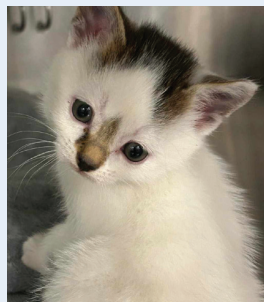


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- Thrifty Foods
- Pharmasave
- Buckfield's
- The Local Liquor St.



# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,  
July 19, 2023

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Issue 29  
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**TRAGEDY**

## Boater found in Long Harbour



Overnight search launched after dog, vessel spotted

**BY ROBB MAGLEY**  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A multi-agency search for a missing man ended tragically Thursday morning as a body was recovered from the shoreline in Long Harbour.

Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR) joined efforts that would include Salt Spring RCMP, Canadian Coast Guard and Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR) vessels — as well as a CH-149 Cormorant search and rescue helicopter from Comox — by 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, July 12. The search for a presumed missing boat operator began shortly after a vessel was sighted underway without a pilot — and a dog who came ashore was recognized — that afternoon.

Officials declined to identify the man due to pending investigations, but neighbours said both the dog — a black Lab named Ninja — and boat belonged to islander Dinny Corcoran, who had been building a home on nearby Clamshell Islet since 2021.

As boats and aircraft methodically searched the water, more than a dozen SSISAR members split into four teams on both sides of the harbour and scoured the shoreline until dark, according to SSISAR search manager Zeke Blazecka. He said the land-based search was halted due to safety concerns at around 9:30 p.m. and with plans to resume first thing Thursday morning with the low tide.

But as SSISAR teams gathered at first light the next day, word came that a body identified as male had been spotted by a boater. A small team from SSISAR was sent to assist with transporting the body to a search vessel, which then brought it to a dock and the funeral director, Blazecka said.

"We had a good team out, and they were well prepared and did what they were trained to do," said Blazecka.

The BC Coroners Service confirmed that agency was notified of the death and had begun an investigation.

Family members arrived on Salt Spring on Sunday, according to SaltyDog Retreat Kennel and Rescue's Jamie Halan-Harris, who had cared for the dog Ninja in the interim.

"He was pretty shaken up, but so excited to see the family when they came to pick him up," said Halan-Harris. "He was practically smiling, jumped right in their truck. We were happy to help Ninja. It was a happy ending in a sad situation."

Salt Spring RCMP Sgt. Clive Seabrook thanked the Coast Guard, RCMSAR, SSISAR and the public for their efforts to help locate the missing man.

"This is a tragic outcome," said Seabrook, "and our thoughts are with the family at this difficult time."

**SEARCH** continued on 2

Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue member Adam Lynes-Ford searches the shoreline near the Long Harbour ferry terminal last Wednesday evening, July 12, as a Cormorant helicopter from CFB Comox, above, also participates in the search. The body of Dinny Corcoran, who lived on nearby Clamshell Islet, was located by a private citizen the following morning.

**Zen Master Wolfgang says:**  
"Give the gift of absence to those who don't appreciate your presence."

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# SAR teams kept busy

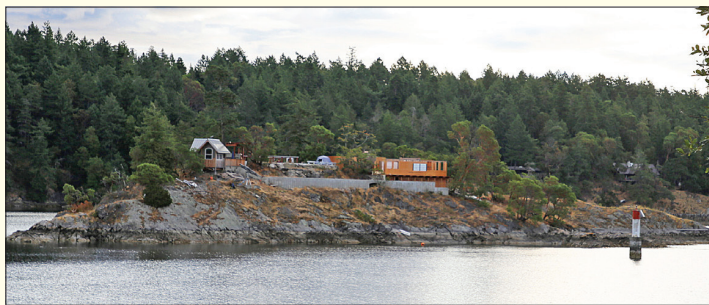


PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Clamshell Islet, located in Long Harbour right by the ferry terminal, where Dinny Corcoran had been building a home and other structures in the past few years, bringing him before the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee for various permit applications.

## SEARCH

continued from 1

The search and recovery was only the second callout of the calendar year for SSISAR, according to Blazecka, with the first only days prior as they participated in a mutual aid search in Juan de Fuca over the previous weekend. But a third came right on its heels Sunday, July 16, as SSISAR members coordinated with Salt Spring Fire Rescue to bring an injured hiker down from a trail near the top of Mount Erskine.

That rescue involved two teams from SSISAR, who met firefighters near the summit and brought the hiker to a waiting ambulance at the trailhead, according to search manager Conrad Bowden.



DINNY CORCORAN

Seabrook said Salt Spring RCMP are asking boaters ensure they possess basic safety items, which must include a manual bailer, a whistle and a fire extinguisher when applicable. Police also reminded the public to ensure their vessels are registered, in safe working order, and that boat operators possess a valid Pleasure Craft Operators Card.

"The registration and card are often overlooked," said Seabrook, "but the process of obtaining these things provides an educational component that helps to keep people safe. And above all else, wear your lifejacket."

## AFFORDABLE HOUSING

# CRD explores further units on Drake Road

## Water testing planned

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Even as islanders await the start of construction for supportive housing on Salt Spring Island, regional planners are exploring options for building affordable housing units — and at the same property.

Capital Regional District (CRD) planners reported to that body's Hospitals and Housing Committee that new drilling and water testing will take place this fall at the CRD's property at 161 Drake Rd., where BC Housing has promised to begin construction on a \$9-million, 28-unit supportive housing project this year. With the supportive housing situated at the front of the 5.5-acre parcel, leased for the next 60 years by BC Housing, the remainder of the property can be developed further. BC Housing has stated it has no plans to expand into that section itself, but the CRD has expressed an interest as part of its wider affordable housing plans.

Earlier this year, agreements between the CRD and the Gulf Islands School District (SD64) were finalized to allow for groundwater exploration on the neighbouring Phoenix Elementary School property. According to a second quarter status report from planners to the CRD's Hospitals and Housing Committee last week, Capital Region Housing Corporation staff have secured a hydrogeologist and drilling and pumping contractor, with

drilling to begin "at the drilling contractor's earliest availability" and pump testing to take place in September, to coincide with the driest time of the year.

Depending on those findings, staff will report to the CRD board what opportunities for future development exist on the site. Salt Spring Island electoral area director Gary Holman said once the water hurdle was surmounted, the next would likely be finding sufficient funding.

"The land has been secured," said Holman in a report to Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee Thursday, July 13. "But you still need additional equity to make whatever you build truly 'affordable.' Anyone who's built recently understands building costs [have risen]."

The CRD's current budget for early work on Drake Road stands unchanged from the 2023-2027 CRHC Major Capital Plan at \$80,000, according to the report, with all funds coming from the Union of BC Municipalities (UBCM) Community Works Fund.

"That's going to be our challenge," said Holman, "to seek funding from the regional district, UBCM and BC Housing."

Construction has not yet started on BC Housing's Drake Road supportive housing project, according to that agency, due to various delays including the discovery of a vulnerable riparian area at the property. BC Housing said it would provide an update on construction closer to the time work is expected to begin.

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Brewery expansion gets nod

## Final decision rests with provincial liquor branch

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Despite concerns from neighbours, a divided Trust committee has lent its seal of approval to a Salt Spring brewery's license expansion.

After a packed-house public comment period, where opponents of the Salt Spring Brewing Company's plans pleaded for the expansion to be halted, the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) voted 2-1 in favour of indicating its support for the project to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch.

Neighbourhood residents along Furness Road, many appearing alongside their young children, warned of noise, traffic and safety concerns stemming from increasing the number of potentially intoxicated patrons in the larger seating space, as well as of potential environmental impacts from the company's modification of its licence to include a "lounge" endorsement.

And despite what seemed to be earnest efforts between residents and local staff to find agreement, the differences — described by one neighbour as a "gap in trust" largely blamed on the off-island owner — remained seemingly too broad to span, at least in advance of the LTC's approval.

Head brewer Louis Hage said the company had taken to heart advice from the last LTC hearing, and explored the idea of a "good neighbour" agreement to help ameliorate some concerns from surrounding residents. But issues of the enforceability of such an agreement led to the brewery abandoning those plans.

Trustee Laura Patrick, who ultimately was the lone vote against the motion to pass along LTC's approval, said she had hoped to see a stronger relationship between the business and the neighbourhood.

"I agree that this is a business that is important to the island," said Patrick. "I'd like to have seen this [disagreement] resolved in a way that would have them working in synergy together; that would've given me the confidence to feel better [about approval]."

"I'm uncomfortable with the idea of passing this," she continued, "and I'm sad to deny it. This is something I'd like to be supporting, but I want to see it formed as part of the neighbourhood."

Trust staff noted the brewery had adopted other LTC recommendations, including building permanent signage to address speed and safety on the brewery property — and small signs to be placed on the tables within the brewery asking customers to drive slowly, keep noise down, respect the neighbours and park in the designated spaces. Trustee Jamie Harris seemed satisfied with these efforts, as well as the brewery staff's assertions that the expansion would largely grow the business during the off season, rather than increase the number of tourists during peak summer months.

"This has been an ongoing business for years," said Harris. "I really have confidence that they will be able to sort it out on their own. They're taking steps to make good; the last thing on their mind is inflaming the local community. I'm encouraged, [and think] the brewery will do the right thing."

Staff will now send a response to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch, indicating the LTC recommends the brewery's application be approved.

# WE'RE HIRING

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people person to  
join us as  
OFFICE MANAGER

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## CLIMATE ACTION

# New code bans fossil fuel heat

Change affects new builds only; wood still okay for backup in islands and Juan de Fuca

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If you're building a new house, it's probably time to shop around for heat pumps.

For Salt Spring, the Southern Gulf Islands and Juan de Fuca, the epitaph for the gas-fired furnace was formally written this week, as regional officials amended the building code there to prohibit them as the main heating source in most new construction.

Effective Jan. 1, 2024, builders within the three electoral areas of the Capital Regional District (CRD) will need to set aside burning fossil fuels for heat in favour of electric options — with a few exceptions, including emergency backup heating.

