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- Country Grocer
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Oct. 18, 2023

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

MAKING SOMETHING BEAUTIFUL: Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild member Mavis MacMillan gives a demonstration on one of the looms in the guild's new studio space in the Salt Spring Island Multi-Space during an open house held Saturday, Oct. 14. Several members of the public dropped by to see the facility, which the guild moved into this spring. The former classroom, which contains a large reference library, shelves full of materials, several looms and spinning wheels, is open six days a week and welcomes spinners and weavers of any level.

ISLANDS TRUST

Bylaw 530 gets drastic haircut

ADU map could contain very few eligible parcels

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Speeches were made, philosophies voiced and frustrations aired at a lightly attended meeting of Salt Spring Island's Local Trust Committee (LTC) — but despite trustees seemingly in agreement that more should be done to advance the cause of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on the island, the legislative path forward now contemplates even fewer parcels where they might be allowed.

Proposed Bylaw 530, originally envisioned to create a legal pathway toward ADUs in several zones across Salt Spring, is now being advanced by the LTC, but replacing its "zoning by designation" approach with a modified map schedule. The new schedule would allow ADUs within the land use bylaw's current Schedule "I" — a map showing where secondary suites are currently allowed — but exclud-

ing parcels where, as trustee Laura Patrick put it at the Oct. 12 meeting, the possibility of building ADUs "isn't real."

Specifically, parcels would be left behind by Bylaw 530 if they are currently within any water service district, such as the North Salt Spring Waterworks District service area — because a building permit would require a proof of water availability NSSWD currently would not grant due to its water connection moratorium — or are in areas served by wells within a moderate to high saltwater intrusion risk, as identified by provincial modelling in 2021.

The LTC passed, on a 2-1 vote with trustee Jamie Harris opposing, a resolution requesting a new map schedule to that effect — now affecting very few parcels. Indeed, designing the new map from the current Schedule "I" — with the seeming exclusion of agricultural-zoned properties, some of which also currently

permit secondary suites — the number would be in the low double-digits.

"The resulting map will be itty bitty," said Patrick. "But realistic. That's the intent of this, because I don't want people to have any expectations [just] because they see they're located on a map, and then find out they can't do it. It's important so people can see how few [parcels] are brought forward. It's honest."


As he dissented, Harris said, "Since it's sort of a political stunt idea to try and shed light on some of the bullying and legal threats from certain people, I'll just vote against the motion."

Patrick took exception to the "political stunt" characterization, while expressing a hope that perhaps the effect might be to drive new voices to make themselves heard before the LTC.

BYLAW 530 continued on 3



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LAND USE

Islands Trust reveals mandate interpretation

'Housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism' now included

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Details of a closed meeting held by the Islands Trust Council



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cil (ITC) last month have begun to emerge and may telegraph a shift in that body's priorities.

The most recent ITC meeting, held on North Pender Island Sept. 26-28, kicked off with a two-hour-long session held in-camera — the first order of business for the land use authority's three-day quarterly meeting. Upon returning to public view, ITC chair and Thetis Island trustee Peter Luckham disclosed the group had enjoyed a "lengthy discussion" about the interpretation of Section 3 of the Islands Trust Act — commonly referred to as the "object" or "mandate" of that body.

That section instructs the Islands Trust to "preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, First Nations, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia."

Luckham on Sept. 26 did not reveal the result of that discussion, saying only that ITC had "come to a conclusion" of how it wished to interpret Section 3 going forward, and that public release of that information and the interpretation ITC agreed

upon would be forthcoming "in the near future."

"Trust Council's view is that unique amenities are broad-ranging and may include issues such as, but not limited to, housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism."

ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL CONSENSUS DOCUMENT

So as a draft version of the unofficial "highlights" of that meeting was posted as part of the Trust's Executive Committee meeting agenda packet for Wednesday, Oct. 11, observers got their first look at what was discussed. In the closed session, according to that draft highlight document, ITC considered legal opinions regarding that portion of the Islands Trust Act — and apparently reached consensus that the definition of "unique amenities" may include "housing, livelihoods, infrastructure

and tourism" — seemingly the most explicit recognition yet of this ITC's belief that its mandate extends well beyond the natural environment.

Communication on the issue has been unofficial and scant; in several public settings leading up to the ITC meeting, trustees had alluded to such discussions taking place and a possible new direction — and a post on social media had suggested at least one trustee had shared this new interpretation previous to the release of the draft highlights document. But an official public statement had not been made before the release of this agenda packet — which included a new link to an official "rise and report" consensus document, dated the day of the closed meeting.

"There has been some debate in the past about the meaning of unique amenities," according to that report. "Trust Council's view is that unique amenities are broad-ranging and may include issues such as, but not limited to, housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism."

"However," it continues, "land use planning in the Trust Area must always include a focus on preserving and protecting the environment and communities of both local Trust areas and the

Trust Area generally and, in a manner consistent with Reconciliation. In any given decision-making situation, there must be recognition of the importance of each of the essential elements and where there is competition between those elements there must be a careful and reasoned balancing of the importance of preserving and protecting the Trust Area, and its unique amenities and environment."

The closed meeting, according to the report, summarized all previous legal opinions on the mandate, addressing what it called a "deep division amongst both trustees and constituents" on its meaning and implementation. The effort was a priority of the Trust's current Governance Committee, appointed in December 2022. That committee has also been the driving force behind the creation of a strategic plan for the Trust, an effort "championed by a sub-committee of the Financial Planning Committee which has been endorsed and encouraged by the Governance Committee, and will be subject to separate and future discussions."

Recordings or official minutes of the September ITC meeting have yet to be posted. ITC's consensus statement can be read on the Islands Trust's website.

LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION

CRD tax hike now certain

Increase could reach 11 per cent for 2024

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Members of Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) have been making the rounds gathering community input on next year's budget and its tax implications — an increase in the latter, according to officials, that will likely be flanked by new borrowing.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Board is expected to grant provisional budget approval later in October, according to CRD director and LCC member Gary Holman, with a final approval in the spring reflecting not only public consultation but numbers as-yet calculated — such as new-year property assessments and 2023 year-end surpluses and deficits.

The proposed requisition of \$8.37 million reflects an increase of 9.6 per cent over 2023, Holman said, with estimates for an "average" household paying \$106 per month to fund CRD-delivered services and amenities — including the LCC services, proposed at \$5.48 million, itself a 12.7 per cent increase, and Salt Spring's con-

tribution to the Capital Regional Hospital District.

"The LCC is also proposing two borrowings for pool repairs and liquid waste processing, both necessary," said Holman, adding that commissioners will also be discussing at their next meeting on Thursday, Oct. 19 whether to include a new full-time admin staff position to help facilitate their work.

"If this position is included in the budget, the CRD tax increase in 2024 will be close to 11 per cent," said Holman.

