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Driftwood

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FROM THE 2023 SALT SPRING ISLAND FALL FAIR



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# Driftwood

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Wednesday,  
Sept. 20, 2023

63rd year  
Issue 38  
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PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

**TEAM SPIRIT:** Some participants in Sunday's 43rd annual Terry Fox Run give high fives — led by event coordinator Rob Pingle in the Terry Fox Run T-shirt — at the beginning of the run/walk/ride fundraiser for the Terry Fox Foundation at Portlock Park. People can still donate to the cause that supports cancer research at [run.terryfox.ca/28976](http://run.terryfox.ca/28976).

## EDUCATION

# Phoenix Elementary doors close

Zero students registered; official closure within 60 days

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Declining enrolment — and a corresponding operational budget deficit — has spelled the end for Salt Spring's Phoenix Elementary School, with no students registered and an official closing set for this fall.

With only 34 students enrolled last year — down from nearly twice as many in 2018 — the alternative K-7 school operated within Gulf Islands School District 64 (SD64) will likely close without significant student disruption, the Board of Education heard at its meeting Wednesday, Sept. 13.

"Students and families were making choices elsewhere within our system, by and large," said superintendent Scott Benwell. "This was a 'natural' school closure, if I can call it that."

The publicly funded alternative school has been in operation since 1991, and was known for small, multi-age classrooms and its cooperative, family-centred learning approach; during the 2022-23 school year,

however, Phoenix Elementary operated at an estimated \$90,000 deficit.

Since spring of last year, noting the trend of continued declining registration, district officials reached out to parents — in consideration of budget, but also of the impact on a student's learning experience a cohort size of less than six students may have.

Benwell said staff worked with the parents of existing (and potentially continuing) students to address that significant decline in registration, and through that work — supporting families in their decision-making, Benwell said — staff were confident that in recommending the closure they weren't leaving anyone behind.

Indeed, school administrators ultimately received no new registration requests throughout the spring and summer months, and began the year with no students enrolled in the school. Teaching staff have all been relocated elsewhere — a conversation "well received" by those teachers, Benwell added.

"One way of looking at it is that the consultation process is going to be abbreviated," said Lori Deacon, acting director of corporate services. "We don't have staff to consult with, we don't have a parent advisory council to consult with. There are no families at the school."

As a result, the board voted to begin the requisite 60-day consultation period immediately; after another public meeting at the school on 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, Oct. 16, an official vote to close the school through bylaw will occur Monday, Nov. 13.

"The demographic of Phoenix has changed over the last couple of years," said deputy superintendent D'Arcy Deacon, noting that the vast majority of the students that have been at the school during the declining enrolment period have been upper intermediate students — who have naturally integrated into Gulf Islands Secondary School.

PHOENIX continued on 3

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

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## NATIONAL DAY OF



### TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

SEPTEMBER 30TH

The Driftwood office will be closed on Friday, Sept. 29 in support of the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, which has been created to recognize and commemorate the intergenerational harm that residential schools have caused to Indigenous families and communities, and to honour those who have been affected by this injustice.

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## 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	7PM
Sept 20	Septic Savvy Mary Winspear Centre, Sidney	5:30-8:30PM
Sept 21	Septic Sense for BC Residents via Zoom	7PM
Sept 26	Septic Savvy Webinar via Zoom	6-8PM

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

Scan the QR code for all workshop dates!



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## STQEYE' GRATITUDE



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Members of the Stqeeye' Learning Society give thanks at the day-long Mateada Convergence Festival that featured numerous live music acts, family-friendly activities and speakers on community-building topics. The event also included the public launch of the Mi tse 't'akw - Coming Home project that will see purchase of a parcel of land for Quw'utsun elders and youth in their traditional Xwaaqw'um territory and other activities. See next week's Driftwood for more information, or visit the [stqeeye.ca](http://stqeeye.ca) website.

## LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

# Officials press for wildfire DPA

Wildfire exposure map to be released

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two agencies tasked with emergency management and response approached Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) last week to ask for special requirements and guidelines for developers looking to build in areas on the island at higher risk for fire.

"I don't pretend to be a governance expert," chuckled Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) Chief Jamie Holmes, who addressed trustees at their regular meeting Thursday, Sept. 14. But, he said, the district was again recommending the LTC add a wildfire hazard development permit area (DPA) within Salt Spring Island's official community plan (OCP).

Holmes said SSIFR was hoping for a governing document with a multi-pronged approach, beginning with an educational portion — on creating defensible spaces between wildland and parks, buildings and houses — and a prescriptive portion, dealing with ensuring adequate water supplies to fight fires at and around new developments.

"We make recommendations that developers can ignore," said Holmes. "We have no way of enforcement on that. Unfortunately, we see major subdivisions being put in that don't have any water supply capabilities [for firefighting] that are backing on major forest interfaces; if anything happened on either side, the transition between the two worlds would happen quickly. And we'd have very little way of stopping that."

The third prong would be restrictive measures, Holmes said, surrounding building materials used in the first place that might be more susceptible to spreading wildfire — such as cedar shake roofing.

"Buildings tend to burn from the top down," said Holmes. "And so if we can look at materials that help us, that goes a long way."

Holmes emphasized the importance of defensible spaces in particular for firefighter efficacy — and safety.

"If we don't have those areas we can defend, if we don't have acres we can work off of, honestly, we put our members at risk," said Holmes. "So we need to have

spaces to 'anchor' attacks off of, that provide us with the safety and ability to work."

Jonathan Reimer, Fire and Emergency Programs manager for the Capital Regional District (CRD), shared Holmes' concerns.

"Obviously in the recent weeks and months, we've all been paying close attention to the wildfire disasters that we've seen in Maui, West Kelowna, Lytton and other places," said Reimer. "And wildfire resilience is something that's, I think, close to the heart of most of our residents — and it's something that is a shared responsibility between the Islands Trust as land manager, CRD as local government, and a series of improvement districts and societies."

The good news, according to Reimer, is that the recently completed Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan for Salt Spring Island — which examined ecology, fuel systems and fire history for the island and produced a wildfire risk map, along with recommendations for how to improve things — found that wildfire risk across Salt Spring can broadly be described as "moderate."

"And moderate wildfire risk means that the fires that have the highest intensity, like what we saw on Maui and in West Kelowna, are quite unlikely here," said Reimer.

That does not mean, he added, that we should underestimate the potential impact of "moderate" intensity fire — including the loss of structures and the displacement of people for an extended amount of time. And, Reimer said, recent mapping showed most of the wildfire risk on Salt Spring stemmed from private land; the joint project between the Islands Trust and CRD created a "wildfire exposure" map that looked at the distribution of risk geographically, and across all land ownership classes.

"I think we probably need to start working together at a higher level than we have in the past," said Reimer. "I know the issue of fragmented governance is something that is a continual challenge for our island communities, [but] an effective wildfire response will require all of us to work together in novel ways."

That would include, he said, partnering to implement the plan's recommendations — including the creation of a wildfire-specific DPA, as Holmes and SSIFR had requested, as well as a development approval information provision, development application materials and designating wildfire hazard areas in the next OCP update. Importantly, funding for much of that work could be obtained through provincial programs, not unlike those that fund FireSmart efforts already.

"Some of the activities that we would like to see done could be done by the Islands Trust," said Reimer, "and we could pursue the funding through our [CRD] side and have an arrangement to provide you with some of the resources to complete the work."

Reimer said the wildfire exposure map had been shared with Islands Trust staff, and that they hoped to share it publicly within the next week — "with [the trustees'] blessing," he said.

## LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION

# 'Hard choices' in LCC budget, say members

Commission wrestles with raising taxes to maintain service levels

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) began preliminary budget reviews Thursday, Sept. 14, greeted with a sobering assessment of the balance between services and taxes — and that, for the first time in years, something likely has to give way.

The budgets LCC members are reviewing are specific to their provided services — 14 delegated to them to recommend and inform, to eventually be included in the CRD's 2024 Financial Plan and, hopefully, be considered in October for final budget approval in March 2024.

And while the actual tax rate impact to Salt Spring Island property owners will vary — depending on the specific service areas where they live, as well as where their properties' assessment values land for 2023 — and the numbers are by no means final, the provisional 2024 tax requisition of \$4.8 million would represent an increase of \$829,000, or 20.5 per cent, from 2023.