The impetus, according to CRD staff, is coming largely from the province. B.C.'s current building code brought in revisions that took effect in May, according to CRD chief building inspector Mike Taylor, introducing mandatory requirements for energy efficiency in new buildings and an optional requirement to limit those buildings' greenhouse gas emissions once constructed, known as the Zero Carbon Step Code.

To apply the latter, he said, local authorities need to incorporate it into their building regulation bylaws.

"In 2021, the CRD board approved and updated [its] climate action strategy," said Taylor, "which showed that decarbonizing new buildings was critical to achieving the region's greenhouse gas emissions targets."

The Zero Carbon Step Code supports those goals, said Taylor, moving the housing industry further towards electrification by limiting when fossil fuel heating systems can be installed — and, perhaps more urgently, preparing builders within the region for the likelihood of future B.C.-wide requirements, which the province has indicated would manifest as a move toward zero carbon by 2030.

**"Some people just choose to not have electricity, so based on that as well, I'm not in favour of the initiative."**

AL WICKHEIM

Juan de Fuca electoral area director

"Any building permit that goes forward with gas is going to be a building that has fossil fuels in it for the foreseeable future," said CRD climate action program manager Matthew Greeno, "until other regulations might kick in that prevent people from installing — or reinstalling — gas appliances on a provincial level. So time is of the essence."

The new bylaw restricts installation of fossil-fuel home and water heating

systems, still allowing for both gas-fired ranges and backup systems, as well as wood-burning secondary heating systems; areas without access to hydro power will be fully exempt, said Taylor.

Juan de Fuca electoral area director Al Wickheim said despite those exemptions, he stood against the new bylaw over concerns people he represented would be disproportionately affected — as compared to any emissions reduction.

"I do agree that reduction of carbon production going into the atmosphere is something we should be working towards," said Wickheim. "[But given] the potential for harm — not necessarily harm, but inconvenience — to homeowners, I just can't support it in its current form."

"Some people just choose to not have electricity," continued Wickheim, "so based on that as well, I'm not in favour of the initiative."

Upon passage of the recommendation by the Electoral Areas Committee — Wickheim was the sole vote against — Salt Spring electoral area director Gary Holman said he hoped staff would exercise the leeway they had indicated they would grant for exceptions, particularly regarding whether the requirement would stand for larger renovations, or for new construction in areas where hydropower was available but less accessible.

"I think this is something that bears further conversation between staff and directors, to get greater certainty around some of these issues," said Holman.

The bylaw was later considered by the broader CRD board, where it passed unanimously.



**MORE PET FUN:** Luna the poodle and her buddy Susie Q head off to a birthday party with Caroline Hickman. This great photo was inadvertently left out of last week's It's All About Pet Pages.

## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JULY 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
19	0042	2.8	9.2	23	0327	2.1	6.9
	0339	2.9	9.5		0716	2.3	7.5
WE	1138	0.5	1.6	SU	1342	1.3	4.3
ME	2002	3.3	10.8	DI	2114	3.2	10.5
20	0121	2.7	8.9	24	0407	1.8	5.9
	0423	2.8	9.2		0852	2.2	7.2
TH	1211	0.6	2.0	MO	1413	1.7	5.6
JE	2022	3.2	10.5	LU	2131	3.2	10.5
21	0203	2.5	8.2	25	0447	1.6	5.2
	0510	2.7	8.9		1052	2.2	7.2
FR	1242	0.8	2.6	TU	1444	2.0	6.6
VE	2040	3.2	10.5	MA	2149	3.1	10.2
22	0245	2.3	7.5	26	0527	1.3	4.3
	0605	2.5	8.2		1324	2.4	7.9
SA	1313	1.0	3.3	WE	1520	2.4	7.9
SA	2057	3.2	10.5	ME	2207	3.1	10.2

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**NORTH  
SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT**

### Maxwell Lake Water System – Water Quality Advisory

The Maxwell Lake Water System is experiencing elevated concentrations of Trihalomethanes (THM's). This is attributed to the reaction between chlorinated water and naturally occurring organic materials such as wood, leaves and plants found in the Maxwell Lake watershed. The Maxwell Lake Water System is a natural unfiltered water source system that is disinfected with chlorine, a treatment commonly used for this size of system across Canada.

To address this concern, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) is currently designing the Maxwell Lake Water Treatment Plant (MLWTP) which will be the permanent solution to significantly decrease THM production and bring the Maxwell Lake Water System in compliance with Health Canada Standards. The MLWTP is required by Island Health to be built and operational by December 31, 2025 and this Notice will remain in effect until the MLWTP is commissioned.

NSSWD will continue monitoring THM levels, developing strategies such as water system freshening to reduce the concentration of these disinfection by-products while balancing the need to continue disinfection and ensure treated water is free of bacteria, viruses, and other pathogens. Strategies are also being developed in consultation with Island Health.

**For more information, please view the full Maxwell Water Advisory at [northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://northsaltspringwaterworks.ca)**

**North Salt Spring Waterworks District**

**Phone: (250) 537-9902 Email: [info@nsswaterworks.ca](mailto:info@nsswaterworks.ca)**

## HAVE YOUR SAY



Proposed Bylaw No. 138

Rezoning to allow for the creation of two waterfront Rural General (RG) zoned lots through subdivision at 445 East Point Road (PID 009-628-894)

COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING  
SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 138?

Proposed Bylaw No. 138 will amend the Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 119, 2018 (LUB) to rezone the waterfront portion of the subject parcel located at 445 East Point Road from Rural Residential (RR) to Rural General (RG) to allow for the creation of two waterfront RG zoned lots through subdivision.

How do I get more information?

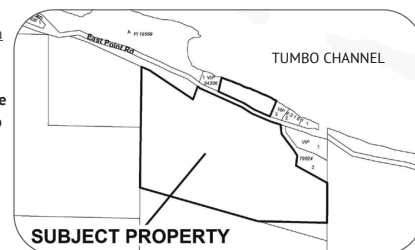
Copies of the proposed bylaw, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the application is available on the [Saturna Island Current Application webpage](http://Saturna Island Current Application webpage) and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, after July 13, 2023.

A Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendments.

Submissions

Prior to the Public Hearing: Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., July 26, 2023, by Email: [vicpubsub@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:vicpubsub@islandstrust.bc.ca), or Mail or Drop Off: Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8

At the Public Hearing: Only written submissions presented at the Public Hearing will be accepted until the close of the Public Hearing. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.



Community  
Information  
Meeting and Public  
Hearing  
Thursday, July 27,  
2023 at 11:30 a.m.



Saturna Recreation  
and Cultural Centre  
104 Harris Road  
Saturna Island, BC



Who should attend?  
Anyone affected by  
the proposed  
bylaws.



Enquiries?  
Brad Smith  
Island Planner  
[bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca)  
778-679-5185



# OPINION

2020/21 CCNA Awards  
Gold - Best Special Section | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)  
Silver - Best Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Bronze - Best Editorial Page

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



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Nancy Johnson  
PUBLISHER

nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjuberg  
MANAGING EDITOR

gail.sjuberg@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Lorraine Sullivan  
PRODUCTION MANAGER

lorraine.sullivan@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Sky Marciano  
ACCOUNT MANAGER

sky.marciano@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Derek Capitaine  
OFFICE MANAGER

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Cindy Jacobsen  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Robb Magley  
REPORTER

robb.magley@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

### EDITORIAL

## Proud and louder

**F**ull-fledged Salt Spring Pride celebrations return to the island next weekend after a pandemic-forced hiatus, and they promise to be bigger and bolder than ever.

Music, dance and drama will be part of the fun, of course, both on the core all-weekend festival site of the Salt Spring Farmers' Institute and in the streets of Ganges during the parade and aftermath on the steps of the library on Saturday. But in light of recent events around the world and unfortunately close to home as well, the 2023 Salt Spring Pride Festival organized by Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island (DAISSI) has a more serious side too.

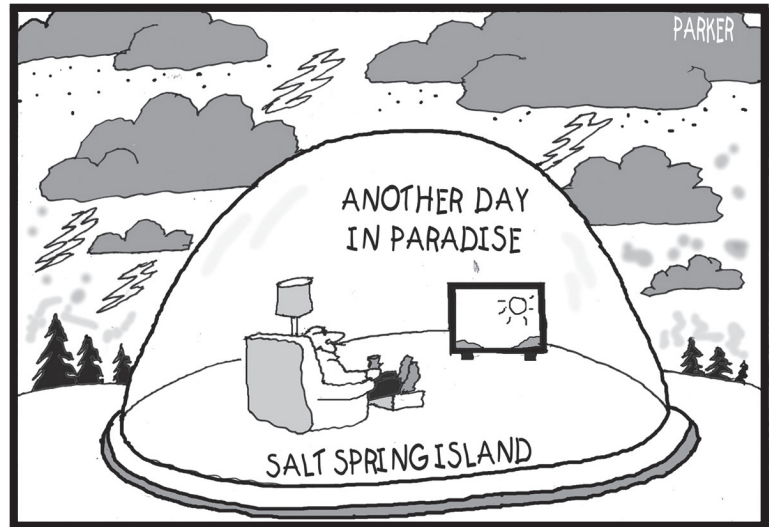
The recent backlash and political activism aimed at reversing human rights advances made in the past few decades cannot be left unchallenged. As festival volunteer and longtime activist Robert Birch points out in a DAISSI welcome message on page 7 of this paper, "relentless, daily attacks" are being endured by trans and queer individuals worldwide. According to the U.S.-based Human

Rights Campaign organization, more than 500 anti-LGBTQ bills have been introduced in 41 of the 50 U.S. states in 2023 so far — many targeting young people — with 70 of them already becoming law.

Putting aside religious groups' rationale for gender oppression, our society seems addicted to defining and pursuing an ideal "norm." From birth, many children are pressured to fit some kind of image of a normal and "successful" person. It seems the further one's offspring stray from the strict path of "normal," which would traditionally include identifying as heterosexual, the more stress parents experience.

