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Green Living



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TRADITIONS

Nov. 11 sparkles despite park work

Remembrance Day ceremony location altered at last minute

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Remembrance Day ceremony may not have taken place in exactly the same spot as planned due to construction that began in Centennial Park on Nov. 7, but organizers say they are happy with how things turned out on Saturday.

"Saturday's Remembrance Day service was certainly one for the ages," said Royal Canadian Legion (RCL) Branch 92 Remembrance Day committee member Ken Jackson on behalf of the Legion executive. "We are most proud of helping to foster such a tremendous amount of heartfelt support from the community and the guests we honoured."

"We knew that the community was having difficulty envisioning how we would be able to pull together a full ceremony," he said, "so we thank the community members and parade participants who showed up, knowing they could face heavy rains."

Instead, the skies cleared in time for the proceedings, which took place on Fulford-Ganges Road in front of the park, and included a parade on a shortened route, honoured guests sheltered under tents, and musicians and singers. Except for the wreath contributed by the Government of Canada, all 76 others were pre-placed at the Cenotaph in the park, which was made accessible during the day.



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

Wreaths purchased by community members, groups and government agencies are gathered around the Centennial Park cenotaph on Nov. 11 beneath a dramatic sky that threatened rain but delivered sunshine instead. For more Remembrance Day photos, see page 15.

REMEMBRANCE continued on 2



Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"Woman should rate man by size of
his firewood pile.."
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HOUSING

Delayed Drake Road project draws MLA's ire

Supportive housing still in limbo

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As a supportive housing project on Salt Spring Island remains stalled, the provincial agency in charge has

increasingly come under fire from local officials — and recently faced public rebuke from a Member of the British Columbia Legislative Assembly.

BC Housing first announced it would be building 28 units of supportive housing at 161 Drake Rd. back in January of 2022, as the agency — and then Attorney Gen-

eral and Minister Responsible for Housing David Eby — touted the fast tracking of the project, to support and house people experiencing or at risk of homelessness on Salt Spring Island.

The province used its authority under the Interpretation Act — commonly known as “statutory immunity” — to bypass the local zoning process, predicted an opening date for the facility in late summer, and announced construction would begin “within weeks.”

Now, more than 90 weeks later — and in the wake of the removal of a group of housing-insecure campers from the parcel — construction has yet to begin. Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen lamented the state of affairs last week, telling the Legislative Assembly that delivery of the island's most pressing needs have apparently stumped B.C.'s government.

“As the Premier, Housing Minister, Transportation Minister, Health Minister, Mental Health and Addictions Minister, Education Minister, Public Safety Minister and Finance Minister have all made very clear to us, there's not an infinite supply of cash for Salt Spring,” said Olsen Tuesday, Nov. 7. “There's not even a modest amount of money, or even a desire to create land use and community planning that could facilitate it.”

Instead, continued Olsen, the province sent BC Housing — “fluttering around the island, claiming that they are going to purpose-deliver 24 or so modular units of supported housing, and somehow that will create housing stability for the thousands of people who are currently housing insecure.”

Olsen told colleagues that BC Housing's Drake Road project had “ground to a halt,” a characterization difficult to dispute. A draft design and site plan for the project

was shared in December of last year, showing two storeys of studio units set at an angle off the road — following the slope of the land, according to planners — along with an outdoor amenity space and a modest amount of landscaping.

“There's not even a modest amount of money, or even a desire to create land use and community planning that could facilitate it.”

ADAM OLSEN

Saanich North & the Islands MLA

And while BC Housing representatives at that time suggested the plan to use modular construction would speed completion, Olsen told colleagues his understanding was that the agency had purchased units that were “not suitable” and that needed renovation. Responding to a Driftwood request for details, a written statement from BC Housing reaffirmed its commitment to completing the project, once again laying blame for construction delays upon both “environmental complexities” at the site and unspecified challenges with the former contractor.