Many of the reasons for it will sound familiar to those following public policy and economics this year, and include increases in the cost of materials, fuel and labour, but they also come with a backdrop of what may be further spending to maintain services at the level Salt Springers have become accustomed to — such as a looming repair to the building envelope at the Rainbow Road swimming pool, or further allocations to fund paid library staff as volunteerism there continues its years-long decline.

Salt Spring's LCC began its slog through the services' bud-

gets, and made the first of what will likely be many difficult calls this week, ultimately declining to enter into a service-increasing agreement with BC Transit that would have expanded bus service to Fulford — but would have come at a cost ultimately reflected in further budget increases. And at a time when operating reserves are already low, increases will fall directly onto taxpayers.

"This would mean that there are multiple summer ferry sailings where people get to Fulford and have no options," said LCC member Gayle Baker. "It's a fairly big deal."

## "We've been living in a fantasy world for the last couple of years."

BRIAN WEBSTER  
*Local Community Commission member*

"We've been living in a fantasy world for the last couple of years," said LCC member Brian Webster. "We [drew] something like \$120,000 from the operating reserve last year, and something similar to that in the year before. The requisition in 2022 was \$194,711; the recommended budget here is \$350,586. That's a massive increase, just to keep doing what we're doing — we've been providing a service, and not paying for it."

For the new commission, Webster said, it's coming time to pay for decisions made in the last couple of years — which focused on keeping tax increases moderate in difficult economic times.

"That's brought us to a point where we either have to cut services, or have a dramatic tax increase," he said. "[Even] if we end up with a 12, or 15, or 18 per cent tax increase, we'll get skewed — and it'll be blamed on having an LCC, and that's

not cool. We have to make some hard choices."

LCC member Ben Corno said he struggled with the idea of asking people with the fewest resources to suffer the impact of not increasing the tax requisition.

"I don't think many of the people who use the bus today would say the service is so great that they can tolerate cutting services," said Corno. "It's a strange experience, in that we're asking the people who — and I'm going to generalize — likely contribute least to the coffers of this service to suffer, so that people who contribute the most don't have to suffer more."

Baker said she felt passing on the expansion of this particular bus service would likely impact tourists more than locals.

"If I had to justify it, it would be in that it's the tourists hurt by this, more than the people who live here," said Baker. "I don't like it, but it does not impact the ones who [just] have to get to work."

As commission members continued through the budget, they found at least one spending item they couldn't easily turn away, despite agreeing the project was among the lower-priority in the list: the Centennial Park Plaza project, with an ask of nearly \$200,000.

Already delayed once, funding the revitalization of the plaza — removing and replacing the park's concrete and brick pavers, improving drainage, lighting and some landscaping — gives Salt Spring access to a \$561,748 grant from Pacific Economic Development Canada (PEDC).

"Sometimes, you've got to go where the funding leads you," said LCC member and CRD director Gary Holman. "Personally, I don't think the pavers in Centennial are a top priority, but I'm not going to look a gift horse in the mouth."

The LCC ultimately ran out of time in the day, and commission chair Earl Rook recessed the meeting until 9 a.m. this Thursday, Sept. 21, at which time they hope to finish budget deliberations specific to Parks and Recreation.

## ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

# Worker, business survey closing

Research aims to find additional resources for rural islanders

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Time is running out for local workers and businesses to weigh in on challenges and opportunities for sustainable economic development, according to organizers of a survey.

Earlier this year, the Rural Islands Economic Partnership (RIEP) was awarded a provincial grant through the Ministry of Jobs, Economic Development and Innovation's Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program to study what rural island business owners and workers think about the ecological and

social impacts of our collective economic activities in B.C. The project's purpose is to identify what resources businesses and workers need to manage those impacts, as well as ideas on how RIEP can help deliver that support to island communities.

The work begins, according to organizers, with a 15-question survey — aimed at anyone who owns, operates, manages or works at a business on a rural island. This includes artists and artisans, freelancers and entrepreneurs. The answers can help bring additional resources to support B.C.'s rural island and coastal community economies.

Once the research is complete, RIEP will deliver a full report to the provincial government, along with its recommendations.

To participate in the survey, visit [riep.ca/impact](http://riep.ca/impact) by Friday, Sept. 22.

# Remaining students plan to attend elsewhere

## PHOENIX

continued from 1

"Early last year, we were looking at between two and three students for a primary program at Phoenix," he said. "When we met with families in the end, it was five students [remaining]

who chose to go to other places."

The official vote to permanently close the school will take place immediately following the 60 days, rather than at a regular school board meeting, to allow the still-attached principal at Phoenix to be re-assigned as soon as possible.

It was also worth moving up, accord-

ing to D'Arcy Deacon, so the board could begin to contemplate the future of the school-owned property on Drake Road.

"The sooner [the official closure] happens, the sooner options to explore use of that space for potential revenue generation, or other options, can start to move forward," he said.

## Ask the Expert



**Q: How can I instill good financial habits in my children?**

**Expert:** Siobhan McKenzie,  
Assistant Branch Manager—Ganges

**A: Start early** The best way to raise money-smart kids is to instill financial education as early as possible and incorporating lessons into everyday activities. Bring your child grocery shopping and tell them why you chose one product over another. Pay with physical cash sometimes too, so kids can see that it's finite.

**Make it fun** Kids love games. So, a fantastic way to make financial literacy stick is to play an activity that involves money. Set up an imaginary grocery store and give your child a budget to purchase items for your "dinner." This will teach them how to effectively manage cash.

**Set savings goals** Once kids start to earn a bit of cash, teach them about saving for something special, like a toy or tickets to a hockey game. By introducing long-term savings habits, they'll better understand the value of having a nest egg later in life.

**Teaching your children how to responsibly handle money is a great way to prepare them for a more secure financial future.**

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# OPINION

## Driftwood

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### EDITORIAL

## Time for prudence

**I**t's not surprising that Salt Spring's new Local Community Commission (LCC) has found itself a popular entity with a large to-do list.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) body is charged with taking care of a number of services, ranging from parks and recreation to transportation to liquid waste and many more, all now considered by the same people under the same roof. The LCC has so far tried to accommodate the demand with long and more frequent than initially envisioned public meetings, hearing a number of requests and ploughing through a hefty agenda.

Also not surprising is that groups receiving funding through the CRD have taken the opportunity to ask for more. Parks and rec programming, the library, ArtsSpring and Salt Spring Arts have all requested more funding.

BC Transit wants more money for increased service to Fulford beginning next summer. The Salt Spring Island Abattoir Society made a request for ongoing tax support. That list may be missing a few of the requests made so far, and then there are the well-established needs and wishes of the former "big" commissions like parks and rec, transportation and liquid waste. Due to inflation and wage increases, all will need more money to provide the same level of service.

At last week's LCC meeting, an initial budget for 2024 came out with an increase of \$829,000, or 20.5 per cent, from the previous year. Choking sounds may be audible from any property owner reading that part of our page 3 story this week.

Understanding and managing budgets of local government bodies is no easy feat, but we are hopeful and cautiously confident that this LCC is well equipped to wrestle with both the CRD and reality. Rather than saying "yes" to the many requests that have come and will continue to come its way, perhaps erring on the side of prudence is the better course for this first year, while also looking for areas where money could be saved to fund new or emerging priorities.

Commissioners are welcoming public input about budget matters and other issues. They can be reached via email or during office hours on Wednesdays at the CRD office on McPhillips Avenue, where they are taking shifts and sharing the load in order to be as accessible as possible to the public.

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2020/2021 CCNA Awards  
Gold - Best Special Section | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)  
Silver - Best Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Bronze - Best Editorial Page

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



PARKER

## Lack of response disturbs

BY JENNIFER LANNAN EMEKOBA

In the Aug. 30 Driftwood, there was an article regarding the cancellation of the SD64 Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group (ARAWG). I've been monitoring the responses to this article virtually and in public and was disturbed to learn (at the point of writing this) of only one online group post and one letter to the editor in the following week's edition of the paper.

Inaction is a problem. A problem for you, yours and mine; for the children I birthed and the love of my life; for the people in your neighbourhood and your extended family; for the students raised in the school district, the educators within it, and for all the hearts and souls wanting to do more and better. Where are all the supposed allies that supported Black Lives Matter rallies and anti-racism groups, and the beautifully crafted responses to important discussions for the public to see? Are you there now?