But it doesn't take much observation and reflection as an adult to realize that "normal" is a marketing illusion, and we have learned much about gender matters in recent decades. Humans are naturally and thankfully unique and diverse. In nature and human communities, diversity is essential and where it's at.

Salt Spring's Pride Festival offers lots of opportunities for everyone to celebrate diversity and inclusion, and to learn more about current issues and actions that can be taken to face the backlash and support the island's young people. See the schedule in this week's paper for details or [saltspringpridefestival.ca](http://saltspringpridefestival.ca).



## Bypass a worthy project

BY MIKE STACEY

Running the "Ganges Gauntlet" last Saturday morning I was reminded of David Courtney's campaign to lower the speed limit in town. At the time, I was unable to reach 30 km/hr, never mind exceed it.

This was caused by the brilliantly choreographed ballet wherein one pedestrian wanders onto a crosswalk, then when he is about half way across, the next one heads out into traffic, followed by another, and another, ad infinitum.

Jaywalkers run interference. Friends often stop in the middle for a hug. Somehow the whole operation is synchronized in such a fashion so as to ensure that all crosswalks are screwed up at once, causing traffic to back up so far that the Vesuvius ferry cannot unload, forcing the crew to take all the cars on board back to Crofton.

At the Rainbow Road stop sign, impatient drivers have been known to sell their car, as is, where is, and walk away. Others have died of starvation or old age.

I also question David's concern about excessive speed, as he himself has been repeatedly clocked travelling in excess of 500 miles an hour, though admittedly not through town on a Saturday morning. As a retired airline pilot, David is well aware that when a big ugly storm looms ahead and you can't go through, you must go around. I believe the same applies here.

### VIEWPOINT

**I would hereby like to inform David that speed limits are "small potatoes," unworthy of his considerable energy.**

This brings us to that elusive yellow brick road, that mysterious will o' the wisp spoken of in hushed tones for decades: the Ganges Bypass. (GASP!) The route laid out millennia ago is to extend Atkins Road off into the bush, connecting with Reid Road off Charlesworth, then continuing to join Fulford-Ganges Road at the top of the hill.

This ain't gonna happen any time soon, but what if it could be punched through only as far as Charlesworth? This would complete the "two routes." It would also make life easier when the new fire hall gets built. In a pinch I suppose, for the time being, the road could be built only as far as Drake Road, but this would constitute a half-ass bypass.

I would hereby like to inform David that speed limits are "small potatoes," unworthy of his considerable energy. I would like to see him studying the bypass issue, then with sharp stick in hand, poke the appropriate bureaucratic bears to get things moving. It would be a long process and get the locals all stirred up — always fun to do!

Success in this endeavour would mean eternal gratitude to David from the local citizens. We may be talking bronze statue here.

*The writer has lived and worked on Salt Spring Island for many decades.*

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933  
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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Do you primarily use wood to heat your home?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Do you support the latest version of Bylaw 530?**

40 YES 144 NO

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



# ISLAND VOICES

## LETTERS to the editor

### Ganges sewer system had positive impact

I was pleased to read in the July 12 edition that the health authority has found the beaches at the harbour end well within safe swimming standards.

It's too bad they didn't start sampling in 1986, one year after the Ganges sewer system started up, as the results would have been about the same and would stay that way. The federal ministry of the environment took samples at a number of harbour locations not long after the plant went into operation and found that the results showed marked improvement over earlier readings.

In 1962, health inspectors found that sewage from many residences, businesses and the school was finding its way into the harbour and the creek. The school was the major offender by volume with the dis-

charge from septic tanks going directly into the harbour. There was general agreement that the problem needed to be addressed, but very little agreement on how that would be accomplished. Like many projects on Salt Spring, the issue dragged on for years and it took an act of the B.C. Legislature — Bill 31, dated June 31, 1981 — that decreed that Ganges would have a sanitary sewer system.

Despite the fact that the sewer outfall would empty past the Chain Islands (about five kilometres out) and the effluent would receive secondary treatment, many continued to believe that a marine outfall threatened the harbour. As positive test results continued to come in after startup it was clear that was not the case and things gradually settled down.

In the late '90s, the Ganges treatment plant was upgraded to a membrane bio reactor that produces an extremely high-quality effluent — far superior to what is produced by most plants on the B.C. coast.

**TOM TOYNBEE,**  
GANGES

### Who's in charge of crosswalks on Salt Spring?

I was at a friend's place the other day and we were discussing the best technique to use when approaching a bike from behind while driving a vehicle on our roads.

He pointed out that it appears to be illegal to cross a double yellow line under any circumstances.

We agreed that at least you must slow down, no matter what the drivers behind you think, until you can find a safe place to pull far enough out to pass safely.

That's when the subject of the lines on the road on Salt Spring came up. Many of them are so faint you cannot tell if they are supposed to be a double-solid line or not.

At the curve by the Ganges Fire Hall and down by the old Fulford Inn, some-

one has taken it upon themselves to repaint the lines on the road, albeit with white spray paint.

Has it come to this, where we have to rely on vigilantes to repaint the highway lines?

And speaking of lines on the road, some of the crosswalks in downtown Ganges need to be not just repainted but rethought. Most of them are not where people cross. Often it seems impossible to get from point A on one side of the road to point B on the other using crosswalks. No wonder people jaywalk at will.

How about if we create a blank map of Ganges that people can use to draw in their suggestions for new crosswalks? People could fill it out and mail it to the proper authority.

Who the hell is in charge of this, anyway?

**GREG MIDDLETON,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE OPINION** continued on 6

## { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"We need each other. We will not be defined by the haters. We're not their victims. We're proud and loud survivors. Let your truth mirror ours, our joy mirror yours. Together, we are this beautiful."**

ROBERT BIRCH, DAISSI PRIDE FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING VOLUNTEER

## Further harbour degradation can be prevented with CASHI bylaw

**BY GLENN STEVENS AND OTHER CLEAN AND SAFE HARBOURS INITIATIVE MEMBERS**

In response to the Driftwood's July 12 "Testing the Waters" editorial, Clean and Safe Harbours Initiative (CASHI) members would like to make the following comments.

CASHI members think it's terrific, as does the Driftwood, that the June 21, 2023 Island Health/CRD fecal matter water test results show that at Centennial Park bulkhead and Churchill Beach enterococci levels are "safe for swimming." This does not mean that there is no fecal matter in the water, as the Driftwood points out, but that it is not "unsafe" for swimming. A regular water quality monitoring program for Ganges Harbour is long overdue, of course, given that our harbour is permanently closed for shellfish harvesting because of the risk of sanitary contamination.

As the Driftwood points out, no doubt human waste and garbage are being dumped into our harbours and that this pollution comes from both liveaboards and transient vessels. The Driftwood also notes there are derelict boats in our harbours at a high impending risk of sinking. We all know this and know this has been going on for far too long. Derelict boats have sunk and can readily be observed actively sinking. Some, but unfortunately not all, sunken boats are removed every year. The navigational charts underscore that Ganges Harbour has dozens of sunken derelict vessels, and we

can readily observe their debris littering our shorelines. Ganges Harbour is a junkyard. There are perhaps a dozen shopping carts at the bottom of the harbour off the seaplane dock and even sunken dinghies off our dinghy docks. You don't have to be a waterfront property owner, or even on a waterfront property, to observe any of this.

Given these facts, we submit that the CASHI is even more urgent: we have an opportunity to prevent further fecal contamination, along with other waste and other pollution if the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (SSILTC) adopts the proposed CASHI bylaw!

Instead, the Driftwood says we should not adopt CASHI to regulate liveaboards because "Even taking the highest estimates for the numbers living afloat, their impacts are surely dwarfed by countless numbers" of other vessels using our harbours year-round. So, the Driftwood concludes, since "There is no practical way to determine the provenance of every sack of garbage" between a liveaboard and a transient vessel and "by the time a vessel becomes derelict and sinks, the owner is usually long gone" and "given the context of an affordable housing crisis" "we should aim elsewhere" "to incrementally address pollution in our harbour."

With respect, we submit this makes no sense. Two wrongs (illegally dumping in our harbours by both liveaboards and transient

vessels) do not make it okay for anyone to pollute our harbours. That there are two or more groups of offenders underscores that we should be actively enforcing regulations against illegal dumping. Why would we tolerate anyone dumping in our harbours? Why would we allow a bigger mess to be passed along to future generations to resolve? Frankly, this is a poor excuse for doing nothing about this without even one constructive suggestion being made.

Please consider that SSILTC Bylaw 355, Section 3.19.1, currently prohibits all dwelling on vessels, except in two very limited circumstances. However, our local Trust committee has resolved not to enforce that bylaw or any other bylaw making any dwelling illegal on Salt Spring Island but with some significant exceptions when enforcement may occur: "the resolution does not apply to regulations intended to protect ensuring health and safety, appropriate sewage disposal, pollution, location in environmentally sensitive areas, and unpermitted campgrounds" (Reference: Salt Spring Islands Trust Fact Sheet).

Thus, you are now allowed to live on a vessel, but enforcement may occur if you are dwelling on a boat and do not dispose of your sewage as required by law or cause pollution that is illegal. While this approach by the Trust appears bal-

anced with our community needs given the ongoing the housing crisis, that unfortunately is not the case. Why? Because the Trust has not been enforcing Bylaw 3.19.1 against illegal dwelling on vessels no matter what illegal dumping or pollution may have come from liveaboards, visiting vessels, sea shanties or any occupied structure in the harbour.

So, we now find ourselves in a worse situation. Although still illegal, the Trust effectively allows you to live aboard a vessel in Salt Spring harbours without any concern of being held to comply with any laws for keeping our harbours clean and safe. What do you think is going to happen once word gets out that this is allowed in Salt Spring Island harbours?

You cannot build a house on Salt Spring without an approved septic system, but it is open flushing season in the harbour. And our problem is getting worse. It is well known that illegal liveaboards and derelict vessels have been moved out from other areas due to the same concerns regarding their active pollution and deteriorating condition. Unfortunately, a number of these have found their way to our harbours. Where other water bodies are being cleaned up, our situation is deteriorating.

