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EMERGENCY SERVICES

Boat fire contained in harbour



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Eagle Eye Marine's Kraken vessel crew gets set to start attacking a fire on a liveaboard sailboat in Ganges Harbour on Thursday, June 8.

No injuries reported in blaze

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

No serious injuries resulted from a boat fire in Ganges Harbour, which burned the vessel nearly to the waterline and brought RCMP, Coast Guard and local vessel-assist crews to the scene.

The 911 calls came in the early afternoon Thursday, June 8, with several people reporting a fire aboard a sailboat anchored north of the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club docks. Flames could be seen coming from the stern, and smoke poured from a forward hatch. The vessel quickly became engulfed in flames and a column of black smoke rose over Ganges.

Coast Guard and RCMP vessels were quick to the

scene — but first to arrive was the rigid hull inflatable from Ganges-based vessel assist operator Eagle Eye Marine, who rescued the boater; once it was clear there were no more people aboard, Celine Boychuck at the bow of their tow vessel Kraken began dousing the flames with an onboard fire hose.

Salt Spring RCMP Detachment Commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook said despite the destruction aboard the sailboat, the vessel's lone occupant wasn't seriously injured.

"He had superficial scrapes from leaving the boat, but no burns," said Seabrook.

The boat's owner spent some time waist deep in the water off the nearby beach as the vessel continued to

burn; he was ultimately brought ashore by police, according to Seabrook, and taken to Lady Minto Hospital for assessment.

Black smoke turned to white as Kraken's crew brought the flames under control, finally pushing the smouldering vessel to the shoreline for RCMP to investigate.

Seabrook said the fire was "not suspicious" and credited Boychuck, husband Nick and the staff at Eagle Eye Marine for their quick action.

"Upon hearing of the boat fire, they immediately responded," said Seabrook.

"They then began fighting the fire — which likely prevented the fire from spreading to other vessels."

Burn ban in place

As of last Thursday, June 8, all open burning has been banned on Salt Spring Island, and the weekend's rainfall did not effect that status.

Campfires of a certain size with a permit had been allowed until June 8, while all other burning was prohibited as of May 18 due to dry conditions.

Fireworks, sky lanterns, burn barrels and other apparatus are also banned. Use of CSA-rated or ULC-rated outdoor cooking stoves is still allowed.

The prohibition will be in place until Oct. 31 or until the order is rescinded. See saltspringfire.com for updates.

Fines for violating the ban range from \$1,150 or up to \$100,000 and/or a year in jail. Prohibited actions causing a wildfire can also lead to liability for firefighting costs.

Suspected wildfires should be reported to 1-800-663-5555 toll-free or *5555 on a cell phone.

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GANGES

Harbour group crafts delegation

Safe and Clean Harbour Initiative set for June 22 LTC meeting

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Advocates for regulating liveaboards say they hope new polling data will help spur Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) into action.

The Safe and Clean Harbour Initiative (SACHI) citizens group this week released results from a poll they commissioned, and shared more about their proposal in advance of a formal delegation headed to the LTC June 22. Coordinator Glenn Stevens said the polling, conducted by local market research consulting firm Return On Insight, was part of a broader effort to find common ground to support the group's overarching goals — reducing pollution in Salt Spring's harbours, ensuring environmental and sanitation facilities for people living on the water, and "enforcement of sound usage of the harbour for everyone's enjoyment."

Stevens said SACHI would be bringing a citizen-drafted bylaw to the LTC in hopes of quick movement by trustees, and reached out to clarify some aspects of the proposal that he felt had been misunderstood prior to the plans being finalized.

"The proposed bylaw does not charge a fee to any of the liveaboards to be able to reside there," said Stevens. "It would be up to the Trust to decide whether they want to impose a fee."

Also, according to Stevens, the bylaw as proposed doesn't require boaters to immediately insure their vessels to ensure compliance with regulations.

"Recognizing that it might take some people time to get insurance, if you are already in the harbour the bylaw proposes at least a one-year moratorium before the insurance would have to be in place," said Stevens. "But anybody else coming into the harbour would have to have insurance."

Stevens said the group actively working on the initiative comprised more than 30 people, and included island homeowners, beachgoers and business owners — who he said wanted their employees living on boats to have better housing security. Current Islands Trust land use bylaws prohibit people from living on their boats within Ganges Harbour, although that has been largely unenforced in recent memory as trustees seek to address the lack of lower-cost housing.

Rumours of a citizen-drafted bylaw brought some in Salt Spring's liveaboard community to an LTC town hall last month, concerned that proposed regu-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Area of liveaboard vessels in Ganges Harbour, which a local group hopes can be regulated through their proposed initiative for the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee.

lation would make their living arrangements prohibitively expensive — or worse, that they might be forced to leave Ganges, where many said they work.

As SACHI has reached out, according to Stevens, early response from liveaboards to the idea of regulation has been mixed — but he was hopeful most people wanted the same things.

"Some of the liveaboards are very supportive," said Stevens. "Some, not surprisingly, would not like to be bothered at all. But if you say to somebody, would you like a clean, safe harbour, [they answer] yes."

"Obviously this is a coastal-wide problem, but this is sort of a made-in-Ganges, Salt Spring-esque solution."

JACK SPEIRS

Safe and Clean Harbour Initiative

And polling data, released this week by Bruce Cameron of Return On Insight, suggests many islanders who were asked agree. Cameron said SACHI's questions were answered by 166 participants from his larger Salt Spring Insights online research panel in late May, and that the group was "demographically representative" of Salt Spring in terms of age, gender and where they live on the island.

Most survey participants were critical toward Ganges Harbour due to lack of cleanliness and safety, with a majority agreeing there were too many "derelict unsafe boats" and disagreeing that the harbour "has water that is clean and healthy for drinking or swimming."

Most also said they would somewhat or strongly support bylaw changes and greater enforcement of existing rules to protect Salt Spring's harbours "from becoming further polluted by the illegal dumping of waste and other discharge from vessels that are being used as permanent dwellings by their owners or users."

Cameron said questions about whether participants felt uncomfortable in downtown Ganges or safe in Centennial Park — while not necessarily directly related to SACHI's proposals — gave an indication that worries about the downtown area were at least partly responsible for results suggesting support for liveboard regulation.

"I think these concerns about cleaning up downtown and providing access for families — and just being able to walk safely around the park — are big drivers of some of these attitudes that are so supportive of this initiative," said Cameron. "One of the things I've picked up, certainly over the last couple of years, is that there's a growing appetite on the island for getting stuff done."

Stevens and fellow SACHI advocate Jack Speirs also said that the group was positioning itself to help create a charitable organization to address concerns about taxpayer cost.

"The idea was to form a federally incorporated charity that would be able to raise money — and issue tax receipts," said Speirs, "and use the funds to clean up and deal with boats that have been abandoned, or derelict, or otherwise not being accountable to the regulations."

Speirs added there had been "significant" interest, with funds being pledged should the proposed bylaw go through and the charity be concurrently formed; Stevens characterized that effort as "almost six figures" in pledges, and that funds could also be used to help pay for liveaboard services.

"Obviously this is a coastal-wide problem," said Speirs. "But this is sort of a made-in-Ganges, Salt Spring-esque solution."

Results from Return On Insights' SACHI polling are available at gulfislandsdriftwood.com; SACHI's proposal, including text of its proposed bylaw, an executive summary, pictures and resource material will be posted on the Islands Trust website as supporting documents within the LTC's June 22 agenda package, which will be updated later this week.

For additional information email SSISA-CHI23@gmail.com.

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ROAD SAFETY

Cyclist urges more driver care

Fall after near miss prompts rider to share experience

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring woman says she is giving up on bike riding after being injured in an incident on Ganges Hill on Thursday morning.

