

inside:



12



11

Input wanted on local tourism planning



7

Lots of live music on tap this week

Arts and Entertainment.....	7
Classifieds .....	10
Editorial .....	4
Island Life .....	8
Letters .....	5
What's On .....	9

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# Driftwood

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PHOTO BY BRYN FINER

**RADICAL RIDE:** Visiting longboarders Ajay Daniels, left, and Dexter Manning hit the big curve on the Salt Spring Slasher Juniper Place course on Saturday as part of a two-day competitive and freeride event. For more photos and results, see page 8.

## EMERGENCY RESPONSE

# Wildfire preparation emphasized

'Plans' are in place but individual readiness is key, say officials

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As heat and drought conditions persist in British Columbia, the explosion of wildfire led to the declaration of a province-wide state of emergency on Friday with evacuation orders and alerts issued over the weekend in multiple locations across B.C.

And while the provincial government urges people to generally prepare for extreme fire behaviour, local officials stress there are steps islanders can take now. Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue Deputy Chief Dale Lundy said there are emergency plans in place for the island — with regular drills involving multiple emergency service agencies — but it's important for people to recognize how much they can do individually and in neighbourhood groups to mitigate risk and react in an emergency.

"There are lots of plans, but I would also encourage people to plan on being self-sufficient," said Lundy. "Being on guard often means being prepared to help ourselves — and have a Plan B."

### Know your plan

New this year to help residents plan and understand the emergency response process is the Capital Regional District (CRD) Salt Spring Island Household Evacuation Guide. (Search for it on the Salt Spring Emergency Program page on the CRD website.)

It includes a helpful map of designated "assembly areas" — where evacuees can gather — and "reception centres" — where evacuees may be provided care — on the island. The guide also includes information on creating evacuation checklists, emergency kits and grab-and-go bags.

### Learn the big picture

Also published by the CRD in 2023 and available on the same website page is the Salt Spring Island Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan. The result of a partnership between provincial and local governments, the 140-page report outlines wildfire risk levels, agency responsibilities, mitigation and prevention strategies, and the emergency response process.

### Register for alerts

In B.C., emergency alerts are broadcast on TV, radio and cell phones to provide urgent public safety information during life-threatening emergencies. The CRD's Public Alert Notification System (PANS) was upgraded in May 2021, so even if you had signed up you need to re-register at Alertable (alertable.ca).

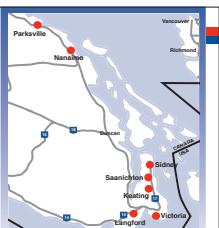
**EMERGENCY** continued on 2

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## PUBLIC HEALTH

# No date yet for updated COVID vaccinations

Viral loads rising in nearby wastewater

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With the start of school less than two weeks away, indicators of COVID-19 activity suggest cases are rising in the Island Health region.

And as provincial health officials repeated the message that the best defence continues to be a "multi-layered approach" that includes up-to-date vaccinations, a rollout schedule for updated vaccines remains elusive.

Island Health referred questions on timing for the fall vaccine to B.C.'s Ministry of Health, who would only promise more detailed information on the vaccination campaign will be available "in the coming weeks." A ministry spokesperson told the Driftwood its campaign will focus on an updated vaccine that targets the XBB.1.5 variant — a globally circulating strain of the SARS-CoV-2

virus that causes COVID-19 — and that at this point, their advice for most people is to wait for that shot.

"Because the new COVID-19 vaccines that will be available in fall 2023 will provide the best protection against the current strain of SARS-CoV-2 and its variants," reads a statement from the ministry, "for those not in high-risk groups who are fully immunized (even without the spring booster), we are recommending they should generally wait for the updated dose of the vaccine rather than receive the bivalent vaccines available now."

Meanwhile the weekly update from Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) Aug. 15 noted signs of "continued fluctuations" in indicator data on a national level; that, coming after a relatively long period of decline, "may be an early sign of increases in activity," according to the report.

"In the most recent reporting week, national per cent positivity increased, while longer-term trends had shown gradual decreases

since March 2023. Increases in national per cent positivity have been observed over the latest four reporting weeks."

Drilling down, PHAC noted that during the latest reporting week, COVID-19 activity levels were "low" to "moderate" in all reporting provinces and territories; B.C. showed "low" activity, a message repeated at the provincial level by the Ministry of Health — but numbers from hospitals and B.C.'s robust wastewater monitoring program may show signs of a shift.

Between Aug. 9 and Aug. 15, the total number of hospital beds occupied by COVID-19 patients in Canada increased, from 1,546 to 1,723 beds — part of a trend of increases this month that runs counter to a gradual decline the province has enjoyed since January.

And according to the B.C. Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC), wastewater surveillance testing data updated Aug. 17 showed that while SARS-CoV-2 viral loads are decreasing in Metro Vancouver wastewater

treatment plants, they are stable or slightly increasing in Interior and Island Health facilities — including increases in Nanaimo and Victoria, where upward movement in that latter city has been the trend each week since July 9.

Ministry of Health officials did say the updated vaccine was "really important" because it builds on a person's existing immunity from previous vaccinations or infections. In its statement, the ministry said that in a process similar to the one

it uses selecting influenza vaccines each fall, the upcoming COVID-19 vaccine was chosen to target what it believes will be the likely strains to be circulating and causing illness in the upcoming respiratory disease season.

As with previous booster doses, a minimum of six months since the last dose is recommended to ensure optimal response to the updated vaccine.

Testing of wastewater samples for SARS-CoV-2 virus is a relatively new surveillance approach, which BCCDC says quantifies the amount of virus shed by infected people into the community's wastewater system.

According to officials, while these measurements by themselves cannot tell us how many people are infected, tracking changes in these measurements over time can give us a "complementary sense of circulation" of SARS-CoV-2.

Officials said there were no plans to implement testing at the relatively small Ganges wastewater plant.



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## Facing disasters requires pre-planning

**EMERGENCY** Continued from 1

### Register for support

Funded by the provincial government, Emergency Support Services provides quick, basic short-term support for people impacted by disasters; in an emergency that could include help with temporary lodging

and food or more specialized services like emotional support and transportation. Register online at [ess.gov.bc.ca](http://ess.gov.bc.ca).

### Join your POD

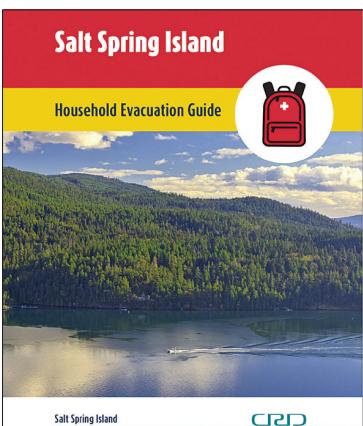
The CRD's POD system is designed to be an island-wide communication network to link neighbourhoods to emergency operations. It is 100 per cent voluntary, and 100 per cent opt-in — that means you need to get involved before disaster strikes. Send an email to [ssipod@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ssipod@crd.bc.ca) to request a contact for your POD or neighbourhood leader; if there is no leader in your area, the program is always looking for new volunteers.

### FireSmart your property

From simple chores like moving firewood and lawn furniture away from your house to more complex defences like roof and siding choices, the FireSmart program ([firesmartbc.ca](http://firesmartbc.ca)) is the most comprehensive guide to mitigating wildfire threats at your home. These measures help reduce the likelihood of fire ignition, and make helping your home an easier choice for firefighters defending multiple properties with limited resources.

### Don't rely on Facebook

During the evacuation of Yellowknife last week, Facebook's blocking of news sites meant critical announcements by safety officials covered by local media were lost, while poor, incomplete or simply false information about the approaching fire spread unchecked.