We cannot aspire to a "preserve and protect" ethos if we turn our back to clear and active environmental damage. Rather than a heal the bay or save the bay initiative, the sentiments in the Driftwood opinion piece offer a should-

der shrug and condone a "damage the bay" laissez faire policy.

CASHI's proposal makes living on vessels legal — in return, it reasonably requires compliance with laws to ensure our harbours are clean and safe. The proposed bylaw would regulate both current liveaboard vessels and all other vessels that enter our harbours year-round and stay for more than 48 hours in any seven-day period. Permits are required in both situations. There would be no fee for a permit, but the vessel owner/user must provide proof that the vessel meets certain clean and safe requirements, i.e., has legally required waste containment equipment; does not impede navigation; is registered; and properly disposes of waste.

By requiring such permit compliance proof, the Trust does not have to inspect every vessel. The bylaw would also regulate placement of docks and moorings (like a parking lot) to avoid navigation issues, as well as addressing abandoned and derelict vessels. Importantly, it would also allow the Trust to limit the number of permits it issues for living on vessels.

Is this proposal perfect? Perhaps not. But it offers a means to allow the reality of what is already occurring in terms of living in the harbour while actively addressing the environmental damage we are suffering.

Please read the proposed bylaw. It may be found on the Trust's website about our June 22, 2023 delegation presentation.

## IN RESPONSE



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# Diversify, not increase, growth

BY LAURA PATRICK  
SALT SPRING LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE MEMBER

I wish my world as an elected official, charged with making land-use decisions, was as exciting and powerful as one prolific Driftwood opinion pages writer imagines it to be (Frants Attorp, July 12 "More Than Meets the Eye" Viewpoint).

If I had the power and ability to "control the outcome," circumstances would be very different for many island workers seeking a place to call home.

As if the Trust policy statements, official community plans (OCPs), land use bylaws (LUBs) and the rules found in the Local Government Act and Community Charter aren't mind boggling enough, layer on a complex federated form of governance that exists nowhere else in the world, and it's a pretty easy task to blame, criticize and leap to false conclusions, and an equally impossible task

to "control the outcome."

Here are the facts:

Salt Spring has experienced a steady growth for decades. The 2009 housing needs assessment that came out one year after the OCP was last updated accurately forecasted the growth, and pointed out that while the year over year growth is not large, over time it is. The report identified the need for long-term planning for not only housing but for all forms of housing-related infrastructure and services. The report described the sub-standard conditions of the Salt Spring Island secondary rental market that consists mostly of illegal forms of housing.

The demographics making up the growth rate are narrowing. They consist primarily of people who can afford to purchase a single-family home costing on average \$1.3 million. I am not advocating that we increase the growth rate, but rather that we act

to diversify that growth. We need to expand the options of housing types on the island to appeal to a broader range of demographics.

This is the challenge for the upcoming OCP/LUB review. Our staff are working hard to kick this review off on solid ground. I always say it is vitally important to linger in the project definition phase. In this phase, we collect and analyze data and design community engagement processes to ensure that all voices will be heard. During this phase we are also developing an Indigenous relations approach. So stay tuned, you will have lots of opportunities to shape this review and affect the outcome.

Who makes up a healthy island community? What kind of housing do they need? Are the bylaws driving that kind of housing? And absolutely, this all must and can be done better in support of the Islands Trust mandate.

## Hiring, training and tech advancements the cornerstones of BC Ferries' renewal

BY NICOLAS JIMENEZ

The Canada Day long weekend marked the beginning of the peak season at BC Ferries as our core team welcomed passengers aboard along with hundreds of new staff members, a complement of licensed professional mariners recruited from around the world and new technology aimed at making travel easier.

Will it be a flawless summer without interruption? While I wish I could promise that, customers should be prepared for intermittent ferry delays and cancellations as we continue to navigate a critical shortage of licensed officers. Please know we are doing our utmost to ensure smooth sailing this season as we work to resolve a series of long-term challenges. That's why I want to outline the action we have taken, where we are going and the remaining challenges ahead.

After becoming CEO of BC Ferries in March, it didn't take long for me to identify BC Ferries' greatest strength: our people. They are the highly trained staff who keep us safe, ensure vessels are properly outfitted and deliver year-round ferry service to coastal communities.

Unfortunately, we simply don't have enough of them. External factors such as pandemic-related stress, the labour shortage and housing availability can be blamed for part of this. But BC Ferries needs to shoulder equal responsibility for the staffing shortage. Over numerous years, BC Ferries allowed wages to fall behind, didn't do enough to develop licensed mariners and didn't respond quickly to retirements and departures. That resulted in additional pressure on our existing team, leading to incidents of fatigue and stress.

We all saw the results last summer when crew shortages were responsible for the cancellation of more than 300 sailings. Statistically, that is only 0.7 per cent of all the summer sailings, but I know the impact, and the frustration, customers feel if they're left behind. That's why BC Ferries is committed to doing better.

We are executing our largest hiring effort in a generation. There are now 1,200 new people at BC Ferries — 500 more than last year — who are dedicated to connecting communities and customers with the people and places important to them.

This includes more than 140 recently recruited professional mariners, thanks to expanded agreements led by Transport Canada. For example, we welcomed more than 70 professional mariners from Ukraine and we expect Ottawa will soon have reciprocal agreements with the Philippines

### INDEPTH

and possibly India.

The importance of this recruitment effort can't be overstated. Washington State Ferries and others around the world face the same problems navigating a global 21,000-person shortage of professional mariners.

In an industry where it can take 15 years to become a chief officer, the solutions must be long term. In the coming five years, about 750 licensed officers will be eligible for retirement. That's why we are working with educational institutions to train future mariners and compress the time it takes to become a licensed professional.

In addition to the new recruits, we are offering incentives to retain employees, cross-training staff so they can be deployed to high-need areas and dramatically increasing training to ensure more people have the skills to advance. In less than a year, BC Ferries invested upwards of \$27 million in our people. In August, we will begin discussions with the BC Ferry & Marine Workers' Union on wage adjustments.

**In an industry where  
it can take 15 years to  
become a chief officer,  
the solutions must be  
long term.**

Technology will play a growing role as we reshape BC Ferries. Over the next 12 years, we will spend \$5.4 billion modernizing our fleet with cleaner, quieter vessels. We're also planning terminal efficiencies and recently launched

our new app to improve how people manage their travel.

These are just a few of the many initiatives as BC Ferries seeks financial stability while improving the customer experience. Everything is guided by three principles: safety, reliability and affordability.

It's all happening as ferry demand surges. Over the last year, traffic on BC Ferries was at its highest level in our 63-year history — an incredible achievement.

Moving forward, our commitment is to the highest level of service possible, knowing that disruptions are inevitable especially in locations where back-up crews are lean. I ask our customers for their continued understanding and offer the dedicated BC Ferries team my heartfelt gratitude as we navigate through this period of rebuilding.

The issues we face are complex, layered and may take years to fully resolve. But the work has begun as we create a robust, reliable and dependable ferry system for future generations.

Nicolas Jimenez is president and CEO of BC Ferries, one of the largest ferry operators in the world, annually moving more than 21-million customers and 9.4-million vehicles throughout coastal B.C.



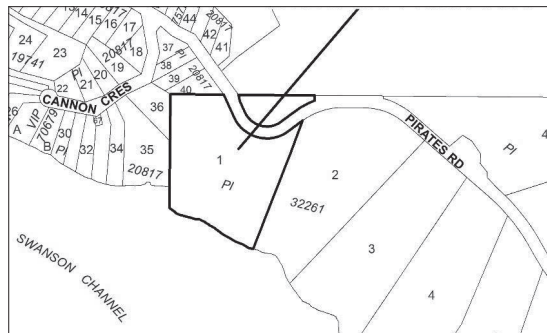
### NOTICE NP-TUP-2023.4 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

**NOTICE** is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the North Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to LOT 1, SECTION 7, PENDER ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 32261 (PID: 001-080-539). This property is located at 4801 Pirates Road, North Pender Island.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a Short Term Vacation Rental use within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached proposed permit. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years.

The general location of the subject property is shown on the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **July 10, 2023** and continuing up to and including **July 21, 2023**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499(2)(c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Charly Caproff, Planner 1 at (250) 405-5172, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: [southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca) before 4:30 p.m., **July 21, 2023**.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10 a.m., July 28, 2023** at the **St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall**, 4703 Canal Road, on North Pender Island.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jon Chonk, Deputy Secretary





# Salt Spring Pride Festival: This is how we celebrate

Message from DAISSI

BY ROBERT BIRCH

FESTIVAL PROGRAMMING VOLUNTEER,  
DIVERSE AND INCLUSIVE SALT SPRING ISLAND

South of our border, the Human Rights Campaign has declared a state of emergency.

Welcome to the world of 2SLGBTQIA+ Pride 2023. You are needed. From the lesbians and gays who've "been there, done that," to queer kids who struggle to make eye contact in an age of screens; to allies who helped get the gender-neutral signs on bathroom doors only to have them ripped down last month at the Salt Spring library; and most especially to those for whom this will be their first Pride ever! You and your chosen family are the most welcome. It is because of your queer joy that a team of nearly 75 volunteers have come out of their pandemic-ravaged silos to remember that magical healing feeling of connection and belonging.

Why do all these amazing organizers and volunteers spend thousands of hours throwing Salt Spring's biggest party (and second most financially lucrative event) of the year? Because we're a messy rainbow of creative, opinionated people who care. Because we're hurting too.

Trans and queer folk are hurting worldwide from relentless, daily attacks. Many pay with blood, others with their lives. Our mental health is negatively impacted by the cost of living, lack of services, lack of allies — all rooted in lack of support from parents, educators, politicians and communities. Per capita, our suicide rates are off the charts, especially for our youth. For most, we survive knowing we are hated for who we are, and what we represent. Why? In the early 1970s, one of the five identified factors of homophobia was jealousy. We are revelled for our freedom from society's stifling box of normativity. Marriage rights, economic class or gender status do not guarantee our collective safety.