Major contributing factors to Salt Spring Island's requisition increase, according to a summary document circulated by the LCC, include increases in core inflation and negotiated staff wages and salaries, as well as COVID-related 2023 deficit carry-overs — reduced revenues from lower attendance at the pool and reduced ridership on transit — and a move to restore capital and operating reserves.

Holman said another factor in the requisition increase is "significant future regional budget pressure from a proposed \$160 million in borrowing" for affordable housing, regional trails and parkland acquisitions.

The LCC's Oct. 19 meeting begins at 9 a.m. at the SIMS boardroom.

**FOR
THE RECORD**

Last week's article on federal Reaching Home housing dollars available to the Salt Spring Island Electoral Area focused only on the lack of funding availability through that program's Designated Areas within the Capital Regional District, and neglected to point out Salt Spring's Island Community Services receives core funding for its Housing First program through the Rural and Remote division of the program.



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Letter writers criticized for power wielded

BYLAW 530

continued from 1

"There's a narrative out there that the sky's going to fall, and we're going to double our population, and all of that," said Patrick. "They're the only ones writing letters. And I think if we pass the bylaw as-is, that group is going to send letters to the [Islands Trust] Executive Committee, and the Executive Committee is likely going to turn it down."

Patrick told fellow trustees she felt that gave these particular letter-writers too much power in the process, and she wanted to "take the power from them, [and] give the power to people who need these houses."

Harris said he felt the Executive Committee wouldn't be an obstacle to any bylaw that would increase housing stock, and that the community had already weighed in.

"People voted for us to do something, to build housing," said Harris. "This is nothing, it's a drop in the bucket."

The new map, and revised bylaw, is expected to return to the LTC; the current Schedule "I" map can be viewed at islandstrust.bc.ca/document/salt-spring-island-land-use-bylaw-no-355/.

Speaking after the meeting, Patrick said, "I'm frustrated, as usual," by the Trust's inability to take meaningful action on the affordable housing crisis.

"My expectation all along was to try to find a pathway for the legalization of ADUs. This staff report didn't do it."

Salt Spring Solutions is a community organization that has advocated for Bylaw 530.

"One of the greatest barriers to landing housing solutions in any community these days is opposition from residents who are concerned about potential negative impacts," said Mairi Welman on behalf of the group, when asked for a comment by the Driftwood. "Any change in a community warrants informed public education and dialogue, but it's seldom properly resourced by local government. The consequence is that most of the community has no idea that the conversation is even taking place, far less that they can take part in it, and the staff and decision-makers hear from the same few voices over and over again."

"If Salt Spring is to achieve its stated community goals of reducing GHG emissions, supporting active transportation, broadening housing equity, choice and affordability, protecting nature space and farmland, reducing wildfire risk, fostering social inclusion and aging-in-place then the approach to public education and engagement has to evolve. The dialogue must be equitable and include a broad spectrum of voices. Instead of focussing on the barriers to achieving our goals let's, as a community, discuss how we can make them happen."

Ron Wright is a member of the ad hoc group called Keep Salt Spring Sustainable (KSSS) that is opposed to the bylaw. He attended the Oct. 12 LTC meeting and provided the following comment on behalf of KSSS.

"Bylaw 530 was never about housing for low-income islanders. 'Affordable' never appeared in it. This is why so many Salt Springers saw it as exploiting the housing shortage to shift major land-use decisions from public control into private hands. So it was no surprise when the bylaw died — in its worst form, anyway — at last week's LTC meeting. But what did surprise was Laura Patrick's rant against the press for what she called 'these battles in the Driftwood.' Trustee Patrick herself has often appeared in this paper and other media, as have opponents and supporters. That is only right: democracy can't work without healthy debate in a free press. When lawmakers object to such debate they're showing dictatorial impulses."

HOUSING

Early support given to project



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Part of the 154 Kings Lane property owned by the Gulf Islands Seniors Residence Association that is currently rented to BC Housing for supportive housing purposes.

GISRA contemplates new affordable housing use for Kings Lane property

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A proposal for new housing received a warm welcome from the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) last week, despite the plan being in what could be described as the "earliest exploratory stages," according to a representative for the society that owns the land.

The Gulf Islands Seniors Residents Association (GISRA) is contemplating a change of use for its property on Kings Lane, according to GISRA executive director Harry Barnes, who said the notion was being shared with the LTC at an early stage of development to gauge that body's support of the concept — and in hopes of a letter to that effect being created that GISRA could share with potential funding partners.

The parcel at 154 Kings Lane had previously been envisioned for an expansion of GISRA's successful congregate living model already in place at Meadowbrook, Barnes said, but the demand for such a project — and its economic viability, given construction costs for what would mostly be large, higher-priced single-senior accommodations — had come into question over the past few years.

"When you get right down to it, building bigger units in today's market, for the sort of rents that you can reasonably bring in, is just not commercially viable," said Barnes. "So we're left with a rather interesting situation in a housing crisis — having a prime piece of real estate right in walking distance of all the services, with proven wells, already with a development permit for 50 units."

Salt Spring's LTC jumped at the opportunity to provide a broad letter of support, while reserving judgement on specifics until GISRA decided what it thought the best use for the

property would be; trustees passed resolutions requesting staff draft the letter for their signature, as well as work with GISRA to review the existing zoning and permits on the property's title and report back.

"I'm so glad the board is supporting making this change," said trustee Laura Patrick at the Oct. 12 LTC meeting. "This is a big win for them, and I think it's going to be a healthier project. It's exciting."

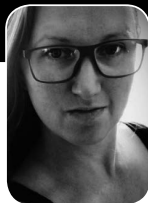
Barnes said with the preliminary support, GISRA would continue to explore its options — ensuring its own financial wellbeing, while hopefully offering something of value to Salt Spring.

"Our board is adamant that it should be for the community, for affordable housing or whatever the need is," said Barnes. "Whatever is the best fit for the community."

Ask the Expert

Q: How to avoid becoming a victim of scams?

Expert: Jenn Anderson,
Senior Financial Advisor—Ganges



A: Unsolicited calls, suspicious links and surprise offers. It's safe to say that most of us encounter more scams than we can count. Despite being everywhere, scores of people fall victim to these threats each year, regardless of their age or profession. Here are some common scams to watch out for.

Social media

Scrolling on Facebook or Instagram, you suddenly get a message from a friend with an unusual link. You may be curious, but don't click it. Fraudulent activity is rampant on social media platforms.

Online purchase

Shopping scams mimic the website of reputable companies and offer products at too-good-to-be-true prices. After a purchase, companies will send you counterfeit products — or worse, nothing. They may even use your credit card information. Always study a company's website before making a purchase — look out for typos and ensure the URL begins with "https".

Phishing

Phishing emails and text messages often come from an account or phone number attempting to resemble a reputable company. They will try to entice you to click on a link or open an attachment, which will then infect your computer or mobile device with malware.