**Salt Spring Island**  
Household Evacuation Guide

**CRD**  
Community Resilience Division

Local Household Evacuation Guide cover.

THANKS SSI FOR 27+ YEARS!

Dr. Ross Richardson, DC is retiring as of September 1st

"It's been a pleasure treating the SSI community with Chiropractic Care!"

**Farewell!** **Hello!**

Dr. Travis Cox will be continuing Dr. Richardson's chiropractic clinic at 198 Salt Spring Way, SSI Dr. Travis Cox - DC, MSc 250-537-9399

Dr. Ross Richardson - DC 198 Salt Spring Way, SSI 250-537-9399

For online emergency information, go directly to news and government websites.

Active during provincial emergencies, EmergencyInfoBC ([EmergencyInfoBC.ca](http://EmergencyInfoBC.ca)) shares verified information on public safety, evacuations and other response and recovery resources. And PreparedBC.ca is a clearinghouse for preparation and hazard mitigation before and during emergencies.

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## LOOKING TIPSY



PHOTO COURTESY TRUDY LYNCH

The newer breed of Canada Post mailboxes proved they're not so stable as part of the bank of Baker Road boxes was tipped over last week.

## TRANSPORTATION

# Ganges speed limit set to drop

Signs scheduled to be up before Sept. 1

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island drivers and riders will move through Ganges Village a little more slowly in September, as signs designating the new 30 km/hr zone in town are being installed before the end of the month.

In what might be seen as a quick victory for the new Local Community Commission (LCC) — but which commissioners note is the culmination of a long advocacy process — the provincial ministry with authority over Fulford-Ganges Road is setting the slower speed as part of a wider public safety and transportation improvement effort on Salt Spring.

"The Ministry of Transporta-

tion and Infrastructure (MoTI) has decided that the speed limit change on the north end of town will be right at Embe Bakery at Seaview," said LCC commissioner Brian Webster, speaking at an ASK Salt Spring gathering Friday, Aug. 18. "And at the north end of town, it will be approximately 100 metres beyond the Rainbow Road intersection."

Webster said MoTI had promised the signs would be up by the end of August; fellow commissioner Gayle Baker joined in expressing disappointment that the slower speed limit wouldn't extend as far the Country Grocer intersection, calling the decision "a bit weird," but agreed it was mostly good news.

"We know that within two weeks, that will be done," said Webster. "Another 100 metres would have made a lot more sense, but it's a minor disappointment amidst a 95 per cent great news story."

## BC FERRIES

# Trestle work begins

Vesuvius upgrade

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Timber trestle repair work at the Vesuvius ferry terminal that had been scheduled to begin last Monday has been postponed, according to BC Ferries, but work operations are expected to begin shortly.

The repair project, which encompasses what BC Ferries officials call "life extension work" on both the Vesuvius and Crofton terminals, began in July and based its schedule upon finishing the Vancouver Island side before re-positioning crews and equipment on Salt Spring, according to public affairs executive director Deborah Marshall.

"During the work at Crofton, additional items have been identified for life extension," said Marshall, "which have extended the schedule."

Marshall said this work, with some additional delays due to site conditions, necessitated a delay to the start date at Vesuvius, now set to begin Monday, Aug. 28. A marine rig will be mobilized to the site, and BC Ferries has said the work will likely increase sound levels within the terminal — and, during the installation of new piles, noise impacts for surrounding residents are expected.

"To mitigate traffic disruptions for our customers, construction activities will be carried out overnight between the hours of 8 p.m. to 6:30 a.m.," according to BC Ferries, "and all efforts will be made to minimize the noise for our neighbours. There will be no impact to operations as this work will be completed outside of our regular scheduled sailing hours."

Ferry officials have said they would provide updates at [bcferriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island](http://bcferriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island).

## OPIOID CRISIS

# Overdose Awareness Day marked

Others welcome to help

An International Overdose Awareness Day event is set for Friday, Aug. 31 in Centennial Park.

Organizers are members of the Moms Stop The Harm (MSTH) group, Island Community Services (ICS) and Salt Spring Safely.

The event has been organized to increase awareness around issues related to overdose and will be held next Friday between 1 and 4 p.m. in the park.

"We will have public speakers, a facilitated talking circle (or two depending on attendance), a DJ playing

music at a reasonable volume, with breaks between activities so that we can connect," explained ICS housing outreach worker Willie MacPherson.

Ganges Goodwill Ambassadors will also be present in their signature green vests to offer additional support to those who may be emotionally impacted.

People who want to get involved or have questions are invited to email organizers: Karme Leroux (Moms Stop the Harm), [karma154si@gmail.com](mailto:karma154si@gmail.com); Shae Houston (ICS substance use youth and family counsellor) [shouston@ssics.ca](mailto:shouston@ssics.ca); or MacPherson at [wmacpherson@ssics.ca](mailto:wmacpherson@ssics.ca).

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Ferry warning

A weekend fundraiser involving more than 100 bicyclists is expected to make for busy times at Salt Spring Island ferry terminals.

BC Ferries issued a notice about the 2023 Cycle of Life bicycle tour, which will be crossing our island Saturday, Aug. 26 through Sunday, Aug. 27. The event supports Van-

couver Island hospice care.

Organizers expect riders on the 2:20 p.m. sailing of the Crofton-Vesuvius ferry Saturday, leaving the island via Fulford Harbour Sunday on both the 11:10 a.m. and 12:50 p.m. sailings to Swartz Bay. BC Ferries recommends other travellers who may share sailings with the event arrive as early as possible to the terminal — and be prepared for possible sailing waits.

### Wildfire aid

TJ Beans cafe is offering a chance for people to help victims of wildfire devastation. Tim O'Connor of

TJs said on Monday that 50 per cent of drink order sales will be donated to the United Way Wildfire Relief Fund from Aug. 21 to 24.

"We will update with receipts on display at the shop," he said.

### LCC town hall

The Local Community Commission is holding a town hall meeting on Thursday, Aug. 31, beginning at 5 p.m. at Lions Hall.

The commission hopes it will be the first of regular monthly town hall sessions in addition to regular business meetings.



GULF ISLANDS  
SCHOOL  
DISTRICT 64

### It's Back to School Time!

Tuesday, September 5th

School District 64 (Gulf Islands) is excited to be welcoming students back for the 2023/2024 school year.

**Opening Day Only:** Tuesday, September 5<sup>th</sup> will be early dismissal (regular school start time, dismissing at lunch). Full day classes begin Wednesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>.

Schools will be open for student registration and inquiries from August 28<sup>th</sup> to August 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023. (*Gulf Islands Secondary School opens August 21<sup>st</sup>*)

Salt Spring Island Schools	Principal	Office Hours	Phone #
Fernwood Elementary School (K-7)	Marie Mullen	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-537-9332
Fulford Community School (K-7)	Kaz Lundgren	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-653-9223
Gulf Islands Secondary School (8-12) and Phoenix Place Alternate Program	Ryan Massey	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-537-9944
Phoenix Elementary School (K-7)	Dan Sparanese	<a href="mailto:dsparanese@sd64.org">dsparanese@sd64.org</a>	250-537-1156
Salt Spring Elementary School (K-7)	Shelly Johnson	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-537-9928
64GO (online learning: K-12, adult education, graduation program)	Lyall Ruehlen	<a href="mailto:lruehlen@sd64.org">lruehlen@sd64.org</a>	250-537-1254

Other Gulf Islands Schools	Principal or Vice	Office Hours	Phone #
Galiano Community School (K-7)	Kadek Okuda (VP)	8:30 am to 12:30 pm	250-539-2261
Mayne Island School (K-7)	Shastina Tessier (VP)	8:30 am to 12:30 pm	250-539-2371
Pender Islands Elementary & Secondary School (K-12)	Margot Landahl (P)	9:00 am to 3:00 pm	250-629-3711
Saturna Island School (K-5)	Margot Landahl (P)	<a href="mailto:mlandahl@sd64.org">mlandahl@sd64.org</a>	250-539-2472
Saturna Ecological Education Centre (10-12)	Chris Mcgarity (VP)	<a href="mailto:cmcgarity@sd64.org">cmcgarity@sd64.org</a>	250-539-2472

**Kindergarten:** A child must be five years of age by December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2023 to enter Kindergarten this year. Please provide your child's Birth Certificate and BC Care Card at the time of registration. Parents will be contacted by the school with arrangements for your child's entry date into the Kindergarten program.