Fascism's playbook needs scapegoats. Control Indigenous lands and women's bodies, murder people of colour, banish the queers and ban the books. It's all happening faster than our heads can spin. Trans and queer people, however, play a pivotal, necessarily destabilizing role against the bloated prophets of war and gladiator culture. This is why lawmakers in the States introduced 525 anti-LGBTQ bills and have signed 70 into law so far in 2023, twice the number of similar bills in 2022.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Robert Birch speaks at a 2019 Salt Spring Pride event outside the library in Ganges.

Despite feeling overwhelmed by endless disasters, seemingly too exhausted to do the hard work of stopping the propaganda of denial; corporate-colonized greed seemingly greater than our efforts to do an about-face on the real crises of our times, hand in hand we march on. Despite Russia using "decadent western queers" as their ideological pretext to war, their orgy of violence spawned by a decade full of divisive fake

news about trans people in social media, we must stand together. Despite hate-mongering politicians spreading their virus of lies, gleefully jumping into bed with fanatical religious leaders, we choose love, kindness and service. In Canada, we do not get a pass. We have but a bit more lead time to get organized to ally with the most adversely affected.

We need each other. We will not be defined by the haters. We're not their victims. We're proud and loud survivors. Let your truth mirror ours, our joy mirror yours. Together, we are this beautiful. Pride means dressing up and dancing to affirm life itself — our collective rights, responsibilities, our privileges to share. This is our first four-day Pride Festival and we're inviting all islanders to invite your off-island friends to come camp, dance in the streets, then dance some more at the Farmers' Institute. Let's join together to reaffirm all that is good in our world: people who help people who recognize nature thrives in diversity.

This year our island youth will be leading the parade. Let them know we are proud of them; that we joyously and unequivocally have their backs.

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**SCHEDULE OF EVENTS** (events and det

### FRIDAY JULY 28TH

- 1:00 PM ..... Gates and Co-Creation Hub open
- 3:00 – 5:00 PM ..... Festival Stage – Welcome to the Q'tichen Table:  
DAISSI's Community Opening Ceremony with Juli Mallett, Robert Birch and Shellyse Szakacs
- 6:30 – 11:00 PM ..... Upper Ganges Liquor Store Beverage Patio open
- 7:00 – 11:00 PM ..... Festival Stage – Open Mic/Talent,  
No Talent: Co-Creation Hub participant offerings
- 8:30 – 10:30 PM ..... Main Hall – Boa Karaoke: IslEnt Productions with Craig's Pride Karaoke
- 11:00 PM ..... Gates close

### SATURDAY JULY 29TH

- 8:00 – 10:00 AM ..... Campground Wake-up/Check-in Circle
- 10:00 AM ..... Gates and Co-Creation Hub open
- 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM .. Pride Parade preparations begin on festival site
- 11:00 – 11:30 AM ..... Festival site – Pride Parade Shuttle Service for the Mobility Challenged to Muster Point (bus loop in front of Salt Spring Elementary School on north side of Rainbow Road at Jackson Street)
- 11:00 – 11:45 AM ..... Muster Point – gather for start of Pride Parade (noon)
- 12:00 PM ..... Pride Parade begins
- 1:30 – 2:00 PM ..... Salt Spring Island Public Library – Closing Ceremony with Dignitaries and performers, David Jaquest and Vikki Smudge

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## FESTIVAL | JULY 28 – 31, 2023

Salt Spring Island, BC (Farmers' Institute)

Details may change without notice)

2:00 PM ..... Pride Parade ends – Shuttle Service for the Mobility Challenged to festival site  
 2:30 – 11:00 PM ..... Upper Ganges Liquor Store Beverage Patio open  
 3:00 – 5:00 PM ..... Festival Stage – Open Mic/Talent, No Talent: Co-Creation Hub participant offerings  
 5:00 – 7:30 PM ..... DAISSI's Pride Dance preparations begin on festival site  
 7:30 PM ..... Festival Stage – DAISSI's Pride Dance begins  
 7:30 – 8:30 PM ..... Michael Birkett – DJ  
 8:30 – 10:00 PM ..... Goodnight Sunrise – Dance Band  
 10:00 – 10:30 PM ..... Michael Birkett – DJ  
 11:00 PM ..... Gates close

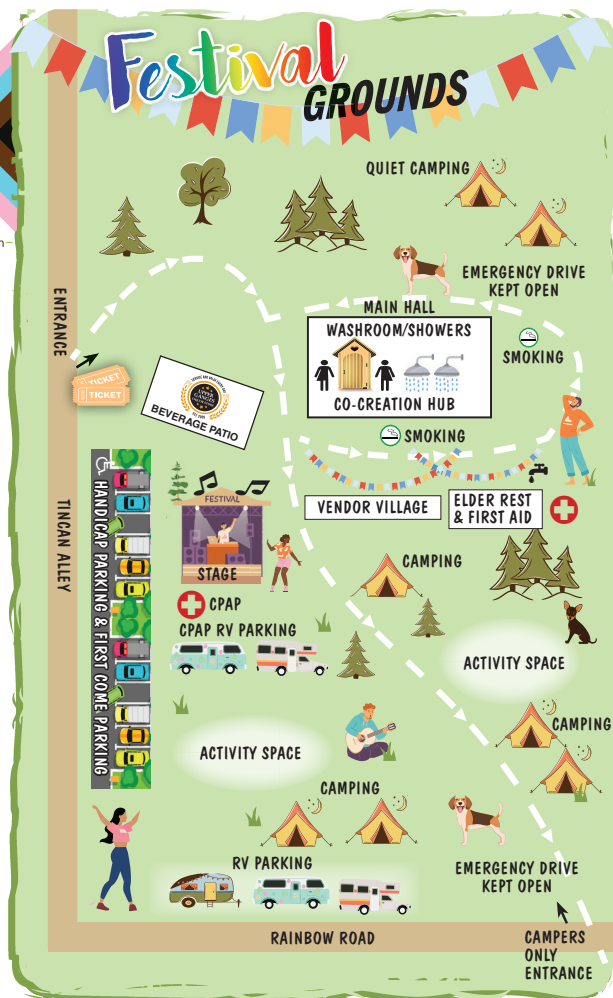
12:30 – 2:30 PM ..... Community-Created Potluck  
 2:30 – 11:00 PM ..... Upper Ganges Liquor Store Beverage Patio open  
 2:30 PM ..... Co-Creation Hub participant offerings: self-initiated excursions and more  
 7:00 – 9:00 PM ..... Festival Stage – Open Mic/Talent, No Talent: Woke Unicorn Snowflake Rumpus with Sheldar the Electric Clamfish and Co-Creation Hub participant offerings DJ party with Vikki Smudge – MC  
 8:30 – 10:30 PM ..... Main Hall – Boa Karaoke: IslEnt Productions with Craig's Pride Karaoke  
 11:00 PM ..... Gates close

## MONDAY JULY 31ST

8:00 – 10:00 AM ..... Campground Wake-up/Check-in Circle  
 Sunrise Silent Music – Shauna Devlin  
 10:00 AM ..... Gates and Co-Creation Hub open  
 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM ..... Salt Spring Pharmacy's Health and Wellness activities including Co-Creation Hub participant offerings  
 10:15 – 11:30 AM ..... Yoga – John Howe  
 10:15 – 11:45 AM ..... Qigong – PurnaMa  
 12:00 – 1:00 PM ..... Heart Circle and Closing Ceremony with DAISSI facilitators: Juli Mallett, Robert Birch and Shellyse Szakacs  
 1:00 PM ..... Gates close

## SUNDAY JULY 30TH

8:00 – 10:00 AM ..... Campground Wake-up/Check-in Circle  
 10:00 AM ..... Gates and Co-Creation Hub open  
 10:00 – 11:00 AM ..... Ganges Community Spiritual offerings and on-site – Weaving the DAISSI Chain with Mary Sparks (Dulcimer player) and others  
 10:15 – 11:00 AM ..... Metta VanderVliet – Loving Kindness Meditation  
 11:00 AM – 12:30 PM DAISSI's Talking Circle: This is a State of Emergency – Responding to Local and Global Threats to Queer Community with DAISSI facilitators: Juli Mallett, Robert Birch and Shellyse Szakacs



## FESTIVAL SUPPORTERS

*The Salt Spring Pride Festival is grateful to all who have contributed to the success of this year's festival*

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# Festival activities help people connect and grow

Here's more details about a few featured on-site events

## Friday, July 28, 3 to 5 p.m. - Welcome to the Q'tichen Table

All great parties and grassroots movements start at the kitchen table! Welcome to a frolicking feast of queerness where everyone claims their seat at the community table. Let's revel in who shows up and spin the tale of how we want to show up for each other. Bring your community flavour and queerest flair. Starting with a simple opening ritual, we will

then tour the festival grounds as we raise the flag for Salt Spring Island's first ever Pride Festival.

## Saturday, July 29, 8:30 to 10 p.m. - Goodnight Sunrise

Welcome our eastern relatives to the Salt Spring experience. In their words: "We're a high-HIGHHH-energy female-fronted rock band from Toronto, and glowsticks, and shredding keytar solos are a key part of our set! We LOVE getting crowds hyped and dancing and singing along and are GREAT at getting the party going — that's kind of our thing."

## Sunday, July 30, 10 to 11 a.m. - Spiritual Offerings: Weaving the DAISSI Chain

Lay back in the grass and watch the clouds drift by as Mistress of the Dulcimer Mary Sparks sends your imagination back to other worlds, fairer times and magical places, returning back feeling refreshed, renewed and revitalized.

## Sunday, July 30, 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. - DAISSI Talking Circle: This is a State of Emergency — Responding to Local and Global Threats to Queer Community

From the United States to Uganda, from New Brunswick to Russia, queer and trans people around the world are facing a regressive backlash that includes a loss of legal rights, paranoid public scapegoating and individual violence. These threats are real, and through political resistance, radical organizing and mutual aid we can, and must, keep each other safe. Bring the concerns that are on your heart, and your visions of queer liberation to this facilitated discussion, as we explore how to respond to local, regional and global challenges: from sponsoring refugees to do-it-yourself hormonal transition, from community organizing to sustainable, self-sufficient living. With a spirit of solidarity, resilience and resistance, we will thrive.