For more info, visit islandsavings.ca/privacy

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Remembrance Day Feature



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- ▶ Private Sector Industry Collection Service Provider (1)
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- ▶ Willis Point (1)
- ▶ Solid Waste Technology (1)

We invite you to send us a brief summary telling us about yourself, who you represent, your relevant experience and why you would like to serve on this committee. **Deadline for receipt of applications is Friday, October 27, 2023.**

For a copy of the Solid Waste Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, contact CRD Environmental Resource Management at the address below.

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Adieu, ADUs

People who follow local government affairs will be forgiven for feeling dazed and confused after the events of last Thursday's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) meeting.

Trust staff had been tasked with bringing an amended Bylaw 530 back to the LTC to consider, addressing various concerns raised by the public while maintaining a pathway to create affordable housing by legalizing some accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on the island. The result after last week's meeting is the possibility of a bylaw that could give ADU rights to no more than a few dozen properties, which trustee Laura Patrick admits is "a farce."

Clearly, proposed Bylaw 530, which arose from work done by the LTC's Housing Action Program Task Force and was supposed to make it easy to both legalize existing ADUs and create new ones across the island, has failed. But Patrick attributes that failure to the lobbying activities of an organized group of citizens who know how the system works and who she believes would also influence the Trust's Executive Committee.

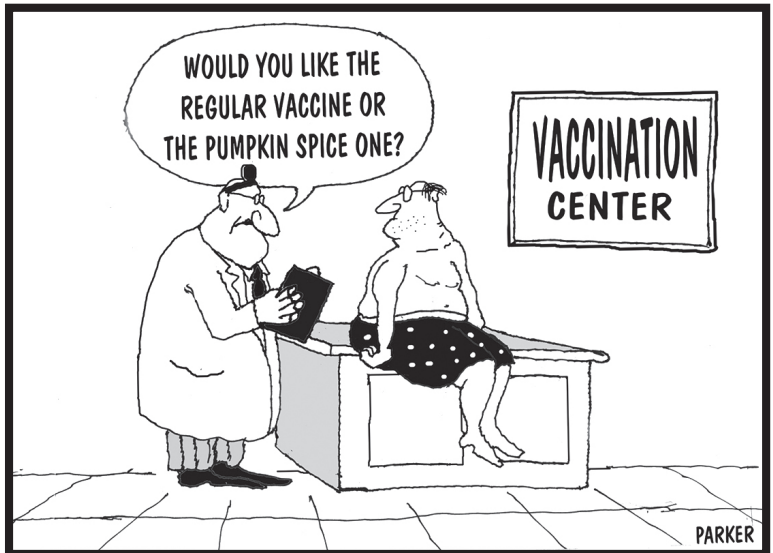
That committee would have to approve Bylaw 530 before it became law. Legal action has also been threatened, she notes. A new group — Keep Salt Spring Sustainable — even formed in response to Bylaw 530.

In looking to the future and how to actually get anything substantive passed through the LTC, trustee Patrick has focused on the way public input is gathered, last week bringing forth a motion that staff do research on how "qualified professionals" could be sourced "to develop an equity-based public engagement strategy," and that funds be allocated for that purpose.

But when access to local government is not difficult on this island, hiring consultants seems like a complicated and expensive way to try to temper the well-organized voices of preservationism and hope a new set of voices is somehow mobilized to participate in the exciting world of local land use and politics. If only. Individuals can already write letters at any time, make phone calls or submit to public hearings in writing or in person. After last Thursday's meeting, it sounds like writing to the Islands Trust's Executive Committee should also be on the list of activities.

THE ISSUE: Bylaw 530 outcome

WE SAY: Public process not the problem



Move over, Rod Serling . . .

BY ERIC BOOTH

Imagine, if you will, what I can only describe as the most ridiculous proposal I have ever seen, made by Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick and supported by Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) chair Tim Peterson (from Lasqueti Island) at last Thursday's LTC meeting.

The proposal, which Patrick herself characterized as "silly," would see the reduction in the proposed number of much needed, potential accessory dwelling units in Bylaw 530 from over 5,000 to, in her words, an "itty-bitty" number . . . around 20 or so.

Incredulously, her stated intention in making the proposal is to garner support for Bylaw 530.

In other words, propose something so ludicrous that it will anger supporters of the bylaw, while pleasing all of those who are opposed to it and, in the meantime eat up valuable staff time, resources and tax dollars on the "silly" idea, while our housing crisis gets worse by the day.

Patrick was elected five years ago, and, to date has moved nothing forward to actually deal with the [housing] crisis. Patrick was elected five years ago, and, to date has moved nothing forward to actually deal with the crisis. She punted Bylaw 530 last year before the election. She campaigned on supporting Bylaw 530, stating at the public debate that the uptake for ADUs will likely only be about six or seven per cent (350-plus). She was elected on that platform, and then in June, in opposition to trustee Jamie Harris, punted it again through to last week, and now has punted it again, back downfield, in the opposite direction.

VIEWPOINT

The question that now arises is this: when the bylaw, amended to reflect her "silly" request, returns to the next LTC meeting, is she (a) going to vote for it, or (b) vote against it and propose further amendments that are less silly?

A politician playing "silly" games, and wasting time, in the face of a crisis that is affecting hundreds of islanders she represents, is an insult to every elector.

She may think she is being clever, but the bottom line is this: She has proven that she has been unwilling to do what she has been twice elected to do — make difficult decisions.

If she can't move Bylaw 530 forward, she will never be able to move forward the necessary changes to our official community plan and land use bylaws required to provide sufficient workforce housing.

If she is incapable/scared of moving forward 530 in the face of opposition, in spite of her professed support for it, she needs to resign her position and allow a by-election, and hopefully, someone with the necessary courage/fortitude/common sense will step forward and support the decisions required to save this community from the housing crisis.

We have, literally, crossed into the "Twilight Zone" . . . a "unique" dimension, where the absurdity of local governance has become our reality.

The writer was an Islands Trust trustee from 2002 to 2005.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Does the Islands Trust
need a revised public
input system?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is fining BC Ferries
for cancelled
sailings a good idea?

39 113
YES NO

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Mandate change staggers

It may be the end of the Islands Trust as "a land-use planning agency with a special conservation-oriented responsibility."

As reported by the Driftwood on its website on Oct. 11, on Sept. 26 — in a closed-door meeting — Trust Council reached a "consensus" interpretation that the "unique amenities" referred to in the Trust mandate "are broad-ranging and may include issues such as, but not limited to, housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism." In other words, everything, both natural and man-made, now falls under the "preserve and protect" mandate.

But such an interpretation is a gross distortion of the mandate. The dictionary defines "unique" as "being only one of its kind." How can a house, a tourist resort, or a cell tower be considered "the only one of its kind?"

What type of twisted logic did trustees use to reach their "consensus"? Who said what and what were the legal opinions? We may never know, yet this was one of the most important decisions ever taken by Trust Council.