**StrongStart BC Programs (ELF):** StrongStart Early Learning programs will be welcoming families again this year. Please check in with the school in your community for more information.

**Student Transportation:** School bus and student water taxi route information is available on the SD64 website at <https://sd64.bc.ca/page/3111/transportation>. Facilities and Transportation administration will be available August 21<sup>st</sup> to September 1<sup>st</sup> for student transportation registration and inquiries (250-537-5723 or [transportation@sd64.org](mailto:transportation@sd64.org)).

# OPINION

## Driftwood

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### EDITORIAL

## Reality strikes

Understandably, the devastation wrought by recent wildfires in B.C., the rest of Canada and Hawaii has islanders rattled and wondering "what's the plan?" for evacuating Salt Spring Island.

We know we have been lucky so far when it comes to wildfire, and most of Salt Spring is in a "moderate" rather than "high" risk category, but it seems likely that we will be impacted by a fire of significant size at some point in the future.

While some people want assurance that emergency planners and firefighters will prevent them from experiencing physical harm or property damage, there is no way to guarantee that. It's not because the lead agency — the Capital Regional District (CRD) Salt Spring Emergency Program — and others like our fire department and the B.C. Wildfire Service are not prepared to respond to wildfires and/or effect evacuations. They are. But the terms "plan" and "emergency" don't mingle well. How, when and where evacuation might occur would depend on where the fire is located and heading, as well as other factors.

As the 2023 Salt Spring Island Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan states: "Emergency planning, including evacuation planning, by the CRD focuses on rapid situation assessment, and an all hazards approach, rather than prescriptive plans that may quickly be overcome by situational uncertainty."

The lack of specifics may not be what people want to hear, but it's realistic. Also not comfort-making is knowing that the onus really does fall on us as individuals to take the time to learn about and use the emergency preparation resources available to us.

If you are not already connected to your neighbourhood POD as part of the CRD, send an email to [ssipod@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ssipod@crd.bc.ca) to be added. That's your best assurance of being in the communication loop most relevant to your property. If anyone in your household has special needs, that will be recorded and factored into any emergency response.

Signing up for the CRD's Public Alert Notification System to get alerts about emergency situations is another must, and other salient advice is detailed in our story this week's issue of the paper.

Unfortunately, fear and uncertainty are part of the new reality we and future generations must live with as world leaders have refused to respond meaningfully to the climate change warnings first issued decades ago. We had best get used to it.

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

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



## Bylaw urgency confounds

### VIEWPOINT

BY ELISSA POOLE

Minks that slip inside a henhouse might kill 50 chickens, but only eat one. That's overkill.

I'd also categorize Bylaw 530 as overkill. This proposal to rezone over 5,000 properties all over the island risks significant collateral damage—water shortages, higher property values, a surge in illegal short-term vacation rentals (STVRs) and an influx of newcomers who can afford the rents on additional dwelling units (ADUs) that will cost as much as \$500 per square foot to build. And yet it's expected to produce no more than a few long-term, affordable rentals.

Despite such specious comments as "we'll all have to live with a smaller footprint," the impact, over time, of more construction and an accompanying increase in the island's population inevitably translates into a larger cumulative footprint, which is what the province was trying to avoid when it set Salt Spring aside, along with the other Gulf Islands, as an area to be protected for all of B.C. Our trustees can act as if the islands' fragile ecosystems aren't that rare or special, but most of us know they are, and that they're at risk because we're stomping all over them.

It's understandable that many people who live here now have never read the Trust Policy Statement and may not be aware that protecting the island's natural environment from excessive development was a guiding principle of Salt Spring's Official Community Plan (OCP). A provision for capping Salt Spring's population has been in the OCP for a long time. The Tsawout First Nation has also informed the Trust — twice — that it opposes Bylaw 530 because it feels the

potential population increase threatens "the environmental stability of their traditional territory."

As I write this, the Earth has just experienced its hottest month ever, B.C.'s wildfire season is the most destructive on record, and wells on Salt Spring are at record lows. But you'd never guess — given the shocking lack of data for how this bylaw might play out environmentally — that the Trust declared a climate emergency, or that it declared reconciliation with First Nations a priority—both of which would preclude passing Bylaw 530.

You have to ask why our trustees are so determined to get this bylaw passed in its most extreme form, without any checks and balances, when three previous bylaws, which opened up well over 2,000 properties for ADUs, have apparently had little success in creating affordable workers' housing. Faster, more effective measures that would actually work exist, but they haven't been adequately utilized: enforce STVR regulations; continue to pursue publicly funded, non-market housing alternatives; protect landlords as well as tenants with standardized rental agreements.

Why, when I walked into the public information meeting for Bylaw 530 in June, did the atmosphere remind me of a showroom for vacation timeshares? Is it because 75 per cent of ADUs usually end up as STVRs? It's hard to trust the motives of public officials who repeatedly dismiss or disdain legitimate concerns about the lack of supporting data or a proposal's long-term implications. That's why I suspect Bylaw 530 is a wolf in sheep's clothing — development masquerading as do-gooding.

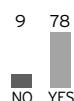
### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you signed up with your neighbourhood POD?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should online streaming of local government meetings be continued?



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

### Include oval track in Portlock plan

The following letter was sent to PARC manager Dan Ovington and Local Community Commission member Brian Webster and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

I am writing for the Salt Spring Sneakers Running Club as their coach and representative.

Most of our membership has responded to the current survey that provides a model of three possible site reconstruction options for Portlock Park. As a running and walking group, our primary concern is the 400-metre track and the potential loss of this vital feature used by many community members, not just the Sneakers.

You have received other letters of concern regarding the shape of the track, which for correct training and competition, must remain an oval, based on International Association of Athletics Federations standards. While slight reconfigurations are possible, specific measurements are used worldwide for all levels of competition, up to and including the Olympics.

A rectangle, as proposed in the Capital Regional District's "Option 1," is inappropriate for training runners and potentially

dangerous regarding negotiating tighter turns if runners, walkers, older adults and children on bikes are on the track simultaneously, as often occurs. An incomplete "walk/jog" track (Option 2) also negates the sport-specific training protocols for running sports, which make clear distinctions between the terms "running" and "jogging." The jog is a reference pace generally used for warming up and cooling down.

A standard track does, in fact, allow for multi-sport fields to be included in the centre. The other options would negate the possibility of training youth or masters (ages 35+) running teams and individuals, which would be a shame as talented runners on Salt Spring train and compete year-round.

Please consider the implications of removing and replacing the oval with non-standardized options for the sake of the island's current and future track athletes.

**SUSAN GORDON,**  
FOR SALT SPRING SNEAKERS RUNNING CLUB

### Let pros do the job

In response to the Aug. 16 fire hall project article, I have to ask David Courtney to open his eyes and look around. Or maybe this was an April 1st article?