## Monday, July 31, 12 to 1 p.m. - DAISSI's Heart Circle and Closing Ceremony with facilitators Juli Mallett, Robert Birch

Parting can be such sweet sorrow, or a welcome relief, a final celebration or a myriad of mixed feelings. Join the circle and create your own personal closure to your pride festival experience while also holding the space for others.

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

## TEA À TEMPO

# McGill music alumni set to perform at All Saints

Nomad members include Salt Spring's Simon Miller and friends

### SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Fans of the popular concert series Tea à Tempo enjoy a wide range of music offered in the weekly summer programming in All Saints by-the-Sea.

The concert on Wednesday, July 26 features

turing Nomad is sure to be a music lover's delight.

Nomad is a collective of six imaginative and talented musicians hailing from all over North America. The group's music telepathically weaves in and out of crisp structure, improvisational jungles and lyrical melody in a sublime mixture of jazz, chamber music and free improvisation. Since forming in 2012 while attending McGill University, they have toured eastern Canada, mid-western U.S., and performed at the Toronto and Vancouver International Jazz Festivals,

IMOO festival in Ottawa and L'OFF festival in Montreal.

Since releasing their last full-length album *As We Are* in 2016, Nomad has performed and released a single with German pianist Pablo Held and released a remote recording collaboration featuring new music with guest artists, including flutist Anh Phung, vocalist Felicity Williams, drummers Phil Melanson and Devin Drobka. Their third full-length album is due for release next month.

Wednesday's concert will be played by

five members of Nomad, including Salt Spring's own Simon Miller on trumpet and keyboards. With him will be Mike Bjella, tenor sax and flute; Ted Crosby, tenor sax and clarinet; Ben Dwyer, bass; and Kai Basanta, drums.

Music by donation begins at 2:10 p.m. Donations provide the honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series. Tea and treats, for \$4, will be served immediately following the concert in the hall overlooking Ganges Harbour.

## CONCERT SERIES

# Park concerts begin next week

Mikey Jose and Cowichan Tzinquaw Dancers on July 27

### SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

The first concert of the five-week-long 2023 Summer Outdoor Concert Series begins with a splashy season opener on Thursday, July 27.

Salt Spring Arts is excited to present the fourth edition of the free concert series in conjunction with marquee presenters Salt Spring Country Grocer and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union. The events run from 6 to 8 p.m. in Centennial Park, overlooking Ganges Harbour.

The Cowichan Tzinquaw Dancers will be taking the stage at 6 p.m. on July 27 to kick off the concert series with their dynamic performance. The Tzinquaw Dancers are an intergenerational dance troupe, honouring the traditional Quw'utsun dance and songs from the Cowichan Valley. Formed in the early 1960s, they embody and empower cultural identity and the Hul'qumi'num language, through the large and elaborate dances that have been taught to them by their Elders.

Vancouver-based soul singer/songwriter Mikey Jose is the first headlining act of the season, with a familiar yet novel sound that has been turning heads internationally. Drawing comparisons to soulful heavy hitters like Stevie Wonder and Leon Bridges, Jose carves



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING ARTS

Mikey Jose, the headlining performer in the first Summer Outdoor Concert Series event in Centennial Park next Thursday, July 27.

his own lane that blends generational sounds while injecting his own fresh take on growing up in modern times. Jose and his band Bungalow have performed sold-out shows in Vancouver's biggest venues and international music festivals.

For more information about the concert series, visit [www.saltspringarts.com/socs](http://www.saltspringarts.com/socs).



Islands Trust

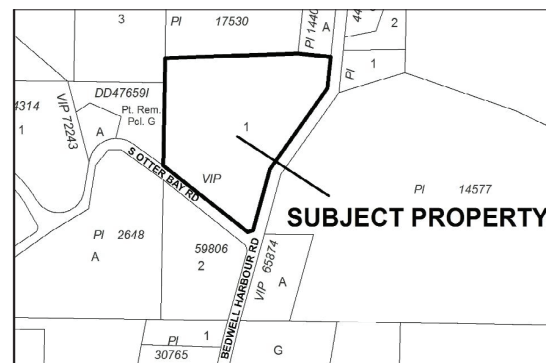
## NOTICE NP-TUP-2023.5 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

**NOTICE** is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the *Local Government Act* that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a **Temporary Use Permit**. The proposed permit would apply to a portion of Lot 1, Section 18, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan VIP59806 (PID: 018-948-421). The property is located at **4415 Bedwell Harbour Road**, North Pender Island.

The **purpose** of this temporary use permit would be to permit the continued use of a portion of the subject property for the **operation of a concrete batch plant and associated uses**. Temporary permit NP-TUP-2018.5 was issued in May 2020 for one (1) year and renewed for two (2) years in June 2021 to permit this temporary land use. A new permit is now required to continue this temporary land use.

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

The general location of the subject property is shown in the following sketch:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **July 7, 2023** and continuing up to and including **July 19, 2023**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 494 (2)(c) of the *Local Government Act*, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Brad Smith at (250) 405-5194. For Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC: 1-800-663-7867; by fax at (250) 405-5155; or by email to [southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca) before **4:30 p.m., July 19, 2023**.

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:00 a.m., July 28, 2023**.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

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# ISLAND LIFE

## CHARITABLE ACTIVITIES

# Mobile health clinic plan boosted by donations

'Doctor's office on wheels' gets closer to reality

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE

After three compelling presentations, including from the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust and Gulf Islands Secondary School Rowing Program, the Salt Spring Community Health Society was declared the winner during 100+ Women Who Care's most recent meeting.

The society was awarded a collected total of \$15,600 to go towards the purchase of an electric cargo van that will be converted into a mobile health clinic—a "doctor's office on wheels," as Martha Taylor, vice president of the society, calls it.

"This marks an important step towards addressing accessibility to primary health care and mental health services on Salt Spring, where now 50 per cent of people report not having a family doctor or are falling through the cracks," she said.

The health society formed a steering



PHOTO BY KIRSTEN BOLTON

Salt Spring 100+ Women Who Care members cheer after choosing the Salt Spring Community Health Society as their funds beneficiary on May 23.

committee in the fall of 2017 from a group of residents drawn together out of concern for the chronic shortage of doctors on Salt Spring. It became an incorporated B.C. society in 2018 and a registered charity later that year. In order to ascertain how the society could best serve the community, it conducted a health needs assessment. The number-one concern among residents was the lack of timely access to mental health services.

The vision for the society's mobile health clinic is that it will be staffed by primary health care providers,

such as a physician or nurse practitioner, and a registered nurse — each with mental health training — and one or more peer support workers or clinical social workers. This is to ensure patients have access to a team trained to provide inclusive, trauma-informed and culturally appropriate care.

"We believe a mobile health unit that treats and refers cases before they become urgent will have a positive effect on the caseloads of existing physicians and hospital staff," said health society president Jennifer Williams. "We also believe

a mobile clinic can attract primary health care and mental health outreach providers who are drawn to this model of health care and may relocate here."

The society is partnering with the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network to carry on its Mental Wellness Initiative, which is a community-led program focused on expanding peer support programs and includes the recently launched Ambassador Program. The program involves the RCMP, Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce and Salt Spring Community Alliance with volunteer support peers making themselves visible and available to anyone who looks like they could use a hand.

Mobile units are proving successful and are part of a growing North American trend. There are currently 26 operating across the country, with eight in B.C. Salt Spring's mobile health van will be the first 100 per cent electric van in Canada.

The timeline for ordering and receiving e-vehicles is currently two to three years, and including the cost of converting and installing the necessary equipment, the budget is projected to be approximately \$275,000. However, a recent dona-

tion by a generous community member has allowed the society to put a deposit on an in-stock Ford E-Transit van. In addition to the 100+ Women's donation, the society has a grant from the Salt Spring Island Foundation and a Capital Regional District Grant-in-Aid commitment. The society is accepting donations from interested community members.

"On behalf of the board of the Salt Spring Community Health Society, I'd like to express our gratitude to the 100+ Women Who Care members' financial support for our plan to bring an electric mobile health clinic to the island. This is a significant step forward for us," said Williams.

The 100 Women Who Care initiative was launched in 2006 as a simple, efficient and effective collective fundraising model for charities. One hundred (or more) women each contribute \$100 and vote for one of three nominated charities three times a year. The Salt Spring branch was founded in November 2018 and has raised over \$228,000 for now 14 causes.

The nominations deadline for the next 100+ Women Who Care meeting will be in October.



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## PET CARE

## No such thing as a 'free' kitten

Ways to reduce kitten and cat suffering

BY JEN MACLELLAN  
FOR BCSPCA SALT SPRING

It's kitten season on Salt Spring! Little teeny bundles of fluffy ginger, tabbies and torties in all corners of the island. It's incredibly tempting to add one of the adorable four-legged fuzzies to your family, especially if they are "free!"

Having been involved in animal rescue on the island for over 20 years, I can tell you honestly, what they say is true, there is no such thing as a free kitten.

Kittens need veterinary care from the start. They need deworming, parasite protection and vaccinations to ensure a long healthy life. In the past couple of years we have seen a spike in very sick kittens arriving at the BCSPCA shelter. Kittens born to feral moms or pets that haven't been vaccinated don't receive all the immunity from the queen that they need. The illnesses are long and traumatic, sometimes permanently affecting the development of the kitten, sometimes resulting in death. Most of these illnesses are easily

preventable with vaccines.

Please spay or neuter your pet. Unaltered animals allowed to wander are causing an explosion in our feral cat population despite increased focus on trying to control it. Males will travel for miles, driven by instinct and often risking their health by entering feral colonies, fighting for territory, crossing roads and dangerous territory. Females may not return home to give birth, alone in the elements, surrounded by potential predators, in addition to the risks involved in labour and delivery.

