

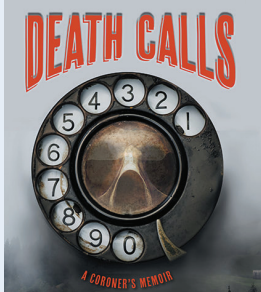
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## 2023 Fall Fair Entertainment & Events Schedule

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### INSERTS:

- Country Grocer
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- The Local Liquor St.
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# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,  
Sept. 6, 2023

63rd year  
Issue 36  
**\$1.50**

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**OPEN SPOTS:** Local Community Commission member Gayle Baker greets people looking for a parking spot in the ArtSpring lot on Saturday, a task she has volunteered to do for the last six Saturdays. The lot has traditionally been locked except during ArtSpring events. See story on page 10. Unfortunately, though, someone picked up Baker's stool, perhaps assuming it was a free offering on the street, and she would like to have it back.

## LOCAL GOVERNMENT

# First LCC town hall proves lively

Portlock Park planning poll process praised and panned

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders filled all the seats put out Thursday, Aug. 31 for the first evening town hall organized by the Local Community Commission (LCC) — a new evening format for the island's newest governing body, and one commissioners hope to repeat.

Some 50 to 60 islanders made their way into the Lions Club Hall up Drake Road, and most brought specific issues to raise with the new five-person governing body. And as commissioners appeared without Capital Regional District (CRD) staff — and without the trappings and protocol of a formal meeting — commission chair Earl Rook emphasized that the plan was to stay on-topic to discuss services the LCC actually provides.

To that end, there was a handout at the door

for anyone unfamiliar.

"Our enabling legislation has given us certain areas of responsibility," said Rook. "We're going to go through and ask for comments specific to those."

And, it was pointed out, that same legislation also required they not advance the business of the commission meaningfully without a formal meeting structure in place.

"We're not allowed to further any commission decisions in this meeting, because this is a town hall as opposed to a business meeting," said commissioner Brian Webster. "So we can't make a deal on anything here and now."

Unsurprisingly, those who turned out Thursday night found none of this dissuading, and the LCC heard from a wide range of islanders with concerns on a broad spectrum of island topics. From

parks to parking, from liquid waste disposal to economic development, members of the public weighed in and commissioners listened eagerly, and — from time to time — tried to help fill in the histories and status of various projects.

Much of the discussion centred on Salt Spring's plans for Portlock Park — a master plan process that, despite being modelled on the seemingly successful Rainbow Road master planning procedures, left many in attendance feeling unsatisfied. While people speaking on behalf of the large baseball-playing population on the island supported a plan that would add a senior ball field to the park, several local runners felt the subsequent loss of the oval track there would be disastrous.

LCC continued on 2



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**NORTH  
SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT**

## **NSSWD WATERING RESTRICTIONS CHANGING**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT  
NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT IS IN**

## **STAGE 3 WATERING RESTRICTIONS AS OF SEPTEMBER 5, 2023**

### **Stage 3 Watering Restrictions:**

- Even addresses are permitted to water on even dates
- Odd addresses are permitted to water on odd dates

### **SPRINKLING**

- Can sprinkle between 7pm and 7am up to a maximum of 1 hour on permitted days.
- New lawns can be sprinkled during the hours stated above for 1 hour on permitted days or outside those times with a special permit.

### **MICRO OR DRIP IRRIGATION OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS**

- Can water trees, shrubs, and gardens with micro or drip irrigation before 10 am or after 5 pm up to a maximum of 3 hours on permitted days.

### **HAND WATERING OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS (with a bucket or hose with spring-loaded nozzle only)**

- Can hand water trees, shrubs, and gardens between 7 pm and 7 am up to a maximum of 2 hours on permitted days.

### **WASHING OF VEHICLES & BOATS**

- Vehicles and boats can be washed anytime using a hose or pressure washer with a spring-loaded nozzle.

### **WASHING OF DRIVEWAYS, BUILDINGS, SIDEWALKS, PARKING LOTS, PATIOS & DECKS**

- May be washed only with a special permit for the purpose of preparation for application of paint, preservative, stucco, or sealant.

### **FILLING POOLS, HOT TUBS, FOUNTAINS, & GARDEN FEATURES**

- May be topped up but not filled.

### **WATERING OF PUBLIC PARKS & PLAYING FIELDS**

- May be watered only with a special permit.

Visit the Water section for conservation tips or the Documents section to view the entire Bylaw or its overview.  
[www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://www.northsaltspringwaterworks.ca) (250) 537-9902

**Your cooperation is greatly appreciated.**  
**Every Drop Counts!**

## **EMERGENCY SERVICES**

# **Crews douse two brush fires at Mouat Park**



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Firefighter Jodi Banford soaks blackened bushes in Mouat Park near the McPhillips Avenue trailhead Wednesday, Aug. 30. A person believed to be responsible for the fires was later located and ticketed under the Wildfire Act, according to police.

## **Officials say two small burns likely human-caused**

**BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF**

A pair of small brush fires at Salt Spring's Mouat Park Wednesday, Aug. 30 were likely human-caused, according to officials, who credited quick calls from the public with helping to keep both fires contained.

Neither fire grew particularly large before being extinguished by responding firefighters, according to Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) Deputy Chief Dale Lundy, who said some fire crews had been at Portlock Park helping set up for a helicopter transport for a Lady Minto Hospital patient when they were paged out.

The initial call to respond to a brush fire on McPhillips Avenue was soon followed by reports of a second, also burning at Mouat Park. Sixteen firefighters and three apparatus responded in total, from both the fire hall and the helicopter staging area at Portlock, according to Lundy.

"As we responded to the second fire, we

had reports from eyewitnesses about a person that seemed to be responsible for the fires," said Lundy.

RCMP Cpl. Steve Davidson confirmed a Salt Spring detachment member had attended upon request from SSIFR, located and identified the person, and issued them a \$575 violation ticket under the Wildfire Act for failure to extinguish a burning substance.

Lundy said after the two fires were thoroughly extinguished, SSIFR crews carefully walked through all the park trails to ensure other fires hadn't been started.

"Fortunately it was all contained, and we were able to extinguish both," said Lundy, who added that while the creek at Mouat Park was still dry, the moisture-rich foliage around the shaded walking trails were not as fire-prone as that on much of the island.

Despite some recent rain, forest fire danger level has crept back up to "high" on Salt Spring Island — and a burn ban remains in effect, prohibiting all burning, including burn barrels and campfires. Contravention of that ban can lead to a \$1,150 fine under the Wildfire Act.

For more information on current fire conditions, visit [saltspringfire.com](http://saltspringfire.com).

# **LCC sets up office hours**

## **TOWN HALL**

*continued from 1*

Pickleball players said they felt they'd "missed out" on giving input on Rainbow Road, and now the Portlock Park engagement process seemed difficult to access online — a sentiment echoed by others who said their experiences had been similarly vexing. For example, they said, if someone didn't like any of the three park layout options in the web-based survey — or if they liked one but didn't want to rank the other two — it was unclear whether the form would even allow any further comments to be submitted.

And as each group sympathized with the next, one participant suggested — to a round of applause — that perhaps "pitting different park users against each other" to compete for space in a utilitarian format might not be the kind of collaborative process Salt Spring could be proud of.

Regardless, ultimately it will be the elected LCC that makes decisions — either informed by consultations and formal public input or, as commissioner Ben Corno put it, also remembering how they personally felt as people spoke passionately before them on particular issues.

"I don't think we'll be scoring all these things, and saying 'this checks off that box so that will be the choice,'" said Corno.

"There's a process that's ongoing, thankfully," said

Webster. "You'll be able to credit, or blame, the five of us."

One new way to reach out to LCC members will be through just-announced "office hours" that will begin today (Sept. 6), intended to be held every Wednesday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at the CRD offices — with Corno, Webster, Gayle Baker and Rook taking shifts to gather input and answer questions in person.

"It will be posted [online] and in the Driftwood," said Baker. "And we'll be there, we're going to be available. We want to listen."

The LCC's next regular meeting will be Thursday, Sept. 14 at 9 a.m. in the Salt Spring Island Multi Space boardroom on Rainbow Road.



## WATER CONSERVATION

# 'Pilot' enforcement efforts wrapping up

Budget open house set for October, water district steps down to Stage 3

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A light hand has been the word so far during the pilot enforcement project for Salt Spring's largest water provider, according to district officials.