Where were you when the referendum

was voted on by our community last year? Perhaps not on the island or maybe in the 25 per cent voting against the borrowing referendum.

As a community member for 30 years and having served on the board of fire trustees for almost six years and, chairing for four of those years not too long ago, I know that a lot of work has been done to get where we are today in regards to a new Ganges fire hall.

I find it difficult to comprehend that anyone would now decide to petition for a new look at cost savings and spending. The shovel is about to hit the ground. I know that the current board is doing their best to bring to our community what we voted for (which includes spending and cost savings).

The board I was with, whose members are mostly the same as the current board, have done an outstanding job of pulling together the community's wishes, along with being prudent in spending our money. Yes, there will be those who will always shake their heads at the cost of maintaining the excellent fire/rescue service provided by our firefighters on this island.

It's a shame that, while wearing the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) and board of trustees hat that you are taking this action, "as a ratepayer," to

"launch this petition to spend ratepayers' money wisely." I have the utmost respect and support for the job that the board and professional consultants have done so far. Let's let them get on with the mandate we gave them.

I'm sure that along the way there will be many more community consultations. The town hall on Sept. 14, for one, will be a good time to see what's going on. Hope to see you there.

**PER SVENDESEN,**  
SALT SPRING

### What's the local wildfire plan?

Regarding the fire on Walker's Hook Road last week, the Salt Spring Island firefighters and support services did an amazing job.

My sympathy goes out to the family who lost their entire home.

But I would like to know what the "big picture" plan is if a major fire spreads on Salt Spring Island and the population needs to evacuate.

**ALEX WHITFIELD,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE OPINION** continued on 6

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"There are lots of plans, but I would also encourage people to plan on being self-sufficient. Being on guard often means being prepared to help ourselves — and have a Plan B."**

DALE LUNDY, DEPUTY CHIEF, SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE RESCUE

## Decoding the signals of sports car drivers and motorcycle riders

Waving at strangers is something many of us do. We wave at the engineers in the cabs of their diesel engines when we are stopped at crossings or just standing by the tracks. We did it as children and we still do it. It makes us feel good, it makes us feel connected in spite of the distance and the unlikelihood of ever seeing those drivers again.

In the days of British sports cars — MGs and Austin Healeys, Bug-eye Sprites and TR3s — the drivers of those small machines would acknowledge one another while passing. But nothing so obvious as an actual hand wave. Oh no. Both hands on the wheel, please. Hands in those days were suitably encased in little brown gloves with tiny holes in them. These holes were never explained to me but seemed to have something to do with ventilation. Also, the gloves were supposed to be necessary in wrestling those tiny cars through the hairpins and straightaways that made up so much of the roads in the downtown core. I was never able to buy the little red sports car, although I gazed longingly at the ads for the driving gloves in the pages of Road and Track.

No vulgar hand wave for those drivers: a casually lifted finger (no, not that finger) was the approved

way of greeting the other fellow in his TR3 as he passed, gloved hands on the wheel. The very cool finger greeting suggested that both drivers were so intent on watching the tach for the precisely correct rpm to shift into third, that even the slightest hand movement might lose the shift point. Shift points and double-clutching were topics of conversation, as were confidences about overdrives, layshafts and planetary gears.

Hand signals have been important as gestures of recognition, signs of peace and, as alluded to above, indications of displeasure. For a brief period there was even a popular song called "Willie and the Hand Jive," with a complex series of hand gestures the dancers might make while dancing in the high-school gym. The very cool knew every nuanced flick of the wrist and were watched closely by those packed in frustrated ranks along the gym walls.

Which brings me to what I meant to talk about and am only now getting to: motorcycle riders. I say "riders" as opposed to "drivers" because, unlike those longago British cars, which very much had to be driven, motorcyclists use the word "ride." As in "nice ride, man," as a comment in apprecia-



**Chris Rideout**  
AND THAT  
WAS  
**WHEN**

tion of a fine bike. Bikers go for a ride, not a drive, and point out the finer points of a particular highway as a "good ride." Where car owners will admit to having a nice car, bikers reminisce about past motorcycles as "that was one sweet ride, that old soft-tail."

But they have something in common with the sports car enthusiasts of the hand jive decades: they have a complex collection of very particular hand gestures, employed when approaching another rider coming in the opposite direction.

The most common of these, and the safest, is a simple uncurling of the fingers of the left hand, the hand nearest the oncoming rider. A great many riders are content with this economical yet still friendly acknowledgement of a fellow traveller on the road to somewhere. It's also an acknowledgement that both riders have chosen an unusu-

ally dangerous mode of travel, and the greeting — the jive — is saying: ride safe, I too share the peril.

Some riders prefer what I might call the "handoff" gesture, in which the rider takes his hand off the left grip completely and moves his hand into the air stream in a kind of truncated half-wave. This is quite common and displays an even greater recognition of the perils of riding because the rider is now going down the road at 100 km/hr holding onto a screaming two-wheeled machine with one hand.

One-handed riding, with the left hand tucked into the left hip, is mainly for those rocket bikes preferred by very young men, many of whom may not get to be very old men. The devil-may-care, one-handed rider is really defying the powers to pay attention to him. This posture is the specialty of those bikes on which the rider is almost lying down over the fuel tank. These are the fellows who scare the dickens out of automobile drivers because they come out of nowhere and are past you and gone before you can even swear at them.

One of the more interesting hand jives is primarily offered by Harley riders and Harley wannabe riders who have tricked their rides up to

look like Harleys if you don't look too closely. In this one, the rider, again, removes his hand and points down to the pavement. When I first noticed this one I thought perhaps it was just one rider and that was all. But after dozens of encounters with this gesture I began to see a meaning that went beyond just a greeting. Harley riders get a bad press. Their hollering twin cylinders prevent decent conversation and scare children and small animals. But they are among the safest drivers on the road.

Their greeting of pointing down at the pavement whizzing by just inches below their feet is to remind the other rider that the road itself is what is important, not the pipes, not the fringes, not the tassels. It's like the admonition heard many times if you spend any time at all around bikers: "Keep the rubber side down, man." Or its inverse but equally cautionary: "Keep the shiny side up." Man.

Many say that Harley riders do not wave: that's for sissies and tourists. Not true, except in cities, but not on the open road.

The hand jive lives on, after the sports cars have been relegated to the backyard hobbies of retirees. And I still get a thrill when the engineer waves back.

# Getting people out of their cars a challenge

BY MIKE STACEY

Reading the Aug. 2 "More and safer travel methods suggested" In Depth piece, it became clear that the Viewpoint articles written by Maxine Leichter ("Preserve parking spaces," July 26) and myself ("Crosswalk idea ill-advised," Aug. 2) were not perfectly in line with the thoughts of Myna Lee Johnstone and therefore deserved no further consideration. We are "committed drivers" with no intention of changing our evil ways.

In this part of the world one is free to think anything they want, as long as it is the same as everyone that toes the party line. That works like a charm in North Korea, so why not here? I was amazed by the "committed" part. That was years ago and only for a couple of weeks, but she remembered it!

I'm sure she also recalls

## IN RESPONSE

when I was on the coroner's jury after a 17-year-old cyclist was hit and killed by a car on the island. The first recommendation of our jury was "Build bike lanes!" I am the only member of that jury still above ground, the case having occurred in 1976. Nothing much has happened with our recommendation, but I'm sure they'll get right on it any day now.

Myra Lee will remember also when Fulford-Ganges Road was totally repaved, along with other main roads well over 30 years ago and we all cried, "We need bike lanes!" None appeared.