The cancellation of the ARAWG isn't insignificant. The Black, Indigenous and People of Colour (BIPOC) members of Salt Spring Island are in fact growing in number and more should be expected from organizations, employers and the members of our community. Our governance systems and school district are behind the times in anti-racism and BIPOC representation. Look around — who do you see? What do see? Is a banner on the SD64 website actually accepted as sufficient?

I don't come to the table as a BIPOC person, but I do stand as a white person with a Black family and the lack of respect from SD64 that I feel for my family and people in the BIPOC community means that I won't be silent.

Our society is only as strong as the people most disinvested. Look at the state of our community and that can be seen in so many directions and rings true here.

### VIEWPOINT

I started this school year with a lump in my throat and an ache in my heart as I wonder how committed SD64 is to creating a healthy environment for black and brown bodies in this very white place. There have been countless incidents of harm towards all individuals and families of colour in and out of school in this community. Anyone learning this should be uncomfortable, sit in that discomfort and think about making a step in a new direction.

I did not witness as much as others, but the ARAWG was a space for having important discussions about incidents that happened near and far. It was an example of what should be happening in our communities, workplaces and governance systems. Cancelling the group without deliberation and no plans for next steps is like slamming the brakes as you're about to crash your car into a tree, then deciding to turn off the air bags just to see what happens.

I have to ask community members to look deep within themselves regarding SD64's choices. Efforts to advance student and SD64 community development in areas such as information technology, physical education and arts would never be taken away, so why the complacency with cancelling anti-racism work? I doubt the district would cancel committees and working groups for the 2SLGBTQIA+ population and supporters without notice, so why should dismissal of issues for the BIPOC community be tolerated?

Should oil companies contribute to climate change adaptation costs?



### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you concerned about rising property taxes?

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should oil companies contribute to climate change adaptation costs?

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

### Rethink advocacy group decision

I have a friend who is working six days a week to pay for her child's off-island private school education. Why? Due to the racial slurs and threats her Black child experienced in a local school.

Then I read in the Aug. 30 Driftwood that the Anti-Racism Advocacy Working Group has now been terminated by the School District 64 school board!

I hope this decision can be rethought. It seems to me that the lived experience of the Black, Indigenous and People of Colour members of the group offers our community crucial, important expertise that's needed to ensure every young learner will feel safe and respected in our schools.

MAUREEN MOORE,  
SALT SPRING

### Withdraw bylaw

The following letter was sent to the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee and filed with the Driftwood for publication.

Bylaw 530 should be withdrawn, for three main reasons.

1. It will not alleviate the shortage of affordable housing. According to your own statements favouring the bylaw, most of the eligible properties will not build the cottages allowed. How will that add to the

housing stock?

Any bylaw that is proposed on the grounds that it will NOT be used is not rational. This is like opening your garden gate in front of a flock of sheep, because you think only a few of them will come in to eat.

2. The bylaw is contrary to both the Islands Trust Act and our official community plan. Since there is no general public outcry to change the intent of either of those acts, this bylaw is inappropriate.

3. The supply of potable water on Salt Spring has been an issue for years, because our lakes and wells are ultimately dependent on precipitation — rain and snow. Canada is drying up, as this summer's catastrophic wildfires have shown. At a time when our water resources are limited — some well users are already buying water — and likely to be reduced, it is irresponsible to allow up to 3,000 more potential households.

Because it is irrational, inappropriate and irresponsible, please withdraw Bylaw 530.

MARLYN HORSDAL,  
SALT SPRING

### Horse association thanks

The Gulf Islands Horse Association (GIHA) thanks the many people who contributed to the Fall Fair Horse Show. For all who volunteered to help, we are grateful.

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. For details about deadlines, and word limits for the Viewpoint and other longer opinion pieces, contact the editor at the email address below, or phone 250-537-9933. All submissions may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are asked to provide a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign letters with their full name. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., its staff or advertisers. Send letters to: [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

It took time, labour, financial donations, sponsorships and the encouragement of so many wonderful supporters to allow us to put on this year's show in a newly renovated riding ring. The results were more than we could have hoped for. An enthusiastic crowd of spectators watched young people, plus the young at heart, having a blast on their horses for two days of competition and fun in a safe and inviting environment.

A very special horse trailer full of roses to Molly and Cameron of Sierra Industries for their generous donation of time and machines to give the ring a makeover. Special thanks, also, to Windsor Plywood for its contribution towards the cost of materials without which the total replacement of fencing could not have happened. Thank you, Dan Muzyka for doing a great job of harrowing the ring for us.

Lucy Sliwoska's drive and determination spurred us on. Thank you for your vision.

GULF ISLANDS HORSE ASSOCIATION

### No place for hit pieces

I was disappointed to open last week's paper and see yet another article attacking not only affordable housing but the reputation of a local community group who works very hard on finding answers to some of our community's most pressing problems (Frants Attorp's "Claims and facts" letter).

While I am no longer part of the group in question — Salt Spring Solutions — I know them as extremely professional, compassionate, environmentally minded people involved with dozens of other important projects helping make this a better place. The mother-in-law suites bylaw in question, AKA accessory dwelling units (ADUs), AKA Bylaw 530, also did not come from this group, but from an independent body of directly affected Salt Springers, convened by the Islands Trust, who met for two years before proposing ADUs as one part of the housing solution.

In my work with the climate movement, you don't attack solutions that come from an impacted community, and especially one that is in a severe state of crisis, and especially when you are someone with a level of privilege where you don't personally experience the impacts of the crisis. You get behind them and follow their lead. That's the basis of climate justice.

Part of why I took a step back from local politics was the partisan and personal nature of the anti-housing organizing. It's unfortunate because when it comes down to it, I believe we share 80 per cent of the same values about caring for place and community and ecosystem. I hope we can have discussions with more complexity and assume the best of intent of people we disagree with, and that the Driftwood does things to support this and not make division worse. A small community is no place for hit pieces.

JASON MOGUS,  
SALT SPRING

**QUOTE  
OF THE  
WEEK:**

**"There's no bells and whistles. There's no looking for the stars and the moon and asking for the world. What we're designing is a functional fire hall to meet our needs."**

SALT SPRING FIRE CHIEF JAMIE HOLMES, ON THE NEW FIRE HALL DESIGN

## Climate Report Card 2023: Can we handle the impending challenges?

### BY TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Amid a wild year with extreme droughts and massive wildfires, B.C. has faced some unusual and disturbing climate situations.

Even though Salt Spring Island finally got a break from all that smoky air that took over in August, things aren't exactly normal. North Salt Spring Waterworks District is still at Stage 3 restrictions, and the Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue department says our Fire Hazard Rating is back at an Extreme level. July 2023 went down in history as one of the driest months ever on Salt Spring, showing us just how severe this climate crisis is.

Now, the big question on our minds is: Are we on Salt Spring Island ready to handle the climate challenges coming our way?

Transition Salt Spring has just wrapped up the Climate Report Card 2023, an update on how we're doing with the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Plan 2.0 that came out in 2021. The plan's goal is to cut greenhouse gas

### GUEST COLUMN

emissions by half by 2030 in line with Canada's commitments at the United Nations and also to get our island and all its humans and non-humans ready for the climate changes heading our way.

Since the plan came out, we've been making progress in many areas. Electric transportation has increased, taking care of our forests, improving food security and making our buildings resilient against severe weather impacts. All of this shows we're committed to keeping our community safe.

Some great work worth noting so far:

- The community bought several important land parcels, helping us protect our forests and trap carbon.
- There's now a Salt Spring Island Watershed Protection Plan.
- The Salt Spring Island Farm-



Transition  
Salt Spring

land Trust launched The Root Food Hub.

• The Capital Regional District (CRD), the Farmland Trust, Salt Spring Island Abattoir, and Island Community Services announced a new composting facility.

• Electric vehicles (EVs) are catching on, with a 40 per cent increase from 2020 to 2021. Also, the CRD has supported more EV charging spots, and we have our first two electric school buses.

- Island Pathways received federal dollars to push the Salish Sea Trail Network forward.
- Transition Salt Spring's Climate Adaptation Research Lab (CARL) is working on projects that make our wetlands healthier and cut forest fire risk on Mount Maxwell.