And as the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) prepared to slide back into Stage 3 restrictions Sept. 5 — from the more constrictive Stage 4 measures in place since Aug. 4 — water board trustees are discovering there are nearly as many motivations to save water on Salt Spring as there are water meters.

The enforcement effort began last month after a short delay for coordination with the Capital Regional District (CRD) bylaw enforcement staff, contracted by NSSWD to make contact with people who seemed to not be following the restrictions.

"CRD bylaw staff basically had a list of high consumers," said district manager Mark Boysen, typically those who consume more than 20,000 gallons in two months or more. "They went around as part of their rounds."

As far as infractions, Boysen said bylaw staff called them "very rare" so far, although the pilot project would continue another week.

"They've had a couple of conversations with some residents, discussions about awareness," he said. "It's all been friendly."

Boysen told the board they could expect a fuller review next month on whether the value was there for the cost spent versus water actually saved.

"That's why it's called a pilot," said Boysen. "For the cost to us, this might not be the best place to put our efforts."

It's all part of a multi-pronged effort to nudge water users toward using less — including enforcement, higher summer rates, water restrictions and even the timing of restriction announcements. Boysen said his impression was that going into Stage 4 restrictions earlier than normal might have made a difference, but it's hard to determine what measures moved the needle for particular people.

Financial officer Tammy Lannan pointed out she'd heard from some customers who'd discovered that strictly following restriction guidelines — without further thought put into how water was being used — added up to more water than many people thought it would.

"With irrigation, you can reach 20,000 gallons [easily] with 15 to 20 minutes every other day," said Lannan.

"Hand watering uses a lot less water than drip irrigation, partly because you as a human being sometimes forget to water. People installing drip irrigation thinking it's going to save them water [automatically] are actually using more than they assumed."

Lannan said she'd heard from several customers who had reduced drip irrigation to less time and/or fewer days — and that's worked in reducing their use. Raising awareness, however, only goes so far.

"On the other side, I'm seeing some people who are on the high consumer list that are using more than they did last year, because it's been hot, and their garden is now substantial, and they don't want to lose that; they've spent all that time and water and soil and so on. So I have a feeling we're probably going to balance out in the end."

Lannan added there's a "good chunk" of consumers who simply aren't going to change their habits.

"Large property, green lawns, some of them have wells, which is great, and they supplement our water with that," said Lannan. "They're just using and will continue to use, money is not an issue for them. I don't know if we're really going to reach those people."

Regardless, the board and staff are redoubling efforts at outreach, on both conservation and water district goings-on generally. A public open house to present the coming year's budget has been set for Thursday, Oct. 5, from 3 to 6 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel by Portlock Park on Vesuvius Bay Road.

In addition to bringing details on the 2024 budget, NSSWD staff will be on-hand to fill in details for ratepayers interested in the district's five-year financial plan and strategic plan.

"This is the first time an open house has been done like this for financials," said Boysen. "We're going to make PowerPoint boards that summarize things, and have staff there to answer questions. We will put things up on boards, so people can walk around and take their time, and we'll have hard copies of more detailed information."

The same information will be available on the district's website, although the open house format doesn't lend itself well to being streamed online, Lannan said, so that would be the only "virtual" aspect to the presentation — in other words, ratepayers shouldn't expect a Zoom or Teams link.

"It's going to be a lot of information for ratepayers," said Lannan. "But I think giving them a chance to ask us questions and understand the budget a bit more is the goal."

Further engagement, mainly related to the connection moratorium "roadmap" first introduced at the district's annual general meeting in April, is likely to come at a later date, according to staff, after budgeting is firmed up.

"We're planning on having a presentation to the ratepayers in early 2024 for the Maxwell treatment plant," said Lannan. "And we'll have the customer survey starting around Oct. 20. The newsletters mailed out with bills will give people plenty of information about what's coming."

Capital Regional District

CRD

## Committee Membership Opportunity

## Surfside Park Estates Water Service Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3131, real property owners or residents in the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner, resident or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2024.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, three (3) real property owners and one (1) resident, real property owner, or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- ▶ One (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Area.
- ▶ One (1) real property owner who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

## Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Surfside Park Estates Water Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, October 2, 2023**

## Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands  
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7  
Email: [iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca](mailto:iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca)

Bylaw No. 3131 is available for viewing on the CRD website:  
[www.crd.bc.ca/surfside-ws](http://www.crd.bc.ca/surfside-ws)

Capital Regional District

CRD

## Committee Membership Opportunity

## Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Local Services Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 1875, real property owners or residents in the Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2024.

Total membership on the committee is six (6), including the Electoral Area Director, four (4) owners or residents of the Local Service Area, and the current holder or representative of the holder of Conditional Water License No. 26480.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- ▶ Two (2) owners or residents who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

## Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Local Services Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, October 2, 2023**.

## Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands  
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7  
Email: [iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca](mailto:iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca)

Bylaw No. 1875 is available for viewing on the CRD website at:  
[www.crd.bc.ca/lyallboot-ws](http://www.crd.bc.ca/lyallboot-ws)



# OPINION

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

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



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### EDITORIAL

## Time to reflect

After months of people asking if the Seabreeze Inne court case had been resolved, the answer was revealed through an Aug. 21 court filing, as detailed in our Driftwood story last week.

We think it's fair to say that the process leading to this point could not have been much rockier. It's not that anyone would have expected such a transaction to proceed smoothly, but it certainly could have gone much better than it did.

When the initial notice to vacate was given to people living at the Seabreeze Inne in the fall of 2021, Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) kindly extended the deadline, responding to public pressure about throwing people out on the street during the winter. But one incorrect assumption made was that people who have a comfortable-to-them place to live would willingly leave it in order to accommodate a "noble" use for that space — housing for hospital workers — especially a use that did not seem to be immediate.

### THE ISSUE: Seabreeze Inne legal battle

### WE SAY: Organizations need to debrief

It's another case of privileged people and institutions not understanding the challenges and reality faced by some disadvantaged individuals.

While apportioning blame publicly serves no purpose at this point, all institutional parties involved need to have a hard look at the decisions they made and actions they took. LMHF, the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation (AKA BC Housing) and Island Community Services all had a role to play in how things transpired.

Use of professional mediation services earlier in the dispute could have yielded the same result at a much earlier time and at a much reduced cost, both financially and in terms of personal stress for all involved.

Annual general meetings are coming up for both the LMHF and ICS. Boards of both bodies should make reporting out and accepting questions on the Seabreeze situation a part of those proceedings.

In the meantime, housing for hospital workers is still desperately needed. Community member Connie Gibbs has detailed the needs and how people can help in a submission on page 6. Please, if you can provide affordable housing of any duration as she describes, follow the instructions in her article and help make a much-valued contribution to your community.

PARKER



## Dance club recommended

By REUBEN KAUFMAN

The Scottish Country Dance (SCD) Club on our island will be hosting a few open nights over the coming months (on Sept. 11 and 18, and Jan. 22) to introduce the activity to the wider community. I encourage you to participate in these dance sessions even if you've never done SCD before. Here's why.

My wife Susan and I had done a year of ballroom dancing before moving to Salt Spring Island from Alberta in 2012. But with my very limited dancing ability I really didn't want to continue it. Susan was raised in Scotland and the north of England, so she had had exposure to SCD. At some point she learned about our local club and wanted to take up SCD again. She suggested that I join the club with her, but I wasn't interested. But finally I agreed, thinking that it would be an activity that we could share.

I was really taken by it at the very first session I attended! Why? First, I really liked the music. And unlike other social dancing, which encourages a lot of improvisation, each named Scottish country dance has a set sequence of phrase patterns, and I really preferred this to improvisation, maybe because of my science background! Don't get me wrong; I'm not in the least against the principle of dance improvisation; it just doesn't appeal to me for some reason.

### VIEWPOINT

**This development of memory is unlike other forms of dancing/activities because of how fast everything happens in a dance.**

In the end, although I am low on the scale of footwork technique, I can at least dance the correct rhythm and get to the right place at the right time. And my fellow club members and our teacher give me constant encouragement.

SCD requires memory and recall. This development of memory is unlike other forms of dancing/activities because of how fast everything happens in a dance. We have to remember formats and we also have to be quick to change from one format to another.

SCD also develops social awareness. We aren't dancing as individual couples. In SCD the dances are formatted to sets of three or four couples; it is the formatting of multiple couples that defines the look of each dance. So one has to consider one's actions in relation to all the dancers (not just one's partner). The social interaction we have during dance sessions is also a very special feeling.