The safety of cyclists and pedestrians has been an issue here for a long time. A lot of locals have spoken up over the years and been ignored. The con-

cept of getting people out of their cars and into other forms of transportation is a good one, where possible, but will not make a huge difference in the short term. Bike lanes through town and up the hill would be a vast improvement.

**A lot of locals have spoken up over the years and been ignored.**

Opening up the ArtSpring parking lot seems simple, but "nature abhors a vacuum cleaner," so that action would create a region of relative low pressure, sucking in every clapped-out RV within range, which is why it's locked up in the first place. It is my understanding that nego-

tiations will be determining who will report, respond, remove the offenders and clean up the . . . mess. Those involved include ArtSpring, the CRD, police and, if possible, divine intervention. I would assume that the concept of removing a large number of vehicles from downtown would have no effect on safety, and that any attempt to preserve parking spaces is futile, as we won't be driving our cars anymore. Good luck with that.

I subscribe to the "whole picture" school of thought. Look at all aspects of the issue. Listen to other ideas. If a dumb idea works, it's not a dumb idea. For myself, after 50-plus years among the great unwashed working class, I have been walloped in the head enough times that my equilibrium is suspect, so riding a bike is out. I could walk, but after a mile or so my back

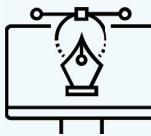
would give up and it would be crawling from there on.

That leaves the bus. It has been a godsend for our family when we have international students, affording them the freedom and independence our own kids didn't get. They can get on the "Toonerville Trolley" at the end of our driveway and go to Victoria or wherever they wish. Expansion of the system would be difficult. In the city, the population is very dense, allowing transportation of many people in a relatively small area. Here in the sticks our small population is spread out all over the place, so more buses more often would yield empty buses more often.

In closing, I'm sure I don't need to remind Myra Lee of the two runaway trucks that went through Ganges years ago, killing nobody. Today we would not be that lucky.

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## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

AUGUST 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
23	0332	1.2	3.9	27	0714	0.5	1.6
WE	1108	2.5	8.2	1612	3.2	10.5	
ME	1421	2.4	7.9	2032	3.0	9.8	
2026	3.1	10.2		DI	2335	3.1	10.2
24	0420	1.0	3.3	28	0810	0.3	1.0
	1325	2.7	8.9	1645	3.3	10.8	
TH	1515	2.7	8.9	MO	2114	2.9	9.5
JE	2044	3.1	10.2	LU			
25	0515	0.8	2.6	29	0057	3.1	10.2
	1449	3.0	9.8	0902	0.3	1.0	
FR	1657	2.9	9.5	TU	1714	3.3	10.8
VE	2110	3.1	10.2	MA	2154	2.7	8.9
26	0614	0.6	2.0	30	0211	3.1	10.2
	1535	3.1	10.2	0950	0.3	1.0	
SA	1908	3.0	9.8	WE	1740	3.3	10.8
SA	2206	3.1	10.2	ME	2237	2.5	8.2

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# Firefighter deployments valuable

SUBMITTED BY SSIFPD TRUSTEES

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) is proud to announce its commitment to supporting British Columbia's wildfire efforts by deploying trained staff and equipment to aid in combatting the devastating wildfires that have been plaguing the province.

The deployment not only reinforces the community's dedication to firefighting excellence but also serves as a crucial step towards safeguarding the health, safety and property of residents.

The ongoing wildfire crisis in B.C. demands a collective effort to mitigate its impact on communities and the environment. In response to this urgent need, the SSIFPD has risen to the occasion by offering its skilled personnel and reserve equipment to assist in firefighting operations across the province. The benefits of this deployment extend beyond immediate fire response and encompass numerous positive outcomes for our community and the province.

First and foremost, our community takes pride in providing firefighting personnel to bolster B.C.'s firefighting workforce. Our dedicated firefighters bring a wealth of knowledge, training and expertise, enhancing the effectiveness of wildfire suppression and containment efforts throughout the region and their presence reinforces the province's firefighting capacity.

By actively participating in emergency wildfire deployment, Salt Spring Island is playing a vital role in protecting the health and safety of communities across B.C. As wildfires continue to pose a significant threat to public well-being, the additional firefighting resources from our community help ensure a swift response to potential emergencies, mitigating the risk to human lives and property.

Furthermore, this deployment provides much-needed relief for local wildfire fighters who have been tirelessly combatting the flames. Sharing the burden of firefighting duties ensures that firefighters across the province can take necessary rest and recovery periods, ultimately fostering a healthier and more sustainable firefighting effort.

As an additional benefit to the local community, island firefighters gain valuable skills and experience from deployments that they then share with col-



From left, Salt Spring Fire Rescue personnel Mitchell Sherrin, Neil Martin, Eric Corliss, Ella Baker and Max Akerman on deployment near Vanderhoof, B.C.

leagues to better manage a large-scale fire should one occur locally in the future.

Making optimal use of reserve equipment is another key advantage of this initiative. By deploying our equipment to support firefighting operations in B.C., SSIFPD can maximize its utility and contribute to the efficient utilization of firefighting resources. This collaborative approach helps strengthen the firefighting infrastructure in B.C., improving the overall emergency response capabilities.

The benefits of the SSIFPD's emergency wildfire deployment extend beyond the community's borders. The entire provincial economy benefits from these efforts, as wildfire containment safeguards vital industries, infrastructure and resources. Additionally, by reducing the impact of wildfires on air quality, our deployment

plays a significant role in safeguarding the health and well-being of B.C.'s population.

By stepping up and actively contributing to wildfire containment efforts, Salt Spring Island continues to be recognized for its firefighting excellence. SSIFPD trustees remain steadfast in our commitment to supporting B.C.'s wildfire response and recovery, and we stand united with communities across the province in these trying times.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the staff members who have volunteered for these critical assignments. Their unwavering dedication and selflessness exemplify the spirit of community service, and we are immensely proud of their commitment to protecting B.C. during this challenging time.

## SSIFR PERSONNEL DEPLOYED IN 2023

Fort St. John (May 14 - 24)

- Capt. Dom Gaudet (who has also been working independently with the B.C. Wildfire Service on deployments for much of the summer)
- FF Bree Sturdy

Vanderhoof (July 13 - Aug. 4)

- Capt. Colby Sawchuk
- FF Ella Baker (Deployed a total of 19 days: 12 days on, three days off and then back for seven more. She drove approximately 9,000 kms.)
- FF Jessica Caron
- FF Ben Shugar
- FF Ewan Holmes (our youngest team member, aged 16)
- A.C. Mitchell Sherrin
- FIT Steve Leichter
- FIT Neil Martin
- FF Stuart Mason
- FF Eric Corliss
- FF Max Akerman



# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

## SALT SPRING ARTS

# Park hosts one more concert

Haley Blais and Ashton Bachman perform this Thursday night

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts' final free Summer Outdoor Concert of 2023 takes place this week.

Join together in Centennial Park to cap off the season on Thursday, Aug. 24 at 6 p.m., with Vancouver-based singer/songwriter Haley Blais headlining the series' finale. She has been turning out song after song of defiant scream-into-your-pillow bedroom pop anthems recorded in her actual bedroom since 2014. Her debut studio LP,

Below the Salt, is a coming of age story that recognizes that there is no real "coming of age." Blais' signature sound has matured into a distinct new voice with lyrics reflecting joy, radical acceptance and manifestation.

Local Salt Spring based multi-instrumentalist Ashton Bachman will be warming up the stage that night. Focused on crafting several genres of music, he works to blend west coast roots and folk music with sultry reggae elements. Bachman's dynamic melodies and resonant arrangements paint a soundscape unique to the island.