But here's the hard part: even with all these wins, the Climate Report Card tells us we are far from hitting the mark to meet the goals of the Climate Action Plan. We must recognize that we're not ready for the unusual weather here now and the more extreme weather that's coming. To tackle these issues, we've got to change how we build things, plan our community and take care of our natural areas to cut the risk of things like fires, droughts and storms. It's not just about cutting emissions; it's about getting tougher in the face of wild weather.

As we gear up for more weather extremes, we must remember that we also need affordable places for folks to live and smart solutions for managing water to enable more housing on the island. The report card reminds us about a crucial issue: climate change hits people differently based on where they live, how much money they have, their gender and their ethnicity. Our actions should ensure everyone

on Salt Spring, human and not, becomes more resilient as climate problems worsen.

Transition Salt Spring has begun the process of engaging with our local elected officials with an invitation to determine which priorities get integrated into their planning, supported by discussions with island organizations and the community.

Keep an eye on the Driftwood; Transition Salt Spring will soon roll out the main ideas from the Climate Report Card. If you'd like to learn more about the report, please join us for the next ASK Salt Spring event on Friday, Sept. 29 at 11 a.m. at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space. We look forward to seeing you there!

*Funding from the Salt Spring Island Foundation and the Capital Regional District made the Climate Report Card possible. We thank our dedicated board and staff, particularly climate researcher Kacia Tolsma, for bringing this report together.*



**Help kids connect with nature!**

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy is running environmental education programs for the island's elementary students this fall and is looking for volunteers. The Stewards in Training program is the perfect opportunity to explore the island and share your love of nature with youth. Join us for volunteer training on September 29 from 10am to 1pm.

For more information about volunteering, email [reed@saltspingconservancy.ca](mailto:reed@saltspingconservancy.ca)

[www.saltspingconservancy.ca](http://www.saltspingconservancy.ca)

## EMERGENCY SERVICES

# Fire hall project updated



SSIFPD IMAGE

Rendering of the new Ganges fire hall created by the Johnston Davidson Architecture firm. More drawings and design information are available on the [saltspringfire.com](http://saltspringfire.com) website under the New Fire Hall tab.

## Hall project, finances and strategic plan details shared at town hall meeting

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People attending the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) town hall meeting last Thursday came away with a fulsome three-course meal of information.

The fire department's five-year strategic plan, budget projections for next year and beyond, and the new fire hall project were all detailed at Community Gospel Chapel with about 40 people in attendance and a number of questions and comments aired.

Chief Jamie Holmes gave a detailed update on the fire hall's progress, describing the process used to determine the architectural firm — Johnston Davidson Architecture, which has designed more than 60 fire halls — and the construction management company — MKM Projects Ltd. from Qualicum Beach. Both companies came out on top in the criteria matrix and also provided the lowest bids received from 11 architectural firms and four in the construction management field.

SSIFPD has also hired well-regarded retired contractor Hans Hazenboom to be "the owner's representative," someone who can look after the district's and ratepayers' interests.

"Any decisions that are put towards us on a technical matter that we're not comfortable with, Hans is our expert in the room to help us with that," said Holmes, "and he just bills out at an hourly rate for us rather than a contract rate."

Holmes described several features of the 11,500-square-foot building with a double-length two-bay garage for four apparatuses. Some of those, in addition to staff offices, are classroom and training areas, a gear room, hose tower and workshop area for maintaining the fleet and equipment.

"A fire hall should support operations," he said, "and that's what we tried to design. Currently our building hampers operations versus supporting operations. This building is going to support operations, making it easier for our firefighters, both career and paid-on-call, to be able to do their jobs and to do their training, and to do it safely."

Some eco-friendly items included that were based on public input are a rainwater catchment system to store 40,000 gallons of water, climate control considered in the design and electric vehicle charging capacity.

The Salt Spring Emergency Program will lease space from SSIFPD, and community rental of meeting and classroom space will also be possible.

Fire trustee David Courtney again raised his

idea that a less expensive but larger hall could be designed and built, as had been done in the village of Cumberland by MKM Projects. But Holmes, Hazenboom and board chair Rollie Cook were emphatic that the course taken following the 2022 referendum approving borrowing of \$9.7 million for a \$13.7-million hall would not be changed now.

Cook said the board had reconfirmed its process at its Aug. 21 board meeting and was now focused on delivering the project.

"The time for that discussion is over," he said. Holmes reiterated that every department and community has different needs and that the Salt Spring facility is not out of scale.

"There's no bells and whistles. There's no looking for the stars and the moon and asking for the world. What we're designing is a functional fire hall to meet our needs."

Meeting attendees heard some design changes may occur when MKM Projects gets down to detailed costing, a process that is now underway. Removal of soil and groundwork preparation is hoped to take place later this fall.

Chief administrative officer Rodney Dieleman gave a presentation on the draft 2024 budget, detailing the reason for a 9.47 per cent increase, as reported in an Aug. 30 Driftwood story.

"The biggest issues are contracted wage increases," he told Thursday's meeting. "We've done a minimal increase to administration. And we've done a minimal increase to operations, based on the staff."

One person's question about what the department is doing to improve its access to water supplies for fighting fires, and particularly in the Ganges area, prompted a lively discussion.

Dieleman said the department is working with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District to improve flow to hydrants. Holmes reported that the Fire Underwriters Service had certified the Ganges boat launch as a dry hydrant area, so that a second in-town water supply is now available.

Dieleman asked meeting attendees if they wanted him to put another \$100,000 into this year's budget for improving the water supply, but people didn't leap at the opportunity.

He summarized the feedback as being "This is a good idea, you support it, 'but go get me some more information before you start taxing me for it.'"

Fire board trustees were scheduled to consider giving first reading to the 2024 budget bylaw at their Sept. 18 meeting, which occurred after the Driftwood went to press.

Trustee John Wakefield, who chairs the Strategic Planning and Policy Committee, gave a presentation on the draft 5-Year Strategic Plan.

Information about the strategic plan, budgets and fire hall are all available on the [saltspringfire.com](http://saltspringfire.com) website under the New Fire Hall tab (Town Hall Presentations). People are welcome to provide comments on all three topics through the website.



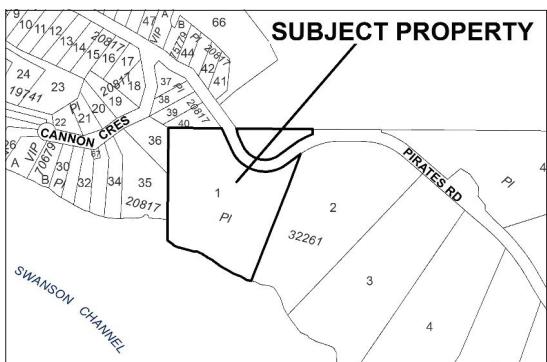
## NOTICE NP-TUP-2023.4 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

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

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental** use within the Dwelling Unit. This is a notice re-circulation and changes have been made to the draft Temporary Use Permit.

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

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



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **September 8, 2023** and continuing up to and including **September 20, 2023**.

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

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Charly Caproff, Planner 1 at (250) 538-5602, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: [southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca) before **4:30 p.m., September 20, 2023**.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:00 a.m., September 29th, 2023** at the St. Peter's Anglican Church Hall, 4703 Canal Road, on North Pender Island.

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

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary



# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

## FINE ART

# Archipelago artworks head south

San Juan Island portion of cross-border project opens

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts is taking the final installment of Archipelago — Contemporary Art of the Salish Sea across the border into the United States this fall.

Six Southern Gulf Islands artists will exhibit at the San Juan Islands Museum of Art (SJIMA) starting Sept. 22. The exhibition will be on display through Dec. 4 across all three galleries at the museum located in Friday Harbor, featuring eclectic works by Temoseng Chazz Elliott, Anna Gustafson, Jane Kidd, John MacDonald, Sam Montalbetti and Joanna Rogers.

In April 2023, Salt Spring Arts' annual Spring Art Show was part of the cross-border collaboration that included ArtSpring and the SJIMA in Friday Harbor. ArtSpring Gallery presented the works of six San Juan Islands artists, while Mahon Hall featured the works of six Southern Gulf Islands artists. A highlight of the spring exhibitions included attendance by artists from both sides of the border, a rich dialogue about their artworks and how they are impacted by life in the Salish Sea.

For this final phase of the Archipelago collaboration, six Southern Gulf Islands artists will now journey down to San Juan Island where their art will be featured in the final exhibition.