So, Salt Springers, give participation in our open night sessions a serious consideration for the coming year. You can join any session as an individual throughout the year. I'm sure that at least for some of you, SCD will have such a positive impact on your life.

*The writer is secretary of the Scottish Country Dance Club of Salt Spring Island.*

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Do you plan to attend this year's Salt Spring Fall Fair?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Have you been personally affected by ferry cancellations?**

55 82  
NO YES

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

### Portlock Park plan and survey disappoints

In the Aug. 23 edition of the Driftwood, a letter to the editor from Susan Gordon commented on Portlock Park's updated possible plans.

As a walker, I use the track consistently as part of my exercise plan and have done so for many years. In looking at the three choices for the reconstruction plans for the park, I chose one that seemed aesthetically pleasing and interesting for my needs. However, in reading Susan Gordon's letter, I realized that my decision was made in the absence of some important information. Evidently, should the final plan configure the track NOT in an oval, many important outcomes of a standard track would no longer be available to Salt Spring runners — those who run for fun, but more importantly, those who train seriously for races and sports opportunities in other centres beyond Salt Spring, including internationally.

I am astounded and very disappointed that a company of designers/planners who supposedly have been charged with recreating a facility specifically for the needs of Salt Springers would include options that will seriously undermine or prevent our athletes getting proper train-

ing and competing as they would wish.

And now, I wonder how I can change my choice of option to one that will suit everyone's needs more appropriately!

**JOI FREED-GARROD,**  
SALT SPRING

### Accident report missed

My husband Ross Van Winckel and I were disappointed that no mention of Ross' accident appeared in the Aug. 23 edition of the Driftwood.

This accident occurred at the bottom of our laneway at 410 Fulford-Ganges Rd. just after noon on Aug. 18.

Ross was on his motorcycle returning from the village and was slowing down in preparation to begin his turn. He was then struck by a vehicle that appeared to be passing him on the right. Ambulance, police and paramedics responded. Traffic was diverted down Beddis Road and down Arnell Way.

Ross was taken to Lady Minto Hospital and then flown to Victoria General for treatment of his leg injury.

The orthopaedic surgeon described his injury as "a catastrophic crash injury." After a four-day hospital stay, surgery and lots of steel in his leg, Ross is now at home. He is facing a long and difficult recovery of at least 12 weeks. All this because someone

was in a hurry to get somewhere.

It has impacted our lives tremendously. I have multiple sclerosis with extreme mobility problems. Ross is my primary caregiver. He did all the shopping and all the cooking, as well as helping me move from place to place. He also walked our much-loved dog every day. Our friends have stepped in to help as much as they can, but it's still a lot to deal with.

**GAIL VAN WINCKEL,**  
SALT SPRING

### Rogers warning

As a result of the Rogers takeover of Shaw I no longer have cell-phone service and my number is not accessible to me.

Rogers has harassed me with emails and phone calls telling me that I MUST transfer my account from Shaw to Rogers. I finally acquiesced and installed the new SIM card on Aug. 23, only to find that Rogers cannot actually provide the service I had or any service at all.

It has been nearly two weeks and I just get emails saying their technical team are "working on it." None of the service representatives can help me as it is an infrastructure issue. I believe it may be related to the sale of Freedom, so Rogers does not have access to the Freedom infrastructure that Shaw used. Rogers should have known this before hassling me to transfer.

They also need to make this good. I am shut out of two-factor authentication,

What's App and other services that require my cell-phone number. I have lodged a complaint with the CRTC and am now warning anyone who was a satisfied Shaw customer to be very, very careful about switching to Rogers.

**CAROLE EYLES,**  
MORNINGSIDE ROAD

### Elation and fury

I was elated to see the Aug. 30 "Seabreeze court dispute settled" Driftwood article.

I noted with, I admit a touch of fury, Rob Grant's ironic comment that "One non-profit suing another is ridiculous."

I would say that what was beyond ridiculous — absolutely appalling — is that the hospital foundation was put into a position where it saw taking legal action as its only option.

We can add to that the fact that the hospital was trying to provide accommodation for sorely needed personnel and had not only given the occupants at 101 Bittan-court Road a lot of time to find alternative space but had even arranged through BC Housing for rental space to be erected for them close to town. Surely the human rights of an entire community trump the pseudo rights of a few people.

**TOBY FOUKS,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 6

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"They are so excited that they found a place to park, and I tell them they have to be gone by 4:30 or I'm in big trouble!"

GAYLE BAKER, LCC MEMBER MANNING ARTSPRING PARKING LOT ON SATURDAYS

## Excess packaging takes newsprint's place in damaging the planet

I don't think I've ever knowingly hugged a tree. I've walked into them occasionally and have even cut down one or two in my time, which isn't going to earn me any Brownie points, but they were in the way and I own a chainsaw.

My first job after leaving school at 16 or 17 was as a probationary assistant to the Bucks County Forestry Officer, an ordinarily jovial man who was considerably friendlier to trees than he was to a lethargic teenager, and there was a (short) time when I fancied myself as a hairy-chested lumberjack and could distinguish Robinia Pseudoacacia from Quercus Robur, but not much else.

In the end, I didn't much take to forestry, which would have involved actual physical labour, and in any case I spent most of my time in a drab office drawing tiny trees on a map of the county to mark tree preservation orders. So, in my small way, I was saving trees and therefore the planet 60 years ahead of Greta Thunberg, but no one ever nominated me for a Nobel prize.

Unfortunately, the County Forestry Officer, despite being a man of

the fresh air, gumboots and rolling countryside, was also a chain-smoker and decided he needed an assistant with some knowledge of trees, who wasn't chronically allergic to hard work and would be able to pay proper attention to the county's coppices and woodlands when the boss's emphysema got the better of him. And I didn't qualify on any account, so forestry's loss was journalism's gain.

This is not to say I don't like trees, of course. I like them a lot provided they keep their distance and don't block my view, although I'm not wild about the arbutus, which are like messy arboriform teenagers, forever dropping their leaves, flowers and stuff all over the place. Worse still, in these abrasive, oppressive summers that seem to be an inescapable result of global warming, trees have become a potential hazard. Now, instead of breathing a sigh of pastoral euphoria at the sight of a million-million trees from my back deck, I worry that I don't have an emergency suitcase ready to go or how I am going to persuade the cats to abandon the habits of a lifetime and actually



**Paul McElroy**  
+ ANOTHER THING

do what I ask them and get in the damned carry cage.

The irony of what could loosely be described as my working life is that I began by preserving trees but wound up in an industry that devoured them. When I joined the Daily Express newspaper in London in the pre-internet 1980s it sold slightly more than four million copies a day, six days a week, while its sister paper the Sunday Express sold another four million. The Daily Mirror, when I joined it 25 years ago, sold three or four million copies a day and its two sister papers, the Sunday Mirror and People, sold millions more at the weekend. And that's at least, ooh, a small forest of trees a day...

The decline of print newspapers over the years has been relentless

and when the internet arrived it was a virtual coup de grâce, so while the forests and their guardians breathed a small sigh of relief, journalists tore their hair out and turned to more drink.

But even as the near-death of the printed word made inroads into the longevity of the planet, it was never going to be enough because where the media retreated, the grocers took over. Of all the jobs I put off doing, the one I put off doing the most is recycling, but as a good and conscientious citizen of Planet Earth, I've just come back from making the irregular and reluctant trip to Rainbow Road where I upcycled at least an Amazon Basin's worth of paper, cardboard and drink cartons, which now must be sorted into drinkables and non-drinkables.

I don't know about you, but I'm inclined to drink half-and-half rather than rub it into my skin or paint the ceiling with it, but for some reason, it doesn't qualify as a drink and goes into a different box! I bought some almond and coconut milk recently and you can take it from me, that doesn't qualify as a drink either, but rightly or wrongly

it goes with the drinkables.

I don't know how it was over here 60 years ago, but over there, when I was a much, much younger man, the butcher would wrap, say, a pound of calf's liver and a couple of lamb chops in a sheet of newspaper, take your 10 bob, give you 56d change and you'd be on your way. A loaf of bread would be wrapped in newspaper, as would your fish and chips from the local chippy. Your pound of Brussels sprouts and a cauliflower from the greengrocer would go straight into the string bag you'd bought with you. Recycling at its most fundamental.