With the veterinarian shortage and an increase in costs for veterinary medicine, many people find it difficult to get their animals the care they need. If you find yourself in that position please reach out. Ask about our SNIP vouchers for spay and neuter. If you find a "free" kitten we would love to tell you about our foster to adopt program. The BCSPCA has resources to assist you.

Consider insurance. It's comforting knowing you won't have to make a deci-

## SALTYPAWS



PHOTO BY JEN MACLELLAN

Winston, a kitten who came to the Salt Spring BCSPCA in a bad state last year.

sion on the best care for you pet based on finances.

The BCSPCA on Salt Spring has adoptable kittens for just over \$200. All kittens receive veterinary care, parasite protection, deworming, core vaccines and are spayed or neutered and microchipped. They also come with six weeks of free pet insurance.

The shelter is open Monday to Thursday from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. if you would like more information or to meet one of our amazing adoptable cats.

## Fall Fair FOCUS



Fall Fair Catalogue is now available in print and online.

Check out the NEW sections in HOBBY ARTS.

- Section 12, page 29 is now Adult Hobby Arts featuring a new class for Soap Making.  
- Section 18, pages 35 & 36 are now all for Juniors!

HOBBY: an activity done regularly in one's leisure time for pleasure.

PROJECT: an individual or collaborative enterprise, carefully planned with a particular aim and a set start and end date.

Keep the kids active and involved this summer with activities in their Hobbies or Projects and we'll see them at the Fair!

SSI 2023 Fall Fair is September 9th & 10th!

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS

CALENDAR EMAIL:

news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

## what's on this week

Wed. July 19	Fri. July 21	Sun. July 23	Wed. July 26
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Tea à Tempo: Roly Poly String Trio.</b> All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats. <b>John Herbert.</b> With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m. <b>GreyVine Duo.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.	<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Karaoke.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. <b>Pat Temple and the HiLo players.</b> Mateada Social Club. 8 to 11 p.m.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Salt Spring Theatre Alive Society AGM.</b> Via Zoom. 6 p.m. Email Maggie O'Scalleigh at jaynmags@gmail.com for the link and info. <b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday listing.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See last Wednesday's listing. <b>Music Bingo.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.
<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting.</b> Public welcome. Lower hall of Central Hall. 7 p.m. <b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. <b>Music Bingo.</b> Moby's Pub. 8 to 10:30 p.m.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> Members of The Umbrella Society are this week's guests outside at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. <b>Live at the Library: Neighbourhood Story Time.</b> Stories for young ones read by community members or library staff in the library's children's area every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m. <b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday listing.	<b>Mon. July 24</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Julia Beattie.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.	<b>CINEMA</b> <b>Elemental</b> runs Wednesday-Thursday, July 19-20 at 7 p.m. Then <b>Asteroid City</b> is the movie from Friday, July 21 to Thursday, July 27 at 7 p.m. nightly plus a Sunday 3 p.m. matinee. <b>See thefritz.ca for more movie info or phone 250-538-7718.</b>
<b>Thur. July 20</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Morien Jones.</b> Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m. <b>Open Mic.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. <b>Craig's Karaoke.</b> At Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. to midnight. <b>The Radio Grande.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.	<b>Sat. July 22</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>The Adventures of Tom Thumb, Private Detective.</b> See Friday listing. <b>The Myrtle Sisters.</b> All-ages musical show at the library program room. 1 p.m. <b>Buck Dodgers Band.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. <b>Jessica Benini.</b> Lower deck. Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m. <b>Downtown Mischief.</b> Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.	<b>Tue. July 25</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Ashton Bachman &amp; Guest.</b> Lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m. <b>Country Band With Open Mic.</b> At the Legion. 6 to 9 p.m. <b>Ben Sures.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.	<b>EXHIBITIONS</b> <b>Elemental: Wood and Metal,</b> a multi-artist Showcase Exhibition on the stage at Artcraft at Mahon Hall, runs daily, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., until Aug. 14. <b>Cheryl Long's show of paintings called Almost Unseen - Angels and Spirit Forms in Landscape</b> is at Salt Spring Gallery from Wednesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., until July 26. <b>Jeanne Lyons: Journeys: Paintings, Sculptures and Works on Paper</b> shows in the library program room from July 10 to 31. <b>55th annual Artcraft gallery and shop</b> of work by 100 Gulf Islands artisans is on at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. through the summer months.
<b>Fri. July 21</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>The Adventures of Tom Thumb, Private Detective.</b> Live 1940s mystery-style/comedic radio play presented by Radio Noir Productions, with guest musicians The Myrtle Sisters and The Regulars at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. A fundraiser for CHiR.fm. <b>Jessica Benini.</b> Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m. <b>Noah Pred With DJ Boomtown.</b> Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m. <b>Chonka.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.	<b>Sun. July 23</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Jazz Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome.</b> The Legion. 3 to 6 p.m. <b>Vixx.</b> Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m. <b>Jessica Benini.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.	<b>Wed. July 26</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Tea à Tempo: NOMAD.</b> Simon Miller and musical friends from across Canada. All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats. <b>John Herbert.</b> With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m. <b>Tom Hooper.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m. <b>Sam Woy and Gus Englehorn.</b> Mateada Social Club. 8 to 10:30 p.m.	<b>Salt Spring Pride Festival</b> <b>Friday, July 28-Monday, July 31</b> <b>SSI Farmers' Institute grounds and Ganges parade on July 29</b> <b>THRIFTY FOODS</b> <b>Ganges, Mouat's Centre 7:30am to 9pm</b> <b>Customer Service 250-537-1522</b>



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**CALEB SIGURGEIRSON**  
October 19, 1971 - May 11, 2022

It is with still aching hearts that the family announces the sudden and unexpected death of Caleb, one year ago, May. Caleb was the youngest brother of Pauline of New Zealand, Steve, Lisa and Aaron (Charlotte) all of Salt Spring Island, and also his, cousin

Helgi (Michelle) of Pender Island, his step-mother Doreen of Victoria, and sister-in-law Daniela of Duncan. He was predeceased by his father Bill (2009). He is also survived by his two young sons Quinn and Casey and their mother Emily of Burnaby; his mother Sonia, step-father Frank (North Vancouver), two brothers Rhys (Krista) of Vancouver and Morgan (Rebecca) of North Vancouver; his cousin Mandy (Chris) of Richmond; the boys' Nana, Caroline (James) of Nanaimo and uncle Cyrus (Kyla) of Toronto. Caleb is also survived by his loving partner Michelle of Maple Ridge. Plus many aunts, uncles, nieces, nephews and cousins.

Visiting his family on the islands over the years was a highlight of time spent with his boys. All who knew him will miss Caleb's bright intellect, his vast knowledge of growing things, his deep love of nature, and his witty and sometimes wild sense of humour.

Please join Caleb's family and friends for a Celebration of Life at Aaron's home, 157 Maliview Drive, Salt Spring Island. Saturday afternoon, July 22, 2023.

RSVP lisasigurgeirsonmaxx@gmail.com

*Natalie Anne Hovel*  
Feb 1923 - Nov 2022



Please join us for a celebration of Natalie's life.

July 22, 2023  
2:00 - 4:00 pm  
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## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam



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## Coming Events

## Coming Events

**GROW LOCAL** **FARMLAND TRUST**

**Farmland Trust & Grow Local are excited to announce our Community Local Food Project Grants.**

We are accepting applications for cleaning and garden share projects. Email [growlocalssi@gmail.com](mailto:growlocalssi@gmail.com) to receive more info and a link to the application. Applications due July 23, 2023.

**ONLINE AUCTION JULY 25, 2023 - 400 Plus Lots of Late Model Food Equipment, Cocoa Bean Processing Equipment, Industrial Sewing Machines, Bailiff Seized Goods Plus Others - Incl. 70+ Commercial Freezers & Coolers, Hobart Mixers, Ice Cream Equip, Combi Ovens, Gas and Electric Ranges, Ice Machines, Cappuccino Machines, 25 Industrial Sewing Machines Plus More!! VIEW LOTS, REGISTER and BID ONLINE AT WWW.ACTIVEAUCTIONMART.COM. To View in Person or Questions about lots email [buyit@activeauctionmart.com](mailto:buyit@activeauctionmart.com) or call 778-838-2645**

## Wanted

**Grandpaw Seeks**  
Aug. 1 relocation for "Phoebe", a 23' ketch on trailer, from daughter's pending renovation on Galiano. My Class 4 with air brakes and handy history is available. No criminal record. Sober. References. Please email, [bocklaus@gmail.com](mailto:bocklaus@gmail.com) or call St. Margaret of Scotland Church on Galiano 1-778-239-6734 (even for referral). Thanks, Klaus.

## YOUR COMMUNITY YOUR CLASSIFIEDS!

## HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF JULY 16 to 22 2023

The luckiest signs this week: Sagittarius, Capricorn and Aquarius

**ARIES** A makeover will make you feel better in your own skin. New clothes will make you look good and will be useful for your new work duties. You must draw on your personable nature to impress new clients.

**TAURUS** You'll be promoted when you return to work from vacation. This will help you settle your debts. You'll work several hours of overtime to improve your financial situation. Don't neglect your health; take the time to care for your significant other.

**GEMINI** Your charisma will influence a few people to tag along with you to do some fun activities. You'll be in the spotlight this week. Your outspokenness will be admired. You'll achieve something great and receive praise for your efforts.

**CANCER** You cherish family time. You'll help restore the peace between relatives who've been in conflict for a long time. You could perform a heroic act and save someone from an unfortunate situation.

**LEO** If you've moved recently, take the time to explore your surroundings. You'll make some great discoveries. You'll be on the move this week and may play taxi with your children. Your phone and messages are constantly distracting you.

**VIRGO** Summer is the perfect time to renegotiate your salary and working conditions. Your boss will make you an offer you can't refuse. If you run your own business, you'll onboard several new clients.

**LIBRA** Things are happening! Prepare for a few pleasant surprises. You'll be involved in some very exciting activities. Let yourself be guided by the pleasure and joy of being surrounded by good company.

