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RESCUE

Hang glider recovers



PHOTO BY SUSAN FUSSELL

Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue and Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue personnel bring 62-year-old Kevin Searle up the steep slope of Mount Bruce last Monday, Aug. 7 after the experienced hang glider ended up suspended in a tree. Teams trained in rope rescue skills were required.

Adventurer says he'll fly from Mount Bruce again

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The hang glider plucked from a cliffside tree on Mount Bruce last Monday said he's recovering from his injuries, grateful for rescuers and will fly from Salt Spring's highest peak again "in the near future."

Kevin Searle crashed shortly after leaving the launch ramp at Mount Bruce Monday, Aug. 7, ending an enviably long streak of accident-free flights from there with the experienced flyer hanging 60 feet in the air, suspended upside-down from his damaged equipment.

"I have been flying from Bruce Peak for over 45 years," said Searle in a letter to the Driftwood (see Viewpoint, page 4), "with only one minor previous incident within my first year of flying, before there was even a launch ramp built in place."

Just seconds after launching from the platform near the top of the 709-metre-high peak, friends watched the 62-year-old suddenly veer off to the right and into several trees, snagging branches and ending up "partially restrained within his harness,

upside-down," according to Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR) search manager and paramedic Jason Grindler, who estimated the crash took place at about 1:30 in the afternoon.

Inverted "at the top of a 60-foot tree, perched on top of a 40-foot cliff," according to Searle, he deployed his emergency parachute; Grindler said it was done in case the branches holding the hang glider above the ground gave way, in hopes the chute's lines might snag something on the way down. Friends Searle had been flying with called 911, and within just 45 minutes teams from SSISAR and Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) arrived at the remote scene, along with a two-person ambulance crew and one suitably specialized expert: arborist Michael Surman, who is also a former member of both SSISAR and SSIFR.

"Tree rescue is very specialized, and can be quite hazardous," said Grindler. "Mike is a fantastic arborist who knew the operation, so we all worked very well together."

RESCUE continued on 2

FIRE

Blaze levels home on Walker's Hook Road

No injuries reported from early Monday fire

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

No one was injured in a devastating fire early Monday, according to officials, but the blaze completely destroyed a Walker's Hook Road home as Salt Spring Island remains under "extreme" fire danger.

Firefighters responded to a 4 a.m. on Aug. 14, arriving to a "fully involved" structure fire that over the next five hours would require 18 crew, eight apparatus and more than 16,000 gallons of water shuttled into the scene with tender trucks to extinguish, according to Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) Assistant Chief Mitchell Sherrin, who said the cause of the fire was still under investigation.

"We want to express concern for the homeowners on this difficult day," said Sherrin. "It's a tough thing, and unfortunately the building was a total loss."

Sherrin said crews laboured through the "surprisingly warm" early morning hours to fully extinguish the fire, which collapsed the roof and sent smoke and flames into the air above the 100 block of Walker's Hook Road. Firefighters were able keep fire from spreading beyond that property, Sherrin said, but the family's home was fully engulfed by the time trucks arrived.

"There was very little we could do to save it," said Sherrin. "Fortunately no one was injured, neither occupants nor any firefighters."

Walker's Hook Road was closed while firefighters were on scene; Sherrin apologized to and thanked morning commuters for their understanding.

An online fundraiser has been established for the family, identified on social media as Jesse and Amber Blue, at www.gofundme.com/f/please-help-rebuild-them-their-home.

The East Vancouver Island Basin, which includes the Gulf Islands, has been at Drought Level 5 since the end of July; fire danger on Salt Spring remains extreme as heat warnings were issued this week for southwestern B.C.

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INFRASTRUCTURE

September town hall set for fire hall project

As fire board reports new hall on track, one trustee calls for revisit to plan

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's new fire hall project is on schedule and within budget as of July 31, according to the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District, also known as Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR).

"Despite financial constraints, including the rapid rise of chartered bank interest rates since 2022, SSIFR is confident that the project remains within the stipulated referendum limit of \$9.7

million for borrowing," SSIFR stated in a press release issued last week.

In a referendum held last June, 75 per cent of voters approved borrowing up to \$9.7 million for a \$13-million hall to be built on Lower Ganges Road at Atkins Road.

SSIFR said that since its launch in January 2023, the fire hall project has made consistent advancements, beginning in March when MKM Construction was awarded the construction management contract and Johnson Davidson Architecture was chosen as the architect.

The project steering committee is now in the final stages of design collaboration with the architect. Once approved, the architect will secure the building permit, while the construction

manager initiates the tendering process.

The property site has been surveyed and staked, and further land preparation is also on the horizon, involving topsoil removal and storage.

Hans Hazenboom is the SSIFR representative on the project.

"Final working drawings are approaching completion," he said, "and these drawings are crucial to finetune final pricing. Building permits will be sought once those drawings are finalized, and then the construction tendering process can begin."

SSIFR chief administrative officer Rodney Dieleman added, "Our proactive approach to risk management has allowed us to address potential challenges effectively. The project steering committee has been working

closely with partners, including the adjacent property owners and other island services, to keep the project on track and on budget."

A town hall event hosted by SSIFR has been set for Thursday, Sept. 14 at 7 p.m. at Community Gospel Chapel.

The session will feature presentations about progress on the new fire hall project, the draft 2024 budget and the new draft five-year strategic plan. Guests will be able to ask questions of CAO Dieleman, board chair Rolie Cook, fire chief Jamie Holmes and key project coordinators.

In the meantime, one member of the fire board has started a seemingly independent change.org petition to "give ratepayers options and potential property tax relief" by looking at fire hall projects recently completed or

proposed in Cumberland, Powell River and Bowen Island.

David Courtney, who joined the board by acclamation in April of this year, wants the chosen fire hall plan to be revisited and community members given a choice of two design concepts, with "merits and costs" disclosed. He then wants ratepayers surveyed on their choice for a new fire hall by Sept. 30.

"The petition is about spending ratepayers' money wisely and to have choices on how we do that," he told the Driftwood Monday. "And that's all."

Courtney said he is taking this action as a Salt Spring ratepayer and not a fire board trustee.

SSIFR was not ready to offer a comment about Courtney's petition initiative as of Driftwood press time on Monday.

Emergency services training, teamwork comes through

RESCUE

continued from 1

The steepness of the terrain required setting up multiple safety ropes for rescuers and equipment; as teams approached the tree, Grindler said there was significant concern about potential trauma from the extended time Searle

spent inverted — and with his harness webbing restricting blood flow. Once Surman climbed up the tree and was able to reach Searle's harness and further secure him, he could transfer some of his weight onto the tree and relieve that pressure.

"He was in a lot better shape than we expected, which was fantastic to see,"

said Grindler, who had joined Surman at the tree to render medical aid as the glider pilot was lowered to the ground in a "bumblebee suit" — a yellow-and-black harness rated for rescue work.

Rescuers then loaded Searle into a basket stretcher and began the long process of bringing him up the steep slope, monitoring him along the way to ensure his condition didn't worsen.

"We had four rescuers on rope, with a double rope system," said Grindler. "With the nature of the space available, it was a slow haul up."

At around 6 p.m., and near the top, Searle was able to walk with assistance to the waiting ambulance, Grindler said, where he was evaluated further and "released" into the care of his friends — who included some off-duty nurses willing to monitor for further symptoms, he added.

"Considering the challenging technical nature of the whole rescue, things went quite smoothly," said Grindler. "It shows how valuable the joint training with Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue has been — it really shone through in how well we were able to all work together. A great job done all around."

