and percussion in a unique blend of acoustic chamber and world music that is intense, sophisticated and wild. The

group met and formed in 2007 while studying music at the University of Toronto. Individual members hail from Alberta (Michael Bridge, accordion), Toronto (Beth Silver, cello), Prince Edward Island (Adam Campbell, percussion) and Ontario by way of Tehran, Iran (Pouya Hamidi, piano).

Pouya, the in-house composer, writes original music for the group inspired by Persian and classical fusion, but the Canadian spread of the group also reaches across the world and across genres. Their all-original repertoire incorporates inspirations from Argentinean tango, Serbian folk and dance traditions, Persian classical repertoire, as well as music from the classical (Bach, Prokofiev) and progressive rock worlds (Radiohead).

Ladom Ensemble has completed four major tours in Canada alone and has also been presented by Ottawa International Chamber Music Festival, CBC Radio-Canada and BBC.



BO HUANG PHOTOGRAPHY

From left, Michael Bridge, Pouya Hamidi, Beth Silver and Adam Campbell of Ladom Ensemble.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

APRIL 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
5	0438	3.0	9.8	9	0029	2.4	7.9
WE	1050	1.5	4.9	SU	0536	3.1	10.2
WE	1706	2.8	9.2	SU	1255	0.6	2.0
ME	2235	1.7	5.6	DI	2101	3.1	10.2
6	0452	3.0	9.8	10	0119	2.7	8.9
TH	1114	1.3	4.3	MO	0552	3.1	10.2
TH	1759	2.8	9.2	MO	1339	0.5	1.6
JE	2310	1.9	6.2	LU	2214	3.2	10.5
7	0506	3.0	9.8	11	0227	2.8	9.2
FR	1143	1.0	3.3	MO	0608	3.0	9.8
FR	1855	2.9	9.5	TU	1429	0.4	1.3
VE	2347	2.2	7.2	MA	2328	3.2	10.5
8	0520	3.1	10.2	12	0425	2.9	9.5
SA	1217	0.7	2.3	WE	0611	2.9	9.5
SA	1955	3.0	9.8	WE	1526	0.5	1.6
				ME			

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Advertising Deadlines Change

Please note that the
Gulf Islands Driftwood office will be closed
on Friday, April 7 - Good Friday
statutory holiday - and will reopen
on Monday, April 9, 9am - 4pm.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood

Wednesday April 12 edition will be
Wednesday, April 5, noon

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DIVERSITY & INCLUSION

Salt Spring Arts nominated for award

Indigenous work fêted

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
FOR SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts has been recognized for its work toward reconciliation with local First Nations by a nomination for the 2023 B.C. Multiculturalism and Anti-Racism Awards.

The nomination, submitted by Jennifer Iredale of Mayne Island, was for a Breaking Barriers Award, which is "provided to an outstanding organization or individual for their work in tackling systemic or institutional racism and reducing barriers for marginalized communities." As Iredale wrote in her nomination, she believed Salt Spring Arts has been doing exactly that type of work in its efforts to bring Indigenous artists, elders and knowledge keepers into regular arts council programs.

The three-year Artcraft Indigenous Pilot Program was the focus of the nomination. Started in 2021, the program seeks to reduce barriers that would prevent Indigenous artists in the region from participating in the annual Artcraft

gallery and its exhibitions. Residency in the Southern Gulf Islands is normally a requirement for participation, but colonial policy and historic racism have meant the SENĆOŦEN and Hul'q'umi'num'-speaking nations were largely divided into reserve lands based on Vancouver Island village sites. As a result, few of the Indigenous peoples who count the islands as part of their unceded territory actually live here today.

The Artcraft pilot project therefore removed the residency requirement for Indigenous participants and eliminated all registration fees and sales commissions. Support for transporting artworks to and from Salt Spring was incorporated, along with technical support for artist statements, photos and directory listings.