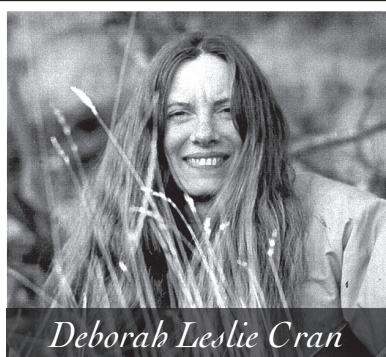
**SCORPIO** Be careful about what you share on social media. During a conflict, one of your friends will show their true nature. However, this will allow you to determine who your real friends are. Sports activities will also be popular among your group of friends.

**SAGITTARIUS** You'll be responsible for organizing an event that attracts all your friends. It'll be a huge success! You can expect a few people to leave you wanting more. You'll discover new and interesting friendships.

**CAPRICORN** Whether alone, with your significant other, colleagues or family members, you'll break ground on an important project. If you're on vacation, don't be surprised if you get a call from your boss about an emergency that can't be solved without you.

**AQUARIUS** Even if you're already on vacation, that won't stop you from planning your next adventure. You could also decide to take a training course to increase your career opportunities.

**PISCES** Don't be afraid of change; it's good for you. A romantic getaway or family adventure will round out your summer vacation. You'll make unforgettable memories.



*Deborah Leslie Cran*

We are saddened to announce the death of longtime Saltspring resident, Deborah Leslie Cran on Tuesday, June 27th 2023.

Deborah grew up in Vancouver and moved to Toronto as a young woman. There she had her first, child, Sean, before returning to the West Coast, meeting and marrying Chris, having Sascha, becoming a step mother to Riah, and moving finally back to Saltspring Island in 1985 where she first lived in 1977.

She was an accomplished gardener, and delighted in the magic of nature. She spent countless hours growing and preserving food - her fruit leather was legendary. Deborah also studied and practiced herbal healing, often making her own remedies from plants she grew. She was known for her beautiful dancing, was a great support to her friends and family, always willing to lend her hand in a crisis and, as her husband says, "Everybody knows she's the brains behind pa" (Bob Dylan). When she was in the company of children her own child-like nature was revealed and she brought to them a sense of magic. Deborah was not one for the spotlight but had many quiet accomplishments that were only later revealed. Moments like when she anonymously delivered Christmas to families in need demonstrate her kindness, helpfulness, sensitivity and generosity of spirit.

Deborah is survived by her husband, Chris Anderson, son, Sean Cran (Deanna), daughter Sascha Rackemann (Peter), step-daughter Riah Hochsmann (Alex), niece, Zoe Antonik (Scott), step-son Bill Boertjes (Milena), sister Roby and grandchildren Chloe, Ava, Maia, Tristan, Lucas and Adriana.

According to her wishes, Deborah was buried at the Saltspring Island Natural Cemetery in a private ceremony on July 8th. Her family grieves this immense loss and welcomes those who knew her to join in a memorial in Deborah's honour on August 3rd at 3pm at the home of Chris and Deborah.

In lieu of flowers, please be kind to one another. Share your struggles, fears, and joys with open hearts and minds. Be present and patient in each other's journeys.



## IN REMEMBRANCE

# A tribute to friends who inspired and shaped us



Bill Turner, a well-loved community leader who wove connections between people of all ages and genders before his death in 2022.

Islander recalls members of Salt Spring LGBTQ community who passed in last few years

BY CAFFYN JESSE  
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

So many stories are hidden, erased, untold. It's like a library with millions of books — each one visionary, funny, courageous, wise — but read by no one at all.

Our stories get obscured by heteronormative thinking. They stay silent in social worlds that make no space for intimacy, and no time for listening with deep respect.

Bill Turner (1945-2022) lived so differently. In the face of all the inner and outer forces that would prevent it, Bill shared life with us. He told his own stories. He coaxed others to share, and he listened. He lived and loved in ways that felt empowering to friends and strangers, and so transformative for this community.

To celebrate Bill's life and mourn his death, Diverse and Inclusive Salt Spring Island (DAISSI) hosted a memorial for him on Valentine's Day, 2023. It was the first time the LGBTQ community had been able to gather after COVID restrictions, and it was a time for sharing stories.

I shared how I met Bill during a time when the organization called "Gays and Lesbians of Salt Spring Island" (now DAISSI) was struggling. Initial enthusiasm had waned after the society was founded in 1999. At the Core Inn one cold winter night, there was an AGM with only three of us present. Bill was elected president. To my horror, he decided to empty the society's bank account by hosting a party

with free alcohol at the Harbour House Hotel. We showed an inspiring film, and shared our dreams. Twenty or more people got joyfully engaged. The organization never looked back — thanks to Bill's bold leadership. Bill was teacher, parent, grandparent and long-time community leader, who wove connections between young and old, gay and straight. Remembering Bill, I am inspired to aspire to his way of sharing openly, staying curious and delighting in difference.

At Bill's memorial celebration, organizers asked for names of other loved ones who had died during the pandemic. A hundred names were shared. We all lost dear friends and mentors over the last few years, when we had no access to community space to mourn and share stories. As we grieve, we also feel the gifts they left us. We keep their stories alive in our ways of living. Here I will share a few stories of friends and members of the Salt Spring LGBTQ community who died recently but who continue to shape my world.

## STRONACH O'NEILL



Stronach O'Neill (1945-2019) was a magnificent, creative woman who loved women. Together with her partner of

36 years, Barb Conyers, she celebrated women's community wherever she went. During their years on Salt Spring Island, all women who loved women could feel delighted-in. Stronach worked as an energy healer, and she brought loving energy into every encounter. I was in awe of her capacity to radiate love — with strangers, friends and neighbours — and even those who brought conflict and harm. For all our wondrous, troublesome human diversity, Stronach had love to spare. For a short time, she offered classes sharing techniques from her healing practice, and I learned how she used imagination to draw on an everfresh artesian spring of love that flowed through her. Stronach's teaching resources me every day — and I've passed it on to every student I've ever taught.

## ANN RICHARDSON



Ann Richardson (1923-2020) was a woman of phenomenal intelligence and fiercely centered presence. She earned a PhD and worked as a professor, but in her 50s a major life change brought her to Salt Spring Island. Here she hand-built a home, fixed her own car, kept sheep, grew prize-winning potatoes, played music and made forever friends. She worked at a mental health clinic in Duncan, and did counselling for the Salt Spring Community Centre. She was a founding member of the Salt Spring Vipassana Group.

Ann loved the natural world with passion and precision. She recorded hours of bird sounds for the Cornell Ornithology Laboratory. (Every time I use the "Merlin app" to identify birds, I give thanks to Ann!) In 1994 she and friends began creating the Salt Spring Island Conservancy. She guided the fledgling organization through challenge and frustration, to establish a legally approved entity. Ann was a thrilling part of my wider social world, until the time I worked for her as a housecleaner, and we grew closer. Helping her always felt ennobling. I remember her as I savour forests, bird-

song and the conservation infrastructure that is her legacy.

## RUTH SIMKIN



When I first moved to Salt Spring Island in 1996, I was warned not to associate with Ruth Simkin (1944-2022). Ruth ruffled feathers as a bold lesbian who challenged discrimination. This was during the "gay marriage debates" of the 1990s, when public discourse was rife with vitriol. Of course I couldn't wait to meet Ruth, and she became a precious friend.

Ruth was larger-than-life: continually innovating and world-shaping, despite the huge health challenges she faced throughout her life. A pioneering doctor, she wrote medical papers, contributed to textbooks, served as a consultant and gave countless presentations on women's and LGBTQ health. She founded Calgary's first lesbian and gay political action group, and produced many concerts featuring lesbian-feminist artists. After 10 years "in retirement" on Salt Spring Island, Ruth returned to work in the emerging field of palliative care. She loved the years she spent at Victoria Hospice, telling me, "This is the first time I have been able to practise truly patient-centred medicine." Whenever I am daunted by challenges, I conjure Ruth and feel resourced by her epic courage and capacity.

## ROBIN IRVING



Robin Irving (1939-2022) was a tiny human with a giant heart. She moved to Salt Spring in 1973, and

she embraced island life — boating, camping, gardening, celebrating Pride and caring for lifelong friendships. Robin always spoke her mind, especially when someone was being unfair or unkind. She was a courageous adventurer who travelled to six continents with her partner Anne Zeller. Yet Robin stayed focused on the value of home. She wasn't wealthy, but she had a lawyer's training, a carpenter's skills, a fertile imagination and a generous spirit. With very little money, she did much to support people in being well-housed. While working as a lawyer, she helped save Vancouver's Chinatown from urban development and wrote the Strata Titles Act for the NDP government. Later she renovated a building with multiple apartments in Ontario to create low-cost housing options. She crafted a strata subdivision project on Galiano. She sold a home to a friend, with a vendor-take-back mortgage, and made many financial gifts and loans to ensure that people she knew could stay housed. In all the turmoil of the current housing crisis on Salt Spring, Robin's example of small and large things that one person can do offers solace and inspiration.

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These friends, along with so many others, have inspired the evolution of the Salt Spring Island community over many years, in many different ways. Since I moved here in 1996, Salt Spring has grown from a place where — as elsewhere in Canada — self-identified queer folk comprised a small minority of around four per cent, to become a place where 20.6 per cent of islanders self-identify as non-heterosexual, according to a recent report from the Salt Spring Island Foundation.

I don't think the population here is so different from elsewhere. What's different here is that openly LGBTQ people are practising many forms of love-based activism. They have freed our imaginations, so that many more people feel empowered to imagine or explore gender and sexual orientation outside the box. The binary either-or option cannot contain us, or keep those we call "others" so distant and different. When we take time to listen to each other's stories, and reimagine our own, we can forgo the punishing paradigms of normative belonging. The ancestors of our chosen families inspire, and continue to shape our living and loving.

*Caffyn Jesse is an intimacy educator and queer activist.*



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