Janice Parker, 59, was riding her e-bike into town from her Bishop's Walk home at about 9 a.m. when she lost control and ended up on the ground after a vehicle almost hit her near the former Seabreeze Inne. Parker said she was riding on the white line of Fulford-Ganges Road — "because one foot over is gravel" — when a dark-coloured Tesla didn't move out of the lane at all as it passed her.

"They were about two centimetres away from my handlebars," she said. "It unsettled me and I just went down."

After Parker fell she could see another car coming and felt sure it would run her over, but it instead swerved to miss her and then the driver stopped to help.

"I'm happy I had a helmet on," she said, adding that she thinks she "rode along" on the helmet for a ways before coming to a stop.

Thankfully Parker didn't break any bones, but on Friday she had a very sore hip and a number of abrasions.

A teacher-librarian at Fernwood Elementary School, when Parker moved to Salt Spring seven years ago she thought she would be riding her bike every day, and even envisioned travelling to school

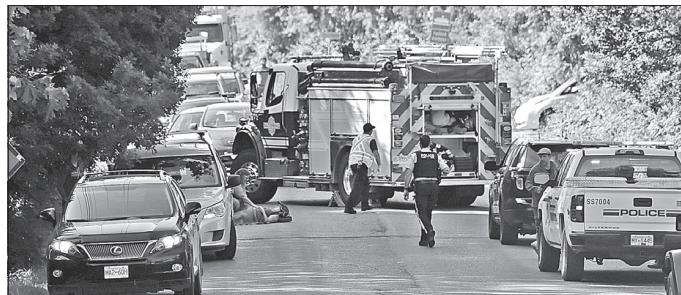


PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG
Emergency services personnel attend to downed cyclist Janice Parker on the morning of Thursday, June 8 in the 300 block of Fulford-Ganges Road.

on pedal power. But the more she biked around the island, the more her fear level gradually increased. One Saturday Market day she almost collided with a car door suddenly opened by a person parked on Ganges Hill.

After Thursday's incident, she said she just can't take the risk of being injured while cycling.

And, she added, "I hate to hear about the next [incident]."

Parker praised the emergency responders and hospital staff who treated her.

"The emergency room staff are working their buns off and they are amazing. The kindness was still there. I really appreciate the whole medical community here. They are top notch."

Improvements will be coming to the area where Parker was injured. A major upgrade of Fulford-Ganges Road between Seaview Avenue and Cranberry Road is set to be complete by the fall of 2024 with a 1.2-metre (3.9-foot) paved shoulder on both sides of the road. However, as Island

Pathways board member Simon Rompre points out in the Viewpoint piece on page 4 of this week's paper, 1.5 metres (4.9 feet) is the provincial standard for cycling lanes.

"While the cycling community applauds the plans for an extended 1.2-metre shoulder on each side, the provincial recommendation for shoulder width is 1.5 metres and, as a result, even with the new upgrade, we are still dealing with a potentially dangerous situation," he wrote.

A March 2023 Salt Spring Island Cycling Safety Review study done for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure by contractor Urban Systems found a number of ways to improve safety for cyclists, from more educational signage to regular refreshment of pavement markings, which does not happen at present, to paving upgrades and shoulder widening in specific areas.

Unfortunately, any improvements may not be enough for once-enthusiastic cyclists like Parker to take to the roads again.

LOCAL GOVERNANCE

CRD Board heeds LCC request for halt to spending proposal

First LCC meeting set for Tuesday, June 20

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Even before it holds its first meeting, Salt Spring Island's new Local Community Commission (LCC) is already setting boundaries with officials at the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Commissioner Gary Holman, who is also CRD director for the Salt Spring Island electoral area, brought an urgent motion to the CRD Board in Victoria on Wednesday, June 7 to halt spending from the LCC's budget that would take place before it even had its first chance to meet.

At issue was a \$10,000 request for proposal (RFP) to seek an independent contractor to facilitate an orientation session for the new LCC; the RFP was submitted about two weeks ago, according to staff. The deadline for the RFP is June 16, and the LCC's first meeting is set for June 20. Holman urged the board to suspend the RFP, indicating he was conveying concerns from the other commission members.

"I've already had expressions of concern from the LCC," said Holman. "This flies in the face of one of the intended purposes, which is to provide more local control over budgets and decision making."

GARY HOLMAN
SSI CRD director

"This flies in the face of one of the intended purposes, which is to provide more local control over budgets and decision making."

of the motion, withdrawing — or at least suspending — the RFP to allow for discussion at the first LCC meeting. That meeting will be held 9 a.m. Tuesday, June 20, at the SIMS boardroom at 124 Rainbow Rd. As of Monday afternoon an agenda had not been set. The public is welcome to attend the meeting.

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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
14	0050	3.2	10.5	18	0238	3.0	9.8
0822	0.7	2.3		1043	0.3	1.0	
WE 1612	2.8	9.2		SU 1926	3.4	11.2	
ME 1950	2.5	8.2		DI			
15	0113	3.2	10.5	19	0024	2.9	9.5
0856	0.5	1.6		0313	3.0	9.8	
TH 1711	3.1	10.2		MO 1121	0.3	1.0	
JE 2103	2.7	8.9		LU 2006	3.4	11.2	
16	0137	3.1	10.2	20	0120	2.9	9.5
0931	0.3	1.0		0347	2.9	9.5	
FR 1759	3.2	10.5		TU 1158	0.3	1.0	
VE 2216	2.9	9.5		MA 2042	3.4	11.2	
17	0206	3.1	10.2	21	0217	2.8	9.2
1007	0.3	1.0		0420	2.9	9.5	
SA 1844	3.3	10.8		WE 1235	0.4	1.3	
SA 2324	2.9	9.5		ME 2114	3.3	10.8	



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Friday, June 30 - Canada Day
statutory holiday - and will reopen
9am - 4pm on Monday, July 3.

Advertising deadlines for the Gulf Islands Driftwood
Wednesday July 5 edition
will be Wednesday, June 28, noon

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Potholes of safety

Another cyclist being injured after a near miss with a vehicle on Ganges Hill last week emphasizes that upgrades to that part of Fulford-Ganges Road cannot happen soon enough.

Widening of the road to include larger paved shoulders has been in the works for close to five years now. When Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Rob Fleming came to Salt Spring Island with MLA Adam Olsen for an ASK Salt Spring session on June 2 — coinciding with a bike rally event that day — the upgrade plans were revealed as fully ripe, with construction set to begin this fall.

The news is extremely welcome, but many more areas need amendments in order to be safer for people who ride bikes on or to this island.

A recently released report — the Salt Spring Island Cycling Safety Review — which was commissioned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) pinpoints a number of areas on the island where

small changes could make a big difference to cyclists' safety. More signage, ensuring pavement markings are regularly resurfaced, improving pavement quality and reducing areas where pavement abruptly shifts to gravel are a few suggestions in the report.

What really needs to shift, however, is the attitude of vehicle drivers when it comes to safely sharing roadways with cyclists and pedestrians. The Urban Systems report articulated the issue well: "Through conversations with stakeholders, there was a repeated sentiment that there was a strong vehicular culture on the island . . . It was also noted that walking and cycling on island can often feel uncomfortable because motor vehicle drivers are unlikely to slow down or leave much space between themselves and active transportation users they are passing. There were comments that there was a general disregard and lack of care for people walking and cycling on the island."

Changing one's driving habits to ensure the safety of cyclists and pedestrians isn't a gargantuan task and does not add an appreciable amount of time to anyone's travel schedule. MOTI and others are doing their part to improve safety for cyclists on Salt Spring. Drivers must now fill the rest of the gaping potholes of safety.

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

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



PARKER



Road upgrade welcomed

VIEWPOINT

By SIMON ROMPRE

Local cyclists were happy to hear from Transportation Minister Rob Fleming that the Ganges Hill road is finally going to be widened and the work is planned to be done by the fall of 2024. While this is good news, this has also been a source of frustration for all the vulnerable road users that travel up and down Ganges Hill.