Searle said apart from some "extreme" bruising on his shoulder and arms, due to the long time

"He was in a lot better shape than we expected, which was fantastic to see."

JASON GRINDLER
SSISAR search manager and paramedic

spent suspended, he emerged from the experience relatively unscathed and expressed thanks to SSIFR, SSISAR and the BC Emergency Health Services paramedics.

"The professionalism that these men and women achieve while under constant stress, and often putting themselves in danger to rescue others, is remarkable," wrote Searle. "I am looking for a new glider with the intention of flying Bruce Peak (and other mountains) again in the near future."

FOR THE RECORD

A sharp-eyed reader pointed out a story last week ("Salt Spring LTC sues AirBnB, farm stand owner") incorrectly stated that the CRD responds

to land use bylaw complaints. The CRD responds to building code bylaw complaints and the Islands Trust responds to land use bylaw complaints.

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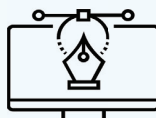
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MEDIA

Facebook news ban hits local radio society

CHIR unable to post fundraiser on page

BY PAUL MCELROY
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Salt Spring Island's nascent volunteer radio station has been caught up in Meta's battle with the Canadian government over publishing rights and compensation, even though it is not yet broadcasting nor a news-focused organization.

Salt Spring's CHIR.fm, a fledgling, web-based community station, was kicked off Facebook last weekend when it tried to place an announcement for its weekly fundraising sale of vinyl records and second-hand CDs.

"It's crazy," said Damian Inwood, society president and driving force behind the station. "We don't even do any news at present, as we've been focused on raising money for transmitting equipment. So there's nothing for Meta or Google or whoever to use. At the moment we're mainly a music station, except on Saturdays in the summer when we broadcast live from Salt Spring's market."

The CHIR.fm Facebook page has been frozen, with no posts visible to anyone in Canada.

"In response to Canadian government legislation, news content can't be viewed in Canada," read a message left by Meta.

The Gulf Islands Driftwood's Facebook page has also been rendered useless by Meta. As the Driftwood is a member of

News Media Canada, which represents the news media industry in Canada, that action was expected, according to publisher Nancy Johnson.

The federal government passed Bill C-18 in June. It aims to force Google and Meta to negotiate with news publishers to compensate them for linking to their content. Facebook has responded by blocking "news content" in Canada.

The Salt Spring Island radio station was granted a licence to broadcast by the Canadian Radio-Television and Telecommunications Commission in 2022. Gulf Islands Community Radio Society, a registered non-profit, hopes to launch CHIR.fm on 107.7 FM by the end of the year and build a substantial radio listenership on the islands.

"It's taken us eight years to get to this point," said Inwood, 73, a retired journalist. "We've been raising the necessary funds, around \$50,000, to buy the equipment we need to get on the air. We depend on the sale of the thousands of LPs and CDs that people on the island have donated and it's a huge blow not to be able to let the public know where we are through Salt Spring Facebook pages."

"We've had massive support from local businesses and enthusiastic islanders," added Inwood. "So it's a crying shame we've been arbitrarily blocked by Facebook for something we have absolutely no control over."

Inwood said he's looking into an apparent appeal process with Meta.

ALTERNATIVE HOUSING

CRD clarifies enforcement role on RV housing use

District will defer to Islands Trust after 'temporary' term defined

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A bright line has been drawn on enforcement practices for living in recreational vehicles (RVs) by the Capital Regional District (CRD) — and it seems to run, metaphorically, along the space between an RV and its deck.

Through a resolution aimed at clarifying its role, the CRD will now consider occupancy of RVs "without alterations for permanent or long-term use" a land use matter rather than a building code one — and will refer the issue of enforcement to the local land use authority.

That may come as some relief for many long-term RV dwellers on Salt Spring in particular, as the authority in question — the island's Local Trust Committee — currently operates under a standing resolution to defer enforcement for most unlawfully used residential dwell-

ings "until there are safe, secure appropriate housing options that are affordable for all demographics and household types in perpetuity."

Exceptions to that otherwise broad policy include matters of health and safety and environmental contamination, and largely align with the CRD, which also takes issue with "safety, health and environmental hazards" in its clarified position.

CRD staff and electoral area directors undertook an external legal review over the past weeks, and conclusions shared Wednesday, Aug. 9 led to the determination that RVs are not "buildings" subject to building code regulations unless they are altered or installed in a way that pointed to permanence — such as additions, renovations, foundations or non-temporary service connections.

Stairs, landings and small decks — with a maximum overall area of 10 square metres — will not be considered permanent, so long as they are "self-supporting, not affixed to the RV and not impeding relocation" of the RV, according to a staff report on the plan. Decks must also be less than two

feet above finished grade, and four feet clear of any slopes that might create use hazards.

That sense of permanence — or impermanence, as the case may be — is critical, according to CRD Health and Capital Planning senior manager Michael Barnes.

"RVs are not built to a standard recognized by the [BC Building] Code for use as a dwelling unit," said Barnes. "They're built to a CSA [Canadian Standards Association] or NFPA [National Fire Protection Association] standard for temporary living quarters — for recreational camping, or seasonal use — with the intention of easy transport and set up on a daily basis."

Since they don't comply with the building code for permanent structures, the building inspection department simply can't issue building or occupancy permits for them. But if they're temporary, it's another story.

"If they are unaltered, and installed for temporary use in keeping with their standard of construction, and if there are no known safety, health or environmental hazards, they will be considered a land use matter," said Barnes, which puts any enforce-

ment decisions squarely onto the Islands Trust.

"However, if an RV is installed in a manner that supports long-term or permanent use, they will be considered a non-compliant building, with respect to the building code and the building regulation bylaw," he said.

Notably, since no similar "temporary living" recognized standard currently exists for structures like tiny homes or yurts, the CRD is obligated to consider them permanent dwelling units — requiring building permits they are unlikely to qualify for. Asked specifically about yurts, CRD building inspection manager Mike Taylor reiterated that if the intent is to use them as a dwelling, they would need to comply with the building code.

"And I haven't yet seen a yurt that could claim compliance," said Taylor. "There's issues such as snow load, wind load, flame spread rating [and safely] exiting."

That seeming legislative gap for tiny homes prompted the CRD to begin the process of advocating to the province for a review to include these "alternative" forms of housing within the BC Building Code. In the meantime, the CRD plans to

continue its current enforcement practice — primarily responding to complaints and observations by inspectors, and issuing Stop Work and Do Not Occupy notices when warranted.

"In general, my understanding is that if it's an individual homeowner, and there's a recreational vehicle, it's got a power cord coming from the porch and a hose for water — that kind of thing," said Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman, "if it came to [CRD's] attention, either through a complaint or if a bylaw enforcement officer came across it in the course of their duties, that would be referred to the Trust."

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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
16	0305	2.9	9.5	20	0130	1.9	6.2
	1043	0.7	2.3		0640	2.6	8.5
	WE 1845	3.2	10.5		SU 1243	1.5	4.9
17	ME 2354	2.5	8.2	21	DI 1941	3.1	10.2
	0354	2.8	9.2		0208	1.7	5.6
	1115	0.8	2.6		0751	2.5	8.2
18	TH 1859	3.1	10.2	22	MO 1313	1.8	5.9
	JE 0023	2.4	7.9		LU 1956	3.1	10.2
	0444	2.8	9.2		0248	1.5	4.9
19	FR 1145	1.0	3.3	23	0919	2.5	8.2
	VE 1914	3.1	10.2		TU 1344	2.1	6.9
	0056	2.2	7.2		MA 2010	3.1	10.2
20	0539	2.7	8.9	21	0332	1.2	3.9
	SA 1214	1.2	3.9		1108	2.5	8.2
	SA 1927	3.1	10.2		WE 1421	2.4	7.9
				ME 2026	3.1	10.2	

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Fall Fair FOCUS
COME VISIT THE ANNEX!!!