The implications of this "determination" are staggering as the Trust was established to protect the natural envi-

ronment — not to the exclusion of everything else — but first and foremost. Now that everything is to be protected, trustees are free to pick and choose their own priorities, just like in any other jurisdiction.

But the Islands Trust Act still stands, regardless of Trust Council's absurd interpretation. And many are now wondering if the B.C. government minister responsible will sign the new everything's-a-priority policy statement and official community plans that are heading her way — documents that are supposed to reflect the true spirit and intent of the Islands Trust Act.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

Editor's note: The story the letter writer refers to was posted at gulfislandsdriftwood.com on Oct. 11 and appears in print on page 2 of this paper.

Critical thinking an important task

Bryan Young, dedicated chair of Transition Salt Spring, is quoted in last week's Driftwood as saying: "It behooves anybody who opposes something to be also proposing a solution at the same time."

Surely this is not entirely practical. We do not ask the house inspector to tell us

what shingles to use or how to build a failing wall. We cannot ask the boy who notices the crack in the dam to also prepare the plans for repairing it. Only on TV does the guy who smashes your old toilet choose its replacement.

Critical thinking is an important task too often seen as equivalent to complaining; it is anything but. There are lots of complainers in our community, and we have good critical thinkers too. The real question is: do our leaders have the smarts enough to take the constructive criticism for what it's really worth, and use it to build concrete realistic solutions for the challenges we face?

NEVA HOHN,
SALT SPRING

We will miss Rita

I was a neighbour to the late Rita Dods back in the '70s, when she had her restaurant, Rita's Inn (now Salt Spring Inn), and I had my little store, Annie's Music Box (now House Piccolo), right behind her.

We were just a handful of people living in the Ganges pre-sewer core at that time. Her restaurant was one of only about a half dozen on the whole island, so a centre of the universe in Ganges.

Of course later she became a winner at so many fall fair baking contests; she

had always packed sandwiches and coffee and taken them up to firemen and hydro people during crises when she had the restaurant and continued her largesse afterwards, often bringing goodies to Richard Murakami and his workers, among so many others. She was a true fan of Alan Moberg and came to his concerts at the Tree House. She was a big supporter of the ALS flower fundraising. She went to see Queen Elizabeth in Victoria twice.

Shilo Zylbergold wrote and recorded a song about her; Kathy Stack has a verse about her in her Salt Spring Heroes song. Rita was a Salt Spring icon we loved and we will miss her.

Here is an excerpt from Shilo's song:
You can sit and schmooze, you can cry the blues at Rita's

You can save the Earth, get rebirthed at Rita's

*At Rita's, you can really strut your stuff
At Rita's, you can even fall in love
At Rita's, you got nothing to lose
You can make your dreams come true at Rita's.*

From the song "Rita's" by Shilo Zylbergold.

With love,
ANNIE PALOVCIK,
SALT SPRING

Editor's note: Longtime islander Rita Dods died on Aug. 27 at Greenwoods, but an obituary has not yet been submitted to the Driftwood.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"People voted for us to do something, to build housing. This is nothing, it's a drop in the bucket."

JAMIE HARRIS, SALT SPRING TRUSTEE, ON CURRENT VERSION OF PROPOSED BYLAW 530

Data helps inform innovative solutions to island's housing crisis

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

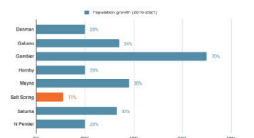
Salt Spring Solutions is a group of community volunteers with professional expertise in statistical analysis, large datasets and public policy planning.

We have been analyzing and reporting on the 2021 Census results for over a year. Here is some of what we have learned.

Finding #1

From 2016 to 2021, several Gulf Islands had population spikes.

Salt Spring Island was not one of them.



Finding #2

Salt Spring Island is losing its renters.

Between 2016 and 2021, the proportion of households on Salt Spring that were rentals dropped by 23 per cent.

In 2021, the island's population of rental households was less than 19 per cent and significantly below the provincial average of 33 per cent.

The disappearance and displacement of renters means we're seeing a loss of demographic diversity,

a lack of inclusion, and shrinkage of our local workforce.

A mix of different housing types, including rental, ensures social and economic diversity, inclusion, and a viable workforce on the island. This is a clearly stated objective in our Official Community Plan.

Finding #3

Salt Spring Island is one of the province's most unaffordable places to be a renter.

Approximately 425 of the 945 renter households on Salt Spring pay an unaffordable amount of their monthly income for housing, with 30 per cent or more of their total household income going towards rent and utilities.

Within that group, many renters are paying well over 50 per cent of their monthly income, which is described as a "crisis-level" amount.

Housing unaffordability disproportionately affects rental households

In 2021, almost half of the renter households on Salt Spring Island spent 30% or more of their income on shelter, which makes this one of the top 10% least affordable places to live in B.C.

In contrast, only 20 per cent of owner households spent 30 per cent or more of their income on shelter, which shows that housing unaffordability disproportionately affects renters.

Finding #4

We collect and analyze monthly information from local ads for "available" and "wanted" rental housing. Here's what we know:

Average market rental rates have soared in the last few years.

The people most deeply affected by the lack of availability and soaring costs of rentals are singles, single-parent households and couples without kids.

The vacancy rate for long-term rentals on Salt Spring is effectively zero. There are always more people looking for housing than available rentals.

Salt Spring Solutions is advocating for open, respectful, fact-based dialogue and development of innovative policy solutions to our community's challenges. We envision a resilient Salt Spring Island community that works together to equitably care for the ecology and the community as one. Join the conversation at saltspringsolutions.com.

A snapshot of market rental housing costs* on Salt Spring Island in 2023

Average cost of all types of housing (incl. trailers, trailer pads and single rooms)
Monthly rent: \$1,770
Income required: \$70K

Average cost for two-bedrooms
Monthly rent: \$2,394
Income required: \$95K

Average cost for three (or more) bedrooms
Monthly rent: \$3,407
Income required: \$135K

*asking price



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Fall Fix-Up

Energy advisors find efficiencies through flexibility

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Once upon a time, new construction barely concerned itself with how much energy was used in a home — but since 2008, when the province introduced energy efficiency as a BC Building Code objective through the BC Energy Step Code, everyone from architects to builders to even hopeful homeowners have been required to take a closer look.

“When fuel energy was cheap, we didn’t think about it,” said energy advisor Dion Hackett, who works on Salt Spring with builders to help new homes reach the level of efficiency now required. “Back in the day, a typical build would have been 2x4 construction with an oil furnace kicking out 60,000 BTUs.”

The province’s reaction — driven by both higher fuel costs and concerns about climate emissions — began with a “prescriptive” approach to increasing energy efficiency in new builds, where buildings needed to meet very specific requirements and use a particular amount of insulation, or the “right” windows. There was a standard, Hackett said, and builders had specific steps to take — “‘Thou shalt have 2x6 walls with this minimum R-value,’” chuckled Hackett.