Series marquee presenters are Salt Spring Country Grocer and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union.

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

A big crowd enjoys listening and dancing to Victoria band Astrocolor at last Thursday's Salt Spring Arts-organized concert in the park. People have one more chance to enjoy free or by-donation outdoor music through the series this summer on Thursday, Aug. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m.

## LIVE MUSIC

# Tea à Tempo welcomes Victoria tenor and pianist

Adam Dyjach and James Yi next guests in series

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS OF THE ANGLICAN PARISH

On Wednesday, Aug. 30, Victoria's Adam Dyjach and James Yi are the featured artists of vocal music and piano for the Tea à Tempo concert at All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church in downtown Ganges. Their program will include works by Bach, Purcell, Beethoven, Chopin and Hahn.

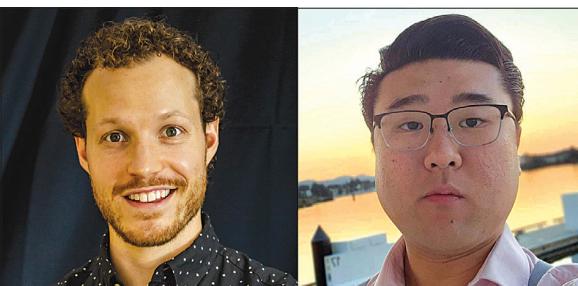
Born in Songtan, South Korea, and raised in the Lower

Mainland, Yi started his musical training with the late Edward Parker for piano and Trisha Buehler for clarinet. He received his B.A. in performance for clarinet under the guidance of Patricia Kostek and studied piano with Arthur Rowe at UVic. He currently lives in Victoria, continuing to be a part of the musical community.

Yi specializes in teaching, and with more than a decade of experience, his students range from age five to 50. As an accompanist, he has worked with Fear No Opera, GNS choirs, Salt Spring Singers and various solo instrumentalists and students in many different genres from gospel to musicals. He has worked as summertime music leader at the Cordova Bay United Church and will be a full-time music leader at St. Paul's United Church in September.

A native of Waterloo, Ont., Dyjach commenced his musical education at Wilfrid Laurier University in Voice Performance under the direction of Kimberly Barber. He now resides in Victoria, where he completed his Masters in Voice Performance with Benjamin Butterfield at the University of Victoria.

Dyjach has performed with various groups on Vancouver Island and the mainland, including the Vancouver Island Symphony, Victoria Baroque Players, the Handel Society of Music, Capriccio Vocal Ensemble, Bach on the Rock, Via Choralis, Sooke Philharmonic Choir, Victoria Baroque Festival, Civic Orchestra of Victoria, La Modestine, Victoria Choral Society, North Island Choral Society,



PHOTOS COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

From left, Adam Dyjach, tenor, and James Yi, pianist will perform at the Aug. 30 Tea a Tempo recital at All Saints church.

Malaspina Choir, Victoria Philharmonic Choir, Oceanside Concert Choir and the Cowichan Consort.

Dyjach currently sings at Fairfield United and St. John Henry Newman churches and is also a member of the Vancouver Island Chamber Choir. In addition to performing, Dyjach teaches music lessons out of his home studio AD Music and at the Taber Music School.

Next Wednesday's concert begins at 2:10 p.m. Donations provide the honoraria for the performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series.

Tea and treats, for \$4, are provided by the Anglican Caterers immediately following the concert.

## LIVE MUSIC

# Hunter at Tree House

Vancouver-based performer reinvented as "Dan"

Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) alumnus Daniel Hunter returns to the island to rock the Tree House Cafe on Saturday, Aug. 26.

Under the new moniker "Dan," Hunter says he is trying something brand new for everybody.

With a heavy focus on vocal performance and experimenting with new ways to convey the storytelling of his music, "Dan" is a theatrical departure from what people have seen in the past. Since gradu-

ating from GISS in 2016 and leaving Salt Spring, Hunter has been involved in a few different lanes of the industry, most notably as one quarter of the group 29 East.

"Being part of the tallest funk rock supergroup in Vancouver provided all kinds of professional opportunities, a tour of western Canada, numerous music videos and a masterfully produced EP on the way, just to name a few," he said.

In both returning to his roots and reinventing himself as "Dan," Hunter draws influence from hip-hop, rock, folk, electronic and jazz genres.

Tree House musical acts run from 6 to 9 p.m.

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# ISLAND LIFE



The Salt Spring Slasher longboard race and freeride event returned to the island and Juniper Place on the Aug. 19-20 weekend for the first time since 2019. Dale Mason enters the sharp curve in front of fans and the line of hay bales set up for safety purposes.



PHOTO BY TRENE KAYE  
Coast Brunelle, left, and Steven Walker take care of ensuring riders and spectators are well fed during the event.



PHOTO BY BRYN FINER  
Elycia Finch from Vancouver points in her direction of travel.

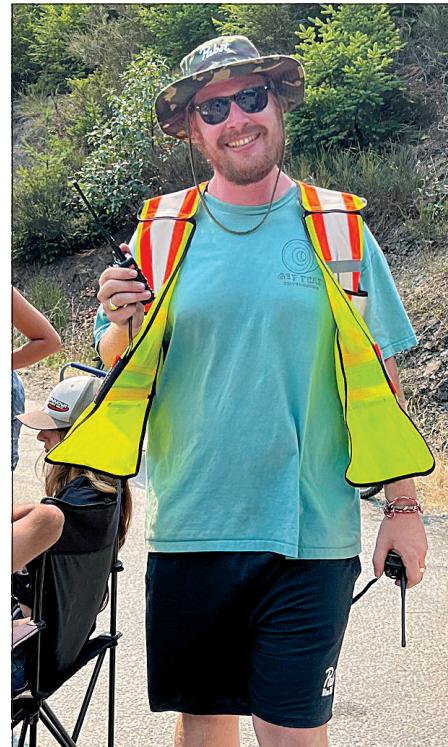


PHOTO BY TRENE KAYE  
Salt Spring Slasher organizer Max Kaye, a born-and-raised Salt Spring Islander who graduated from GISS in 2011 and has competed internationally as a longboarder, mans the radios.



PHOTO BY TRENE KAYE  
Winners of the Salt Spring Slasher 12 after multiple races on Saturday are, from left, Benjamin Robinson (2nd place), Nick Rosewell (1st place) and Ajay Daniels (3rd place).



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG  
Islander Phil Elsser negotiates a curve during Saturday's competitive event.

**Fall Fair FOCUS**

**Check out the Activities for Kids:**

- 4-H displays
- Safe Grad Games
- Time out Sandbox
- Fun Swing Ride - Sunday only
- The Egg Smash Contest is back
- The colour of the contents of your smashed egg, filled with coloured rice, will determine your prize.
- Lots of Classes to Enter! See page 5 of catalogue listings.

**Entry Form Deadline**  
September 2, 2023

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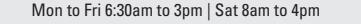
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## ISLAND AUTHORS

# Weeden book set to launch

Aug. 30 event at the library

Bob Weeden's new book, *Small Forays into Big Spaces*, is ready to launch on Wednesday, Aug. 30 at 7 p.m. in the Salt Spring library's program room.

Retiring to Salt Spring Island after a career practising and teaching environmental conservation in Alaska, Weeden farmed, helped in community projects and began reading broadly about our world. No surprise: his books and his conversations proved to him that everything is connected. "Start with a feather, end with a universe," he says.