It has taken a long time — way too long — considering how many cyclists have been hurt by motor vehicles on that stretch of road. Just last week again somebody was hurt while travelling down that hill, and considering how much more traffic we are seeing, whether by bike, by car or walking, the need for better protection for vulnerable road users is urgent.

While the cycling community applauds the plans for an extended 1.2-metre shoulder on each side, the provincial recommendation for shoulder width is 1.5 metres and, as a result, even with the new upgrade, we are still dealing with a potentially dangerous situation. Obviously any increase we get is better than what we have currently, especially considering the danger caused by the many potholes on the edge of the road used by cyclists. Also worth mentioning is the dug-up North Salt Spring Waterworks District waterline done on the east side of the hill (downhill lane) over 20 years ago that was never properly resurfaced once completed, which has been the cause of many bike accidents and is an ongoing concern to this day.

Even though plans have been made and

we can't delay this anymore, I believe considering a wider shoulder of 1.5 metres, at least from Seaview Avenue to Beddis Road, may help prevent more accidents.

Ganges Hill is probably the most crucial part of the Salt Spring section of the Salish Sea Trail Network that extends throughout Southern Vancouver Island (including the Lochside, Galloping Goose, Cowichan Valley Trail and so on). Everyone travelling to or from Fulford through Salt Spring by bike gets funnelled through there as it links the southern part of the island to the north end.

There remains still the very dangerous Vesuvius Bay Road and the Fulford and Vesuvius ferry terminal areas to be amended . . .

There remains still the very dangerous

Vesuvius Bay Road and the Fulford and Vesuvius ferry terminal areas to be amended, but making Ganges Hill safer is a big step in the right direction. It will bring visitors that will not take up all the parking in town or all the space on the ferries and will help keep this island healthy and growing in a sustainable way.

Kudos to everyone involved in making this happen. All Salt Spring cyclists are eagerly waiting and looking forward to the day Salt Spring is a safe place for all kids to ride their bikes.

The writer is an Island Pathways board member and serves on the Cycling Salt Spring committee.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you ever ride a bike on Salt Spring?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Have you taken any FireSmart actions yet?

42 49
NO YES

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Proposed bylaw raises more questions

I attended the Islands Trust's open house for Bylaw 530. I am finding the proposal puzzling.

For those who would like to have a secondary suite, yet see that their property is excluded, there are no reasons answered as to why. Why have certain properties been chosen and others not chosen?

I spoke with trustee Laura Patrick at the open house and I asked her about the letter from the Tsawout who have concerns about Bylaw 530. There is no real answer to this aside from noting that most of the areas to be concerned about already have the zoning to allow an accessory dwelling unit (ADU).

The comments made to me at the open house were that it would be impossible to develop the ADUs because of the need for a water hook-up and a sewer hook-up. It is hoped to give more housing options, but if it is considered that we should not worry about the ADUs being built because they will not get water, then it does not make much sense to go ahead with this.

It is a confusing presentation. Why are

certain boundaries drawn around who can or who cannot have an ADU? Why are these options going ahead when it is considered that they will not go ahead because of the water moratorium? And what is the actual state of affairs in regards to reconciliation and Bylaw 530?

JENNY McCLEAN,
SALT SPRING

Too much chlorine?

In response to "Water quality reports mandated," June 7 Driftwood, should we be chlorinating every drop of water that goes through pipes — even if it is to flush toilets, water gardens, wash the floors, etc.?

Less than 10 per cent of water is used for drinking/cooking.

Many countries around the world have drinking water delivered and do less chlorination for household water uses. A small filtration system (charcoal/UV) at source in home with a special tap that is for drinking water only is not expensive — far less than other appliances such as a fridge or washing machine. Imagine the size of the chlorine industry and the cost to taxpayers!

ANNE PARKINSON,
FULFORD



PHOTOS COURTESY TERRI SKJAVLAND

Two views of undeveloped Channel Ridge property seen in June 2017, left, and in June 2023. An island resident wants property owners fined for not removing the plant to reduce fire risk.

Channel Ridge broom shocking

The abandoned development on Channel Ridge is owned by a large private real estate developer, Onni Group, which has been in business for over 50 years.

As such, they should certainly be able to afford to deal with the broom and gorse problem on Channel Ridge. As we all know, the volatile oils in broom and gorse are extremely flammable, even in the winter months when it is wet. It is a

disaster waiting to happen.

I encourage everyone to go for a walk on Channel Ridge and see the extent of the problem. Drone footage is shocking.

Talk about flame corridors! Ignited, these areas will be like wicks, spreading the fire incredibly fast. Surely with broom oil being as volatile as gorse it should be added to the hazardous species list and property owners should be fined for not clearing it, including BC Hydro for areas under its transmission lines.

MARY MACLEAN,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It doesn't matter if you live on a boat or a big house on the hill. It's about getting to know each other, building community, talking to everyone we can. We're going to learn by doing."

WILLIAM MACPHERSON, SALT SPRING AMBASSADORS PROGRAM PARTICIPANT

Hornby Island pathway experience makes local picture clearer

BY ROBIN JENKINSON

I'm writing to you from Hornby Island, where I've cycled to visit their roadside trail (and a friend). When I finally saw it, I was surprised. It looks just like our packed gravel walking trails on Salt Spring. Turns out, that's no coincidence.

The nine-kilometre Hornby Roadside Trail system was built to connect island features, along the busiest roads. The trail topping is a mix of soil and gravel, designed for walking, but okay for slow cycling and horseback riding.

Over 20 years ago, Salt Spring's Jean Gelwicks came to Hornby to visit an artist friend, Lynn, and was so inspired by her husband Andrew Carmichael's work to establish these walking trails with a vibrant group of volunteers, that she brought the concept home.

Jean met some top-notch retired experts and engineers on Salt Spring and they created Partners Creating Pathways, a committee of Island Pathways, so they, working with the Salt Spring Island Transportation Commission (a Capital Regional District entity) could get walking trails designed and built on Salt

GUEST COLUMN

Spring. They have been doing this for over 20 years.

A few years ago they celebrated the completion of the original Ganges Village Pathway Network, a network of mostly gravel pathways into and around Ganges that was embedded in the official community plan and the dream of the Salt Spring community for years.

"These pathways were constructed for pedestrians, but anyone who feels safer off the road — riding a mobility scooter or a bicycle — is welcome to use them," says Jean.

Here on Hornby, I biked along Central Road on some of their roadside trail, but it was rooty and narrow and I couldn't roll very quickly. So I continued along the paved road edge and ruminated on what we really need back home to connect ferries with town.

What I've learned is that we will need both a roadside walking trail, preferably of crushed gravel, as well as cycling lanes of at least 1.5 metres on both

sides, decreased speed limits and driver education.

Here on Hornby, they also have those ambiguous "Share the Road" signs. Some drivers see them as directions to cyclists to stick to the very road edge, which we've seen is dangerous. Whereas, I've spoken with cyclists who interpret the signs as instructions to drivers to share the lane.

One of the best recommendations in the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure's recent Salt Spring Island Cycling Safety Report was to stencil large bicycles on the main road lanes wherever there is a "Share the Road" sign, emphasizing that cyclists have as much a right to the road as motor vehicles.

Funny thing was that a few weeks ago, I took my kids to Canoe Island in the San Juans for the long weekend and reconnected with a friend there, Stuart Carmichael. We chatted about my work on Salt Spring, and then he described his father Andrew's work on Hornby.

Stuart talked about his dad as someone who loved bringing people together to get something done. They would look for



PHOTO BY HANNAH SPRAY PHOTOGRAPHY

Cyclists on Fulford-Ganges Road for a June 2 bike rally event with B.C. Transportation Minister Rob Fleming held in Mouat Park.