Today, on the other hand, if you buy a paper clip from Amazon it will likely come double-wrapped in a package big enough to house a family of four. And don't get me started on packets of biscuits. Cellophane, cardboard box, more cellophane, plastic box — and by the time you've reached something to dunk in your tea, you've filled another recycling bin and hammered one more small nail into the planet's coffin.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca



# Renting to hospital staff easy and encouraged

BY CONNIE GIBBS

As a hospice society volunteer, I visit patients in Lady Minto Hospital (LMH) every week.

Frequently I notice new faces among the staff. These are the temporary staff: nurses and health care assistants who travel from outside the community to support our hospital and local staff. It's Heather Stone's job to ensure health care staff are recruited, welcomed, housed and supported so Lady Minto can continue to provide the care people need.

"Affordable accommodation supplied by Salt Spring homeowners is a huge, huge part of welcoming health care workers into the community," says Heather Stone. "If temporary staff have a good housing experience, they are more likely to return which means our orientation efforts were put to good use."

Staff travelling from out of community to support LMH include licensed practical nurses, registered nurses and health care assistants.

In order to house temporary staff, Heather Stone must find affordably priced accommodation that can range from two weeks to multiple months depending on the contract length.

The proximity to Lady Minto is important because the majority of temporary staff do not have access to a vehicle while working locally. The bus schedule on our island doesn't match well with shift schedules at the hospital.

Caren Fennell works in the Acute Care Unit. She has been renting her suite to temporary nurses and health care assistants for over a year.

"It's been a good experience for us. The six hospital staff who have used our suite at

## INDEPTH

different times have all been respectful and nice. We can keep using the suite for family visitors, and help the hospital too."

It's not just temporary staff that need accommodation. The hospital is always looking for affordable long-term housing for permanent health care staff. The Lady Minto Hospital Foundation has set up a housing information portal, a password protected webpage only accessible to current or prospective Island Health staff. Homeowners can submit their listing to the portal and staff would reach out directly about housing. Homeowners can submit their rental listings to: [ladymintofoundation.com/projects/hip/portal](http://ladymintofoundation.com/projects/hip/portal).

Requirements for short-term

housing include:

- Fully furnished;
- within a 10-minute walk or drive to LMH;
- kitchen, bathroom, bedroom, internet and utilities.

Heather reminds me that health care staff include a long list of positions beyond doctors and nurses: lab and medical imaging technicians, lab assistants, administration, physiotherapists, rehab assistants, activity assistants, social workers, health records clerks, admitting clerks, nursing unit clerks, housekeepers, laundry, maintenance and kitchen workers. These positions are "absolutely imperative to the functioning of the hospital," according to Heather.

It's stating the obvious to say there is a worldwide health care staffing shortage as well as a housing crisis and there are no quick fixes. Doesn't it make sense for Salt Spring homeowners

to do everything possible to support Lady Minto staff? I don't have additional housing but I can offer my house (and be remunerated) whenever we take a vacation just in case our empty house might match a temporary housing need at Lady Minto.

It will take a community effort from those who have the resources to help house temporary and permanent health care staff working at Lady Minto Hospital. We can't simply wait for new construction of workforce rental accommodation. It's taking far too long.

If you can help with long-term or short-term housing for hospital staff, submit your listing on the LMH Foundation website listed above or contact Heather Stone at Lady Minto Hospital through the Google form at the following short link to see if your suite is a good fit: [bit.ly/3KcNRmF](http://bit.ly/3KcNRmF).

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

### Well users beware

As periods of extreme heat and drought become more frequent and undeveloped lots continue to be filled in, one wonders if there will be enough groundwater to go around in the years ahead.

Island wells draw from a fractured rock aquifer that fills and drains yearly. In most cases, it isn't known how wide the cracks are, how far they extend, or how many wells tap into each one.

Despite great uncertainties regarding climate change and the amount of water in the ground, the Salt Spring Local Trust Commit-

tee (LTC) has proposed Bylaw 530 to allow thousands of additional lots to have either a secondary suite or a cottage, supposedly for affordable rentals.

In 2008, when our existing official community plan was adopted, the island's population at build-out, when all existing lots are developed, was projected to be "a little over 17,000," about 5,000 more than today. According to a recent staff report, draft Bylaw 530 is "inconsistent with official community plan policy on infrastructure and servicing, especially on the supply of water unless supported by data analysis." Since that analysis has not been done, and given climate change unknowns, the LTC is putting groundwater supplies at risk. Trustees' argument that few units will be built is misleading as the housing

data they use is based on short-term studies.

There is no guarantee the suites and cottages will go to affordable housing or island workers. Many will no doubt be used as illegal short-term vacation rentals or for family members.

Assurances that there will be "proof of water" ring hollow. Yes, every applicant must submit a report from a professional (paid for by the property owner). But the duration and timing of the pumping are left to the professional who is not required to assess the impact on surrounding wells.

A key part of our official community plan is the precautionary principle, which cites "a duty to take anticipatory action to prevent harm." Why is it being ignored?

Please write to our three LTC trustees at [ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca) and ask that they not proceed with this ill-conceived bylaw. We already have over 100 units of

purpose-built affordable housing on the island with more on the way. Trustees must not gamble with Salt Spring's present and future water supplies.

PHIL BYSHER,  
SALT SPRING

### People ignore crosswalks

I see more crosswalks are wanted to keep the pedestrians safe.

Well, the crosswalks we have aren't used very often — so what happens to those people — do they get ticketed?

KISHORI HUTCHINGS,  
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 7

Capital Regional District



#### Committee Membership Opportunity

##### Skana Water Service Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3133, real property owners or residents in the Skana Water Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner, resident or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2024.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, three (3) real property owners and one (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- ▶ One (1) resident or real property owner who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.
- ▶ One (1) resident, real property owner or other person who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

**Nomination Instructions:** when submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Skana Water Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, October 2, 2023.**

#### Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands  
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7  
Email: [iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca](mailto:iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca)

Bylaw No. 3133 is available for viewing on the CRD website at:  
[www.crd.bc.ca/skana-ws](http://www.crd.bc.ca/skana-ws)

Capital Regional District



#### Committee Membership Opportunity

##### Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2558, real property owners in the Sticks Allison Water Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2024.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, and four (4) owners of real property within the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following vacancies:

- ▶ Two (2) real property owners who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

#### Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, clearly print the committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Monday, October 2, 2023.**

#### Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands  
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7  
Email: [iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca](mailto:iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca)

Bylaw No. 2558 is available for viewing on the CRD website at:  
[www.crd.bc.ca/sticks-ws](http://www.crd.bc.ca/sticks-ws)





PHOTOS BY JANET DWYER

From left, Maureen Bryson with the quilt she made for a Help Ukraine SSI raffle, and the happy winners Merrill and Tracy Logan.

## Help Ukraine gratitude

A most sincere appreciation to those who bought and donated to the Help Ukraine Salt Spring Island raffle.

There were questions about our display. The flag at the table, with a large Thank You and painted thumb-print hearts, was sent to us from a children's home in Lviv. The quilt, a blue ribbon winner at the last Salt Spring Fall Fair, was much admired: sky blue with yellow sunflowers and generously donated by Maureen Bryson. Some people spoke of their Ukrainian heritage, often a grandmother and her cooking. The winning ticket was held by Merrill and Tracy Logan.

In total, 1,468 raffle tickets were bought and in addition, \$1,771.55 was received in donations.

Thank you, Maureen, for giving us the lovely quilt, Country Grocer for the table and space, the Salt Spring Jazz and Blues Society for allowing us at your Sunday jam sessions, and most heartfelt, the generous islanders.

**VICTORIA OLCHOWECKI,**  
HELP UKRAINE SSI

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

### Boost cycling

I asked a Vancouver cyclist I met recently on Saturna Island if she cycled on Salt Spring. She said she'd never cycle on Salt Spring again because it's not safe: vehicles drive by too fast and there's not enough room for cyclists on the roads.

This made me think that as near-by areas like Metro Vancouver, the Cowichan Valley and the Greater Victoria portions of the Capital Regional District improve their cycling infrastructure and safety, Salt Spring is less and less attractive to cycle tourists. That's a shame because cycle tourists are climate-friendly visitors.

The provincial government needs to invest in wide road shoulders from Fulford Harbour to Vesuvius, post slower speed limits and educate drivers about safety. And soon.