Weeden said *Small Forays* began with his scribbled comments on book margins. They were variously critical, praising, humorous

or puzzled, but always delighted to find bigger patterns among facts and ideas. For Weeden, one notion stands out: that our cherished premise that human affairs are separable from nature, and dominant, is both silly and dangerous.

The book's subtitle, *Eavesdropping At Conversations Between Nature and Culture* hints at its form, a journal of his explorations from 2008 to 2023. It develops broad themes: the everyday miracles in woods and meadows, the critical failures of industrial capitalism, our human prehistory ("When I grow up I'd like to be an archaeologist"), existence as seen by science and religion, and our blind substitution of profit for love of nature and of ourselves.

## HISTORY

# Grant helps preserve Pender pioneer record

Victor Menzies created booklets from 1917 to 1971

SUBMITTED BY BC HISTORICAL FEDERATION

The British Columbia Historical Federation has awarded a \$5,000 Centennial Legacy Fund grant to preserve a hand-written account of pioneer life on Pender Island.

The award was presented to the Pend-

er Island Museum, which holds the Victor Menzies diaries in its archival collection.

Two-year-old Victor Menzies arrived on Pender Island with his family aboard the side-winder Yosemite in 1893. At the time, the island had two dozen residents and didn't have a school or church. Over his life, Menzies generated 33 hand-written booklets that form a first-hand account of island life between 1917 and 1971.

The grant allows the Pender Island Muse-

um to begin transcription of the booklets and will help ensure their survival. Each booklet contains about 17,000 words (so 544,000 words in total) and a copy editor will be hired to begin transcribing from the original source.

Menzies kept meticulous daily records of farming, community life, church happenings, local education, and his role as cemetery and school caretaker. An entry for April 16, 1923 includes the novel experi-

ence of listening to the radio. "Basil came up to help me and brought his radio, first we heard was fine and clear music . . . Basil repaired the disc harrower. I plowed."

The Centennial Legacy Fund was created by the British Columbia Historical Federation to aid ground-breaking research into B.C.'s stories, communities and diverse peoples.

Institutions, communities and individuals can apply to the fund at [bchistory.ca](http://bchistory.ca).

# what's on this week

Wed.	Aug. 23	Fri.	Aug. 25	Sat.	Aug. 26	Wed.	Aug. 30
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Tea à Tempo: David Storm and Friends</b> perform at All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.		<b>Shakespeare: Battle Royale.</b> ExitStageLeft Productions, in partnership with Graffiti Theatre, presents a hilarious evening of outdoor Shakespeare-themed theatre. 7 p.m. Advance tix only (with location near Ganges specified) through <a href="http://exitstageleftproductions.com">exitstageleftproductions.com</a> .		<b>United Church Annual Boot Sale.</b> Many families selling goods in the United Church Meadow and basement. 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.		<b>Book Launch: Robert Weeden.</b> Local writer reads from <i>Small Forays Into Big Spaces: Eavesdropping at Meetings of Nature and Culture</i> . Library program room. 7 p.m.	
<b>John Herbert.</b> With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.		<b>Fridays With DJ Boomtown.</b> Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m.		<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.		<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>Marianne Grittani Band.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.		<b>Music Bingo.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.		<b>Music Bingo.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.	
<b>Donation Drop-off for Upcoming Free Youth Clothing Experience.</b> Clean, unisex, youth-specific clothes, bags, shoes and accessories. Clean dog/cat care items also accepted. The Core (134 McPhillips Ave). 4 to 6 p.m.		<b>Karaoke.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.		<b>CINEMA</b>		<b>CINEMA</b>	
<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>Ganges Waterfront Clean-up.</b> Meet at the Coast Guard dock parking lot. Bring garbage bags. 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.		<b>Barbie runs Wednesday-Thursday, Aug. 23-24 at 7 p.m.</b> For the next movie on beginning Friday, Aug. 25, see <a href="http://thefritz.ca">thefritz.ca</a> , as well as for more movie info in general - or phone 250-538-7718.	
<b>Drop-in Tennis.</b> 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.		<b>Tennis at Portlock Park.</b> 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.		<b>Free Clothing Experience.</b> For school-aged youth. Third floor of The Core. 134 McPhillips Ave. 1 to 4 p.m.		<b>• Salty Pear Gallery presents Ute Hagen's exhibition titled Abstracts</b> - an expressionist's vision of emotions in motion until Sept. 30.	
<b>Music Bingo.</b> Moby's Pub. 8 to 10:30 p.m.		<b>Donation Drop-off for Upcoming Free Youth Clothing Experience.</b> See Wednesday listing except the time is from 9 a.m. to noon.		<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wed. listing.		<b>• An Odd Agreement: Nathalie St-Amant and Michael Henri Wright</b> artwork runs at Salt Spring Gallery through Sept. 6. The gallery is open from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tuesdays through Saturdays.	
<b>Thur.</b>	<b>Aug. 24</b>	<b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> MoTI and Emcon reps are this week's scheduled guests in the SIMS courtyard. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>• League 181 painters — Borbas/Eyles/Hodgins/Wickland/Wilson — present CONNECTIONS</b> , 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.	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>Family Movie Matinee.</b> Every Friday in the library program room at 1 p.m.		<b>Pilot Drone Program.</b> First of five-day program begins at the library. 10 to 11:30 a.m. Register through the library's website.		<b>• PK Macdonald</b> shows Summer, colour field paintings, in the library program room through August.	
<b>Salt Spring Arts Summer Outdoor Concert Series:</b> Haley Blais with opener Ashton Bachman. Centennial Park. 6 to 8 p.m.		<b>Intro to 3D Modelling Using Tinkercad.</b> Room 106 at the library. 1 p.m. Register through Salt Spring library.		<b>Tue.</b>	<b>Aug. 29</b>	<b>• 55th annual Artcraft</b> 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.	
<b>Morien Jones.</b> Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.		<b>Youth Board Games.</b> For ages 6 to 13. Children's area at the library. 1 to 3 p.m.		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>• Ashton Bachman &amp; Guest.</b> Lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.	
<b>Open Mic.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.		<b>Friday Game Night.</b> For ages 13 to 21 in the library program room. 7 p.m.		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>• Tuesday Farmers' Market.</b> Hosted by the Salt Spring Community Market Society in Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.	
<b>Improv Theatre Night.</b> Mateada Social Club. 8 to 10:30 p.m.		<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday listing.		<b>Tuesday Farmers' Market.</b> Hosted by the Salt Spring Community Market Society in Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.		<b>• Trivia Tuesday.</b> At Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.	
<b>Craig's Karaoke.</b> At Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. to midnight.		<b>Sat.</b>	<b>Aug. 26</b>	<b>Wed.</b>	<b>Aug. 30</b>	<b>• Thrifty Foods.</b> Ganges, Mouat's Centre 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Customer Service 250-537-1522	
<b>John Gogo &amp; Sons.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>			
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>Shakespeare: Battle Royale.</b> See Friday listing.		<b>Shakespeare: Battle Royale.</b> Adam Dyach, tenor, and James Yi, piano, perform at All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.			
<b>Neighbourhood Story Time.</b> 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.		<b>Salt Spring Baroque: Gallo Chamber Players - Baroque Tales: Storytelling in Music.</b> Concert in private garden of Channel Ridge residence. 2 p.m. Tickets and location through <a href="http://saltspringbaroque.com">saltspringbaroque.com</a> .		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>			
<b>EV Charger Clinic.</b> J1772 vehicle clinic to check for potential charger damage. Golf course from 4 to 5 p.m.		<b>Old Times Cafe.</b> Open Stage at the Fulford Hall Annex. 7 to 11 p.m. Held on the last Saturday of every month.		<b>Tea à Tempo:</b> Adam Dyach, tenor, and James Yi, piano, perform at All Saints church. 2:10 p.m., followed by optional tea and treats.			
<b>Green Drinks.</b> Members of Island Pathways' Cycling Salt Spring Committee will share plans and progress. Golf course Sweetgrass Restaurant. 5 to 7 p.m.		<b>Jessica Benini.</b> Lower deck. Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.		<b>John Herbert.</b> With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.			
<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday listing.		<b>DAN.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.					
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>Aug. 25</b>	<b>La Chuparosa.</b> Legion. 7:30 p.m.					
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>Buck Dodgers String Band.</b> Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.					
<b>Ange Hehr.</b> Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
		<b>Saturday Market in the Park.</b> Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.					