"desire lines" — the worn trails where people already walked along shoulders — and then expand them with gravel until they became real trails.

"There was a whole gang all working together that Andrew was part of," said Stuart. "They needed to get gravel to a forest trail, so he invented a special machine that unlocked the ability of volunteers to get the trail to the next level."

Andrew has now passed on, but his legacy and inspiration of skilled residents collaborating

and "just getting it done" to get safer trails built endures!

So many Gulf Islands are following suit. Denman recently completed a long section of roadside trail with help from their Regional District, and Mayne's path to Miners Bay is under construction. Everyone wants to be able to walk and cycle safely, and we're all connected here.

The writer is an active Island Pathways and Cycling Salt Spring committee member.



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VISUAL ARTS

Artist lives in colour residency

Gillian McConnell exhibition and workshops at Salt Spring Gallery

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING GALLERY

The newest member of the Salt Spring Gallery — Gillian McConnell — is undertaking a three-week residency in the gallery's A-Space from June 16 through July 5.

A resident of Salt Spring Island since 2006, McConnell holds a BFA from Queen's University at Kingston (1980) with a major in printmaking and a minor in art history.

An interdisciplinary artist, McConnell is fascinated by the illusion of dichotomy, the presence of multiplicity and the truth of paradox — in politics, society, nature and people. She employs visual metaphor to create beautiful work that is also intellectually stimulating, emotionally moving, playfully provocative and spiritually uplifting.

Live in Colour features an exhibition of work from McConnell's True Colours series, an exploration of colour as an embodiment of physical, mental, emotional and spiritual states of being. The series also examines colour as a symbol of cultural, political and spiritual ideologies.

Visitors are encouraged to engage in colour activities, enter a colour competition and interact with McConnell as she researches and creates new work in the gallery, which is open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesday through Saturday, as well as on Sunday, July 2. The residency opens with a reception on Friday, June 16 from 5 to 7 p.m.

For more insight into McConnell's ideas and creative processes, people can meet the artist at an event on Saturday, June 24 from 1 to 4 p.m. and attend an artist talk on Thursday, June 29 from 7 to 9 p.m.

For those seeking a more immersive experience, two workshops are on offer. Paint Swatch Poetry explores the relationship



PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Salt Spring artist Gillian McConnell with one of the pieces from her True Colours series, part of her Live in Colour exhibit and residency at Salt Spring Gallery this month.

between words and colours through writing and collage. This three-hour workshop is available in the afternoon, on Tuesday, June 20 from 1 to 4 p.m., or in the evening, on Tuesday, June 27 from 6 to 9 p.m.

Between the Lines: Draw Your Art Out is a full-day workshop exploring the relationship between the artist and their subject through writing and drawing. It runs Sunday, June 18 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"By connecting deeply with our subject and our inner selves, we realize our capacity to produce meaningful work that embodies our 'true colours,'" said McConnell.

Both workshops are perfect for visual, literary and performing artists as well as aspiring creatives.

All events and workshops will be held at the Salt Spring Gallery. For more information or to register for the workshops, call the gallery at 250-931-0011, visit the gallery from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Wednesdays through Saturdays, or send an email to saltspringgallery.fine.art@gmail.com.

LIVE THEATRE

GISS students take on Don Quixote tale

Next week at the Farmers' Institute

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) theatre company is trying out a new venue for its year-end production of Don Quixote.

Students in grades 10 to 12 will present a version of the classic story by Miguel

de Cervantes adapted for stage by Peter Anderson and Colin Heath at the Farmers' Institute on Wednesday, June 21 to Friday, June 23.

Students describe the story this way: "An old Manchegan landowner, addicted to books of chivalry, becomes a knight-errant and sets out to right the wrongs of the world. With his horse Rocinante and his squire Sancho Panza, he battles windmills that he takes for giants, slaughters sheep he mistakes for evil knights and

frees convicts he wrongly believes to be innocent, all in the name of his imaginary love Lady Dulcinea . . . his final challenge [is] with the Knight of the Mirrors."

The June 21-22 shows are at 7:30 p.m. and the June 23 production is at 2 p.m.

Tickets (\$15) are only available in advance from the cast, from a table in the GISS multipurpose room from 12:30 to 1 p.m., or by emailing GISS theatre teacher Jason Donaldson at jdonaldson@sd64.org.

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TEA À TEMPO

SJ&B Trio on tap for recital

Songs of Resistance,
Change and Hope

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Tea à Tempo continues its weekly summer series on June 21, featuring Salt Spring's own SJ&B Trio, better known as Suzanne Gay, Jim Shultz and Bruce Grey.

The three are delighted to present a program titled Songs of Resistance, Change and Hope. The performance includes songs from singer-songwriters, rhythm and blues, pop music, protest movements and even the classic rock era. The three were most recently part of the Dogs in the Moonlight thematic rock concert that ran for six nights at ArtSpring in May. They will be including the trio's interpretation of a few songs from that show, along with artists such as Marvin Gaye, The Beatles, Nina Simone and more.

Gay is a Salt Spring-born vibrant pianist and singer known for her versatility of musical styles and sultry voice, creating an ambience of emotionally charged beauty and soul. She is a graduate of Vancouver



PHOTO COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

From left, Bruce Grey, Suzanne Gay and Jim Shultz, the SJ&B Trio, who will perform at Tea à Tempo on June 21.

ver Island University's jazz program and currently teaches piano and voice on the island.

Shultz has made Salt Spring his home for the last 11 years and plays guitar with several groups and vocalists. He has also been part of more than two dozen musicals over the last 20 years, playing various stringed instruments and, on occasion, doing a bit of acting.

Grey has been involved in music in a variety of line-ups for many years on Salt Spring Island. Whether it's lead vocals, harmonizing as an accompanying vocalist, playing

electric bass, or on the percussion kit to add colour to a composition, serving the song and enjoying the process with the band members is the other key element to his musical journey.

Patrons should note that the cool temperature and warm ambience of All Saints is the perfect place to be on hot summer days.

Music by donation begins in All Saints at 2:10 p.m., followed by tea and treats at a cost of \$4. Donations provide the honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the series.

BOOKS

Library hosts three events

C.C. Humphreys, Maryanna Gabriel and Jan Zwicky launch new works

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring library program room is the spot for three book launch events in the next eight days, two by local writers and one by a Governor General's Award-winning poet.

First up on Thursday, June 15 at 7 p.m. is poet Jan Zwicky reading from her new book called Sixty-Seven Ontological Studies, which consists of 49 poems by Zwicky and 18 photographs by Robert V. Moody. The two elements are "presented as fully co-equal," explains press material. "Neither one serves as an illustration of the other, yet there are many deep connections between the two. They are brought together here in a resonant conversation, steeped in the pregnant silence of the living world."

Zwicky is the author of 20 books of poetry and prose and has earned several honours, including the Governor General's Award for poetry.

Then on Tuesday, June 20, Salt Spring's Maryanna Gabriel will launch her book Walking the Camino – On Earth As It Is. Gabriel's book documents one woman's dramatic search for self-connection and renewal in life's many transitions. It also tells of the transformative power of pilgrimage and the healing power it yields. Gabriel has a Master's of Fine Arts in Creative Nonfiction from the University of King's College and is a graduate of Simon Fraser University's The Writer's Studio. She also has a certificate in creative writing from the University of Toronto. Gabriel is the author of Memento: A Coastal Recipe Treasure and is also a visual artist.

On Thursday, June 22 at 7 p.m., C.C. Humphreys will read from and talk about his newest novel, Someday I Will Find You, which has extra special meaning for the author.