Help by joining Island Pathways and signing the petition on the islandpathways.ca website.

**STEVE NEW,**  
SALT SPRING

### History repeats

The following is addressed to BIPOC members of the Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group, in response to last week's Driftwood article about the group's termination, and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

You are standing on the unbowed and unbroken shoulders of the first year-round residents of Salt Spring Island. Namely, the free Blacks from Northern California who, fleeing oppression in the U.S., cleared the heavily forested, cougar-laden terrain of the island in the late 1850s and effectively made Salt Spring habitable for the generations

who've since called it home.

The industrious Black folk from California arrived in B.C. at the express invitation of then provincial governor James Douglas, who, quiet as it has been kept, boasted mixed race ancestry himself.

Do not ever allow white folks of any station to disrespect, demean or marginalize your communal voice, vision, views and lived experiences as people of colour on the Southern Gulf Islands. Those ready to confront their part in white supremacy/white fragility as evidenced by some members of the SD 64 board should read, among other works by Canadian authors: The Skin We're In by Desmond Cole, Whiteout: How Canada Cancels Blackness by George Elliott Clarke and Five Little Indians by Michelle Good.

In solidarity,  
**EVELYN C. WHITE AND**  
**JOANNE BEALY,**  
AUTHORS, EVERY GOODBYE AIN'T GONE: A PHOTO NARRATIVE OF BLACK HERITAGE ON SALT SPRING ISLAND,  
HALIFAX, NS

### PROBUS explained

What is PROBUS? Everybody always asks.

PROBUS is an international group of autonomous social clubs for retired and semi-retired people who enjoy getting together regularly for a variety of talks, discussions, meals, entertainment and fun. Started (1965) in the U.K. by a group of retired Rotary Club members who had done their years of community service work but wanted to retain the fellowship with their friends after they retired. Today there are 4,500 clubs worldwide, almost 260 here in Canada (with 35,000 members) and almost 50 in B.C. alone.

The Salt Spring Island PROBUS Club started in 2008, and has been meeting for 15 years now, providing monthly speakers, day trips, dinners and other

social events for its members. The club suffered terribly under COVID-19, as our members missed the in-person fellowship and did not get used to the "Zoom" format of meetings. Club membership suffered an enormous loss, but we are back in strength now and ready to start again.

It is hard to summarize 15 years of talks, but previous speakers have included many lecturers from the University of Victoria and local characters such as Valdy, Arthur Black and Robert Bateman. We have had group dinners at every restaurant on the island (at least twice) and many off-island. We have had day trips to visit wineries in the Cowichan Valley, the Raptor Centre and catch performances at the Cowichan Theatre in Duncan and the Festival Theatre in Chemainus.

Join us at 10 a.m. on Tuesday, Sept. 12 at the Lions Club Hall to hear Peter Grant, manager of the Salt Spring Island Recycling Depot, explain the history and future of recycling on the island. Fresh coffee will be ready at 10 a.m., so come enjoy the speaker and stay after the presentation to meet some of our members (some of whom you will probably know) and join us as we start to get our club back "into gear."

This meeting is free to all who come, but we will again start to collect annual membership fees for 2024, and keep them at a reduced price of just \$25 for the first year.

**BRUCE LOGAN,**  
FOR SSI PROBUS CLUB



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## Rants + ROSES

### Roses

• Salt Spring Arts is sending baskets of beautiful wild roses to our incredible community for supporting this year's Summer Outdoor Concert Series. We were blown away by the attendance each week, and the overwhelmingly positive response to the performances. Thank you to our marquee presenters, Salt Spring Country Grocer and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union.

Thank you also to our series sponsors and funders: Chasm Audio, the Driftwood, Harbour House Hotel, Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce, SaltyPay, the Province of British Columbia, the SOCAN Foundation and the Salt Spring Island Foundation, and our community supporters: BC Ferries, CRD, Harvest Moon Cannabis, Country Grocer Pharmacy and Upper Ganges Liquor Store. See you again in 2024!

• A gigantic bucket of gratitude roses for all our friends who have been so supportive and kind since Ross' horrible accident on Aug. 18. No one could ask for better friends. *Gail Van Winckel*



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# 2023 Fall Fair

## Entertainment & Events Schedule

Spring Island Farmers' Institute Fair Grounds • 351 Rainbow Road

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

◆ THE ◆

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10

### FALL FAIR

EST. *Salt Spring* 1896

.....Admission gates open  
Indoor judging

Start of livestock judging  
continues all day

.....Commercial vendors &  
exhibitors open

Free bus shuttle from town  
to/from the fairgrounds

Food concessions open  
Games open

Now - See on-site signage

.....Annie & Chris

.....Raven Barn Band

Indoor sections open in the  
Main Building

Sawmill Demonstration  
Blacksmith Demo ongoing

Ruwadzano Marimba  
Band

Sheep Dog Demonstration

.....Chicken races

12:00 ..... Livestock judging continues

♪ 12:10-12:40 ..... Hilltop Pranksters

♪ 12:50-1:30 ..... Salome Cullen

12:30 ..... Threshing Demonstration

1:00 ..... Zucchini Races

♪ 1:45-2:15 ..... Caoimhe Merrick Trio

2:00 ..... Tractor Pull

2:30 ..... Sheep Dog Demonstration

♪ 2:30-3:00 ..... Pepperfall

3:00 ..... Sawmill Demonstration

♪ 3:15-4:00 ..... Doug and the Buds

3:45 ..... Chicken races

♪ 4:20-5:00 ..... Rough and Tumble

5:00 ..... Gates closed

7:30 ..... Admission gates open

9:00-10:30 ..... Admittance to the Main  
Building. Open only to people with  
special needs and residents  
of Senior Facilities

9:00 ..... Commercial vendors &  
exhibitors open

10:00 ..... Pet Parade registration

10:00-6:00 ..... Free bus shuttle to/from  
fairgrounds / Food concessions  
open / Games open

♪ 10:00-11:15 ..... Alan Moberg

10:30 ..... Indoor exhibits open to all  
fair-goers

♪ 11:25-11:55 ..... Terry Warbey and Gordo

11:00 ..... Pet Parade  
Sawmill Demonstration  
Blacksmith Demo ongoing  
Most fragrant rose judged

11:30 ..... Sheep Dog Demonstration

12:00 ..... Chicken races

♪ 12:05-12:35 ..... Edgar Hann, Em  
Walker and Adam Huber

12:30 ..... Threshing Demonstration

♪ 12:50-1:30 ..... Valdy

1:00 ..... Zucchini Races

♪ 1:40-2:20 ..... Everyday People

1:45 ..... Longest lasting rose bloom  
& dahlia announced

2:00 ..... Tractor Pull  
Rooster Calling Contest

2:30 ..... Sheep Dog Demonstration

♪ 2:40-3:20 ..... Marianne Grittani Quartet

3:00 ..... Sawmill  
Demonstration

3:00 ..... Rotary Club  
Muffin Madness

♪ 3:30-4:10 ..... Kathy Stack with Tom  
Bowler & Bob Delion

3:45 ..... Chicken races

3:00-5:00 ..... Prize money may be  
collected behind  
the main building

♪ 4:20-5:00 ..... David Carl

♪ 5:15-6:00 ..... Subdude

5:00-6:00 ..... All entries must  
be removed (not earlier)

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at the  
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**he Fair!**

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## ART SHOW

# 2020 Vision now open

Paintings by  
Jeff Lederman  
and Margaret  
Sullivan poetry

Salt Spring Island will witness a unique collaboration between renowned abstract expressionist Jeff Lederman and poet Margaret Sullivan at the 2020 Vision Exhibition at the ArtSpring Gallery from Sept. 6 to 18.

The show will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. with an opening reception on Saturday, Sept. 9 from 4 to 6 p.m.

According to press material, the exhibit will showcase 20 large-scale paintings by Lederman, who is known to many as the founder of the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre. The show's artworks capture both



Jeff Lederman studio with abstract paintings displayed.

new developments in his work and some of his timeless classics. Complementing the paintings are Sullivan's poetry, each crafted in response to the paintings, offering attendees a thought-provoking, multi-disciplinary experience.

With very few excep-

tions, both Lederman and Sullivan will be present to engage with attendees, answer questions and share insights into their creative journey.