But the “performance” approach now means builders and designers have the flexibility to give-and-take different elements of the build to arrive at a final number — an increase in energy efficiency, as of May 2023 as Step 3 came into effect, of 20 per cent — without being stuck with highly efficient but possibly boring boxes.

“We have the ability to do tradeoffs,” said Hackett. “For example, where we have situations where people want to highlight their view and want to have an extensive amount of glass. Obviously, that’s not a great thing in terms of energy performance, but we are able to enhance other values and get them under the wire.”

PATHWAY TO 2032: PART 9 (HOMES)

2017



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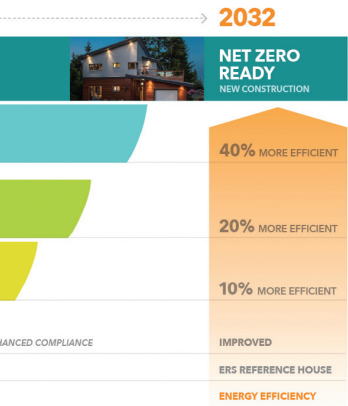
With the busy summer period now over but winter still a comfortable distance away, these next few months are the perfect time to do home and property upgrades in the Gulf Islands.



"We've got some really good local builders here, with experience in finding ways to build with energy efficiency," said Hackett. "It takes a lot to translate all this information and turn it into a tangible, attractive build. My hat's off to them."

With the performance approach, it's left to the designers and builders to come up with ways to achieve efficiencies, either by using new technologies — like heat recovery ventilation systems that capture energy that used to be lost, or exterior cladding that puts more insulation outside the walls — or by using existing technologies in innovative ways.

Many Salt Spring builders right now are uniquely positioned, according to Hackett, because of their experience through the "building boom" over recent decades — and on an island where, as often as not, new builds are being directed by the future homeowners themselves to exceed the energy efficiency standards of the day.



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They'll use software modelling to show how the design will meet the required standards — and if not, suggest ways to get it there.

"Maybe it's something like adding extra skirting insulation to the slab, or asking for a little more air tightness," said Hackett. "There are so many ways to accomplish the goal now, it helps to have a coordinated approach."

To learn more about the BC Energy Step Code, visit energystepcode.ca/



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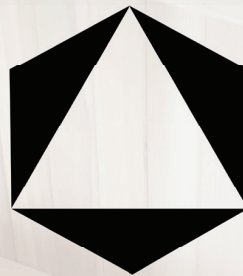
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ARTSPRING

Trio and opera on stage



PHOTO BY CHRISTIAN CAMPANA

Trio Fibonacci musicians, from left, Gabriel Pryn, Julie-Anne Derome and Maxim Shatalkin, who will present their Giants of Minimalism concert at ArtSpring this Friday, Oct. 20.

Friday night concert and first Met opera of the season on Saturday

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

One doesn't have to be a chamber music aficionado to appreciate the soaring emotional power of classical compositions.

With Trio Fibonacci, appearing on the ArtSpring stage on Friday, Oct. 20, audiences will experience just that — uplifting interpretations of both historic and contemporary composers including powerful scores from motion pictures such as *The Piano* and *The Hours*.

In Friday's performance, violinist Julie-Anne Derome, cellist Gabriel Pryn, and pianist Maxim Shatalkin present *Giants of Minimalism*,

a captivating collection that goes straight to the heart of melody. Performing works by Philip Glass, Michael Nyman, Armand Amar, Brian Eno and Ludovico Einaudi, the trio focuses on the theme of simplicity in ways that have been described as "spellbinding."

The highlight of the concert, the trio says, is the finale with Max Richter's masterful re-composition of the *Four Seasons* by Vivaldi, which does a wonderful job of merging past and present.

Guided by some of the world's most respected chamber musicians, Trio Fibonacci made its first appearance on the Canadian chamber music scene in 1998, with *Le Devoir* in Montreal reporting "to hear them is to enter into the world of miracles."

The musicians have since gone on to be internationally recognized for their brilliant interpretations of the entire piano trio repertoire, from the works of Haydn through to collaborations with over 60 living composers on four continents. Concert tours have led them to several European countries, Argentina, South Africa, Brazil and Japan, and sold-out shows in Berlin, San Francisco and New York.

Saturday morning keeps the music going as ArtSpring kicks off its popular opera season with the first of six operas broadcast live from The Met in New York City. *Dead Man Walking* is a contemporary opera in English and a Met premiere, based on Sister Helen Prejean's memoir about her fight for the soul of a condemned murderer. Susan Sarandon won the Best Actress Oscar starring alongside Sean Penn in the 1995 motion picture adaptation.

For those who have never been to the opera at ArtSpring, the transmission is live, with the added benefit of providing behind-the-scenes footage, close-ups and interviews with the stars. Intermission always includes quiche.

Friday's Trio Fibonacci presentation includes a post-show talk back, and ArtSpring's Theatre Angel tickets for \$15 are available for this show. Youth students, as always, are \$5.

Saturday's opera features adult, senior and youth prices.

COLLABORATIONS

Songs of Love and Life coming to ArtSpring



PHOTO BY SETH BERKOWITZ

Don Conley and Cicela Månsson.

Cicela Månsson and Don Conley perform on Oct. 28

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Everyone has stories to tell. Stories are incredibly important but not everyone has the opportunity to tell theirs.

On the evening of Saturday, Oct. 28, coloratura soprano Cicela Månsson and pianist Don Conley will give voice to some of their favourites in a concert entitled *Songs of Love and Life* at ArtSpring. These life journeys, recounted in a story, a scene, or a vignette, offer a view into the composers' life-experiences. The music will lead you through peaceful bliss, exclamations of good cheer, murmurs of loneliness, roars of rage, and calls for love. You will be invited to gently hold the thought of someone you love while the songs unfold through works by Copland, Barber, Debussy, Fauré, Finzi and R. Strauss.

Earlier this year Månsson attended *Servir Antico - Our City of Ladies*, a concert created by Early Music

Vancouver artist-in-residence Catalina Vicens. In this concert, Vicens asked the audience to reserve their applause until the end and enjoy the musical ride. This incredibly impactful experience inspired *Songs of Love and Life*, intended to be an immersive experience for the audience to sit in peace (without the imperative to applaud) while experiencing the stories of these diverse and beautiful songs.

In 2022, after almost eight years as executive and artistic director of ArtSpring, Månsson returned to life as a musician, exploring collaborations with musicians, composers and other artists.

"Making music is a passion that I had to continue exploring," she said.

Conley added that he is "forever amazed at the beauty and clarity of Cicela's voice and how she's able to spin a personal story through music that genuinely connects with audiences."