"This story has it all – intrigue, romance, high stakes, fiery characters and more," says publisher Penguin Random House Canada. "The story follows Billy, a Canadian Spitfire pilot, and Ilse, a spy, who find love but are torn apart during World War II. Though the odds don't seem to be on their side, they do everything they can to survive and find each other again."

Someday I'll Find You is loosely inspired by the author's parents' love story, who, like the protagonists Billy and Ilse, were a Norwegian spy and a British fighter pilot who met and fell in love during WWII. Humphreys even has some of his parents' memorabilia from WWII and shows these articles to help tell the story.

Natalie Jenner, bestselling author of Bloomsbury Girls and The Jane Austen Society, is among those with high praise for Humphreys' novel: "So much comes alive on the pages of Someday I'll Find You: riveting aerial battles over the Mediterranean, cloak-and-dagger espionage, underground shelters during the Blitz, and a Canadian pilot and Norwegian spy falling in love in the midst of it all. The reader will be fully swept away by the romance, moved by each character's profound plight, and transported back in time. Someday I'll Find You is, simply put, Canadian historical fiction at its best."

Humphreys is the author of more than 20 novels, including the Jack Absolute series and other acclaimed historical fiction novels, such as Vlad, The French Executioner, Chasing the Wind and Shakespeare's Rebel, and several fantasy novels and series: The Immortal's Blood Series, The Runestone Saga and The Tapestry Trilogy.

Humphreys is also an actor, playwright and swordsman.



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- We invite people to send us their photos for our 2023 Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island feature.
- Photos must be taken between 6 a.m. on Saturday July 1st and 6 a.m. on Sunday July 2nd.
- Register in advance by sending an email to editor Gail Sjuberg at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com for deadlines and details about how to submit.

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ARTISANS

Weavers and spinners now at work in new spot

New members always welcome to join longstanding island guild

BY SUSAN ASTILL

FOR SALT SPRING ISLAND WEAVERS AND SPINNERS GUILD

After 50 years on the island, the Salt Spring Island Weavers and Spinners Guild has found a "forever" home and has moved to the Salt Spring Island Multi Space in the former middle school.

With the help of a grant from the Capital Regional District for some furnishings, and the hard work of a core team of members, our friends at Five Star Moving have

transferred boxes of books, heavy looms and other supplies and equipment from our storeroom at ArtSpring and from a private studio, which, thanks to the generosity of Sandra Hodgins, has served as temporary space since 2014.

The new guild room will continue to offer opportunities for the teaching of weaving, spinning and other fibre-related activities as we re-establish our presence in the community following the long hibernation created by COVID. In the past, membership in the guild has helped forge many lasting friendships as well as the sharing of weaving and spinning skills and techniques. We are ready to continue to pass these gifts on.

Annual guild membership is \$110, and provides access

to the new guild space, our library, and for the mentoring of new members by folks with many talents in everything fibre. We will be offering classes in weaving and spinning for adults and children and will be running programs throughout the summer. If you have summer visitors who want to learn to weave or spin, our programs are posted on the website. Or, if you want to learn how to clean and process fleece and other fibres in preparation for spinning, enjoy the company of creative fibre artists or enhance some latent fibre skills, then you can contact us through our website at saltspringweaversandspinners.com.

Watch for the announcement for our open house early in July.

what's on this week

Wed. June 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Tea à Tempo: Annie and Chris. All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.

GISS Music Presents Four-Star Daydream. Term-end music show at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. **John Herbert.** With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m. **Terry Warbey.** Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

Needlework and Embroidery Exhibition. Fulford Seniors hosts an exhibit from Terri Manuck's personal collection, which includes some Slovakian weaving and gold-embroidered hangings from St. Mary's and St. Mark's Anglican churches. Fulford Hall Seniors Annex. 1 to 4 p.m. **Bittancourt Museum.** Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. **Music Bingo.** Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. June 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

GISS Music Presents Four-Star Daydream. Term-end music show at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. **Jan Zwicky Poetry Reading.** Book launch at the Salt Spring Public Library program room. 7 p.m.

Morien Jones. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.

Sam Tudor. Mateada Lounge. 8 to 10:30 p.m. **Open Mic.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Craig's Karaoke. At Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. to midnight.

Kurt Loewen. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission AGM. Annual general meeting at the SIMS boardroom. 10 a.m. Also accessible via Zoom. Link is in the agenda package on the crd.bc.ca website.

Maliview Sewer Local Service

Commission AGM. Annual general meeting at the SIMS boardroom. 12:30 p.m. Also accessible via Zoom. Link is in the agenda package on the crd.bc.ca website.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Fri. June 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Salt Spring Baroque Presents Joya Muma & Albano Berberi. Texada Island-based duo Albano Berberi (keyed lyre) and Joya Muma (lute, viol). All Saints church. 7 p.m. **Morien Jones.** Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.

The Coalition. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m.

Billie Woods. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. **Karaoke.** At Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. June 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Alex Maher. Mateada Lounge. 8 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

ASK Salt Spring. Transition Salt Spring's chair Bryan Young, board member Kelda Logan and program manager Darlene Gage are this week's guests in the SIMS lobby. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Healing Transformations With Horses:

Sacred Connections. First day of 3-day workshop organized by Horse Medicine Pathways. Info/register: horsemedicinepathways@gmail.com or 1-877-329-8668.

Community Workshop: Exploration of Intergenerational Memories – How Do We Relate? Facilitated by Susanne Hunter, MD, RCC as part of The Suitcase Project. Salt Spring library program room. 5 to 8 p.m. Preregistration required at heiwigardensaltspring@gmail.com.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Sat. June 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Tour des îles Music at Fernwood Dock. With Alan Moberg, the Salt Water Cowboy, 8:15 to 10:15 a.m. and 4:15 to 6:15 p.m.

Tour des îles Live at The Hen and Hound Brasserie (formerly The Fernwood Road Cafe). 12 noon Gordo; 1 p.m. Two Bucks; 2 p.m. The Marianne Grittani Band; 3 p.m. Sue Newman & Tom Bowler. Sue Newman & Tom Bowler. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Tour des îles Live at Mateada. Music all day at the Mateada Lounge. 12 p.m. The K-Tones; 12:45 p.m. Belly dancing Sarah; 1 p.m. The Frank Allen Four; 2 p.m. Alan Moberg; 3 p.m. Sherry & Wilf; 4 p.m. Stephen Vogler; 9 p.m. JP Maurice & Band.

OK Dope Comedy Night. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Sharon Bailey. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.

SugarBeat. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

Saturday Market in the Park. Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sun. June 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Tour des îles Music at Fernwood Dock. See Saturday listing.

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

Vixx. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.

John Gogo. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sun. June 18

ACTIVITIES:

Tour des îles Fathers Day in the Park. Entertainment and family games all day, plus antique cars on display. Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Sun. June 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Between the Lines: Draw Your Art Out. Workshop led by Gillian McConnell exploring the relationship between the artist and their subject through writing and drawing. Salt Spring Gallery. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Register: SS Gallery at 250-931-0011 or saltspringgallery.fine.art@gmail.com.

Insight Meditation Day Long Retreat.

Led by Nicola Bishop at St. Mary's church. 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. (9:30 to noon participation also possible.) Register at staroftheseassi.ca or by emailing staroftheseassi@gmail.com.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Mon. June 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Jasper Snow Rosen & Tyger Jackson. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Tue. June 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Ashton Bachman & Guest. Lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.

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

GreyVine Duo. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

Salt Spring Local Community Commission Inaugural Meeting. SIMS CRD boardroom. 9 a.m.

Paint Swatch Poetry. A workshop led by Gillian McConnell exploring the relationship between words and colours through writing and collage. Salt Spring Gallery. 1 to 4 p.m. Register: SS Gallery at 250-931-0011 or saltspringgallery.fine.art@gmail.com.