Beyond the creative works, the story of Lederman and Sullivan is one of passion, collaboration and rediscovery. From their early days in Chicago, where their combined creativity produced iconic works, to their individual journeys and eventual reunion, their personal story adds a layer of depth to the exhibit. Today, as a married couple, they continue to inspire and support each other, channeling their creativity into various projects and their initiative to support undiscovered poets.

For more details about the 2020 Vision Exhibition and to explore the works of Lederman and Sullivan, visit studiojeff.net.

## ARTS FACILITIES

# ArtSpring parking lot use sees end-of-summer pilot

LCC member personally  
staffs lot above ArtSpring  
for Saturday Market

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Some island visitors braving the busy summertime Salt Spring Saturday Market crowds recently have found a small miracle: a great place to park.

"Five Saturdays now," laughed Local Community Commission (LCC) member Gayle Baker, who has been "staffing" the locked chain at the usually closed parking lot above the ArtSpring theatre building on Seaview. "It's full by 10:30 a.m., and then they leave, and even more come."

Baker was handed the keys through a trial arrangement with ArtSpring, with a promise to personally attend to people parking there — and to take responsibility for clearing them out if they don't leave at the end of the day, including agreeing to pay for a tow truck if it became necessary. ArtSpring — as the Island Arts Centre Society — leases the entire property, including the second uphill lot, from the Capital Regional District (CRD); that arrangement was first laid out in the 1990s when the society transferred ownership of its land holdings there to the district.

Baker said people have been so grateful to find a spot, they quickly agree to her pleadings to ensure they leave in time — and they've all followed through, allowing her to lock up an empty lot each evening.

"I figure it's 140 to 150 people, mostly tourists," said Baker, who spoke at length about her weekend adventures during the recent LCC town hall meeting. "They are so excited that they found a place to park, and I tell them they have to be gone by 4:30 or I'm in big trouble!"

The lot is used for overflow parking on busy performance nights at ArtSpring, but otherwise sits empty and chained-off — and not unintentionally, according to CRD Director Gary Holman.

"The reason it was originally closed off is that it had become something of a parking lot for RVs," said Holman, many of which had left trash behind. "The key is to manage it; ArtSpring doesn't have the staff to take that on, so Gayle has pointed the way."

Baker said she'd been the "Saturday attendant" without compensation, but apparently some visitors looking to park thought otherwise.

"It's been the funniest thing," laughed Baker. "One person absolutely insisted on giving me \$20. So when I give back the keys next week, I'm going to give ArtSpring that \$20."

The future of the lot is uncertain, although LCC members have said securing off-street parking around Ganges will need to happen before any further improvements are made to streets there — particularly those that might reduce the number of curbside spaces. Commissioners are hopeful that Seaview lot will be part of the solution.

"Gayle's demonstrated that if you manage it properly, it will be fully utilized," said Holman. "Particularly Saturdays."

**"The reason it was originally closed off is that it had become something of a parking lot for RVs."**

GARY HOLMAN  
Salt Spring CRD director

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BALLET KELOWNA PHOTO BY EMILY COOPER.



# ISLAND LIFE



PHOTO COURTESY RICHARD ELWELL

**CAN'T MISS HIM:** A male Roosevelt elk is seen in the back yard of Broadwell Road property owners Richard Elwell and Sue Kernaghan on Aug. 29. The animal, which is not native to Salt Spring Island and would have swam over from Vancouver Island, has been seen by a number of people in the north end of Salt Spring over the past few weeks. Elwell took the photo with his iPhone on telephoto setting and estimates he could get within about 30 feet of the elk. "He was much more wary than our local deer," he said.

## BOOKS

# Death Calls author gives presentation at library

Bob Crossland memoir details two decades spent as coroner

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Retired community coroner Dr. Robert (Bob) Crossland will be at the library Tuesday, Sept. 12 from 7 to 9 p.m. with a presentation accompanying the launch of his new book, *Death Calls: A Coroner's Memoir*.

With more than 20 years' experience in the position, Crossland attended 600-plus unexpected deaths — from natural causes to accidents to criminal investigations — and his job took him to every corner of his Salt Spring Island home and beyond, all in service of an attempt to sort out the "who, when, where, how and why" of unexpected deaths.

"I've dealt with scuba diving, airplane crashes, boats, people falling in the harbour, house fires," said Crossland. "Quite a few circumstances."

Balancing running a medical practice with coroner duties wasn't always easy, he said, nor was attending to deaths in a small community — a personal connection to the deceased was practically inevitable — and Crossland said he'd mostly put the experiences away in his mind after retiring.

"My way of dealing with it at the time was to talk to my wife, to diffuse things," said Crossland. "She was very patient."

But shortly before passing away two years ago, she had suggested he write his memoirs, Crossland said — initially for his grandchildren, to know more about the work he'd dedicated so much of his life to. And as the writing progressed, it started to become apparent there might be a wider audience.

"Friends said, 'well, can we see it?'" chuckled Crossland. "People are interested in death; they're curious about the how and why, and how do we determine that."

Most coroners in B.C. — particularly, he said, when Crossland was on the job — aren't usually doctors. They came from a variety of backgrounds, from various public and private service jobs to law enforcement.

"And police look at things differently than doctors,"

said Crossland. "We both maybe divide the world in two, but police are looking for good guys and bad guys; doctors are looking for the sick or the healthy."

Crossland's path to becoming a coroner seems circuitous, he admitted, but it ultimately helped make him better at the work. Starting as an army officer, he went to Royal Military College, then UBC as a chemical engineer — going to work on nuclear reactors at the Chalk River laboratories in Ontario.

"I was a reactor operations engineer; our job was to keep the reactors running," said Crossland. "Then I went into medicine, did psychiatry for a couple of years, then internal medicine and became a consultant in internal medicine."

"That is not a common path," he said. "But it also gave me an ability to think like an engineer — how do things work? And why?"

That inquisitiveness — and a bit of happenstance — led to Crossland answering the call for a community coroner in 1981 in Powell River. The man he was replacing, he said, was a jeweller by trade.

"And his grandson eventually married my daughter," he laughed. "That's what happens in a small community."

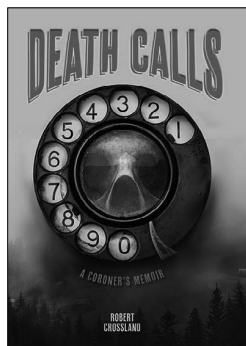
The second part of his career as a coroner began in the Gulf Islands in the 1990s — where he responded by car and boat to hundreds of scenes of loss, tragedy and sometimes mystery.

"There were some true surprises," said Crossland. "Something right out of left field that you'd never expect. Some real mysteries. But our job was to determine the facts."

Crossland's book launch presentation will go over just a few of the more notable cases, he said, including a plane crash, an unfortunate logging incident, and others; he said there will naturally be scenes of — and discussion about — death, but framed to inform rather than to shock.

"I'm going to show slides about the circumstances," he said, "mostly to give people an understanding of how unusual they can be."

There will also be exhibits of typical coroner's reports, as well as those from formal inquests and specialist investigators. For more information about the book, visit the [deathcalls.ca](http://deathcalls.ca) website.



Cover of new book by Robert Crossland.

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## The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will be holding a:

What: Town Hall Meeting

When: September 14, 2023, from 7:00pm to 9:00pm.

Where: The Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road.

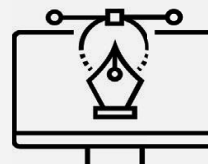
Why: To present:

- the draft 2024 Budget
- the 5-year Strategic Plan
- an update on the new fire hall construction

The Board of Trustees, Chief Administrative Officer, Fire Chief, and the new fire hall Project Steering Committee will make presentations and receive feedback from the public in attendance.

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## FOOD SECURITY

# Land sharing workshop digs in

Farmland Trust, Young Agrarians match farmers with land

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island farmers looking for land — and landholders seeking farmers — should join an upcoming workshop co-presented by the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust and the Young Agrarians.

The two groups will present a BC Land Matching Program (BCLMP) Land Linking workshop Sunday, Sept. 17, from 1 to 5 p.m. at The Root, 189 Beddis Rd. The workshop is meant to cover the “nuts and bolts” of land

access, with organizers hoping to bring together landholders and farmers seeking land to network, explore possible land matches, and learn how to navigate land sharing and lease agreements.

Vancouver Island Land Matcher Kiyomi Ito will be there to talk about how the BCLMP supports land seekers and landholders, and share key questions to ask, legal considerations, and how to build and maintain stable land agreements that are mutually beneficial.