Conley is a pianist, organist, harpsichordist, performer, choral director and teacher with a career of more than 40 years. You may be more familiar with Conley's back as he conducts the Salt Spring Singers, but during next week's concert, you'll hear Conley's skill as a pianist and musical collaborator. "Don is always striving to get more out of the music, to understand deeply what the composer wanted, and endeavour to create a true collaboration," observed Månsson.

Conley and Månsson look forward to sharing the joy of their collaboration in this evening of song. Their Oct. 28 concert begins at 7:30 p.m.

Tickets are available through ArtSpring.

Time for Books & Bling Your Thing?

BOOKS & BLING

The 8th Annual Books & Bling Sale is taking place on November 3 through 5, 2023 at the Farmers Institute.

We are looking for volunteers to assist with a wide variety of activities including receiving donations, sorting & categorizing donated gently used books, floor assistants, greeters & more!

Please email bbs@saltspringliteracy.org or visit **Books & Bling - Salt Spring Literacy** for more information.

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All proceeds from this sale go to the Salt Spring Literacy Society, which provides free literacy support to children, youth, adults, and seniors.

Book donations can be made from October 26 to October 29 from 10 am to 2 pm at the Farmers' Institute.

Jewelry donations can be made at the collection bin at Island Savings from 9:30am to 5pm, at the Salt Spring Literacy office (located in former SIMS building) Monday to Thursday from 12 to 4 pm, as well as during Book Donation drop off times.

Thank you for your support and for making this event another success!

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Fugitives' RIDGE show and fab comedy on tap



PHOTO BY DAVID GOODYEAR

Gary Pearson and Geri Hall in the comedy play called *Middle Raged*, which comes to ArtSpring on Wednesday, Oct. 25.

ArtSpring continues busy pace

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

After its lively and well-attended concert for ArtSpring's Treasure Fair in July, The Fugitives are back on Sunday, Oct. 22 at 2:30 p.m. as an acoustic roots and folk group to present a moving performance entitled *RIDGE*, especially appropriate as we move towards Remembrance Day.

Often called "the battle that made Canada," Vimy Ridge in World War 1 resulted in over 10,000 Canadian casualties. With this significance in mind and research sourced from historians and authors such as Pierre Burton, *RIDGE* is a performance that combines historical WWI stories, powerful lyrics and music from The Fugitives' 2022 JUNO-nom-

inated album *Trench Songs* to create a poignant and thought-provoking theatre show.

Except for The Last Post and Rouse, all songs are WWI-era songs, predominantly written by soldiers, according to head songwriters Adrian Glynn and Brendan McLeod.

"In most cases, these were parodies, which used the melodies of well-known songs at the time, with the lyrics rewritten to reflect the soldiers' dire circumstances," explains McLeod. "We have rewritten the melodies and arrangements, both to more readily access the emotions of the lyrics, but also to continue folk music's long tradition of reshaping songs over time, the same way soldiers reshaped these protest songs in the trenches."

Comprised of Brendan McLeod (guitar, bass, vocals), Carly Frey (violin, vocals), Chris Suen (banjo, guitar, vocals) and Adrian Glynn

(bass, guitar, harmonica, vocals), The Fugitives have toured extensively throughout Canada, Western Europe and the U.K., earning a 12-year reputation for unforgettable live shows brimming with complex harmonies, infectious storytelling and top-notch musicianship.

Middle Raged

Jumping forward to Wednesday, Oct. 25, Salt Springers of a certain age will be ready to have a laugh and relate to real life scenarios in the live sketch comedy *Middle Raged*, written and performed by Geri Hall and Gary Pearson.

This smart and funny stage show explores the time of life "when you realize you are running out of time." With terrific on-stage chemistry, Hall and Pearson play a married couple dealing with the madness of childrearing, empty nesting, aging

parents, financial stresses and even trying *Outlander*-style role play to spice up the bedroom.

With break-out successes at Canada's largest fringe festivals, *Middle Raged*, in the words of one *Now Magazine* reviewer, achieves "hot flashes of brilliance."

Gemini Award winner Hall is best known for her five seasons as a regular on *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, and she has also appeared in numerous feature films like *Shall We Dance* and *Hairspray*. Pearson has been a comedy writer for such shows as *MadTV*, *This Hour Has 22 Minutes*, *Corner Gas*, *Just For Laughs* and *Sunnyside*, which he co-created.

Both Hall and Pearson were on The Second City Toronto main stage and have extensive backgrounds in improv, which they hope to be hosting a workshop about on Salt Spring.

what's on this week

Wed. Oct. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Oktopus. Award-winning eight-member band. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Knit Purl Community. Knitters meet at Salt Spring Public Library on the third Wednesday of each month. 5 to 7 p.m.

Local Community Commission Office Hours. Meet with commissioners every Wednesday at the CRD office on McPhillips Ave. Ben Corno, 8:30-10:30 a.m.; Brian Webster, 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.; Gayle Baker, 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.; Earl Rook, 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Bridge. Every Wednesday at the Salt Spring library program room. Bring a partner and enjoy yourself. 12:45 p.m.

Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Thur. Oct. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sam Weber. Mateada. 8 to 10 p.m.

Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Craig's Karaoke. At Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 11 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Community Commission Meeting. SIMS board room. 9 a.m.

Fri. Oct. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Trio Fibonacci: The Giants of Minimalism. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Max Ulis & Andrew Interchill. Mateada. 8 p.m. to midnight.

Fri. Oct. 20

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. BC Ferries CEO Nicolas Jimenez is the guest at Lions Hall. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (Double check location through saltspringcommunityalliance.org).

Youth Games & Chess Club. For ages 9 to 13. Children's area at the library. 1 to 4 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Everyday People. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Ashton Bachman. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market in the Park. Centennial Park market. 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Fabulous Flea Market. At Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Met Opera: Dead Man Walking. ArtSpring. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Fling Disc Golf Tournament. Public welcome to watch PDGA-sanctioned B-Tier event at SS Golf and Country Club. All day.

Sun. Oct. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: The Fugitives. Folk-roots group brings acclaimed *RIDGE* show to ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.

Blues Jam. Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Day-long Meditation Retreat. By donation retreat open to beginning and experienced meditators. St. Mary's Church. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info/register: starofthesea.ca.

Salt Spring Fling Disc Golf Tournament. See Saturday listing.

Mon. Oct. 23

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Toastmasters Hybrid Meeting. Salt Spring Library Program Room. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Tue. Oct. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Open Mic. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Tuesday Farmers' Market. Hosted by the Salt Spring Community Market Society in Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

Wed. Oct. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Middle Raged. Sketch comedy written and performed by Geri Hall and Gary Pearson. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

LCC Office Hours. See last Wednesday's listing.

Bridge. See last Wednesday's listing.

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **Taylor Swift | The Eras Tour** runs Thursday, Oct. 19 to Saturday, Oct. 21 at 6:45 p.m. each night plus a 2:45 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Rated PG, 2 hours 45 minutes. See thefritz.ca for more movie info or phone 250-538-7718.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring National Art Prize Finalist Exhibition** runs at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily through Oct. 23 with the awards gala evening on Saturday, Oct. 21 at ArtSpring. 6 p.m. Tickets required. Check for availability. Event will also be livestreamed through saltspringartprize.ca.