Book Launch - Walking the Camino: On Earth As It Is. Maryanna Gabriel reads from and talks about her new book at the library program room. 1 p.m.

Tuesday Farmers' Market. Hosted by the Salt Spring Community Market Society in Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Sacred Poetry With Brian Day. Offered on the third Tuesday of every month. Bring poems on the subject of the sacred to share. St. Mary's church. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

Wed. June 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT:

Tea à Tempo: SJ&B Trio (Suzanne Gay, Jim Shultz and Bruce Grey) present a program called Songs of Resistance, Change and Hope. All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.

GISS Theatre Presents Don Quixote. At the Farmers' Institute. 7:30 p.m. Advance tix only. (See page 6 story for details.)

John Herbert. With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m. **Wesley Hardisty & Geoff McFarlane.** Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES:

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **The Little Mermaid** runs Friday, June 16 to Tuesday, June 20 nightly at 7 p.m., plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. Rated PG. 2 hours, 15 minutes.

See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Live in Colour** is an exhibition of work by Gillian McConnell and a three-week residency at Salt Spring Gallery. Opens with a reception at the gallery on Friday, June 16 from 5 to 7 p.m. (See daily listings above for other events.)

• **Leslie Corry and Rosalie Matchett's Ingrained Patterns and Pathways** is the Showcase Exhibition at Artcraft at Mahon Hall, running daily until July 10 and with an artists' talk on Friday, June 16 at 5:30 p.m. • **14th Annual Electric Visions** exhibition by Salt Spring Photography Club members runs at Gallery 8 daily until June 15.

• **The Suitcase Project**, a multimedia exhibit by Kayla Isomura, shows in the library program room through June.

• **55th annual Artcraft** gallery and shop of work by 100 artisans is on at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the summer months.

• **Art Jam at the Laundr-O-Mat** is a show of work by Art Jam group members running through June 30.

• **Colton Prevost** shows wildlife photography in the ArtSpring lobby through June.

Four-Star Daydream

Term-end GISS music show.
Wed., Thurs., JUNE 14-15
ArtSpring 7:30 p.m.

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ISLAND LIFE

FESTIVALS

Tour des îles weekend welcomes summer fun

Father's Day in the Park plus lots of extra live music on Salt Spring

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If you're casting about for activities this Father's Day weekend, fear not: Tour des îles has you covered.

The popular inter-island connectivity-centred event returns Saturday and Sunday, June 17-18, with live music, belly dancing, games and prizes — plus donuts and coffee for the first 50 dads, courtesy the local Girl Guides, who will be doing a hamburger/veggie-burger concession from 10 a.m. in Centennial Park — all in tandem with a weekend of foot passenger service between the Southern Gulf Islands through AquaLink and other vessel services.

The weekend kicks off with live music from "Saltwater Cowboy" Alan Moberg on the dock at Fernwood Saturday from 8:15-10 a.m. (and again at 4:15); the Hen and Hound Brasserie (formerly the Fernwood Café) will feature live music at noon starting with the classic tunes and

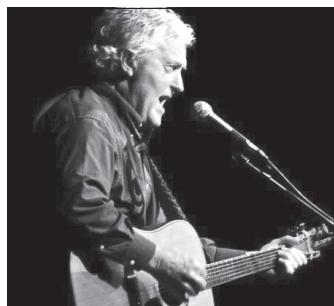


PHOTO AT LEFT BY RICK NEUFELD; PHOTO AT RIGHT COURTESY MARIANNE GRITTANI BAND "Saltwater Cowboy" Alan Moberg, left, and Marianne Grittani Band members Bruce Cobanli, Grittani and Rose Birney are among entertainers during this weekend's Tour des îles-organized events on Salt Spring.



live loops of Gordo, followed by blues, folk and country with Two Bucks, folk-roots with the Marianne Grittani Band and "oldies with a new twist" from Sue Newman and Tom Bowler.

At the same time, back at Mateada in Ganges, five bands — and featured belly dancer Sarah — will play starting at noon, including contemporary jazz and Latin beat ensemble the K-Tones, "jazz on the edge" with the Frank Allen Four, Alan Moberg, Patsy Cline tributes (and more)

from Sherry & Wilf, ska/reggae/rock/gypsy jazz from Stephen Vogler and rock with JP Maurice & Band.

Sunday morning's Father's Day in the Park program starts at 10 a.m. in Centennial Park with dynamic drum corps Samba du Soleil, followed by Sue Newman and Tom Bowler. Classic family picnic games begin at 11:15, with fun for the whole family, and Salt Spring's 18-piece Swing Shift big band starts up the music again at noon.

Afternoon performances include the K-Tones, a return of belly dancer Sarah with her troupe Gazeera, the Marianne Grittani Band, vintage country and Cajun tunes from the Buck Dodgers Stringband, and a 4 p.m. performance from Salt Spring's own Viva Chorale choir.

For the full schedule of boat times and to book a spot, and links to Tour des îles event details on all of the Gulf Islands, visit tourdesiles.ca.

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~ THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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SOCIAL HEALTH

Elder abuse, neglect in focus on awareness day

Learn more from local program coordinator

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

World Elder Abuse Awareness Day is on Thursday, June 15 and islanders are urged to learn more through local and national events.

The B.C. Association of Community Resource Networks (CRN) raises awareness in the province about elder abuse, neglect and self-neglect, with Jean Burgess the CRN coordinator on Salt Spring through Island Community Services. Burgess will be seen around the island on Thursday distributing information on elder abuse prevention and calling for volunteers to carry the message in special events throughout the year.

"Join our growing band of island volunteers and learn how to help keep the elders in our communities safer so they can live a dignified and secure life," said Burgess. "One senior abused is one too many. Let's recognize our own internalized ageist views and turn that attitude around. The personal is the political."

A national webinar event also takes

place on Thursday. Burgess said it will bring together a panel of experts, political figures, advocates and concerned citizens to engage in an inspiring discussion about how Canada can end elder abuse and protect the rights of older people. Registration is through the bccrns.ca/event/weaad-national-webinar to register.

"Older adults in our communities continue to find themselves in vulnerable situations and are still experiencing various forms of abuse and neglect," said Sherry Baker, executive director of the B.C. CRN.

According to B.C. Ministry of Health documents, approximately 10 per cent of seniors will experience some form of physical, emotional, financial or sexual abuse. One in six people globally report abuse. The CRN states that abuse of seniors is believed to be significantly under reported.

The CRN mandate is to work with community, agencies and government to develop a coordinated response to abuse and neglect of vulnerable adults. A CRN provides information and support so the community can both prevent and respond effectively to abuse and neglect. Visit bccrns.ca for more information.

"One senior abused is one too many. Let's recognize our own internalized ageist views and turn that attitude around."

JEAN BURGESS
Salt Spring B.C. CRN
coordinator



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Press Release St. Mary Lake Aerator Removal Notice

During the week of June 19-23rd, the hypolimnetic aerators within St. Mary Lake will be removed. To facilitate their removal, the lower section of Tripp Road will need to be temporarily closed. During this period, you may notice increased activity on St. Mary Lake as equipment is prepared to be gradually brought to shore for transport.

The aeration system was used for several years and was eventually replaced by the Dissolved Air Filtration (DAF) St. Mary Lake Water Treatment plant in 2019. As a result, the remaining aeration infrastructure is no longer required.

The contract for removal of the aerators was awarded following a publicly posted bid opportunity.

We appreciate your patience during this process and apologise for any inconvenience. Please email or call if you have any questions or concerns.