“To ensure that the project moves ahead despite the challenges with the previous contractor, BC Housing is now exploring having new modular units fabricated for the project,” read the statement. “BC Housing is in the process of identifying a new contractor so we can move forward with construction as quickly as possible.”

BC Housing added a note of

appreciation “for the community's patience.”

Capital Regional District (CRD) general manager of Planning and Protective Services Kevin Lorette told the CRD's Electoral Areas committee Wednesday, Nov. 8 that he understood BC Housing was starting site preparation, although the timeline for the moment continued to be unclear.

“There is some active construction work that they're planning,” said Lorette. “And [work that] CRD staff is planning to do with well drilling on that site, that would be coming up shortly.”

Over the past several months, CRD staff and a consulting hydrogeologist have been separately preparing for a groundwater exploration meant to inform the CRD board for future development opportunities on the site — constructing a temporary drilling pad and access trail to the property. And while public details regarding how BC Housing will ultimately provide as many as 28 units of permanent supportive housing there have been few and far between, CRD officials have said that agency has committed to quarterly progress updates as the CRD investigates whether to launch its own housing project on another part of the 5.5-acre parcel.

“We've had active discussions [with BC Housing] on how the renovations of the modular units are going,” said Lorette. “They've hit some roadblocks in that, and they're looking to find an alternate company that can come in and provide better service, in terms of renovating those. In terms of any timelines of when they'll be mobilizing, we don't have that specific detail.”

Lorette said he hoped more information would come from a scheduled conference call with BC Housing set for Nov. 20.



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Park project timing explained

REMEMBRANCE

continued from 1

“The skreal of the pipes and the thump of drums, the brass band bolstering our voices, Viva Chorale's serenade and special guest Tudor Davies' return to the island to deliver a thunderous rendition of In Flanders Fields were individually brilliant, collectively overwhelming,” said Jackson. “And a remarkably well-timed flyer!”

He thanked all volunteers and contributing agencies and sponsors for their contributions to the day.

While RCL representatives were surprised to see fencing erected and plaza pavers being removed in the park only four days before Remembrance Day, discussions between RCL members and Dan Ovington, manager of the Capital Regional District's Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture department, quickly resulted in a revised plan. That saw construction work put on hold on Saturday and the fence pulled back to open up a clear path and sightline from the road to the cenotaph, as promised by Ovington. Arrangements were also made with the Harbour Authority to use their parking lot both for spectators and to provide wheelchair and accessible access to the cenotaph.

In explaining why project work began last week, Ovington stated, “Similar to the construction of the Centennial playground and washroom we have a short construction window to complete as much construction as possible following the end of the Saturday Market and the start of inclement weather; this project is also supported with grant funding, creating additional time constraints. While I agree that this should have been postponed until after Nov. 11, arrangements have been made with the Legion to accommodate both the construction and this important annual event.”

Some Salt Spring residents contacted the Driftwood to express their dismay at the timing of the construction work.

“My apologies if this has been viewed as disrespectful towards our veterans in any way,” said Ovington. “I can assure you that this was never the intention.”

The park upgrade has long been in PARC's plans. An Oct. 20 press release stated construction would take place during the market off-season from Nov. 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. A \$561,748 grant from Pacific Economic Development Canada was received to complete the work, along with \$298,000 of Community Works Funding and \$100,000 from the PARC capital reserve fund.

SD64

Superintendent position filled

Jill Jensen in place for February

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new superintendent and CEO for schools in the Gulf Islands has officially signed on, according to board officials, who announced last week that Jill Jensen will be filling the position effective Feb. 1, 2024.

School District 64 (SD64) tapped Jensen to fill the soon-to-be-empty shoes of departing superintendent/CEO Scott Benwell, who announced his intention to leave at the end of the calendar year. Jensen is currently serving as superintendent/CEO of School District 92 Nisga'a, and was selected after an extensive recruitment search led by SD64's Board of Education.