For 2023 we have incorporated colours into the Fall Fair theme! Let "Blue Jeans and Healthy Greens" help you create something special in those colours for the "Fall Fair Theme" class in Section 14 - Spinning, Weaving and Related Fibre Arts. Check out the changes for this year in the new catalogue and get working on your entries!

NOTE: new drop off day for Section 14, (along with Sections 13 & 16) and mark your calendar for Tuesday, September 5th, between 3:30 & 7:30 p.m. All other exhibits, livestock and general will be accepted on Friday, September 8th between 3:30 & 7:30 p.m.

When you visit the exciting **Basketry Section** in the Annex, you can add to our huge "community basket". Fun for young, middle and old.

SSI 2023 Fall Fair
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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 BCYCN Awards
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EDITORIAL

Diversion unwelcome

Salt Spring's fire department is poised to bring the community up to speed on the Ganges fire hall project, with a public meeting set for mid-September.

While being open to any and all questions, they clearly intend to present good news. As detailed in our story on page 2, a press release issued Aug. 10 states that "Despite financial constraints, including the rapid rise of chartered bank interest rates since 2022, SSIFR is confident that the project remains within the stipulated referendum limit of \$9.7 million for borrowing."

At the same time, the board's newest trustee, elected by acclamation in April, has initiated an online petition asking for a less expensive option to be looked at and for ratepayers to be "surveyed" on their preference. Despite declaring his actions are taken while wearing his private citizen hat, it would perhaps be odd if David Courtney wasn't acting from a place informed by his position as a new trustee. Alternatively, Courtney could be just saying, "I think we can do this project for less

money and I'm sure some other people will agree with me."

However, this project is already well underway and a "survey" — the referendum required for borrowing authority — showed 75 per cent approval by voters just last June. The \$13-million facility was sold as not requiring a taxation increase because future borrowing has been built into recent-year tax increases and reserve building.

If the hall does go overbudget, that falls on the board to explain, manage and be accountable for.

Results of last year's referendum were clear. That's the project the majority of ratepayers approved and want to see built. The fire board should obviously be honest about the financial situation they face with this project and we don't expect them to be otherwise. Conversely, we don't expect them to throw out the current plan and start again just because one of them thinks there's a better idea out there and will reveal X-number of in-agreement online petition names to a future meeting.

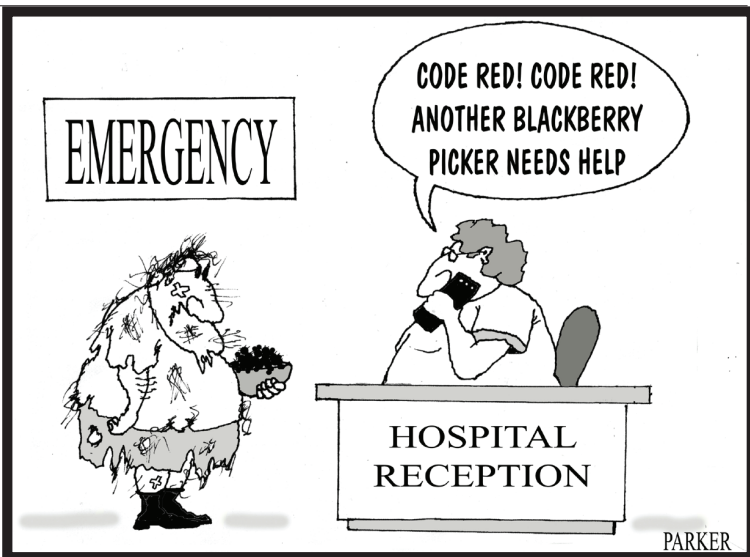
We have all become so used to seeing theatrics in politics that a late-in-the-game petition tactic is not a surprise. But just as firefighting should be left to professional firefighters, drama is best executed and most appreciated when done by trained thespians.

THE ISSUE:

Fire hall project

WE SAY:

SSIFPD board
in charge of
process



PARKER

Pilot expresses gratitude

BY KEVIN SEARLE

I am writing with regards to the article by Robb Magley published on the Driftwood website on Aug. 8.

The rescue that took place on Bruce Peak the previous day involving a hang glider reported as being 61 years old (I am actually 62) was me.

My name is Kevin Searle and I have been flying from Bruce Peak for over 45 years with only one minor, previous incident within my first year of flying, before there was even a launch ramp built in place. There was no rescue operation needed.

On Monday, after two previous days of unsatisfactory launch conditions, we arrived at the launch site to perfect launching and flying conditions.

With two of us flying hang gliders and one flying a para glider — at a separate but close by launch — there was ample setup room and a good opportunity to conduct a thorough and exhaustive pre-flight inspection. With setup and inspection complete, it was my turn to launch, about seven minutes behind my partner. The conditions remained perfect — about four knots and straight up the ramp. I called "clear," ran down the ramp and found myself flying before I even got to the end of the ramp — a result of the good conditions. The glider immediately pulled hard to the right, a completely surprising situation that I found myself unable to control. No matter how far along the control bar (the steering device for all hang gliders, effected by shifting your weight to the direction you want to fly) I pushed myself, I could not break out of the hard right turn that I found myself in. Within 20 seconds of launch, I was stranded at the top of a 60-foot tree that was perched on top of a

VIEWPOINT

40-foot cliff with a small ledge.

The rest of the story is the rescue and is well written by Robb Magley.

I would like to express my deepest and sincere thanks to the Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) team, the Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR) rope teams and BCEHS paramedics.

By name and in particular, I would like to thank Mike Surman, who climbed to the top of the tree and finally extracted me, relieving intense pressure on my shoulders from hanging upside down for over three hours; Jason Grindler, a paramedic (and SSISAR search manager) who did the initial body survey once I was safely on the ground and also managed the long and arduous drag up the mountain to the ambulance; SSIFR Capt. Colby Sawchuk for running things on the ground while I was still at my perch; and firefighter Bree Sturdy, who actually got me laughing a few times from my perch and kept up a conversation with me throughout. She also helped drag me back to the top of the mountain.

The professionalism that these men and women achieve while under constant stress, and often putting themselves in danger to rescue others, is remarkable.

I am completely fine with the exception of some extreme bruising on my shoulder and arms due to the long time suspended. I am looking for a new glider with the intention of flying Bruce Peak (and other mountains) again in the near future.

I am also indebted to my dear friends Rob, Randy and Nancy (who filmed my launch) for staying with me and attempting to rescue me while awaiting the rescue teams.

God bless you all.

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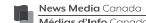
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should online streaming of
local government meetings
be continued?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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suite on your property if
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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

More density not the answer

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee is far from alone in its mistaken belief that adding increased density — say by its proposed Bylaw 530 — is the solution to a lack of affordable housing.

Take Vancouver. It's added over 20,000 housing units to its downtown since the 1980s; it's legalized over 20,000 basement suites; it's legalized the construction of laneway houses in the backyards of every residential parcel for a potential 60,000 new units; and by voting to end single-family zoning citywide it's authorized over 150,000 new units.