Members of the Farmland Trust will be there to talk about the land access context specific to Salt Spring Island.

The second half of the workshop will transition into the weekly food share potluck, which continues to run from 3 to 5 p.m. at The Root. These weekly

“bring what you have, take what you need” gatherings will continue every Sunday through Oct. 15, where the local food community comes together to share and swap food they have harvested, build stronger relationships, learn skills and gain knowledge related to local food growing, harvesting, and processing.

Gardeners place what they have brought on tables with labels. Each participant shares a short description to introduce what they are offering, then the group browses the selections, taking what they want or need. Any food left over after the sharing is either donated to Island Community Services or processed in the kitchen.

To RSVP for the workshop, visit the youngagrarians.org/saltspring-land-link/ website.

## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

SEPTEMBER 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
6	0341	0.8	2.6	10	0736	0.9	3.0
WE	1203	2.9	9.5		1603	3.2	10.5
ME	1542	2.7	8.9	SU	2145	2.6	8.5
	2024	3.0	9.8	DI			
7	0436	0.8	2.6	11	0028	2.7	8.9
TH	1331	3.1	10.2		0824	0.9	3.0
JE	1810	2.8	9.2	MO	1634	3.2	10.5
	2049	2.9	9.5	LU	2205	2.5	8.2
8	0537	0.9	3.0	12	0140	2.7	8.9
FR	1435	3.2	10.5		0906	0.9	3.0
VE				TU	1658	3.1	10.2
				MA	2225	2.4	7.9
9	0639	0.9	3.0		0240	2.7	8.9
	1524	3.2	10.5		0943	1.0	3.3
SA	2123	2.7	8.9	WE	1716	3.1	10.2
	2259	2.7	8.9	ME	2246	2.2	7.2

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# what's on this week

Wed.

Sept. 6

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Tea à Tempo: Sue Newman and Monik Nordine.** 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.

### ACTIVITIES

**Local Community Commission Office Hours.** Chat with a commission member at the CRD office at 108-121 McPhillips Ave. between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.  
**Bittancourt Museum.** Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
**Music Bingo.** Moby's Pub. 8 to 10:30 p.m.

Thur.

Sept. 7

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Morien Jones.** Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Poetry Open Mic.** With guest poet Kelsey Andrews. Salt Spring library program room. 7 p.m.  
**Open Mic.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.  
**Craig's Karaoke.** At Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. to midnight.  
**Blue Bayou.** Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Bittancourt Museum.** See Wed. listing.

Fri.

Sept. 8

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Fridays With DJ Boomtown.** Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m.  
**The Barefoot Thieves.** Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.  
**Caleb Hart and Band.** Mateada Social Club. 9 p.m. to midnight.  
**Karaoke.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Youth Games & Chess Club.** For ages 9 to 13. Children's area at the library. 1 to 4 p.m.  
**Friday Game Night.** For ages 13 to 21. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Fri.

Sept. 8

### ACTIVITIES

**Neighbourhood Story Time.** Stories for young ones read by community members or library staff in the library's children's area every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.  
**ASK Salt Spring.** LCC commissioner Brian Webster is the scheduled guest in the SIMS courtyard or lobby. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sat.

Sept. 9

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Islanders Hot Club.** Mateada Social Club. 8 to 11 p.m.  
**Chonka.** Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Fall Fair.** Farmers' Institute grounds. See schedule on pages 8-9.  
**Saturday Market in the Park.** Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Sun.

Sept 10

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Blues Jam.** For players and music fans. Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.  
**Vixx.** Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Alan Moberg.** Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Fall Fair.** Farmers' Institute grounds. See schedule on pages 8-9.

Mon.

Sept. 11

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Wesley Hardisty & Charlie Gannon.** Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Tue.

Sept. 12

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Ashton Bachman & Guest.** Lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.  
**TBA** at the Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Tue.

Sept. 12

### ACTIVITIES

**PROBUS Club of Salt Spring Island.** Guest speaker is Peter Grant, recycling depot program manager. Lions Hall. 10 a.m. Public welcome.  
**Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club's Blackberry Festival.** Ruckle Park Group Area G3. Meet for walks and hikes, followed by blackberry cake. 10 a.m. Bring your own lunch. Info: ssntnc@gmail.com  
**Tuesday Farmers' Market.** Hosted by the Salt Spring Community Market Society in Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.  
**Book Launch + Illustrated Presentation: Robert Crossland: Death Calls – A Coroner's Memoir.** Library program room. 7 p.m.  
**Trivia Tuesday.** At Moby's Pub. 8 to 10 p.m.

Wed.

Sept. 13

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**John Herbert.** With a musical guest on the lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.  
**Joseph Aigner.** Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Bittancourt Museum.** See last Wednesday's listing.  
**Music Bingo.** See last Wednesday's listing.

### CINEMA

• See thefritz.ca for the name and details of the movie running from Friday, Sept. 8 to Tuesday, Sept. 12 at 7 p.m. with a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday.

## Poetry Open Mic

With guest poet Kelsey Andrews

Salt Spring Public Library  
Program Room  
Thurs., Sept. 7 beginning at 7 pm

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### EXHIBITIONS

• **2020 Vision** — abstract art by Jeff Lederman and poetry by Margaret Sullivan — runs at the ArtSpring gallery from Sept. 6 to 18, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily. Opening reception Sept. 9, 4 to 6 p.m.

• **A Closer Look: Nature and Materials** is the Artcraft Showcase exhibition on the stage at Mahon Hall featuring work by Sibéal Foyle, Peter Pierobon, Paul Ouevray and Jan Smith. Open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sept. 17.

• **Salty Pear Gallery** presents Ute Hagen's exhibition titled Abstracts - an expressionist's vision of emotions in motion until Sept. 30.

• Today, Sept. 6, is the last day to see **An Odd Agreement: Nathalie St-Amant and Michael Henri Wright** artwork at Salt Spring Gallery.

• **Enchanted – A Mother-Daughter Perspective** with artwork by Sage Szkabarnicki-Stuart and Olga Szkabarnicki opens at Salt Spring Gallery on Friday, Sept. 8 with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and continues Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

• Through September, **Seth Berkowitz** shows photographs in a series titled A Torn and Splintered Ridge in the ArtSpring lobby when it is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and around events at ArtSpring.

• **Wendy Wickland** shows paintings in the library program room through September.

• **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.

## ONLINE LEARNING

# Rainwater expert leads course

Ken Nentwig helps facilitate water use transition

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ken Nentwig has worked on the ground in the rainwater harvesting and management industry for years, and is eager to share his knowledge with islanders.

"I'm just back from California, training rainwater practitioners for their ASSE certification exams as designers and installers," he said last week. "Everywhere you look, water is the topic — either not enough, or suddenly too much of it."

And while B.C.'s coast obviously receives a lot of rainfall, he said, "gardening is hampered in summer with drought conditions and many areas are seeing aquifer problems due to oversubscription of the available ground water. Rainwater harvesting can be one tool that helps mitigate water shortages being experienced across southwest B.C. and across the globe."

Beginning Sept. 11, Nentwig is leading a three-month online Rainwater Harvesting and Management course. Offered through Gaia College, it has been in place for



KEN NENTWIG

several years and offers an overview of water problems, rainwater system design and how-to's for the homeowner and

do-it-yourselfer.

"Understanding nature's manner of sending and managing water in the environment is key to us being able to work within those parameters for safe, efficient and suitable applications of the abundant winter rainfall we receive on the B.C. West Coast. Builders, developers and approvers all can benefit from the knowledge available through this course."

Nentwig has worked on numerous projects on the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island in recent years.

Most are preliminary designs, he said, covering the feasibility and sizing of storage and components for systems. Applications range from irrigation to flushing to full potable usage, and even a few for multiple-family applications. Stormwater management aspects are sometimes a part of the overall concepts, where excess runoff from a roof or the ground surface can be infiltrated into the soil.



PHOTO COURTESY KEN NENTWIG

Rainwater storage set-up facilitated by Ken Nentwig, instructor of the Rainwater Harvesting and Management course through Gaia College.

Installations in these areas have included potable use for a cottage, fire suppression storage, and irrigation storage outdoors or in the crawl space below the residence.

He has also worked with the technical working group of the Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Alliance.

Nentwig's background is landscape architecture, and he is certified through American Society of Sanitary Engineering (ASSE) 21000 as a rainwa-

ter harvesting practitioner.