Working with Indigenous curator Rose Spahan, Salt Spring Arts introduced a total of 12 regional Indigenous artists to Artcraft and its Showcase exhibition program over the first two years of the project. Positive results that Iredale enumerated include "sales and exposure for Indigenous artists who would not otherwise have had access to that venue; shifting a public misunderstanding of local his-

tory that erased Indigenous culture; creating a more multicultural environment on Salt Spring in the present day; and most importantly, building meaningful connections and relationships between Indigenous and settler communities in the Salish Sea region."

The organization is still working to create new relationships with regional Indigenous artists. Visitors to Artcraft this summer can expect to see work by another six to eight new Indigenous participants.

The resounding success of the JSINSET ŠWELOKE Exhibition in 2022, curated by Spahan and featuring the Elliott family, has meanwhile encouraged plans for more Indigenous-based Showcases.

Salt Spring Arts also continues to strengthen and build on connections made. Both Spahan and WSÁNEĆ cultural advisor JSINTEN John Elliott will be back on Salt Spring this April for events happening during the Spring Art Show. Philip Kevin Paul, an award-winning poet and SENĆOŦEN language champion, will headline a Salish Sea authors night at another Spring Art Show event set for April 18.

BAROQUE MUSIC

Sonata's origins celebrated in concert

Three baroque musicians at All Saints

SUBMITTED BY SS BAROQUE

Salt Spring Baroque welcomes three musicians from the Pacific Northwest for the second concert of its 2023 season.

Anna Marsh, playing dulcian, Byron Schenkman on harpsichord and Lindsey Strand-Polyak on violin will present Viva La Sonata at All Saints by-the-Sea church on Saturday, April 15 at 7:30 p.m.

Originally from Tacoma, Wash., Marsh is a baroque wind specialist who appears regularly with ensembles across North America. For this concert she will be playing the dulcian, which is the Renaissance/early baroque precursor to the baroque bassoon.

Schenkman is a queer Jewish keyboard player and scholar with a background in historical performance and a passion for

connecting people through music. In addition to performing live on piano, harpsichord and fortepiano, Schenkman can be heard on more than 40 CDs, including recordings on historical instruments from the National Music Museum, Vermillion and the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston. They can also be heard in numerous online performances with Byron Schenkman & Friends and with the Portland Baroque Orchestra.

Strand-Polyak performs with Byron Schenkman & Friends, the Salish Sea Early Music Festival and as principal violist with Seattle Baroque Orchestra.

The April 15 concert celebrates the beginnings of the sonata, featuring instruments key to its development. The program will include works by many lesser known baroque composers such as Fontana, Merula, Casulana, Frescobaldi, Rösenmüller, Uccellini, Jarzebski and Bertoli.

Tickets are available at saltspringbaroque.com or the door.



ISLAND LIFE

CREATIVE PROJECTS

Lam photo show redefines beauty

50 Over 50 opens at library

Photographer Ramona Lam's 50 Over 50 Photo Exhibition, celebrating mature women of all shapes, sizes, lifestyles and backgrounds, has a personal story behind it.

"I have been conditioned my entire life as to how I should look and behave, which carried through into my marriage, motherhood and life in general," said Lam.

She notes that societal standards for what makes a woman beautiful constantly shift: heavy black eyeliner in ancient Egypt; white powdered faces in the 18th century; or a curvy feminine shape in the 1950s. Over the last couple of decades, fashion media — which predominantly promoted thin, young models (a look made popular by Twiggy in the 1960s) — has tried to include some plus-sized models and women over 50, although they are generally thin women with nice teeth, like Helen Mirren, said Lam.

"However, despite this move towards greater diversity in the media, many women over 50

feel invisible and unattractive," said Lam.

Lam is working hard to change that mindset. Her photography project involved inviting 50 women over the age of 50 to participate in a photo shoot, complete with complimentary hair and make-up session, with the goal of celebrating the essence and wisdom of women in their 50s, 60s, 70s and beyond, and to prove that beauty does not diminish with age.

The resulting show will run at the Salt Spring Public Library program room until April 28.