• **The Parallel Art Show Finalist Exhibition** runs at ArtSpring from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily through Oct. 23 with the awards gala evening on Saturday, Oct. 21 at ArtSpring, as above.

• Today, Oct. 18 is the last day to see *Feast*, a gallery members exhibit, at **Salt Spring Gallery**. Tuesdays through Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Oct. 18.

• **Impressions 8, the Annual Exhibition of New Works** by the Salt Spring Island Printmakers, runs at the Salt Spring Gallery from Oct. 20 to Nov. 8, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Tuesdays through Saturdays.

• **Colour – Paintings by Josephine Fletcher** is the October exhibit in the lobby at ArtSpring.

• **Bill Gardam** shows visual and written works, photographs, paintings, drawings, poems and short essays in the library program room through October.

• **Dulcy Wilson** has cafe paintings for show in Country Grocer through October.

Salt Spring Fling

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RONALD BRUCE BAIN

Ronald Bruce Bain was born in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan and passed away in Royal Columbian hospital August 14, 2023 with his family by his side.

Ronald Bain is the son of James Bain from Rutherglen, Scotland and Doris Vera Bain, nee Hubble from Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

Ron grew up in Vancouver moving with his parents before his sister Kathleen Joy was born in 1939. He attended school at Edith Cavell, Tecumseh, Van Horne and then John Oliver before studying mathematics, chemistry and architecture at UBC. He was awarded the AIBC prize in his final year at UBC. Ron worked with Erickson/Massey Architects early on in his career on projects such as on the Museum of Anthropology; Simon Fraser University; Lethbridge University; Expo Man in Community, Montreal; and the Osaka '70 Canadian Pavilion, Osaka, Japan. Ron was president of the Architectural Institute of B.C. from 1978-79 and was elected a fellow of the Royal Architectural Institute of Canada in 1980 and became an honorary member in 1991. The architectural firm Bain, Burroughs, Hanson and Raimet was formed in 1972. Ron received the Canadian Architect yearbook Award for the Harold Winch Park in 1975. He worked with passion for many years in the firm.

After the firm, Ron focused his efforts on various committees and planning within his profession. He was the recipient of a President Medalist from NCARB (National Council of Architectural Registration Board) in 1994 for doing work with the CCAC (The Committee of Canadian Architectural Councils) while living in Ottawa. His last major project was based in Vancouver where he was an environmental advocate, in a volunteer capacity, for the South East False Creek development plan. In 2005, he and Barbara Lindsay were recipients of the Mayor's Environmental Achievement Award.

While Ron was an inspired and professional architect, he was also a devoted husband and father. Ron married Lesley Ann Morgan on May 6, 1960 at Chown Memorial United Church in Vancouver. Together they lived in Kamloops, Montreal, Vancouver, and Ottawa until Lesley's early death in 1992. Their children, Graeme and Alison fondly remember growing up in their family home at 3510 W. 22nd Ave in Vancouver. While their Dad was constantly renovating, the house was full of music and happy times with family, friends, and neighbours.

Ron married Eilidh Thomson in 1993 and their relationship was short, but sweet, as Eilidh passed away in 1994.

Ron retired and moved to Salt Spring Island in 1998 to Roland Rd where he pursued his passions of swimming, reading, kayaking, gardening, travelling, art, music, and cooking elaborate meals. He sat on boards, joined the local garden club, did tai chi and yoga and travelled to see family. On Salt Spring he also shared his life with Elizabeth Fletcher, and they lived together at Village Terrace enjoying the beautiful garden there for many years.

Ron enjoyed his last years gardening, going for walks with his grandson, listening to music, watching tennis, folk dancing at Fulford Hall, and spending time with family. Ron had a wonderful mind, a generous, compassionate heart, and an appreciation for beauty in all things. He loved life more when he shared his life with someone special. He cared about people, the environment, and designing for community. Ron lived his life to the fullest.

He will be missed and is remembered by his sister Kathleen Bain, and her children Greg, Linda and Laura and their families; his son Graeme Bain and Graeme's wife Nel Grond and their children Celeste and Aurora; his daughter Alison Bain, her partner Patrick Byrne, and their children Leo and Fionn; The Thomsons-Drew, Jane, Doug, Mary and Rob; Elizabeth's children Chris and Wendy and Wendy's partner Wade; and the Morgan clan and all their families.

A celebration of life will be held on Salt Spring Island. Please contact merryevermore@gmail.com for details. If you are thinking of Ron and would like to do something in honour of his life, please pick a local organization, of your choosing, to donate to or help in some way.



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- ALFRED LORD TENNYSON

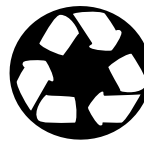


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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

OCTOBER 2023 PST (UTC-8h)

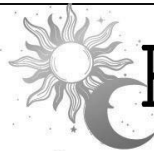
When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
18	0025	0.6	2.0	22	0354	0.7	2.3
WE	0843	3.2	10.5		1252	3.4	11.2
ME	1305	2.8	9.2	SU			
	1713	3.1	10.2	DI			
19	0106	0.5	1.6	23	0504	0.8	2.6
TH	0951	3.2	10.5		1333	3.4	11.2
JE	1416	2.9	9.5	MO	2009	2.4	7.9
	1723	3.0	9.8	LU	2237	2.5	8.2
20	0154	0.5	1.6	24	0613	1.0	3.3
FR	1059	3.3	10.8		1407	3.3	10.8
VE				MA	2026	2.1	6.9
21	0250	0.6	2.0	25	0045	2.5	8.2
SA	1201	3.3	10.8	WE	0715	1.2	3.9
SA				ME	1434	3.3	10.8
					2053	1.8	5.9

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For the Week: October 15 to 21, 2023

Horoscope

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
CAPRICORN, AQUARIUS AND PISCES

ARIES

You'll feel on edge, and a particular event will encourage you to consider making life changes. In your career, a competing business will tempt you with an offer for better working conditions and opportunities for advancement.

TAURUS

You'll take time to pamper yourself and indulge in a few small pleasures. You'll negotiate rates to achieve a settlement that will improve both your work and personal well-being.

GEMINI

At work, you'll have to face numerous urgent and complex situations. These experiences may turn out to be beneficial, as they'll give you skills that will serve you throughout your career.

CANCER

Your pride will be tested. Fortunately, you'll have an opportunity to show yourself in a positive light. If you act for the right reasons, you can't go wrong. Share accurate, useful information.

LEO

You'll have some small family chores to handle. You may also have to stay at home for part of the week, perhaps to keep an eye on some work or to wait for a late delivery.

VIRGO

You may need to start multitasking. The telephone may ring incessantly. Maintain harmony by avoiding criticism when you're with your significant other — or anyone else, in fact.