"I am also deeply involved in the ASSE and American Rainwater Catchment Systems Association training program evolution, and have developed a Canadian certification program through the Canadian Association of Rainwater Management based on the CSA Rainwater Standard."

For more information about the Gaia Rainwater Harvesting and Management course, see [gaiacollege.ca](http://gaiacollege.ca).

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**Coming Events**

## GREENWOODS ELDERCARE SOCIETY NOTICE OF

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Date: September 28th, 2023

Time: 10:00 am

Where: SIMS 124 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island

Current members need to pay their annual \$20 membership fee to vote at the AGM. This can be paid by e-transfer or at the door on September 28.

Membership and Voting Privileges: Persons who have reached the age of 19 years of age, who reside in the Gulf Islands, who have made written application for membership in the Society and have paid the \$20 membership fee are eligible to become members of the Society. Applications are available at the Greenwoods office. New members are eligible to vote at the September 28 annual general meeting if their application and fee are received by September 14, 2023.

**Coming Events**

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**Coming Events**

## THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

Wednesday  
Sept. 20, 2023 at  
7:00 pm in the lower hall  
at 901 North End Road.

Public welcome.

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Are you an experienced Alto with good sight singing skills? This would be for a November Concert. Please call Carol at 250.537.1224. Thank you.

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## We are publishing the official guide to the Fall Fair 2023 winners on September 20

Harvest Time magazine will be a celebration of the fair with lots of photos, prize-winning recipes and, of course, a showcase of the winners in all categories.

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# SPORTS + RECREATION

## SOCCER

# Soccer activity heats up

Team, special training and volunteer needs

September has arrived, bringing with it cooler temperatures, children going back to school and, of course, another Salt Spring United soccer season.

The official start of the soccer season will be Saturday, Sept. 16 as our full field teams and small-sided teams will begin their league schedules. The House Program, House League and Tots Programs will all start on the following Saturday, Sept. 23.

We currently have teams as follows: Boys U16-18, U14-15, U13, U12 and U11. Girls U16-18, U14-15, U13, U12 and U11.

Registration for these teams is still open, so if you have children interested in playing, you can still sign them up at [saltspringsoccer.com](http://saltspringsoccer.com).

SS United has other programs happening as well, as follows:

### Fall Academy

The SS United Academy is our popular training programs for youth wanting the extra training to improve their skills and development. The program starts Friday, Sept. 15 and runs for 10 weeks under the guidance of our technical director, Josip Bratanovic, and his staff at Portlock Park on Fridays.

Registration for this program is on the [saltspringsoccer.com](http://saltspringsoccer.com) website. For information, contact Josip at [jbratanovic@shaw.ca](mailto:jbratanovic@shaw.ca).



Malcolm Legg

**SOCCER**  
ROUND-UP

### Ladies Recreational Soccer Program

After the successful recreational ladies program in the spring, SS United will offer the same recreational program for ladies this fall. The program is geared to learning to play the game of soccer, skill development and small-sided games.

The program will start Wednesday, Sept. 13 at 6 p.m. (Time could vary, depending on participants' needs) and runs for 10 weeks under the guidance of myself and our technical staff.

Registration is on the [saltspringsoccer.com](http://saltspringsoccer.com) website. For info contact Malcolm at [mallegg@shaw.ca](mailto:mallegg@shaw.ca).

### Referee Training

This is an education program for our referees, particularly the newer ones.

The focus of the program is to improve referees' understanding of the laws of the game and their application.

The classes will be on select Fridays (probably one per month)

from 3:30 to 5 p.m. under the guidance of myself as head referee at Portlock Park.

No registration needed and info is available from me.

### Goalie Training

This program is to assist goalies in improving their skills.

It will be run by Sue Spencer and dates are TBA (hopefully on Fridays attached to academy).

### Volunteers

This is not a program but more aimed at people interested in being involved with our club.

We are actively seeking people interested in the following positions:

- directors – to sit on the board and help organize the program
- coaches – we are always looking for people interested to be a coach, whether an adult or youth, and interested in either coaching or assistant coaching positions.
- referees – if you are interested in refereeing, well, we can use you. We take care of training, education and equipment.

If you are interested in any of these positions or in getting more information about programs, please contact me at [mallegg@shaw.ca](mailto:mallegg@shaw.ca).

That is it for now, but there will be more to come as we lead up to Saturday, Sept. 16 and the opening of our soccer season.



## Septic Awareness Week 2023

Did you know septic systems need regular maintenance? Malfunctioning systems can cause health risks and damage local waterways, watersheds, and biodiversity.

This September join the CRD and the Onsite Wastewater Management Association of BC for Septic Awareness week! Visit [crd.bc.ca/septic](http://crd.bc.ca/septic) for more information and to register for in person and online workshops.

Sept 18	Septic Savvy JDF Local Planning Office, Sooke	6-9 PM
Sept 19	Septic Sense for BC Residents via Zoom	7 PM
Sept 20	Septic Savvy Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney	5:30-8:30 PM
Sept 21	Septic Sense for BC Residents via Zoom	7 PM
Sept 26	Septic Savvy Webinar via Zoom	6-8 PM

Septic Savvy information kits are also available at most municipal halls and all libraries in the GVPL, SSI and SGI system.

Scan the QR code for all workshop dates!



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## TRAIL & NATURE CLUB

# Hiking club events restart

Sept. 12 Blackberry Festival at Ruckle Park

BY MARGRIET RUURS  
FOR SSTNC

After a long hot summer, members of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club (SSTNC) are excited to start walking again. With the summer heat behind us, and with the lessening danger of forest fires, hikers on Salt Spring look forward to hitting the trails for a new season.

The SSTNC consists of people of all ages and fitness levels who enjoy rambling, walking or hiking the endless number of trails our island has to offer.

Participants can meet for car pooling before any hikes, as announced on the club's website at [saltspringtnc.ca](http://saltspringtnc.ca).

Carron Carson is SSTNC president. "September means new beginnings, so if your hiking boots have been put away, bring them out and join us for the kick-off to the 2023-24 season. We look forward to meeting new members and reconnecting

with other active members."

She adds that one of the activities she looked forward to, once she retired, was joining the hiking group here on Salt Spring.

"For me it has meant being introduced to new trails that I may not have discovered on my own, as well as meeting many happy, like-minded hikers. I've also found that over the years I've been able to share my own experiences and favourite routes with the others. Often I choose which of our three groups I'm going to join because of the destination that has been chosen. All have made me feel most welcome."

The walking season kicks off on Tuesday, Sept. 12 with a Blackberry Festival. Anyone interested in finding out more about joining the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club is welcome to come at 10 a.m. to Group Area 3 at Ruckle Provincial Park. Rambles (easy going walks), walkers and hikers will meet to go on a trail first, before being served cake with blackberries and whipped cream, courtesy of Country Grocer. Bring your own lunch, plate and spoon.

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## Armenian Lentil Kibbeh

Recipe contributed by  
Chef Shadel,  
Monsoon Coast

Great vegan mezze or main course

### Ingredients:

200 g red lentils, washed and drained  
200 g fine bulgur, washed and drained (or cooked rough bulgur, but texture will be more grainy)  
4 TBL olive oil  
1 medium onion, finely chopped  
3 cloves garlic, minced  
2-3 TBL tomato paste  
1 TBL Rose Harissa or Tunisian Harissa  
1 tsp paprika  
1 tsp ground cumin  
Small bunch fresh parsley, chopped and 2 TBL reserved to garnish

### For Garnish:

1 tsp Sumac  
1 tsp Aleppo pepper  
Drizzle of olive oil

### Instructions:

- 1 – In a saucepan, add lentils with 2 cups of cold water, bring to a boil, simmer for 20-30 minutes uncovered, until lentils are mushy and most water is gone. Season with salt and transfer to a big bowl.
- 2 – Add bulgur and mix well. Cover and let sit together.
- 3 – In a medium pot, sauté onion in olive oil for 5 minutes or until soft.
- 4 – Add garlic and sauté 2 minutes.
- 5 – Add tomato paste and spices. Cook for 2 minutes.
- 6 – Let mixture cool a bit and add on top of lentils. Add parsley reserving some for garnish. Refrigerate kibbeh overnight to set.
- 7 – Rinse hands with cold water and cut off balls of the cold kibbeh and form in an oval shape with a finger indent.
- 8 – Garnish with olive oil, Aleppo pepper, sumac, and parsley.



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