"I started the project in collaboration with other photographers around the world," said Lam. "But it has become so important to me because of my personal interest and growth with it. . . This project has been personally healing and transformational. From being bullied in school to empowering women now, from feeling ugly to loving myself, from being shy to talk to strangers to now feeling confident to help others find their strength to shine."

For more information, see ramonalamphoto.com/50-over-50.



50 OVER 50 POSTER IMAGE

Exhibit poster with a portrait subject in Ramona Lam's 50 Over 50 Photo Exhibition, hanging in the library's program room during the month of April.



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what's on this week

Wed.

Apr. 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo – Kaleidoscope of Love. A musical tribute to love with JM & Co.: Randall Miron, Jim Shultz, Deb Smith, Grace McNab, Hannah Brown and John Moore. All Saints. 2:10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Teen Lounge. Activities for youth aged 13-18 every Wednesday afternoon in the library's Teen Zone. 4 to 5 p.m.

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

Thur.

Apr. 6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry Open Mic. With featured poet Carlie Blume. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

Maddie Storvold & Oliver Swain. Storvold trio and opener Swain at Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Mother Goose. Rhymes, songs and storytelling activities for babies and children to 4 years of age and their parents/caregivers. Library program room. 10:30 a.m. to noon.

Fri.

Apr. 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jesus Christ Superstar Accordion Sing-Along. Led by Shelder the Electric Clamfish (AKA Michelle Footz) at Beaver Point Hall. 7 p.m. Costumes encouraged.

Fri.

Apr. 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Nostic. Mateada Lounge. 9 to 11:30 p.m.

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

Fridays With DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til closing.

ACTIVITIES

3 LIBRARY EVENTS CANCELLED DUE TO HOLIDAY: Neighbourhood Story Time. Community members read stories for kids and parents/caregivers in the library's children's area. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Youth Games. Board games of all kinds every Friday for ages eight to 13 in the library's children's area. 2 to 4 p.m.

Friday Game Night. Youth aged 13 to 19 meet in the library's program room to play board/card games, including Magic: the Gathering. 7 p.m.

Sat.

Apr. 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Christina Kennedy. Island singer/songwriter at Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10 p.m.

Nick La Riviere and the Best Laid Plans. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

A Sweet Little Craft Fair. Easter sweets, toys, food and more. Lions Hall. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.



Sat.

Apr. 8

ACTIVITIES

Book Signing: Randolph Parker. Salt Spring artist in attendance at his Islands – Lake of the Woods exhibition at Gallery 8. 1:30 to 4 p.m.

Sun. April 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blues Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Easter Egg Hunt. Annual event for kids at Salt Spring Cheese. 10 a.m. to 12 noon. No early birds!

Tue.

Apr. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Wed.

Apr. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Ladom Ensemble. At ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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



CINEMA

• **Dungeons and Dragons: Honor Among Thieves** runs Friday, April 7 to Tuesday, April 11 nightly at 7 p.m., plus a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Rated PG. 140 mins. See thefritz.ca for more movie info or phone 250-538-7718.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Randolph Parker: Islands - Lake of the Woods** exhibit runs daily at Gallery 8 through April 17.
• **Little Pockets of Defiant Beauty** exhibit, with artwork by Seth Berkowitz, Stefanie Denz, April Mackey, Ella MacQueen-Denz, Robert Moss, Anette Schrage and Michela Sorrentino runs at ArtSpring until April 10.
• **Ramona Lam's 50 Over 50 Photo Exhibition: Celebrating Mature Women** of all Shapes, Sizes, Lifestyles and Backgrounds is up in the library program room from April 3 to 28.
• **The She Said Collective** presents the 10X10 show at Salt Spring Gallery until April 12.
• **Larry Melious** has his photography hanging in the ArtSpring lobby through April.
• **Salt Spring Laundromat** shows art from Michelle Edgar - Patten's family collection through April. The show involves various Indigenous artists from their family, friends, and prints made from famous artists