The result? Vancouver housing prices have risen by an inflation-adjusted 300 per cent. In the opinion of many housing experts, Vancouver has tried harder than anywhere in North America to add housing supply in the hopes of lowering home prices — and it simply has not worked.

Why would it, when a single short-term vacation rental on Salt Spring can go for up to \$550 a night and there's at least 250 of them advertised?

Meeting our housing needs — especially for lower-waged workers — will require financial resources from senior

governments and that housing will need to be operated by local non-profit societies. The market, by its very nature, can provide no solutions. As Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman reminded us in last week's Driftwood, there are enough properties on Salt Spring already zoned or designated for affordable housing to provide over 200 units. The key to developing them is increased, secure funding.

MURRAY REISS,
FULFORD

Dog days of summer

Heard on the Gulf Islands:

- I want to use the water in the bowl to fill up the washing machine. OK, I'll do the dishes in a minute.
- And don't pour the pasta water down the drain. I can use it for the rhodos. Yes, dear.
- The government is advising us to turn off the tap while we brush our teeth. Finally, some real action!
- Did you remember to flush the toilet? No, let's just leave it till we get back.
- Our guests from the city want to flush every time. I know, they have no idea.

• Your armpits are starting to smell. Sorry, I'll see what I can do, but it's not my bath day until tomorrow.

• You're not smelling that great yourself. I'm limiting myself to one navy shower per week.

• Look how clean that car is. What the heck, they must have washed it!

• Your potatoes aren't doing very well this year. Maybe I should have watered them more.

• You forgot again to turn off the tap when you watered the garden. Sometimes I think I'm losing my grip.

• Should I do the dishes? No, we'll just do them all at once after dinner.

• I'm worried the well will run dry. It hasn't so far, so we're probably OK.

• We're surrounded by water yet it never rains. The same can be said about Saudi Arabia.

• Should I flush the toilet or are you going to use it again? I just went outside.

• Everyone on the radio is loving the sunshine. We're doomed!

• I don't like this weather. Well, there's nothing we can do about it, so we may as well enjoy it. I've heard every moment is precious.

• What's the forecast? More sunshine, but no heat dome yet.

• Wasn't there talk of possible show-

ers next week? The 40% chance is now down to 30%.

• God help us if there's a forest fire. Please, let's try to stay positive!

• I'm wondering if we should buy a cistern. Joel says he never worries about anything — including death — until it happens.

• July was apparently the hottest month on record for Planet Earth. Let's have a glass of wine and listen to our Mantovani album.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

Inspiring youth

Regarding the Aug. 2 letter titled "Younger fastpitch team earns gold medal," it was great to hear about the success of the U11 girls fastpitch team as reported by Ryan Dunbar.

Even better is learning about the wonderful leadership Ms. Dunbar and her colleagues, Erin Lee and Kari Burgess, are providing to these young players. Clearly they all have a talent for both coaching and providing inspiration. Congratulations to all those involved.

DARYL LOGAN,
SUNEAGLE DRIVE

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

{ QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"The professionalism that these men and women achieve while under constant stress, and often putting themselves in danger to rescue others, is remarkable."

KEVIN SEARLE, HANG GLIDER RESCUED FROM TREE ON MOUNT BRUCE

Driver with a Maserati heart endures disappointment of lesser cars

Mrs. Mac has unlimited virtues, but she couldn't tell a Maserati from a macaroni cheese or a Porsche from a porta potty, which is why I am reduced to driving a Hyundai and not a Maserati. That and never having any money.

"If it gets us safely and reliably from A to B, then that's all we need." Really? A wheelbarrow would get us safely from A to B, so would a pony and trap, but they don't exactly cater to the super-ego of a natural Maserati driver, do they?

I was born to drive a Maserati or Aston Martin, but have never owned even a sit-on lawnmower. Just recently I was talking to a chap about his Maserati. I like to think that Maseratis, like Aston Martins, are invariably driven by "chaps," while Ferraris and Lamborghinis, both slightly vulgar, are most likely driven by soccer players and rap singers. Dudes. And as for the million-dollar Bugattis and such, they're simply the gold-plated bathtubs of the automobile universe and I just don't believe they are ever driven by "respectable" people. . . Simon Cowell owns one, which is evidence enough for me.

Anyway, the Maserati chap was polite and self-deprecating, as you'd expect from a decent chap, and pointed out that his particular Maserati was a good few years old, but it was still a thing of coy beauty, much of its undeniably glamorous charm tucked away beneath the hood, unlike Ferraris, which are, in my opinion, the primed gigolos of the motor world. Not that I wouldn't give my eyeteeth for one.

I'm not entirely sure where Mustangs and their drivers fall within the hierarchy of motor-ing exotica, but it's reasonably certain they are unlikely to be gentlemen. I know this for a fact because 15 years ago I rented one for two weeks and drove for thousands of miles to the Yukon border and back while my natural decorum went out in my slipstream as I barrelled across British Columbia like Mr. Toad. I didn't so much overtake other lesser motorists; I flounced past them.

I'm not especially drawn to speed for the sake of it and quite regularly scared myself to the point of unmanly whimpering as I sped, white-knuckled, through the backroads of British Colum-



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

bia, my natural good looks drawn into a rictus of terror. It's a bizarre thing, I was frightening myself half to death but couldn't resist the urge to see if the Mustang could reach its promised 160 mph. It might have, but I bottled it at 130 mph. (And for any zealous law officer reading this I deny it ever happened, and if it did, which it didn't, it is now outside the Statute of Limitations and in any case it's my word against yours. Where's your proof, eh?)

When I was a much, much younger man I set out with a pal to drive from London to Athens in an elderly Ford Anglia, which is rather like tackling Everest in your underpants, a journey that was made especially hazardous because then, as now, I knew as much about car repair as I did about midwifery and had only

a vague idea of what went on under the hood (or bonnet as I called it back when I still spoke English).

Part of the journey involved driving on the German autobahns, which have (or had) no speed limits, which is just great if you're driving a 200-mph Bugatti, but a nightmare in a 60-mph flat-out Ford Anglia, which finally collapsed from exhaustion and embarrassment somewhere between Strasbourg and Munich. In the '70s, if there was one thing that would win you no favours in Germany (and throughout most of Europe if I'm honest) was a British number plate, and but for the kindness of a family of Serbian refugees who towed us to their home in Ulm, fixed the car and put us up for two nights, we would likely still be standing beside that autobahn.

In the end, we made it to Split, which today is in Croatia, but in the 1970s was part of Josip Broz Tito's Yugoslavia. To this day, I have no idea how or why we ended up there and not Athens, but in those pre-satnav days, I think we must have just kept driving until we ran out of road.

It probably goes without saying that the former Socialist Federal Republic of Yugoslavia wouldn't be your first choice of holiday destination, and after three days at a campsite where the facilities comprised a tap and His and Her buckets we turned and ran — only to return three hours later because we'd forgotten the campsite owner was holding our passports.

Tito's Yugoslavia then had more secret police than Salt Spring has potholes and I'd assumed our passports would be rigorously scrutinized before a bit of light torture and prison, but I'm slightly chagrined to admit that we were of no interest to them at all and so we skeddaddled.