**Shakespeare: Battle Royale**  
Aug. 25, 26, 27, 31, Sept. 1, 2  
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## SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS



## Obituaries

## Obituaries

DODDS,  
Robert John  
Michael (Bob)  
*August 2, 1942 -  
August 5, 2023*



Born August 2, 1942, in Victoria, BC. Bob passed away peacefully in his sleep on August 5, 2023, in Victoria. Beloved eldest son of the late Robert and C. Dorothy Dodds of Salt Spring Island, BC. Predeceased by his eldest sister Marie (Dance) (Win) Skretka (Ed). Survived by his wife of 58 years Joyce; children Daniel (Nicole) and Denise; sisters Donna Dodds, Valerie Gustafson (Al), Lynn Koett (Gary); brother L. Mark Dodds (Jan); grandchildren Madelyn, Elyse, Dylan and Jack; and numerous nieces and nephews. He will be greatly missed by his family and friends.

Bob was an expert heavy-duty mechanic in the Royal Canadian Air Force and oil sands industry and bison farmer in Alberta. A heartfelt thanks to the staff at Island View Place Care for the care Bob received over the last year, and to his siblings and their spouses for their ongoing love and support.

A Funeral Service will be held in the Sequoia Centre, at McCall Gardens, 4665 Falaise Drive, Victoria, on Saturday, September 2, 2023, at 2:00pm with a reception thereafter. The interment will be held at St Mark's north cemetery on Salt Spring Island on Sunday, September 3, 2023, at 3:30pm. Flowers gratefully declined. Tributes, if desired, may be made to the Heart and Stroke Foundation (heartandstroke.ca). Condolences may be offered to the family at: mcallgardens.com

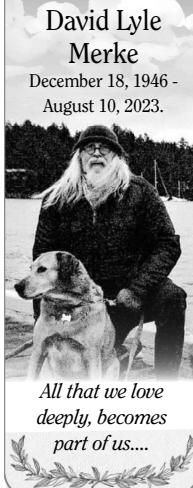


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## Obituaries

## In Memoriam

David Lyle  
Merke  
December 18, 1946 -  
August 10, 2023.



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deeply, becomes  
part of us....*

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## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam



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# Making Tourism a Force for Good

Tourism is often seen as something that impacts us regardless of the needs and aspirations of our communities. Sometimes it feels like an onslaught of outsiders coming to enjoy our unique services and natural areas, without a care for their impact or for those who live here. And residents resort to changing their lifestyles to avoid busy tourist times and places, unable to enjoy their homes as they otherwise would. At the same time, the visitor economy is essential to sustain many small businesses, providing jobs and wages for more than a third of our workforce. These small businesses provide transportation, travel services, recreation and entertainment, accommodations, and food. They contribute to the sociocultural fabric of our communities, but they could not survive with the patronage of residents alone.

So where is the balance? In 2016, community leaders from Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Salt Spring, and Saturna collaborated on a plan to access more resources for our communities through the local visitor economy in order to tackle both the challenges and opportunities offered by tourism. The mission was simple: to enhance the local economic base while contributing to the quality of life of the Southern Gulf Islands region. Tourism doesn't have to be a drain on our resources, a blight on our natural areas, and a restriction on our day-to-day lives during the busy season. Properly managed, a visitor economy can contribute to sustainability, foster regenerative practices, support local initiatives, ensure the money visitors spend stays in our communities, and ultimately, leave our communities better than they were before.

With approval from the province, the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership (SGITP) incorporated as a non-profit society in early 2019 and began working on making that mission a reality later that year. Creating a visitor economy that leaves a net positive impact on our region drives everything we do. That means not only supporting our small businesses and local economy, but also the social, cultural, and environmental health of our islands for all of our residents. We believe that fundamentally, the visitor economy can and should improve our quality of life here in the islands.

How does quality of life and the visitor economy connect?

- One of the joys of living here are the locally-owned bakeries, cozy cafes, locally-sourced groceries, food and beverage producers, creative dining options, exceptional book stores, arts and performing arts events, and more. Many of these businesses and organizations need visitors in addition to local residents in order to thrive.
- Many small businesses struggle through the winter months. Rather than encouraging more tourism in the summer, visitors can be dispersed through the off-season to not only make businesses more viable but also to provide year-round jobs for residents.
- Creative entrepreneurship is a long-established characteristic of the islands. A visitor economy that focusses on our artists, chefs, bakers, performers, designers, makers, and creators can

## 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.sgilocalresources.ca/visitor-survey/](http://www.sgilocalresources.ca/visitor-survey/) or scan the QR Code to complete the survey.



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

invite visitors that share our values and bring investments to local creative work.

- Accommodations, visitor-focussed businesses, and organizations can support messaging around water conservation, fire safety, shared road use, and wildlife and environment. Community and industry solidarity can help to reinforce messages for better behaviour, attract visitors that care about our concerns, and dissuade those who do not.

If this sounds like a change to the status quo, it should. Because we seek to leverage solutions to rethink and rebuild the visitor economy with a focus on harnessing local innovation and creative solutions to address our communities' unique needs. Of all the economic sectors that support our community and quality of life, tourism

can have less impact on our environment if we do it right. The visitor economy can value culture, the arts, lifestyle, and nature if we work together to shape it that way.

Next year will be the Tourism Partnership's fifth year working together as five island communities. In late winter, we will submit an application to the province to continue for the next five years. This is your opportunity to help us craft a meaningful approach to manage and market the local visitor economy while remaining stewards of our islands and communities. This is a chance to participate in planning that balances social, economic and environmental needs in a way that resolves real community issues rather than legacy structures and outdated definitions of success that only focus on growth. What does a visitor economy that works for everyone look like to you?

# 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.

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.

# Summer Eats!

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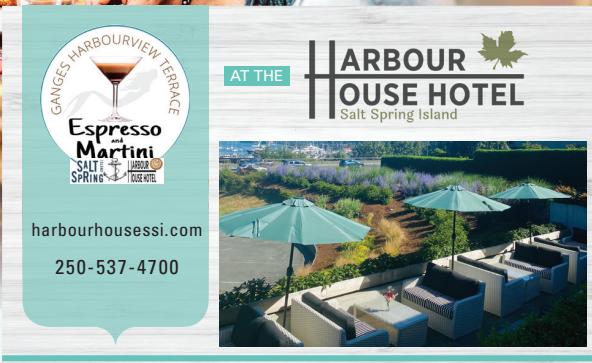


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Dining outdoors is one of the best things about summer. Whether you eat at a restaurant, in your backyard, at the beach or in a local park, everything seems to taste better with some fresh air.

Salt Spring Island has a wide range of choices available to satisfy your craving for a delicious meal you don't have to cook yourself.



All of the establishments on this page are ready to serve great food and drinks that can be enjoyed outside during our glorious summer months (but also indoors in some cases if you prefer to do that).

We hope you will be inspired to try some new island taste sensations — al fresco style.