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Obituaries

Obituaries



Patricia June Webber nee Burritt

Born March 25, 1945, died June 6, 2023 at Lady Minto Hospital, Salt Spring Island, after a lengthy journey with cancer and associated illness. Pat was born in Vancouver, BC and is survived by her husband, Joe, two sons, Timothy and Michael, daughter's in-law, Lori and Jennifer, two grandchildren Oscar and Ruby and three siblings Lee McAleese, Arlene Dashwood and Harvey Burritt. She was particularly excited about the developing interests of Oscar in psychology and Ruby in music. Pat studied ceramic arts while Joe attended graduate school at Oregon State University, and expanded her pottery skills as an artist and teacher when she moved to Victoria in 1973, and finally at their Stewart Road property in 1996. Pat was a lifelong member of the United Church, was involved as an elder, and helped guide the church with her many roles, as a board member, chair of the board and in the choir. Her compassion and generosity for all was punctuated with her never ending smile and robust laughter. She was deeply interested in natural systems and became an advocate for all plants and animals which was reflected in her animated pots featuring, among many, her soul creature, frogs. A celebration of Pat's life is being planned for the last week in July.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



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In Memoriam

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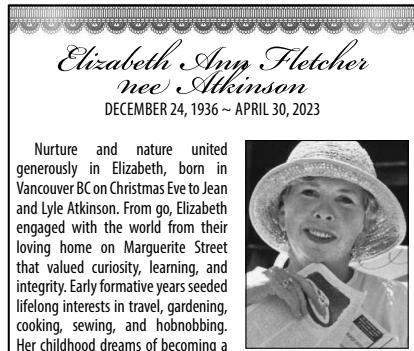
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Obituaries

Obituaries



Elizabeth Ann Fletcher nee Atkinson

DECEMBER 24, 1936 ~ APRIL 30, 2023

Nurture and nature united generously in Elizabeth, born in Vancouver BC on Christmas Eve to Jean and Lyle Atkinson. From go, Elizabeth engaged with the world from their loving home on Marguerite Street that valued curiosity, learning, and integrity. Early formative years seeded lifelong interests in travel, gardening, cooking, sewing, and hobnobbing. Her childhood dreams of becoming a teacher and mother were manifested with great success.

As a thriving youth with an outgoing nature and tight friend group, highlights were playing tennis, ballet lessons on the Hotel Vancouver rooftop, and interviewing Johnny Mathis for the school paper. After graduating from Magee High School (1954) and UBC Education-Elementary (1958), Elizabeth went on her first grand adventure aboard a steamship from Montreal to France, touring the UK and Western Europe with a girlfriend.

In summer 1960, she said "I do" to Richard Fletcher and made a home at 3819 Marine Drive to raise two young children in a tumultuous life filled with Julia Child-inspired dinner parties and European sports cars with her ambitious stock broker husband. Dissolution of the marriage in 1978 was a devastating blow for Elizabeth both emotionally and financially. With trademark stoic determination and loving parental support she forged a new life at 4049 West 39th, becoming a beloved teacher and remarkable single mother.

Elizabeth was a lively, generous, and brave woman with endless sartorial style. Her classrooms were always vibrant and enlivening places of exploration. She championed field trips, cooking classes, and school gardens; co-authored a guide to incorporating gardening into all subjects, *Turning the Earth*, that is in curriculums worldwide. Never happy doing "boom all", she pursued passions in the outdoors, music, reading, fashion, and volunteering. Her enthusiastic energy inspired many and a splash of mischievous wit often accompanied her warm ever-present smile.

Elizabeth particularly came alive on the travels that fuelled her curiosity and spark, just as reading did. Brighton teacher's exchange, Lunenburg walks, Cheserman Beach sunsets, London theatre, Venetian gelato, Cuban organoponics, National Trust gardens, Indian Wells match points, Pacific Northwest tidal pools, Parisian boutiques, NYC recitals, Scottish muirs, Golden Gate sights, Thai banana roti, Oaxacan markets, Victoria bookstores. Countless treasured moments created impressions (and usually a photo) for her and her posse of steady travel companions.

Upon retirement she transplanted her life (along with many plants) into her dream home at 105 Village Terrace on Salt Spring Island, with its heritage orchard, natural architecture, and beautiful outlook, to be with her partner Ron. An active member of Salt Spring's Gardening Club and Basketry Guild, her Reddy apples and wickerworks were Fall Fair prize winners. Village Terrace was a welcoming destination for friends and jumping off point for travels afar. In 2017, declining health brought her back to Vancouver, settling at South Granville Park Lodge nearby Wendy, her closest companion.

Elizabeth passed peacefully at home in Vancouver, cheek-to-cheek with Wendy, holding Chris' hand, and sitting alongside Wade. Her final breath was a radiant starburst of love and in the silence of her absence that radiance lives on. Her legacy will be honoured by her children Christopher and Wendy, son-in-law Wade Thomas, and by grandchildren Ignatius Torgerson, Ella Jean Fletcher, Louis Fletcher, and Charlotte Fletcher, and by those fortunate to share the path with her.

~ Thank you so much for being you, Mum.

Coming Events

Coming Events

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 15, 7:00 pm

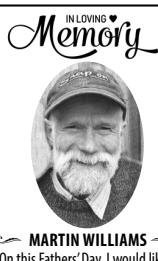
SSI Conservancy members, please note that the AGM will be online with access via computer (Zoom) or telephone. Please RSVP to debra@saltspingsconservancy.ca no later than June 14 with your choice of access (Zoom or telephone).

Access instructions and reports will be posted at <https://saltspingsconservancy.ca> by June 13.

For members without internet, call 250-538-0318 by June 8 and we'll mail the info to you.



In Memoriam



MARTIN WILLIAMS

On this Fathers' Day, I would like to Honour the Father that my late partner Martin Williams was.

The Love and Kindness, the Wisdom and Generosity that his son Nick grew up with, shows in his love and devotion for his wife and two young children. Martin was also a most Loving Stepfather to my daughter Rosalie.

Building a chicken coop with her, transforming it in a sheep barn and becoming a 4H leader, was his quiet and steadfast way of showing his Love and Support.

He Lives on in all our Hearts.

~Marie Beaudoin

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WEEK OF
JUNE 11 TO 17, 2023THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER

ARIES

You'll accomplish a fantastic feat that fills you with pride. If you're single, your soulmate will provide you with a new beginning. If you're in a relationship, you'll suggest beautiful initiatives to reignite the passion.



TAURUS

Rest, relaxation and rejuvenation are the order of the day. It's time to establish a healthier lifestyle that focuses on wellness before your health becomes a source of stress.



GEMINI

A few friends will have some great activities planned for you. If you're an artist, you'll have plenty of inspiration and creativity once you get in the zone. Being alone will help you feel rejuvenated.



CANCER

A complex situation at work will require you to arrange an urgent meeting. Many people are relying on you. You'll take on a leadership role; your organizational skills are highly valued.



LEO

When planning a holiday, carefully organize everything, especially if you're going abroad or on a road trip. Don't overlook the small details.



VIRGO

It's time to renew your mortgage or loan. You'll be in an excellent position to renegotiate the terms to create more flexibility in your budget. This will allow you to treat yourself to a holiday.



LIBRA

You'll have to make a difficult choice this week. No matter how long you weigh the pros and cons, you won't be able to find a solution. Listen to your heart; it has the correct answer.



SCORPIO

You may be wishing to drop a few pounds for the summer. This could benefit your overall health. Now is a great time to try a new diet.



SAGITTARIUS

You'll attract attention when you voice your opinion. Your words will be remembered for a long time or travel worldwide thanks to social media.



CAPRICORN

You have plans in the works for your home and relationship. You could move in with a new flame or start a family, even a blended one.



AQUARIUS

You won't hesitate to say out loud what others are thinking. Fortunately, your wisdom and maturity will help you find the right words to express yourself.



PISCES

You'll find it difficult to control your spending when passing a beautiful boutique. You'll take a more spiritual approach to life, which will be more rewarding and align with your aspirations.