On our way back we stopped off in Venice, couldn't find anywhere to park and slept in the car on a gas station forecourt without once crossing the Bridge of Sighs or taking in the canals. And frankly, a Venetian garage forecourt is much like every other garage forecourt, only more Italian.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca



PHOTO BY LIAM DIVERS

PREPPED IN PINK: People dressed in various shades of pink line up to see the uber-popular Barbie movie at the Fritz Cinema on opening night Friday. People are advised to get to the cinema at Central Hall early in order to be assured of a seat. The show will continue daily until at least Aug. 24 and perhaps longer. Check thefritz.ca or next week's Driftwood What's On calendar for updates.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 1

Thanks from accident victim

On May 17 I was struck in a head-on collision while driving on Lower Ganges Road near Booth Canal Road by a vehicle which crossed into my lane.

I am writing to thank all of those people who came to my aid and whose names I did not get.

I was trapped in my car, which was totalled. Other drivers stopped their vehicles and rushed over to help.

To the woman who called 911 for me; to the gentleman who tried to help me out of the car and then held up a piece of the car to protect me

from the sun and who stayed with me until the paramedics arrived; to the paramedics who stayed with me until I could be extracted from my car and then treated me and took me to the hospital; to the firefighters who cut away the wrecked portion of my car to free me; to the RCMP officers who came to help me and who had to deal with a massive traffic jam; and to the doctors and nurses at Lady Minto Hospital emergency room for their excellent care, thank you.

To all of these people, you have my deepest gratitude.

I am fortunate to live on Salt Spring Island, where people care, and show that care in so many ways.

KIRK KARASZKIEWICZ,
SALT SPRING

Status quo disappoints



Adam Olsen
MLA'S
COLUMN

This summer I've been engaged in personal and academic inquiry. I'm examining leadership, values, and systems. As an elected official, this is important work. We benefit from critically analyzing ourselves, the groups and teams we are affiliating with, and in service of our constituents, the systems that we create, maintain and transform.

Nowhere on the Elections BC or political party application forms for becoming an MLA does it ask about previous experience in systems thinking. It's not a prerequisite, and yet it is the basis of our work.

However, unless there is an enlightened and clandestine conversation happening in some dark corner of the BC legislature that I am unaware of, there is no useful dialogue about how our political system affects the myriad of critical systems we are responsible for: housing, health, education, transportation, social services, public safety services and so on.

Consider the fact there are two applications — one to represent a political party and another to Elections BC — to be a candidate in an election. There are conflicting and competing values. The purpose of political parties and the purpose of being an MLA are misaligned. Parties pursue power for themselves while the legislative assembly needs to govern for all.

The result of the misalignment is politicians prioritize decisions that benefit the short-term well-

being of their political party at the expense of the health of the systems that our constituents rely on.

In order to score the political points that are needed to win elections, parties are rewarded for isolating themselves from their colleagues and spending an incredible amount of energy on communicating how "our" group is different from "their" group, making the problem of systems change more difficult. A clear example of this dynamic is the Surrey policing debacle.

In April 2022, an all-party committee submitted a consensus report to Minister of Public Safety Mike Farnworth. I was on the committee and it represents some of the most collaborative work I have been a part of in my time as an MLA.

We listened to experts, investigated, deliberated and debated. The committee recognized the challenge of the political system impeding progress on systems change in policing. We knew that reform would likely occur over numerous parliaments, even multiple governments. We recommended the minister maintain the momentum of our consensus effort by creating an oversight committee to work with the minister (of the day) and the ministry.

Minister Farnworth ignored that recommendation. In the process he chose to sacrifice the success of the committee and good governance in order to score political points for his party.

Unfortunately for the minister, the BC NDP, the City of Surrey and the people of British Columbia, that has turned out to be a costly decision. Rather than having all political parties working together to reform policing in the province, Minister Farnworth made the issue political and everybody is losing.

Leadership is the ability to align values and create a common purpose, even with the detractors. As politicians perpetuate a political system that mainly delivers personal and party benefits, it is the systems that serve the public that suffer. It is disappointing to once again see the status quo chosen over real and transformative change.

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CONCERT PROMO

Pitchfork Social hosts Furtado and friends

Free tickets for Sept. 1 concert available through Driftwood contest

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Pitchfork Social is closing its trio of summer concerts in its new home with a stellar offering on Friday, Sept. 1.

Tony Furtado and Luke Price from Portland, Ore. will perform at The Jam Factory property at 319 Upper Ganges Rd., and

will be joined by a special guest — islander Harry Manx — for part of the show.

Pitchfork Social press material describes Furtado as an “evocative and soulful singer, a wide-ranging songwriter and a virtuoso multi-instrumentalist adept on banjo, cello-banjo, slide guitar and baritone ukulele, who mixes and matches sounds and styles with the air of a master chef.” Price is a five-time and current grand national fiddle champion and multi-instrumentalist.

Manx is well known to audiences around the world for his unique blues sound that

merges music styles of the East and West.

The Sept. 1 show, which begins at 7:30 p.m., was close to selling out at Driftwood press time, but Pitchfork Social’s David Youngson has provided the Driftwood with four pairs of tickets to give away to our readers. The only way to get them is to email us at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com and tell us why you want to go to the concert. The first four people to respond will each get two tickets.

Two previous concerts held in the new outdoor space featured Ruth Moody and Frazey Ford and their respective bands.



PHOTO BY ALICIA ROSE
American roots musician Tony Furtado.

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photosynthesis at ArtSpring

Annual showcase of work by island photographers

BY DIANA HAYES
 FOR PHOTOSYNTHESIS

Photosynthesis is mounting its annual fine art photography show at ArtSpring from Wednesday, Aug. 23 through Monday, Sept. 4, with an opening reception taking place Aug. 24 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

In existence since 2001, this select group of photographers has grown and matured, while retaining an eclectic gathering of styles, subject matter, techniques and visual expression. This is a show that people look forward to each year. The leading-edge photography and professional exhibit will not disappoint.

This year’s show will be hung by Zoe Zafiris and Richard Steel, and with their skilled eyes and extensive experience in the world of art, we know the show will have that signature pop and flow. It is a feat and a work of art itself to hang this show with its many styles, sizes and themes.

This year, Photosynthesis includes 17 regular members along with four guest photographers. Each year the group also sponsors a student. All participating photographers are residents of Salt Spring Island and the group’s mandate is to show new work that has



COURTESY ANETTE SCHRAGE
Photo by Anette Schrage in the 2023 Photosynthesis exhibition that opens next week.

not been seen previously on Salt Spring.

Photographers in the 2023 Show are Photosynthesis members Birgit Freybe Bateman, Seth Berkowitz, Alan Bibby, Roger Brooks, Howard Fry, Diana Hayes, Christina Heinemann, Susan Huber, Avril Kirby, Alane Lalonde, Doug McMillin, Larry Melious, Bernadette Mertens-McAllister, Pierre Mineau, Anette Schrage, Julianna Slomka and Michael Wall, guests Nirmal Dryden, Janet Dwyer, Judy McPhee and Brian Purcell, and student Galveston Gill.

A virtual gallery will provide viewers with a taste of the full ArtSpring exhibit and will be available through the photosyn.ca website the week prior to opening night. The group’s organizing team would like to thank Country Grocer and Thrifty Foods for their generous donations for the opening reception.

A sneak peek at this year’s show reveals many unusual themes and imagery, taking us on journeys to faraway places, including Scandinavia, Ireland, Europe and the Mediterranean, and Central Mexico. We also see macro and micro “finds” right here on Salt Spring Island: flowers that almost exude their exotic scents, found objects both old and new, a mysterious cornet in black and white, pastoral landscapes, stones and geometric angles of a dusk-lit seashore. We also find quirky characters and dramatic portraits, all suggesting narratives that speak to us beyond the frame.