"I am very happy to be a part of this important cultural exchange," said Pender Island textile artist Joanna Rogers. "I love the idea of art collapsing boundaries and forging connections, be they cultural, geographical, emotional or intellectual."

Initially, this event was set to feature only Southern Gulf Islands artists, but after travelling to Salt Spring and bearing witness to the two parallel exhibitions in conversation with one another, the San Juan Islands artists have decided to present a pop-up exhibition to coincide with the museum's Southern Gulf Islands artists' presentation.

Exploring pieces created by artists who hail from different countries, yet within part of the same archipelago, is a special part of the experience. Inspired by how the coastal environment shapes artistic process, lifestyle, aesthetic and creative themes, the exhibitions showcase a wide range of responses to the Salish Sea.

Yael Wand, Salt Spring Arts' executive director, noted, "Usually, our work at Salt Spring Arts is very much focused on our local community. In this case, this exchange with our American neighbours in the Salish Sea is an incredible opportunity to highlight the rich culture of visual arts in the Gulf Islands."

The pieces featured in the SJIMA exhibition range from traditional Coast Salish artwork to bold landscapes, with disciplines including photography, woodworking, fibre arts, painting and installation, all drawing inspiration from the same concept.

The voice of Indigenous artist Temoseng Chazz Elliott will be present through his skilled carvings and sculptures. His works highlight Coast Salish design, handed down to Temoseng by his father and ancestors.

"[This exhibition] means I'll be going back to an ancestral home that's important for me and my family, connecting to a place where my ancestors have lived and visited for thousands of years," Temoseng said.

## EXPRESSIONIST'S ABSTRACTS



PHOTO BY METTA ROSE PHOTOGRAPHY

Renowned painter Ute Hagen speaks with a visitor about works in her exhibit called 'Abstracts - an expressionist's vision of emotions in motion' at the Salty Pear Gallery. This week the gallery will be open Wednesday through Friday from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., as well as for the Paper Covers Rock literary festival open house event from 5 to 7 p.m. See [saltypear.ca](http://saltypear.ca) for further details on hours or to arrange an appointment to view the show. Hagen's exhibition is just one of several high-profile visual arts events on this week, as both the Salt Spring National Art Prize and Parallel Art Show finalist exhibitions open this weekend. See the ad below on this page or the latest issue of *Aqua* magazine for event details.

Temoseng's art features imagery that represents his WSANEC culture, history, legends and teachings, intrinsically rooted in the lands and waters of the Salish Sea.

Local art professionals Richard Steel and Patrick McCallum curated the Southern Gulf Islands portion of Archipelago — Contemporary Art of the Salish Sea, selecting the diverse artists that represent the Canadian portion of the collaboration. Peter Lane, director of operations at SJIMA, determined the San Juan Islands-based artists. In total, the show amounted to 12 artists, six mediums, three exhibitions, two countries and one sea.

Artist talks for Archipelago — Contemporary Art of the Salish Sea will take place at the SJIMA on Saturday, Sept. 23 at 10 a.m. San Juan Islands artists will also be featured in a pop-up exhibition at the San Juan County Fairgrounds from Sept. 22 to 25.

For more information, visit [sjima.org](http://sjima.org).



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## Salt Spring Film Festival

*Free Admission to the film and presentation:*

### Still Working Nine To Five

Monday Oct 2, ArtSpring Theatre, 100 Jackson Ave, Salt Spring Island

Early start of 6:30 PM. Seniors and Elders accompanied by a younger person receive a gift. Sponsored by Salt Spring Community Response Network and Island Community Services in celebration of the International Day of Older Persons.

islandcommunity  
services



## SSNAP The Salt Spring National Art Prize

### 2023/24

#### SSNAP 2023/24 FINALIST EXHIBITION

Sept. 23 – Oct. 23  
10:00 am – 5:00 pm daily\*  
Mahon Hall, 114 Rainbow Road

#### SSNAP OPENING RECEPTION

Sept. 23 • 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
Mahon Hall, 114 Rainbow Road

#### SSNAP FINALISTS

PANEL — A MODERATED DISCUSSION  
Oct. 19 • 7:00 – 9:00 pm  
Mahon Hall, 114 Rainbow Road

\* some exceptions

#### PAS 2023/24 FINALIST EXHIBITION

Sept. 23 – Oct. 22  
10:00 am – 4:00 pm daily  
ArtSpring Galleries,  
100 Jackson Ave

#### PAS OPENING RECEPTION

Sept. 24 • 6:00 – 8:00 pm  
ArtSpring Galleries,  
100 Jackson Ave

#### AWARD CEREMONIES

Oct. 21 • 6:00 – 9:30 pm  
ArtSpring Galleries,  
100 Jackson Ave

Information on ticket sales  
coming soon on the SSNAP website



More info: [saltspringartprize.ca](http://saltspringartprize.ca)

## GRANT CALLS

# Fall intake open for arts grant applications



PHOTO BY ALEX HARRIS

Darrel Siimaltun, a member of the Penelakut Sulxwe'en, stands with one of the Indigenous interpretive panels installed at Fernwood this year with help from a Salt Spring Arts grant.

## Salt Spring Arts project grants and Susan Benson Fund for Visual Artists

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts (SSA) has been supporting local artists and organizations through the grants and awards program since the 1970s. The bi-annual call offering financial support helps to further the capacity of local artists, community members and cultural organizations.

This year's fall intake is now open, accepting submissions for project grants and the Susan Benson Fund for Visual Artists, with a deadline of Oct. 31. Applications are reviewed by SSA's Grants and Awards Committee. Individuals who require further assistance filling out the online application forms are encouraged to get in

touch with SSA as early as possible for guidance.

Project grants aim to assist groups and individuals in undertaking projects of cultural benefit to the community. The program seeks to catalyze new artistic approaches and collaborations to facilitate the public performance, exhibit and sharing of those initiatives. Local organizations and individuals are encouraged to apply for project grants that cultivate experimentation and benefit our island community.

A recent project funded by Salt Spring Arts is Creative Healing for Survivors, a series of art therapy sessions hosted by Islanders Working Against Violence to promote healing and discover new tools for self-expression. In 2021, SSA supported the creation of Indigenous interpretive panels in the community, now installed in Fernwood and in Ganges. The project was created to honor

our and uphold a cultural connection to the island, with panels featuring statements from the Elders translated into the Hul'qumi'num or SENĆOTEN languages.

The Susan Benson Fund for Visual Artists was established in 2022 by Susan Benson, well known for her portraiture, painting and exceptional career in stage design. The fund is a generous response to her knowledge of the historical and continuing challenges faced by female visual artists.

The intention of the Susan Benson Fund for Visual Artists is to support visual artists residing on Salt Spring Island who are committed to building their creative careers. Most recently in spring 2023, Leslie Corry, Rosie Schinners and Alicja Swiatlon received funds to cover costs related to specialized materials and professional development.

For more info and to apply, visit [saltspringarts.com/grants-awards](http://saltspringarts.com/grants-awards).