Poetry Open Mic

With guest poet Carlie Blume
Thursday, April 6, 7 p.m.
Library Program Room

THRIFTY FOODS
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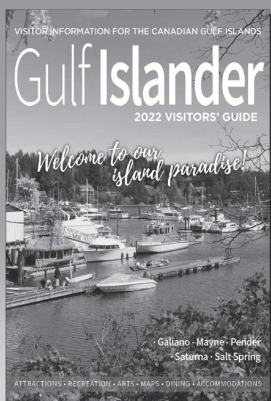


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ELDERCARE

Greenwoods refreshes for 2023

Society and foundation
consolidate with focus on
much-needed fundraising

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Anyone walking into the Greenwoods Eldercare residence for the first time in a few years might be surprised by what they see.

They would notice brightly painted residence hallways — named Willow Lane and Fern Lane — with new hand rails in place, and that each resident's door has a different colourful look and identity.

A former boardroom has been transformed into a staff room with a view of the ocean out one window. The previous staff room has become a family lounge.

Aletha Humphreys has been the executive director of Greenwoods Eldercare Society for almost five years, and along with the society's board and dedicated staff steered the facility through the pandemic period, which led to some of the recent changes.

For example, fundraising for another bus had been in the works, Humphreys said, but it struck everyone during the pandemic that some people don't actually ever leave the facility.

"So we thought, 'let's make their home environment as home-like as possible.'"

That led to the hallway refurbishment project, which cost \$150,000.

"All of that money came from the [Greenwoods] Foundation, which would have represented years of giving from the community," said Humphreys.

Before making the changes, Greenwoods reached out to the Department of Gerontology at Simon Fraser University. That led to being introduced to a decal product that gives the door to each resident's room a unique look. Each door was also painted a different colour.

Greenwoods is also working with SFU to determine what sort of artwork or interactive displays could go on the newly painted white walls.

"[Some things] might look pretty to us but could be overwhelming to someone with dementia," said Humphreys.

The family lounge addition was a suggestion from a Greenwoods resident's son, who observed that visiting people in their bedrooms seemed strange, so having a separate gathering area made more sense. The resulting spacious room has a round dining table and four chairs, two living room chairs and a love seat, and an area to make tea and prepare snacks. A door also opens up to the garden area.

A generous donation from someone who had a connection with Greenwoods but wants to remain anonymous for now made that change possible. The room will be dedicated to a former Greenwoods board member.

"We are waiting to do the full opening of this room once we are through respiratory [illness] season," said Humphreys. "Then we will have a celebratory tea with the person it was dedicated to and invite the families."

Greenwoods family members have traditionally been asked for input on an informal basis, but a new family council system brought in by the B.C. government last year will see that change too. Humphreys is grateful that two people stepped up to be co-chairs of the council.

Another major change has occurred in the governance realm. Greenwoods



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

From top, Greenwoods operations manager Trish Staicescu, left, and support services manager Irene Lundy, stand in a newly painted hallway outside a resident's door bearing a unique door decal and colour; new family room at Greenwoods to facilitate visiting.

Eldercare Society has been supported by the Greenwoods Foundation since 2002. That entity existed to raise funds for the Greenwoods and Braehaven residences, but the boards of both groups made the decision last year to dissolve the foundation and bring the fundraising aspect back under the society.

Volunteer capacity was a major factor.

"We are incredibly fortunate to have an extremely competent board," said Humphreys. "But we're struggling to get our volunteers back. We realized it's wonderful to do a garden bench raffle and it's wonderful to do an annual campaign, but it doesn't raise enough."

The Greenwoods building is 43 years old and will require significant investment in coming years, she said.

"I don't want the plumbing to crash, I want to look at replacing the plumbing . . . We need to keep this building viable and then we can put our efforts towards a new build, which is so desperately needed here."

Greenwoods owns an adjacent lot where another facility could be built.

Humphreys refers to the plumbing because of a failure in a pipe in the kitchen that occurred on Feb. 23.