Photographers will be sitting the show daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. and can answer questions and provide gallery visitors with personal insights as well as technical details.

Salt Spring Baroque presents
Summer Baroque in the Trees
August 26 & 27 @ 2:00 pm
 venue details and tickets at www.saltspringbaroque.com

Gallo Chamber Players August 26

Contrapunctus August 27
 bc touring council, VICTORIA FOUNDATION

salt spring arts presents
ARTCRAFT SHOWCASE EXHIBITION
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 Artist Talk AUG 20 | 2 PM
 Special thanks to Hastings House Country House Hotel.
www.saltspringarts.com

VISITING PERFORMERS

Tree baroque returns

Garden concerts Aug. 26-27

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING BAROQUE

Salt Spring Baroque's popular weekend garden concerts are back. Concerts on Aug. 26 and Aug. 27 showcase the Gallo Chamber Players (GCP) and Contrapunctus.

GCP are a group of young emerging artists from Vancouver who specialize in music from 1600 to 1750. They are: Majka Demcak, baroque violin, Rebecca Ruthven, baroque violin, Shin-Jung Nam, baroque cello and Connor Page, harpsichord. GCP's goal is bring the joy and love of gut strings and historically stylistic playing to local communities in B.C. Their concert, Baroque Tales: Storytelling in Music, will explore how to identify different characters and classic fairytale tropes in music and show how composers were inspired to retell the stories they knew through music.

GCP performs Saturday, Aug. 26 at 2 p.m.

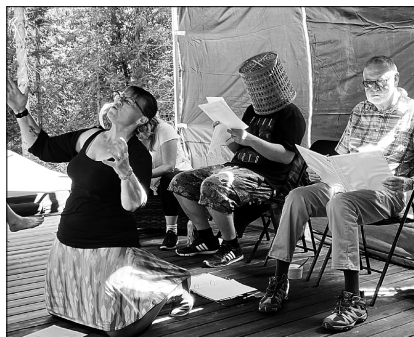
Contrapunctus is an ensemble dedicated to the performance of virtuoso instrumental music of the 17th and 18th centuries. Members are Paul Luchkow, baroque violin, Marea Chernoff, baroque oboe and recorder, Andrew Clark, natural horn, and Katrina Russell, baroque bassoon. The members of Contrapunctus have collaborated on many concerts over the past decade. Their concert called Baroque Varietals will highlight music from the 18th century with a mix of dances, outdoor music and more intimate pieces, featuring this unusual combination of instruments.

Contrapunctus performs on Sunday, Aug. 27 at 2 p.m.

Both concerts will be held at a private garden in the Channel Ridge area. Bring your own lawn chair. Refreshments will be provided at intermission.

For more details and tickets see saltspring-baroque.com.

IT'S A BATTLE ROYALE!



PHOTOS COURTESY EXITSTAGELEFT/GRAFFITI THEATRE

From left, actors Christie Roome, Dustin Bragg-Van Wyck and Clark Saunders rehearse for the upcoming exitStageLeft Productions show called Shakespeare: Battle Royale, presented in partnership with Graffiti Theatre, as Christina Penhale gives direction. It promises to be a hilarious evening of outdoor theatre with two teams testing their Shakespearean skills in an eight-round competition. "Bring your blankets or lawn chairs and picnic dinner and get ready for an evening of hilarity, hijinx, intensity, innovation, high flying skulls, paraphrasing prowess and prose." Advance tickets for the Aug. 25, 26, 27, 31 and Sept. 1 and 2 shows at 7 p.m. are only available through the exitstageleftproductions.com website. The show takes place about five minutes north of Ganges.

what's on this week

Wed.

Aug. 16

Fri.

Aug. 18

Sun.

Aug. 20

CINEMA

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Harry Warner. Recital at All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats. (Note change from previously scheduled "270's" act.)
John Herbert. With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Sasha Rose. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Moms Stop the Harm Meeting. All welcome on the 3rd Floor of the Core Inn. 12 noon.
Drop-in Tennis. The Salt Spring Tennis Association invites players of all levels to play drop-in tennis at the indoor courts at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club every Wednesday and Saturday from 8:30 to 10 a.m. until Sept. 1.
Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Thur.

Aug. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Arts Summer Outdoor Concert Series: Astrocolor, with opener Tarran the Tailor. Centennial Park. 6 to 8 p.m.
Morien Jones. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Mazacote. Mateada Social Club. 8 to 10:30 p.m.
Craig's Karaoke. At Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. to midnight.
The Bandits. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Neighbourhood Story Time. Stories for young ones read by community members or library staff in the library's children's area every Thursday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.
Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Billie Woods. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
Fridays With DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m.
Jose Sanchez. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tennis at Portlock Park. Salt Spring Tennis Association invites people self-rated at 3.0+ to play at the Portlock Park courts every Friday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. to Sept. 1.
ASK Salt Spring. This week's topic is parking in Ganges. In the SIMS courtyard. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Family Movie Matinee. Every Friday in the library program room at 1 p.m.
Youth Board Games. For ages 6 to 13. Children's library area. 1 to 3 p.m.
Donation Drop-off for Upcoming Youth Clothing Sale. Clean, untorn, youth-specific clothes, bags, shoes and accessories. Clean dog/cat care items also accepted. The Core (134 McPhillips Ave). 9 a.m. to noon.
Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Sat.

Aug. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ollie Happyness. Lower deck. Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Fawkes & Hound. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.
Bruce Cobanli Band. Legion. 7:30 p.m.
Downtown Mischief. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
Spendo. Mateada Social Club. 8 to 10:45 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Drop-in Tennis. See Wednesday listing.
Gulf Islands Community Radio Society Vinyl/CD Sale Fundraiser. Every Saturday at the SIMS portable from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz Jam. Singers, players and fans welcome. The Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.
Vixx. Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.
Julia Beattie. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Mon.

Aug. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Melon Jimenez & Lara Wong. With La Carmelita Flamenco. Mateada Social Club. 7 to 10 p.m.

Tue.

Aug. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ashton Bachman & Guest. Lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
John and Tony. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Community Commission. Regular meeting at the SIMS boardroom. 9 a.m.
Tuesday Farmers' Market. Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.
Trivia Tuesday. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Wed.

Aug. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: David Storm and Friends perform at All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.
John Herbert. With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.
Blue Bayou. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Donation Drop-off for Upcoming Youth Clothing Sale. See Friday listing, except the time is from 4 to 6 p.m.
Bittancourt Museum. See last Wednesday's listing.
Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

• **Barbie** runs Wednesday, Aug. 16 through Thursday, Aug. 24 at 7 p.m. nightly plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sundays, and may stay even longer. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

EXHIBITIONS

• **A Closer Look: Nature and Materials** is the new Showcase exhibition featuring work by Sibéal Foyle, Peter Pierobon, Paul Ouevray and Jan Smith opening Friday, Aug. 18 with a reception from 6 to 8 p.m. **Artists' talk** runs Sunday, Aug. 20 from 2 to 3 p.m.
• **Salty Pear Gallery** presents **Ute Hagen: Abstracts: an expressionist's vision of emotions in motion** beginning with an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 18 from 3 to 7:30 p.m.
• **Photosynthesis** - exhibit of work by 22 group and guest photographers — opens at ArtSpring on Wed., Aug. 23, continuing daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Sept. 4. Opening on Aug. 24 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.
• **League 181 painters** — Borbas/Eyles/Hodgins/Wickland/Wilson — present **CONNECTIONS**, an exhibit of paintings in the Artspring lobby through Aug. 30, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and around events at Artspring.
• **PK Macdonald** shows Summer, colour field paintings, in the library program room through August.
• **55th annual Artcraft** gallery and shop of work by 100 Gulf Islands artisans is on at Mahon Hall daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sept. 17.