# what's on this week

Wed.	Sept. 20	Thur.	Sept. 21	Sun.	Sept 24
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
<b>Tea à Tempo: The 270's.</b> All Saints. 2:10 p.m. Morien Jones. Lower deck at Moby's Pub. 5 to 8 p.m.		<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday's listing.		<b>Blues Jam.</b> Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.	
<b>Tia Wood.</b> Rising-star singer-songwriter from Saddle Lake Cree Nation. Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m. Tickets: <a href="http://raventrust.com">raventrust.com</a>				<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>Kathy Stack Duo.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.				<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> See Saturday's listing.	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>				<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday's listing.	
<b>Bridge.</b> Every Wednesday at the Salt Spring library program room. Bring a partner and enjoy yourself. 12:45 p.m.					
<b>Knit Purl Community.</b> Every third Wednesday of the month: knit, crochet, do any form of needlework, and share. All knitting/crochet levels are welcome. Library program room. 5 to 7 p.m.					
<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> Open Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.					
<b>Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting.</b> Public welcome. Central Hall lower hall. 7 p.m.					
<b>Music Bingo.</b> Moby's Pub. 8 to 10:30 p.m.					
<b>Thur.</b>	Sept. 21				
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Morien Jones.</b> Moby's Pub lower deck. 5 to 8 p.m.					
<b>Tyger Jackson and Jade Snow Rosen.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.					
<b>Raven Chapbooks Triple Book Launch.</b> Featuring 2023 Raven Chapbooks poets Marlene Grand Maître, Susan McCaslin and Ian Thomas. Salt Spring library program room. 7 p.m.					
<b>Open Mic.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.					
<b>Pranatrics &amp; Zaynab Wilson.</b> Mateada Social Club. 8 to 11 p.m.					
<b>Craig's Karaoke.</b> At Moby's Pub. 8 p.m. to midnight.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission Regular Meeting.</b> Continuation of last week's meeting at SIMS Boardroom. 9 a.m. or via the Microsoft Teams meeting link on the CRD website.					
<b>Sat.</b>	Sept. 23				
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
<b>Saturday Market in the Park.</b> Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.		<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> Various workshops. See <a href="http://papercoversrock.ca">papercoversrock.ca</a>		<b>Blues Jam.</b> Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.	
<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> Darrel McLeod: Reading and Q&A discussion. Salty Pear Gallery. 5 to 6 p.m.		<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> Darrel McLeod: Reading and Q&A discussion. Salty Pear Gallery. 5 to 6 p.m.		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
				<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> See Saturday's listing.	
				<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday's listing.	
				<b>Music Bingo.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Thrifty Foods.</b> Ganges, Mouat's Centre 7:30 a.m. to 9 p.m. Customer Service 250-537-1522					
<b>Fri.</b>	Sept. 22			<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>				<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> See Saturday's listing.	
<b>Sweet Anomaly &amp; Bassos Rancheros.</b> Mateada Social Club. 8 p.m. to midnight.				<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday's listing.	
<b>Fridays With DJ Boomtown.</b> Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. til 12:30 a.m.					
<b>Karaoke.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.					
<b>David Carl.</b> Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday's listing.					
<b>Neighbourhood Story Time.</b> Stories for young ones read by community members or library staff in the library's children's area every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.					
<b>ASK Salt Spring.</b> The Housing Now initiative is the scheduled topic in the SIMS courtyard or lobby. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.					
<b>Youth Games &amp; Chess Club.</b> For ages 9 to 13. Children's area at library. 1 to 4 p.m.					
<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> Darrel McLeod Book Signing. A Season in Chezgh'un. Salt Spring Books. 3 p.m.					
<b>Friday Game Night.</b> For ages 13 to 21 at the library program room. 7 p.m.					
<b>Outdoor Movie Night.</b> Island Pathways shows The Engine Inside, a film on how bicycles changed the world. Centennial Park. 7 p.m.					
<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> Wine, snacks, music and conversation. Salty Pear Gallery. 5 to 7 p.m.					
<b>Sat.</b>	Sept. 23			<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>				<b>Salt Spring Island Garden Club: Mike Rogers – Glorious Grasses.</b> Meaden Hall. 7:30 p.m.	
<b>Saturday Market in the Park.</b> Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.				<b>Bridge.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.	
<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> Various workshops. See <a href="http://papercoversrock.ca">papercoversrock.ca</a>				<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.	
<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> Darrel McLeod: Reading and Q&A discussion. Salty Pear Gallery. 5 to 6 p.m.				<b>Music Bingo.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Sunday.</b>	Sept. 24			<b>CINEMA</b>	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>				<b>• Oppenheimer</b> is the movie from Friday, Sept. 22 to Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m. with a 2 p.m. matinee on Sunday. (Note the earlier matinee time.) See <a href="http://thefritz.ca">thefritz.ca</a> for more movie info.	
<b>Blues Jam.</b> Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Paper Covers Rock Festival.</b> See Saturday's listing.					
<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See Wednesday's listing.					
<b>Music Bingo.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Mon.</b>	Sept. 25				
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Salt Spring Toastmasters Hybrid Meeting.</b> Public speaking club meeting. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 8:30 p.m. and online through <a href="http://saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org">saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org</a>					
<b>Tue.</b>	Sept. 26			<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</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>Gulf Islands Families Together Society 25th Anniversary Celebration.</b> Open house, cake & preview of Art 2 Art silent auction event. GIFTS. 6:30 p.m.				<b>Gulf Islands Families Together Society 25th Anniversary Celebration.</b> Open house, cake & preview of Art 2 Art silent auction event. GIFTS. 6:30 p.m.	
<b>Trivia Tuesday.</b> Moby's Pub. 8 to 10 p.m.					
<b>Wed.</b>	Sept. 27			<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>				<b>Wednesday.</b> Seth Berkowitz shows photographs in a series titled <i>A Torn and Splintered Ridge</i> in the ArtSpring lobby when it is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and around events at ArtSpring.	
<b>Morien Jones.</b> Lower deck at Moby's Pub 5 to 8 p.m.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Salt Spring Island Garden Club: Mike Rogers – Glorious Grasses.</b> Meaden Hall. 7:30 p.m.					
<b>Bridge.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.					
<b>Bittancourt Museum.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.					
<b>Music Bingo.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Sun.</b>	Sept. 24			<b>CINEMA</b>	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>				<b>• Wendy Wicklund</b> shows paintings in the library program room during the month of September.	
<b>Blues Jam.</b> Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Mon.</b>	Sept. 25				
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Salt Spring National Art Prize Finalist Exhibition</b> opens at Mahon Hall on Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with the opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m., and continues daily through Oct. 23.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Tue.</b>	Sept. 26			<b>• The Parallel Art Show Finalist Exhibition</b> opens at ArtSpring on Saturday, Sept. 23, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an opening reception on Sunday, Sept. 24 from 6 to 8 p.m. Show continues daily through Oct. 22.	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Salt Spring Toastmasters Hybrid Meeting.</b> Public speaking club meeting. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 to 8:30 p.m. and online through <a href="http://saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org">saltspring.toastmastersclubs.org</a>					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Wed.</b>	Sept. 27			<b>• Salty Pear Gallery</b> presents Ute Hagen's exhibition titled 'Abstracts - an expressionist's vision of emotions in motion' until Sept. 30. See <a href="http://saltypear.ca">saltypear.ca</a> for open dates and times.	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Morien Jones.</b> Lower deck at Moby's Pub 5 to 8 p.m.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Thu.</b>	Sept. 28			<b>• Enchanted – A Mother-Daughter Perspective</b> with artwork by Sage Szkarabnicki-Stuart and Olga Szkarabnicki is at Salt Spring Gallery Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Sept. 27.	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Blues Jam.</b> Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Fri.</b>	Sept. 29			<b>• Through September, Seth Berkowitz</b> shows photographs in a series titled <i>A Torn and Splintered Ridge</i> in the ArtSpring lobby when it is open from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday to Friday and around events at ArtSpring.	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Blues Jam.</b> Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Sat.</b>	Sept. 30			<b>• Wendy Wicklund</b> shows paintings in the library program room during the month of September.	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>					
<b>Blues Jam.</b> Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.					
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>					
<b>Sun.</b>	Sept. 30				
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# ISLAND LIFE

## COMMUNITY

# GIFTS celebrates 25 years with open house

Everyone invited to learn about Salt Spring-based group and how to get involved

SUBMITTED BY GIFTS

The Gulf Islands Families Together Society (GIFTS) is celebrating 25 years of community inclusion and everyone is invited to the birthday festivities.

On Tuesday, Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m., we will be hosting an open house, enjoying cake and

previewing our silent auction event called Art 2 Art.

Our birthday was the year 1998, when families and advocates of children with diverse abilities came together to look to the future of their teenage loved ones. Opportunities for social integration, employment and recreation were limited at the time. The group embarked upon a journey focused on providing personalized circles of support and founded GIFTS. A generous community member purchased and renovated the building at 152 McPhillips Ave. where the youth could meet, work, learn and play. An innovative partnership with School



[WWW.GULFISLANDGIFTS.COM](http://WWW.GULFISLANDGIFTS.COM)  
Gulf Islands Families Together Society website artwork.

District 64 began in the year 2000. The first of its kind and a model for other school districts across North America, the Transition Program supported graduating students in accessing appropriate community-based job placements, volunteer positions and socio-recreational

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activities.

Over the last quarter century, GIFTS has witnessed both the generosity and the willingness of our island community to welcome people of all abilities into its fold. Our participants are working, volunteering and recreating. More recently, donations from the Elliott family, an anonymous donor and the Aqueduct Foundation allowed GIFTS to purchase and renovate the property, which was integral to our growth.