She said the contractors dealing with the issue — Miller Plumbing, Fiberlock and Nick Pringle — "were incredible" and the repairs were completed in the shortest possible time — three weeks.

"Thank goodness we have Braehaven [assisted living facility next door]," she said. "The team had to put all the dishes onto carts and wash and sanitize them at Braehaven and bring them back."

But of course that wasn't the only challenge to overcome.

"Over those three weeks we had snow, so [Greenwoods operations manager Trish Staicescu and her husband Greg] were shovelling a path between the two places."

Then, as soon as they plugged in the dishwasher after the three-week hiatus, it broke. A required part was ordered and was supposed to be on the first ferry the next day. But then the morning Crofton-Vesuvius ferries were cancelled. But Irene Lundy, Greenwoods' support services supervisor and main maintenance person convinced the courier to take the part down to the ferry dock. It was given to a friend of Lundy's on the ferry and the dishwasher was working by 6 p.m. that night.

Another reason to fold the Greenwoods Foundation into the society was to eliminate confusion about the two organizations.

Humphreys said the society also wants to build community engagement and emphasize to people that "we are not part of the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation" and so anyone wanting to support Greenwoods should donate directly to Greenwoods Eldercare Society. While donations are appreciated at any time to help with costs such as the plumbing and rehabilitation repair, a giving campaign is planned for June 5-11 this year during Seniors' Week.

Like all health-care institutions, Greenwoods still has staffing challenges and some rooms are without residents as a result.

"We have been at 43 to 45 [residents] when we should be 50 plus respite."

The Health Care Access Program, which provides financial support to people wanting to train to become health-care aides, has been helpful, Humphreys said, and other roles are being filled.

"It will take us a few years to build up core staff again and not having to be relying on agency staff," she said.

For more info about Greenwoods or to donate, visit the greenwoodselcare.org website or email Humphreys at aletha.humphreys@greenwoodselcare.org.

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Coming Events


 Salt Spring Hospice

Salt Spring Hospice Society ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Tuesday, April 18, 2023 @ 7pm
Salt Spring Senior Centre
379 Lower Ganges Rd (across from Country Grocer)

This meeting is open to the public. Members only will be able to vote (membership fee is \$10). To purchase a membership you can e-transfer the amount to office@saltspringhospice.org or give the office a call @ (250) 537-2770.

Coming Events

Information



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Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19) An expansive urge vies with an ardent determination to get to the bottom of things. Positively, you will succeed with both. A feature of the plot is to strengthen your overall foundation in such a way that you feel both more secure and are able to enjoy the pleasures of life more fully.

Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20) A busy time behind the scenes continues. Making mental and emotional and physical preparations are at play. A growing determination to get a lot done is on your mind. This probably includes communications with key people conducive to your plans and ambitions, which will assume a prominent role this week.

Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22) Many new beginnings on relationship fronts are indicated. Themes of expansion and increase are highlighted. Giving or receiving training is featured. Your ability to focus and to do the work may prove sporadic, so when the windows open, make the most of them to be productive.

Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21) Taking steps and measures to change your lifestyle rhythms and patterns continues. The key is to replace the old habits with new and better ones. It all begins with the quality of your intention, which when sincere implies resolve. If necessary, write a list of your goals.

Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21) Expressing new aspects of your sense of individuality are in focus now. Doing so requires your full concentration and making consistent efforts above and beyond your norm. Your ambitions are also stronger than usual which will support your resolve and ability to see things through.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21) The Aries impulse has probably manifested in a variety of contrasting ways. Either this cycle has been a source of inspiration or of drama and perspiration, or perhaps some of both. As well, as much as your ambitions have been ignited, so has an urge to escape it all. Avoid extremes and aim for the sweet spot.

Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22) Fresh starts in your public and/or professional life continue to unfold. A pioneering impulse is featured and you find yourself entering new territory, or are at least revisiting old haunts. Engaging with significant others is indicated and includes various modes of performance and entertainment.

Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19) As your confidence levels steadily rise, you may have noticed that you have become more assertive of late. This could be the source of some conflict on relationships fronts. If so, hopefully, the process is what is needed. Focus on what makes you and others special to keep the vibe high.

Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23) Many new understandings are broadening your vision and the reverse is also true. This overall dynamic will continue well into May, anyway, so make the most of it. The opportunity to advance to the next level in your overall philosophy and view of life is present. Be willing to dive to deeper depths.

Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19) Many new thoughts and perspectives are on your mind. These include a desire to assess matters with clarity for the sake of effective solutions. Yet, you may be contending with some degree of confusion, perhaps due to assumptions or to biases. Be willing to work diligently and patiently to understand clearly.

Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22) You are undergoing a steady and rapid process of change and transformation. Positively, this could amount to advancing to a whole new level and quality of health and fitness. If you find yourself reacting and lapsing into excess, accept this is your cue that fear is triggering survival instincts.

Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20) Aries time has much to do with the new. New perspectives, priorities, attitudes, approaches and projects are examples and they may all be on your mind. Fortunately, you are in a sporting and playful mood, which is serving to increase your willingness to do things differently.

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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

The Driftwood's Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign is back for 2023.

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

We hope you will join us in choosing an area of the island to rid of trash during the month of April.

Some people commit to cleaning up an area of beach where they love to spend time, or on a route they regularly walk. That's the case for annual participants Michelle Grant and Steve Coopman, who actually make picking up trash and recyclables part of their north end walking routine.

I'm personally waiting for it to warm up a bit before

tackling the lower Cranberry Road area I've always taken care of, but I am definitely eager to get out there. A number of beer cans have been glinting at me from the side of the road for about a month when I drive home. Why don't I always carry gloves and plastic bags in the car so I can stop and pick them up? Now that I've said that out loud it might just happen!

It's great when people or groups choose to clean up large areas, but when it comes to this kind of task, every metre counts. Picking up garbage or recyclables in the area in front of your home or on your block fills in a

OUR RUNNING LIST AS OF MONDAY IS:

- Sicherman family — Baker Beach.
- Michelle Grant & Steve Coopman — From Epron Road, up North End, down North Beach to Fernwood.
- Robert Steinbach — Kitchen Road, and Fulford-Ganges Road from Kitchen to Horel.
- Elizabeth Hayes — Byron Road.
- Ranji Bhimji — End of Isabella Point Road to Mountain Road.
- Tangachee Goebel — South end beach shores: Beaver Point, Ruckle, Fulford Harbour.
- Nancy Johnson — Beddis Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to the sailing club.
- Gail Sjuberg — Cranberry Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to Blackburn Road.
- L & L Fraser — Long Harbour Road from Upper Ganges Road to Eagle Ridge Drive.

valuable piece of the clean island puzzle.

We appreciate those who just go out and get the job done without recognition, but having one's name printed in the paper adds to the fun and community building, so contact us to sign up: phone 250-537-9933, email driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or drop in to our office at 241 Fulford-Ganges Road between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Friday.

See the bottom of the page for all the instructions and benefits. Thank you in advance for your contributions, and thank you to our campaign sponsors!



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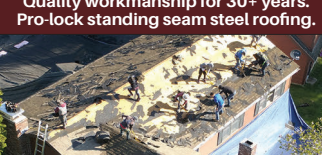
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It's time for the Driftwood's annual island-wide clean-up campaign! Join your friends and neighbours in clearing litter and other debris from island roadsides and beaches.

- 1 Pick a section of road, beach or neighbourhood that you'd like to rid of trash in April.
- 2 Phone or email us at the Driftwood with your name and the area you've chosen. driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or 250-537-9933.
- 3 Pick up your Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services coupon from the Driftwood office and take your bag(s) to Laurie's, or otherwise dispose of what you've collected.
- 4 Also at our office, pick up your coupon for a free tea, coffee or hot chocolate from TJ Beans.
- 5 Enjoy being recognized in the Driftwood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make Salt Spring a cleaner and healthier place to live.

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