Shakespeare: Battle Royale

Aug. 25, 26, 27, 31, Sept. 1, 2
See exitstageleftproductions.com for details & tickets

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



DANIEL D. PHELAN

Daniel D. Phelan of Salt Spring Island B.C. died in his 93rd year (August 5th), at his home surrounded by his family. Predeceased by his wife of 67 years, Barbara (nee Southern). Loving father to Mary Julia (deceased), Tracey Dorey (nee Phelan), Jaime Phelan (Mark Barry), of Ensenada, Mexico., Darragh Phelan of Toronto, Ont. and Maureen Phelan of Salt Spring Island, B.C. Loving grandfather to Conor Phelan-Barry of Vancouver B.C., brother to Peter Patrick of Vancouver B.C. and sister to Darralyn Bonnor of Victoria B.C. Uncle and great uncle to many nieces and nephews.

Dan was born in Toronto, Ont. on October 10th, 1930, son of Darragh Phelan and Margaret (Peggy Pike) Phelan. He attended Toronto's Del La Salle, then onto Loyola College, Montreal, Que. where he was president of the student body. He attended Cornell University in Ithaca, New York, and received a Hotel School Administration B. Sc., in 1955. Sports included fencing, tennis, track, and football. His fraternity was Chi, Alpha Phi Chapter. He was hired by Sheraton Hotel Corp. in the Sales and Marketing Department from 1955-1959. He was then promoted to Sales Manager for Canada Sheraton Ltd., in 1960. He joined Skyline Hotels Ltd., Toronto as Manager from 1960-1963, and was then promoted as General Manager in 1965. In 1965 his uncle, Paul J. Phelan asked him to join the family business, Cara Operations Ltd., as the General Manager Regional Division (1965-1969). He was promoted to Vice President in the Restaurant and Hotel Division in 1969. At Cara he introduced the revolutionary Remenco automated equipment system to the hotel and restaurant industry. He retired from Cara in 1989, after 25 years of service.

In addition to his business successes, Dan was very active in the community he served. He was Chairman of the National Committee Red Carpet Canada in 1967, and a member of the CRFA, (Canadian Restaurant and Food Services Association). From 1980-1988, he was chairman of the Metropolitan Toronto Convention and Visitors Association, and sat on the Board of Directors in 1985. In 1991 he was honoured with the Ontario Hospitality Institute Gold Award for Excellence. Additionally, as a member of the Toronto Board of Trade.

In retirement Dan sat on the board of the Lady Minto Hospital, S.S.I., where he was an active fund raiser, including the Phantom Ball. He became treasurer of the Grace Point strata on Salt Spring Island. He greatly enjoyed his participation and numerous victories with Toast Masters International on S.S.I., and his many endeavours with the Salt Spring Tennis Association. Dan's other passions included tennis, nature, skiing, travel and scuba diving. In 1989, Daniel and Barbara retired to Salt Spring Island, B.C. where they lived a full and active life which included boating, with Dan deftly skippering his beloved Grand Banks boat, the Mary Julia, up and down the B.C. coast and included a memorable trip to Alaska. He loved spending winters on Sanibel Island, and St. Lucia. Dan/Danny Boy is remembered for his Irish charm, sartorial splendour, eclectic hat collection and his tremendous warmth and devotion to family and friends.

Many thanks to the staff of Lady Minto Hospital over the years, particularly to his G.P., Dr. R. Reznick and Jean. And to Dan Bouchard, and his team at Access Care Management, particularly Marni, who understood the value of a good party.

A funeral mass on Salt Spring will take place on Thursday, August 24th at 11:00 a.m. at Our Lady Of Grace, 135 Drake Rd. A visitation and funeral mass will be at Rosar-Morrison's Funeral Home on (TBA) #467 Sherbourne St. Toronto, with a reception to follow at the home of Darragh Phelan, #15 Amelia St. Toronto.

Private burial at Mount Hope Cemetery, Toronto.



Anton (Tony) Kristian Pedersen

Feb 04, 1920 – July 30, 2023 *103 years

As kind as he was gentle.

Tony Pedersen was born on his great grandfather's farm in Denmark in 1920. He began a Machinist apprenticeship at 18. After completion he was one of 12 men among 300 applicants accepted as machinists for the Danish Air Force. During this period Germany had occupied Denmark. In 1943 Anton and fellow servicemen were interned in a camp. It was believed that Danish King Christian X intervened on their behalf and effected their release. Anton then escaped to Sweden on a fishing boat, where he spent the remainder of the war at a Swedish air base, while also working in the Danish underground.

At the end of the war, the lure of travel called, and he left Denmark for Brazil with the allowable maximum of \$50 in his pocket. In Brazil his new name became Antonio. Here he worked for a Brazilian company servicing DC3's, and learned Portuguese language. The company was in dire straits and he was unable to extract more than 60% of his pay. In lieu of the remainder he was provided a flight to Sao Paulo on one of the DC3's. On take-off he felt a draught and realized the door was hanging on its hinges. He woke the Steward and together they braced and pushed to close the door. The window trim beside his fellow passenger fell from the wall. When leaving the aircraft, he noticed a sign over the exit door that read "This Aircraft is protected by Saint Christopher".

After a brief stint at a Studebaker plant in Sao Paulo, he obtained a job at the I.T.A.U. Airline Company, where he learned about graft.

Next, he was hired by the Danish East Asiatic Company to inspect farm machinery and diesel engines. This required travel to the interior of Brazil by steam train and on ancient buses. The two years that he had planned to be in Brazil came to an end in 1950. Unfortunately, he was short of money as he had made a loan to a friend who could not be found. He bought cheap passage on an old WW1 steam engine troop ship, arriving in Berne, Switzerland with no money after paying off the customs officer who had checked his suitcase in Brazil. He sold his photo light meter, realizing enough money to get to the Danish border. At the border he was able to sell his plastic raincoat as it was a novelty at that time. Arriving at Fredericia, the railway officials allowed him the rest of his trip on credit.

Not long after returning to Denmark he applied for immigration to Canada. Arriving at Pier 21 (with the allotted \$50), he was greeted by volunteers and reps of the Player Cigarette Company who handed out free packages of cigarettes to the newcomers. He made his way to Winnipeg, hub of Canada. He was offered a position with the Central Northern Airways bush flying company, operating out of Flin Flon. Tony was assigned to the remote Cold Lake base where he was to work maintaining ski-planes, trading the skis for pontoons when the weather warmed. This is where he learned English, unwittingly picking up many 4-letter words as well.

In 1951 he was hired by T.C.A. on a Defense Contract. His bachelor days ended when he met Eva and married in 1954. They lived in Tsawwassen where he had a career with Air Canada. Together they sired 3 children, and adopted a 4th.

Moving to Salt Spring Island in 1981, Tony joined the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club while in his 60's. His intimate knowledge of the south end of the island led to BC Parks recognition of him as a Park Steward at Ruckle and Beaver Point Parks. He became an Honorary Member of the club in his 80's.

Tony was predeceased by his wife Eva, and adopted son Terry. He is survived by children Karen, Ellen (Pat), Tom (Sayuri) and grandchildren Lisa, Marina, Kai and Fyn, for whom he provided the perfect model of love, humour and tolerance.

SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS



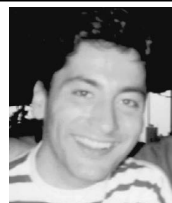
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ISLAND LIFE

EXPEDITION

Hawaiian voyaging canoe visits Salt Spring

Vessel arrives as fires still burning on Maui

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's deep connection to the Hawaiian Islands was reaffirmed this week as islanders welcomed a very special sailing vessel carrying a timely message into Ganges Harbour.

Voyaging canoe Hōkūle'a arrived in early evening Saturday, Aug. 12 to a warm greeting on Salt Spring Island as the iconic vessel finished a long day's crossing from Vancouver. Representatives from multiple First Nations as well as islanders of Hawaiian descent and well-wishers from across Salt Spring gathered at the Kanaka Dock bringing drums, food, smiles and heartfelt messages of support as the celebration was tempered by news of the deadly fires on the island of Maui.

Hōkūle'a and her crew have been sailing for more than two months, since the Polynesian Voyaging Society (PVS) held its global launch of the "Moananui kea Voyage" in Juneau, Alaska on June 15. The current leg of their journey began in Prince Rupert in July, sailing to Klemtu, Bella Bella, Hakai, Port Hardy, Alert Bay and Campbell River, with



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Polynesian Voyaging Society vessel arrives in Ganges on Saturday evening as part of a voyage launched from Juneau, Alaska on June 15.

the crew engaging with First Nations communities at each stop.

The Moananui kea Voyage, "A Voyage for Oceans, A Voyage for Earth" is Hōkūle'a's 15th major voyage since her launch nearly 50 years ago from Kāne'ohe Bay on the island of O'ahu.

It's hard to overstate the vessel's signif-

icance for Hawaiians — there's a Hōkūle'a licence plate available through the Aloha State's motor vehicle department, with proceeds going to support PVS. The name means "Star of Gladness," a zenith star of Hawai'i, and she was designed by Herb Kawainui Kāne — an artist, historian and one of the found-

ers of PVS. Her launching was one of several events during that time marking a generation of renewal for Hawai'i's Indigenous people — traditions of voyaging and navigation, but also of Hawaiian language, dance, chant and many other expressions of Hawaiian culture.

This voyage also brings a message of climate awareness, and will cover an estimated 43,000 nautical miles around the Pacific, visiting 36 countries and archipelagos, nearly 100 Indigenous territories and more than 300 ports. The poignance of that message was not lost this week; as communities on Maui begin to recover from the recent devastating wildfires at Lāhaina, volunteers on Salt Spring organized a fundraising pig roast dinner held at the Harbour House. Donations were also accepted onboard the canoe during several days of crew-led free tours, benefitting the Maui Relief Fund.

Hōkūle'a next plans to visit Victoria, then enter Washington State and U.S. waters; the crew intends to sail this voyage through 2027.

Founded in 1973, the Polynesian Voyaging Society's mission is to perpetuate the art and science of traditional Polynesian voyaging and the spirit of exploration through experiential educational programs that inspire students and their communities to respect and care for themselves, each other, and their natural and cultural environments.

Visit hokulea.com to follow their voyage.



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Tourism Partnership calls for positive impact

For those of us who live here, and for those who visit, we know that nature is the soul of the Southern Gulf Islands. Nature is an inspiration, a guide, a playground, a home, and a friend. As soon as you set foot in these island communities, you're connected to the natural vitality out of which our creativity, innovation, and eccentricity flows. It's what makes our archipelago the special place that it is. A place where celebration meets recognition, curiosity meets care, play meets politeness, and freedom meets integrity. It's a connection to living in harmonious tandem with these lands and waters, to giving back more than we take, and to leaving it all—**Better Than You Found It**. That's the new message being promoted this summer by the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership, the community destination marketing organization (CDMO) for Salt Spring, Pender, Mayne, Galiano, and Saturna islands.

An appeal to the basic moral sense in all of us, **Better Than You Found It** is a call to act "island style," to leave a positive impact on these places we call home, whether it's for a weekend or a lifetime. It encourages people to see through different eyes, redefine priorities and purpose, and to adopt an island perspective. Because island life isn't simply a downsized version of mainland life, it's a different mindset, an attitude shaped by limited resources, slower movement, and an acute awareness of the dynamic interconnection between people and the natural world. Thinking and acting like an islander means being

aware, every day, of our impact on and our place within our ecosystem and our communities.

How is the Tourism Partnership asking people to leave it Better Than You Found It? To start, **Be Prepared**—manage expectations about being on an island and become aware of changing conditions throughout the year. Plan ahead and give yourself extra time. When you're here, **Be Respectful**—tread lightly both environmentally and socially, be good guests and neighbours to visitors, residents, and wildlife. Remember to always **Be Safe**, for yourself and for your community—understand fire restrictions and water conservation and take care to share the road. And finally, **Leave Enriched**—tune into the felt sense of connection and responsibility for the care of these islands, embrace slowing down and aligning with island values.

Newly released advertisements that will run for the duration of the busy season highlight things like: bringing in drinking water in the summer, packing out all garbage and recycling, staying on designated crosswalks, paths and trails, allowing space for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians alike, leashing pets and keeping distance from wildlife, shopping and eating locally, and being patient.

At the same time, Better Than You Found It is a message that moves people towards understanding and participating in regenerative travel. It seeks to influence how

A VISITOR ECONOMY THAT WORKS FOR EVERYONE

Your experiences, insights, and observations play a vital role in preserving the natural environment, local economy, cultural heritage, and social fabric of Salt Spring Island and the Southern Gulf Islands. We value your input and invite you to participate in our Visitor/Resident Survey.

Visit www.sgicommunityresources.ca/visitor-survey/ or scan the QR Code to complete the survey.



SOUTHERN
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CRD

We work closely with all levels of government as well as local conservancies, businesses, and non-profit organizations to support and enhance our community.

we flow to and through the islands in a way that minimizes the negative effects on our communities and maximizes opportunities from which we can all benefit.

travel creates a net positive benefit that improves quality of life.

The broad focus for the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership, regenerative travel combines human wellbeing with the wellbeing of the entire ecosystem. It's not just about doing less harm, but also restoring the harm that our system has already caused the local economy and the environment. It's a model born out of the belief that a visitor economy can and should have a direct benefit to local residents and communities, not only to businesses, but also to social life, culture, and the environment in a way that improves the experience here for everyone. The vision is that regenerative

In other words, this is the beginning of a stewardship approach. It's an invitation to join in a shared understanding of the common good, a launch pad for collaborative co-creation, and a vision for an inclusive, equitable, and resilient future. Be part of a solution to restore, protect, and revitalize the Southern Gulf Islands. Take up the call. Whether you're a visitor, a resident, a second-homeowner, a business owner, or a seasonal employee, whether you're a born-and-raised islander, a recent city escapee, or a coastal retiree, you have both the power and the privilege to keep our islands special now and for years to come. How will you help to leave it **Better Than You Found It**?

**BETTER
THAN *you*
FOUND IT**

To regenerate the lands for generations to come, we call on all those who enjoy the Southern Gulf Islands—keep the waters calm, the grounds nurtured, and the ecosystems flourishing. Find an island pace & make memories without leaving a trace.

SOUTHERN
GULF
ISLANDS

Our islands should be places where people live, work, play, learn, and visit. Where residents, businesses, and visitors have a shared responsibility for improving the environmental, economic, and social health of our communities. We're rethinking visitation in a way that harnesses local innovation and creative solutions that address our unique needs.