As GIFTS plans for the next quarter century, we are once again looking to the future and to the community. We envision an engaged and

active non-profit model where people with diverse abilities can imagine and create their individual life plan while being fully supported in achieving their goals, where supports align with changing needs and flexibility is foundational and where participants can grow an ever-increasing circle of support.

This is why we are inviting the community to be an integral part of this exciting planning and outreach process by attending the open house on Sept. 26 at 6:30 p.m., which will be followed by the society's annual general meeting at 7:15 p.m.

## FOOD

# Prize-winning cheesecake recipe shared

Includes homemade dulce de leche instructions

Driftwood columnist Paul McElroy won the Harbour House Perpetual Trophy for Best Dessert at this year's Salt Spring Fall Fair for his Dulce De Leche Cheesecake. He has graciously provided the recipe for publication, below. As well, recipes from four other baking and preserves category winners are included in the Driftwood's Harvest Time publication inside this issue of the paper.

First, make your dulce de leche. You can occasionally find it ready-made in the shops, but it's super easy to make your own.

All you need is a can of sweetened condensed milk. Peel the label off, put it into a large saucepan of room-temperature water at least two inches over the can, bring to a boil and boil for three hours, topping it up with boiling water every 30 minutes or so.

(Avoid the pull ring cans, they can leak during the boiling and spill everything.)

Lift can with tongs from boiling water and allow to cool completely

on a wire rack before opening. Do not attempt to open the can while still hot; the pressurized hot caramel can spray dangerously.

The dulce de leche can be made weeks ahead, just keep it unopened in the fridge until you're ready to use it.

#### Ingredients:

12 graham crackers  
1 1/2 c. granulated sugar, divided  
1/4 tsp. kosher salt  
5 Tbsp. (72 g) unsalted butter, melted and cooled, plus more for greasing the pan  
4 225-g packages cream cheese, at room temperature  
1/2 tsp. vanilla extract  
4 large eggs  
1/2 c. sour cream  
1/2 c. prepared dulce de leche

#### Method:

Preheat oven to 350°F. It's important that the cheesecake cooks slowly and evenly. You don't want it to rise and crack.

Wrap three layers of aluminum foil around the outside of a 9-inch springform cake tin with 3-inch-high sides. Try to get the wide rolls of foil, it makes the job so much easier!

Grease the tin with butter. I also cut a circle of parchment paper

and line the bottom of the tin. The cake will lift from the base of the tin much more easily when it's cooked.

Combine graham crackers, 1/4 c. sugar and salt in a food processor and pulse until crumbly. Add melted butter, and pulse until moistened. Press the crumb mixture evenly onto bottom and 1 1/2 inches up sides of the prepared pan. Bake in preheated oven just until golden brown, about 15 minutes. Let cool completely in the fridge while you prepare the filling. Turn the oven temperature down to 325°F.

In an electric mixer, beat cream cheese on medium speed until fluffy. Don't beat it for too long. Add vanilla and remaining 1 1/4 c. sugar and beat until combined.

Add eggs, one at a time, beating until well combined after each addition. Add sour cream, and beat until smooth, about 35 seconds.

Take out one cup of the filling and put it into a separate medium bowl. Add the dulce de leche to the filling in the bowl and whisk until the dulce de leche is fully incorporated, making sure there are no lumps of the caramel. Pour the plain cheesecake filling into the cooled crust. Drizzle dulce de leche filling over top and using a knife or

chopstick, swirl to create a marbled effect. Don't just plonk the dulce de leche on top of the main filling, squiggle it with a pointed spoon onto the white filling before pulling the knife or chopstick through it.

Now carefully place the cheesecake in a large baking pan and add hot water to the pan to come about an inch up the side of the springform pan. Bake until almost set (the centre will move slightly when the pan is gently shaken) but not puffed, about 1 hour and 15 minutes, depending on your oven. The last 20 minutes or so are critical: leave it too long and the cheesecake will brown on top, and you'll lose the lovely marble effect. It will still taste wonderful, but not look as beautiful.

Let the cheesecake cool at room temperature for two hours. Cover loosely with plastic wrap, and refrigerate, still in the tin, until completely cooled, at least six hours or preferably overnight.



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## TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

**SEPTEMBER 2023** PST (UTC-8)

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
<b>20</b>	0147	<b>1.0</b>	3.3		<b>24</b>	0539	<b>0.7</b>	2.3
	0942	<b>2.8</b>	9.2			1436	<b>3.2</b>	10.5
WE	1341	<b>2.6</b>	8.5		SU	2034	<b>2.8</b>	9.2
ME	1846	<b>3.0</b>	9.8		DI	2155	<b>2.8</b>	9.2
	0233	<b>0.9</b>	3.0			0647	<b>0.7</b>	2.3
	1116	<b>2.9</b>	9.5			1513	<b>3.3</b>	10.8
TH	1444	<b>2.8</b>	9.2			2044	<b>2.7</b>	8.9
	1858	<b>3.0</b>	9.8			2354	<b>2.8</b>	9.2
	0327	<b>0.8</b>	2.6			0747	<b>0.6</b>	2.0
	1245	<b>3.1</b>	10.2			1543	<b>3.3</b>	10.8
FR	1631	<b>2.9</b>	9.5			2110	<b>2.4</b>	7.9
	1901	<b>3.0</b>	9.8			MA		
	0429	<b>0.7</b>	2.3			0128	<b>2.8</b>	9.2
SA	1350	<b>3.2</b>	10.5			0839	<b>0.7</b>	2.3
					WE	1609	<b>3.3</b>	10.8
SA					ME	2143	<b>2.1</b>	6.9

## SPIRITUALITY

# Reflection and discussion at Star of the Sea

SUBMITTED BY STAR OF THE SEA

Bill Tarter, an Anglican priest in the Diocese of the Islands and Inlets, will be leading a morning of reflection and discussion on Thursday, Sept. 28.

Tarter will be at St. Mary's Church in

Fulford from 9:30 a.m. to noon for a by-donation Star of the Sea fall session.

Tarter is a Franciscan and guardian of the Community of Francis and Clare. His wisdom and insights will guide participants through the morning using photos and artwork to prompt discussions about

how creation reveals the presence of the creative mystery in our lives. Participants may want to bring a photo of a special place in nature, and a snack or beverage.

Register at [staroftheseassi@gmail.com](mailto:staroftheseassi@gmail.com). For further information go to [staroftheseassi.ca](http://staroftheseassi.ca).

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## SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS



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**Saturday October 7**  
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## In Memoriam

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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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## Auctions

**ACTIVE AUCTION MART** in conj. with VALLEY AUCTION are pleased to present a **TIMED - ONLINE AUCTION** for the **ESTATE OF FRANK TISCHIK**. Auction incl. lots of Farm Machinery, Antique Tractors, Shop Tools, Horse Drawn Equipment, A Lifetime of Collectibles, PLUS More. On Site Viewing is Sat. Sept 30 and Sun. Oct. 1 from 10am to 3pm PST at 9839 School Road, Lavington, BC V1B3C7. ONLINE Bidding runs from Sept. 25 to Oct. 2, closing starts at 2pm PST. Questions about lots call Don Raffan at 250-558-6789. REGISTER, VIEW LOTS and BID ONLINE at [www.ACTIVEAUCTIONMART.COM](http://www.ACTIVEAUCTIONMART.COM)



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Islanders Working Against Violence

iWAV (Islanders Working Against Violence) would like to thank the many people who helped to make our recent 10 000 For Change Fundraising Dinner a wonderful success and a fabulous evening. iWAV raised its target of \$10,000. The money raised will go to support The Cedars, second-stage housing, to accommodate women and children affected by domestic violence. To find out more about iWAV visit [iWAV.org](http://iWAV.org). Huge gratitude to the following people and businesses:

**Platinum Sponsors:** Country Grocer; McLean, Lizotte, Headon and Company; Hayward's Funeral Service; Island Savings Salt Spring Branch and Scott Howe, Senior Wealth Advisor Credential Securities; and Mouat's Home Hardware.

**Gold Sponsors:** Charlie's Excavating; Method Accounting; and Nadia and David Youngson, Pitchfork Social.

**Silver Sponsors:** Cicela Manson and Seth Berkowitz; Elizabeth FitzZaland, Island Village Builders; Gail Jaeger Architect; Heather Fox; Mitchel Sherrin and Mylene Dammel-Sherrin; Salt Spring Pharmasave; Two Tools and a Truck; Windsor Plywood; and Janis Gautier, JG Consulting.