LIBRA

Be prudent with money and try to stick to your budget. Additional expenses related to home or family may arise. You'll need to exercise discipline with your young children.

SCORPIO

As the cold, gloomy weather sets in, you'll feel the need to take care of your body. It would be wise to join a gym to incentivize you to exercise regularly.

SAGITTARIUS

Rather than rushing into a decision, think twice. If you let yourself be carried by the current, it'll take you to your destination. Trust your instincts over the next few days.

CAPRICORN

Take care when speaking, as you could appear foolish to more than one person. Fortunately, only your pride will be affected, and it'll help lighten a heavy atmosphere.

AQUARIUS

Time is valuable. Try not to schedule too many appointments on the same day and run the risk of overlap. A vacation would be beneficial.

PISCES

As the days get shorter, you'll look for an activity that will bring you intense joy. You'll find yourself infused with an energy that moves you to entertain yourself more often.



SPORTS + RECREATION

RECREATION

Salt Spring hosts pro disc golfers at tourney

Spectators welcome over two days of high-level play

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's disc golf scene marks a milestone this weekend, with its first Professional Disc Golf Association (PDGA) sanctioned B-Tier tournament taking place on-island.

This is considered a state- or province-level event, and the Salt Spring Disc Golf Club is inviting the community out to the course to watch as amateurs and pros take over the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club for the Salt Spring Fling. Presented by Gateway Discs, it runs Saturday and Sunday, Oct. 21-22.

"Spectators are totally encouraged, and it's free to come and watch," said tournament director Ben Corno. "The first round of both days should be off by about 8:30 a.m."

Corno said the club has hosted several C-Tier events in the past, but that being able to meet the specific prize and course requirements of a B-Tier event was new — thanks to the tournament title sponsor Mouat's Home Hardware, along with several other community businesses that chipped in as well.

"This is another big step in taking this venue, and this tournament, to a new height," said Corno. "There are 80 players already signed up, and many on the waitlist."

The two-day event will present three rounds, each a "shotgun" start, with the second round on Saturday starting at 1 p.m. and the last on Sunday beginning at 8:30 a.m.

"The second day's a single round, partly so people can get home," said Corno, "and partly because three rounds is a lot of disc golf to play in a weekend."

Corno said while typically the disc golf course operates on the periphery of the existing golf course — allowing for the two sports to coexist — during PDGA-sanctioned tournaments they'll change the layout to a more challenging one that moves into the full golf course.



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING DISC GOLF CLUB

Roben Doobenen throws his drive on Hole #3 at the Salt Spring Golf and Country Club disc golf course, where the island will host its first Professional Disc Golf Association sanctioned B-Tier tournament this weekend.

An A-Tier event in the future isn't out of the question, Corno said, but there's a lot to it — hosting more players and holding a longer event over several days.

"And you need to host a number of B-tiers in order to be approved to host an A-tier," said Corno. "And it all would really be contingent on the golf course finding room for that. They've been such excellent partners to work with, and they really helped us develop the course."

Total prize money for the event should be somewhere around \$3,500-\$4,000, distributed between the 35-or-so pro division players, with amateurs receiving great "players packs" with discs and swag, Corno said.

Sweetgrass Foods, the restaurant operator at the Salt Spring golf club, will be putting on a buffet dinner.

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ISLAND LIFE

FAMILIES

Pregnancy and infant loss day acknowledged



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Pregnancy and Infant Loss Memorial bench located overlooking Madrona Creek on the Churchill Trail between Churchill and Long Harbour roads.

Special event held; island woman writes book

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Like all situations where people are affected by grief, finding the right kind of support isn't necessarily easy.

That is especially the case when it comes to the loss of an infant or a pregnancy, but local resources are available to help families navigate that incredibly difficult journey.

October is Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Month in Canada, which offers support to women and families who have lost a baby due to ectopic pregnancy, miscarriage, stillbirth or death in infancy.

On Sunday, Oct. 15, some Salt Spring families who have lost babies, and supportive Salt Spring Hospice members, acknowledged Pregnancy and Infant Loss Awareness Day with an event commencing at Bullock Lake Farm. It opened with Barb Slater and Natasha Kong leading the group in singing poignant songs, before event organizer Joselyn Porciuncula — who lost her daughter Robin Aliya as a result of a still birth in April 2020 — shared remarks of support and gave thanks to everyone who contributed in some way.

The group then walked to the site of a

memorial bench resulting from Porciuncula's fundraising efforts with sponsorship by Salt Spring Hospice on the Churchill Trail between Churchill and Long Harbour roads. The bench plaque reads: "Pregnancy and Infant Loss Memorial; Sometimes the smallest things take up the most room in your heart — A.A. Milne; donated by Salt Spring Hospice Society."

Jessica Ells, whose baby Eli died at full term one day before she went into labour, was one of the people at Sunday's event. Eli would have been three years old in November.

"We were all so looking forward to having him here with us, and the loss was devastating, obviously," she said.

Ells' and Liam Johnson's daughter Emmi was four years old at the time. Seeing how her brother's death affected Emmi made the family seek out appropriate books for children experiencing the loss of a sibling, but none of them were the right fit, so Ells was inspired to create one. The result is a beautiful book called *Some Babies Can't Stay*, which consists of a poem to be read to children and lovely illustrations done by Stefanie St. Denis.

"It's just a gentle poem, sort of reminding people that they're going to grieve in different ways, and the family will grieve in different ways. And that the babies are your siblings no matter what, and that you'll

always love them."

Ells has made the book relevant for families who've experienced the death of a young child, stillbirth and miscarriage, and even people struggling with infertility.

Ells will also be sharing the book in the future with their son Riley, who is almost two years old and sees the photo of Eli on the window sill in their home.

"It's a way to open up the conversation and to show him 'this is your brother. You never met him but he's part of our family' and, you know, just show kids that they're not alone."

Some Babies Can't Stay is available only through online distributors such as Indigo. Partial proceeds will be donated to Baby's Breath Canada, an organization supporting families that have experienced loss through Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS) or stillbirth.

Ells' mother lost a baby to SIDS in the 1980s, at a time when people did not talk about

infant loss. But after Eli's death, Ells spoke openly about her grief, and found support in doing so.

"I really needed to connect with other people who had a similar experience. Because if you haven't lost a child, I'm happy for you, but you can't really relate. It's such a different loss than any other loss."

Ells has since become a support person for others who have experienced pregnancy and infant loss, as has Porciuncula.

"My goal on Salt Spring is to raise awareness, educate and help and gather grieving families, so they don't have to do it alone," she said.

Porciuncula is one of the resource people included in a document called *A Practical Guide for Salt Spring Island Families of Infant Loss*. She can be reached at joselyn.porciuncula@gmail.com. Laura Moldovan is another mother of perinatal loss available for support at laura.a.moldovan@gmail.com.

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