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PHOTOS BY ROBB MAGLEY

ROTARY PARK CELEBRATION: Capital Regional District (CRD) Salt Spring Electoral Area Director Gary Holman, above, joins (from left to right) Rotarians Christopher Cheeseman and Sheila Walker, CRD Parks and Recreation manager Dan Ovington, Rotarian John Walker and dock-builder-in-chief Corey Johnson from Island Marine Construction to officially open the rebuilt and already-busy Rotary Dinghy Dock Monday, June 12. The \$40,000 short-term use-by-donation dock is 30 per cent larger and was built with CRD contributions to last another 30-40 years, according to Walker. "Way past my lifetime," she laughed, "but this dock provides a lot for this community, because of the people that come with their boats and tie up here, and walk up the ramp to Ganges to all the shops, the galleries, the restaurants." At right, sculptor Thomas Richard McPhee, left, and Rotarian Richard Hannah discuss the history of the recently-restored mermaid Nerissa.



Salt Spring Centre School

The Salt Spring Centre School is delighted to announce the appointment of Emily Payne to the role of Principal.



Emily is an experienced educator and business owner with a career-long focus on the design and delivery of outdoor education. She is deeply committed to holistic education, community-driven learning and bridging connections to the local environment.

She was raised on shared Hul'q'um'um' land near the sc̓aw̓aθ̓enaʔ̓əm̓ (Tsawwassen First Nation), and is grateful for the gifts this land has offered to her in childhood. Her ancestral connections trace back to the Celtic nations and Scandinavia.

After earning her B.A. in environmental geography from UBC, and a B.Ed. in Indigenous perspectives from SFU, Emily moved to Whitehorse, Yukon, where she worked as an outdoor educator and French teacher. In 2015, she co-founded Rivers to Ridges, a social enterprise dedicated to fostering empathy, awareness, and community through experiences in the natural world. Under her co-leadership, Rivers to Ridges has developed acclaimed on-the-land programs for young people, designed culturally-relevant K-12 curriculum, and respectfully partnered with First Nations and a diverse range of clients and funders across the North.

Emily brings with her a wide range of skills and interests aligned with the vision and values of our school. She is a certified yoga instructor, avid gardener, wildcrafter, sign language learner, artisan, actor, and musician, with experience leading multi-day backcountry and international trips. Through this strong and diverse background she will help us to deepen and expand our enrichment programming in the areas of art, music, drama, languages, outdoor studies, Indigenous programming, yoga, and mindfulness.

Emily has just returned from a visit to our school and shares her excitement and observations: "I feel deeply aligned with the heart of the land and the people who have created and continue to build this remarkable school. The Salt Spring Centre School is incredibly unique in its intentional offerings and rich outdoor setting. The school's grounding in history through the yoga community, commitment to building meaningful connections in forest and farm environments, and awareness through cultural celebrations fits with my own values of fostering a warm, engaging and intentional educational community for our future."

"Experienced, warm, fun, open, energetic - I am delighted to welcome Emily Payne to lead the Centre School into its coming years - well qualified and experienced in team building, curriculum development, and outdoor environmental education, she's a good fit with us. I am encouraged by her experience with solving problems (restorative conflict resolution, with her focus on reparation, and training students in emotional regulation). I am intrigued by her exploration of culturally-based education grounded in Indigenous philosophies, engaging Elders. This is going to be a pleasure."

- Usha, Centre School co-founder and our first teacher

Emily has connections in the Island community and will be moving from the Yukon to SSI this summer with her family - partner Sean and their 2 year old son Llewlyn.

As the Centre School begins visioning ahead for our next 40 years we are so excited to have Emily join our community bringing her nurturing and experiential approach to our students, families and our nearly 70 acres of forest and fields.

Enrolment is currently open for limited class sizes for the 2023/24 year.

Contact: Info@saltspingscentreschool.ca

Find us online at: SaltSpringCentreSchool.ca

and on Instagram: [@SaltSpringCentreSchool](https://www.instagram.com/@saltspingscentreschool)

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BUILDING COMMUNITY

'Ambassadors' spreading goodwill in Ganges

New volunteer program begins downtown

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If you've spotted friendly islanders strolling through Ganges in green vests, you've seen the "soft" roll-out of Salt Spring's newest volunteer force: it's the Ambassador Program, and they're here to help.

The initial team is an assortment of dedicated Salt Spring volunteers many islanders might already know: Alexander Fischer-Jean from the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce, clinical counsellor David Norget from the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network, RCMP Salt Spring detachment commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook, Karen Olsson from the board of the Salt Spring Community Health Society, peer support volunteers Grant Fredrickson (also a Canadian National Baptist Convention pastor) and Stephen Wright, Gayle Baker from the Salt Spring Community Alliance and William MacPherson from the Mental Wellness Initiative.

Recent months have been spent pulling all the pieces together — recruiting volunteers, creating agreements, training, setting up liability insurance coverage (through the Community Health Society) and background checks, according to Baker, adding the group's custom-sewn vests were an 11th-hour response to market limitations — no one liked the "tacky" polyester ones they'd found pre-made.

Wearing name tags and with a plan to be as helpful as possible, Ambassadors will be out in pairs, MacPherson said, with the goal of being approachable — but also approaching anyone in the community who looks like they could use a hand.

"The lens we'll be using is seeing everybody as a community member," said MacPherson. "We're not targeting anyone for the program. It doesn't matter if you live on a boat or a big house on the hill. It's about getting to know each other, building community, talking to everyone we can. We're going to learn by doing."



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Ambassador Program members, from left, Grant Fredrickson, RCMP Sgt. Clive Seabrook, William MacPherson, Alexander Fischer-Jean, Karen Olsson and Stephen Wright.

Seabrook said one of the things that struck him when he began police work on Salt Spring was the compassion; when conflicts bubbled up between people downtown that called for police response, for example, there was a marked absence of real "ill will" from islanders.

"They were angry and frustrated about the broken window or whatever was going on," said Seabrook, "but when you went to talk to businesses, they didn't want anybody to be locked up, they wanted to know what they could do to help. And on the other side of whatever conflict, they were equally frustrated — they didn't want whatever happened to have happened at all, they had no intention of it. It was just something going on in their lives in that moment, that day, maybe even that second — maybe someone just said the wrong thing — there was just no malice, on either side of things."

And while there were obviously people who didn't feel that way, they were the exception rather than the rule. Seabrook saw an opportunity to help build a formal framework to a practice that will seem familiar to long-time island-

ers: community members helping one another sort out small problems before they become big ones.

"It seemed reasonable that we could get back to that," said Seabrook. "Especially when everybody was already compassionate toward one another, even when they were angry and upset."

MacPherson said the RCMP deserve a lot of credit for their work building trust.

"We're able to do this because of Clive and his department's investment in community policing," said MacPherson. "I've seen a constable here be as good a listener as any mental health professional I've worked with."

And Norget said despite RCMP involvement, islanders should understand the Ambassador Program looks nothing like a "crime watch," but rather that they're there to spread goodwill.

"There are so many good people in this community who do great things," said Norget. "The Ambassador Program is one way of tapping into this."

The Chamber of Commerce jumped at the chance to be part of a community initiative like this, said Fischer-Jean; it was an obvious fit.

"Businesses always ask what they can do to improve the well-being of the community, and to improve the image for visitors coming in," said Fischer-Jean. "We want to help and show what we're doing to be helpful."

Baker emphasized the volunteers were creating their own schedules and support structure — a way to debrief on the events of each week.

"There will be a regular get-together to find out what's working, and what's not," said Baker. "There are plenty of models for something like this to be successful. Rather than being a CRD service, it's the community that's come together."

Anyone interested in helping — by volunteering to be trained as an Ambassador or with financial contributions toward program costs — or who has questions or feedback about the program, can stop by the Chamber office or email ssiambassadors@gmail.com.

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