**Liquor Sponsor:** Upper Ganges Liquor Store.

**Raffle Prize Donors:** Bars Buns and Bistro; Folk Stock and Trade; Gulf Island Aluminum; Judy Weedon; Julie MacKinnon Ceramics; Lightwater Cove, Greg and Monika Phillips; Love My Kitchen; Pod; Purica; Rhubarb Designs; Salish Sea Succulents; Salt Spring Cheese Co.; Salt Spring Golf Club; Salt Spring Kitchen Co.; Salt Spring Soapworks; Upper Ganges Liquor; and the Youngson Family.

**Additional Donors and Contributors:** Adam Olsen, our Master of Ceremonies; Cindy Rabson; Nikki and Bobo; Musicians, John Herbert and Mark LaBerg; our servers: Jonah, Barb and Natalie; Gary Holman; Karl & Celia Meade; Moe and Chelsea Wendt; Sibeal Foyle; Marsha; Switchboard Cafe; Bars Buns; Sue Higgs; Andrea Metzger; Sarah Cordes; Alicia Herbert; and all members of the iWAV board for doing the many things that made this event a success.

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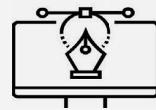
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PHOTO BY NATASHA KONG

**SUPER COOL SWEEPERS:** Island Pathways volunteers pay homage to the Barbie movie themes of collaborative grassroots action to make a better world by sweeping the road shoulders on Ganges Hill and in town dressed in tutus, leisure suits and sequins last Tuesday night. Island Pathways outreach director Robin Jenkinson said the group has been voluntarily sweeping the road in order to make these shared streets safer for cyclists and walkers and to encourage the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to invest in more consistent maintenance, for safer streets for all. "We Barbie street sweepers stand for road-user equality," said Jenkinson. "Walkers, cyclists and cars share these transportation thoroughfares and they need to be better maintained by MoTI for safer travel for all."

## GARDENING

# 'The Grass Man' visits

Club speaker on Sept. 27

SUBMITTED BY SSI GARDEN CLUB

The next Salt Spring Island Garden Club guest speaker is Mike Rogers with his Glorious Grasses presentation.

Rogers will speak on Wednesday, Sept. 27 at 7:30 p.m. at Meaden Hall, with doors open at 6:45 p.m.

Rogers arrived in Victoria from Calgary a few years back, and felt like a kid in a candy shop growing anything that will survive in our balmy West Coast climate.

Living on a deer "super-highway," the most important aspect of any new plantings was their deer-resistance and that led to an inspiration to concentrate on ornamental grasses. Rogers' adventures with these tough, drought-resistant, deer-proof and stunningly beautiful plants evolved into a series of articles in the Victoria Horticultural Society magazine Gardenry

and that led to a number of speaking engagements, one of which gave rise to the moniker "The Grass Man," which he rather enjoys.

In the talk, Rogers will walk guests through the continuing transformation of his front yard from bare cobbles to its current state of exuberant, waving and shimmering foliage. In the exploration stages of the project and through to the current day, regular visits to the "ornamental grass" section of local nurseries have turned up many wonderful new varieties and cultivars of true grasses and some sedges. These will be shared and used to whet the appetite of soon-to-be or already converted grass aficionados.

The presentation's second half will be more hands-on, with tips on planting, upkeep and propagation.

The garden club meets and hosts guest speakers on the fourth Wednesday of each month. See [ssigardenclub.ca](http://ssigardenclub.ca) for details.



## Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee Meeting

**Date:** Tuesday, October 3, 2023  
**Time:** 10:30 am - 12:30 pm  
**Location:** Salt Spring Island Multi-Space (SIMS), 124 Rainbow Road

Members of the public are welcome to attend and observe the meeting. For more information on the agenda or speaking opportunities, please contact your FAC Chair: [haroldswierenga@gmail.com](mailto:haroldswierenga@gmail.com)

On October 20, 2023, our teams will be back on Salt Spring Island, in partnership with ASK Salt Spring.

Visit your online community page to find out about this and more: [bcferriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island](http://bcferriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island)

For more information or to receive the link to attend the FAC meeting virtually, contact: [facinfo@bcferries.com](mailto:facinfo@bcferries.com)

Scan here to learn more:



[bcferries.com](http://bcferries.com)

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## ADVERTORIAL

# A vision for tourism that supports nature

One of the top reasons that visitors are drawn to destinations is because of their natural surroundings. For anyone who has spent time in the Southern Gulf Islands, we know this to be true. The serene, verdant, rolling landscape that makes up our archipelago is both inviting and captivating. It draws you in and, if it doesn't keep you here, it'll keep you coming back. And just like island residents, visitors are known to want the places they visit to have unspoiled environments and thriving native wildlife. For us, that means: sculpted sandstone shorelines, garry oak and arbutus trees, coastal bluffs, Douglas fir woodlands, majestic sea life, hundreds of resident and migratory species of birds, and so much more. If only for a short time, visitors too, want to experience the islands for what they are and for how they're different from anywhere else.

While irresponsible tourism undoubtedly contributes to the devastation of the planet, well-managed visitation has a role in advancing conservation and protecting our ecosystems. At the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership, we focus on attracting visitors that align with our community values and share our passion for environmental preservation with a vision to regenerate these lands and waters for generations to come. Here's how:

## Active & shared transportation

The Tourism Partnership creates resources that facilitate visitation without a car so that travelers and potential travelers can access transportation that reduces their emissions. SGITP also routinely encourages safe cycling. At the same time, we support external advocacy work for cycling paths so that emissions-free visitation can improve

traffic flow rather than inhibit it. In the long term, we see visitors arriving and getting around the islands using active and shared transportation networks in a way that reduces congestion on our roads, maintains the rural feel of our infrastructure, and reduces fossil fuel emissions on our islands, decreasing the carbon footprint of their visit and its impact on our surroundings.

## Environmentally focussed partnerships

SGITP connects with local conservancies and environmental organizations, sharing their content, promoting their events, and consulting their expertise, with a view to forging long-term partnerships. We envision voluntourism-type events and programming, in which visitors can easily and eagerly participate, that support community environmental needs and interests. Whether it's trail maintenance, environmental restoration, beach cleanups, or tree-planting, we see visitation to the islands as something that can and should foster care and responsibility for our nature, and we know there is a demand for these types of experiences.

## Responsible consumption

The Tourism Partnership strongly promotes locally-owned businesses, creating content that highlights those that source locally, and pitching accommodations and services that are grounded in local values to media and regional and provincial partners. Through our advertising, we actively target visitors that are likely to embrace "local" by buying locally-grown and raised food, eating at restaurants that source locally, and choosing accommodations and service providers that demonstrate a commitment to local values, through their own initiatives



*A thoughtful, well-stewarded visitor economy doesn't need to be at the expense of our sensitive ecosystems.*

in reducing their carbon footprint, water usage, etc. This contributes to local food security, environmentally-friendly farming practices, and better resource usage. Our vision is that more accommodations, restaurants, and businesses make sustainability commitments to meet this already established priority in the travel industry.

## Regenerative Messaging

SGITP does not promote travel to the islands in the summer, when our businesses are already at capacity. Instead, we focus on educating visitors about our values, with content and targeted advertisements that encourage responsible behaviour, such as bringing home all waste, proper road and trail use, and respectful wildlife encounters. Our vision is for a gentler visitor season, where summer crowds are sustainably

spread throughout the year, reducing the environmental impact of concentration, and where guests understand their role and take an active part in protecting and maintaining our home.

As the Tourism Partnership looks ahead and creates its next Five-Year Business Strategy (2025-2030) which will be supported by annual Tactical Plans, we continue to reflect on nature as our most valuable asset. How can we continue to encourage visitors that support our values? How do we further raise awareness of and adherence to local concerns? What kind of partnerships or programs could create tangible benefits to our communities? We welcome ongoing constructive feedback, innovative ideas, and compelling solutions. Scan the QR code to share your insights through our online form.

SOUTHERN GULF ISLANDS

We're leveraging leading industry insights to rethink visitation in a way that harnesses local innovation and fosters creative solutions to address the needs of all islanders.

Share your vision for a regenerative future for the visitor economy, scan the QR code to complete a short survey and provide your input.

Photo by Stasia Garraway