"Jill referred to the superintendent's role as the 'lead learner' in a district," said board chair Tisha Boulter. "I feel incredibly grateful that Jill was drawn to our ad posting and we feel confident that she is the right fit to be our



PHOTO COURTESY SYSTEMSAWARENESS.ORG

Jill Jensen, who has been hired to be the new Gulf Islands School District superintendent of schools.

next lead learner."

Jensen has been an educator in both B.C. and Alberta for more than three decades, Boulter said, and the board was inspired by Jensen's genuine hands-on approach to the challenge of a district made up of five island communities. Jensen said she is eager to form relationships and continue the "excellent work already taking place."

"In a geographically diverse school district, I need to be present and connecting," said Jensen, "with students, teachers, support staff, parents, and community members — everyone has a role to play. I have to know people."

Jensen added she looks forward to playing a pivotal role in ensuring a solid future for the Gulf Islands' learners and schools — to cultivate a supportive, caring and welcoming environment that prioritizes student voices and provides enriched learning opportunities for students and staff.

The SD64 Board of Education said it engaged long-serving superintendent and B.C. "education leader" Anne Cooper as a consultant for the recruitment process, along with partner groups and selected staff representatives to help define attributes and abilities that were important to them in the next Gulf Islands School District leader. Boulter said the board extended its sincere gratitude to the staff and partner groups who contributed to the process for sharing insights and valuable feedback during the interview process.

CONSERVATION

Hydrophone set to hear killer whales

Public can listen for southern residents near Pender online

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Spotting one of our southern resident killer whales is always a thrill — and now, thanks to one conservation organization's efforts, you might also be lucky enough to hear one.

Raincoast Conservation Foundation's whale sanctuary livestream, which broadcasts live video over the internet from a camera on North Pender Island, is now wired for sound — through a hydrophone, an underwater microphone situated in hopes of picking up whale vocalization from the interim sanctuary zone there.

And apart from marine life, it should be fairly quiet when the whales are expected, according to Valeria Vergara, senior scientist and cetacean conservation research program director, since vessel traffic is prohibited for part of the year to reduce both physical and acoustic disturbance.

"It's essentially a no-go zone during the summer months,

at the time when southern resident killer whales use this area for foraging," said Vergara. "But there's also a lot of other marine mammals; humpback whales use this area, and of course they [also] vocalize."

Seeing — and hearing — the whales will certainly be entertaining, but the foundation also hopes data acquired from the monitoring station will help inform development and implementation of new or strengthened regulation and enforcement efforts there, to support recovery of the whale population.

The location of the station will also allow conservationists to document the use of the area by other marine mammal species; according to the foundation, in addition to humpbacks the camera and hydrophone could capture imagery and sound of Bigg's killer whales, porpoises and sea lions. The hydrophone will also continuously measure underwater noise levels, sharing that data with the multi-location NoiseTracker project to get a better understanding of ocean noise across B.C.

To view and listen in, visit Raincoast Conservation Foundation's YouTube channel, youtube.com/@RaincoastConservation.

GISS

Officials defend school library book vetting

Principal confident in process following parent concern

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) officials say the school has full confidence in its process for vetting library materials, after a parent concern over some books found on shelves sparked a review.

That process was "expeditious," according to GISS principal Ryan Massey, who told parents on Friday the school uses multiple provincial, national and international book review sources to inform its decisions on what books to hold in its collection — aspiring to "high quality,

engaging and appropriate" materials to support its educational goals.

"Our professional teacher-librarians, in consultation with administration, work to ensure that all materials are vetted before they are added to our collection," said Massey in a written update to the school community sent Friday, Nov. 10. Massey said GISS educators reviewed not just the books called out by the parent but all those purchased during the same timeframe — to ensure the school's vetting processes were robust, he said, "so that we can be confident that materials in our library are appropriate for all students."

"We recognize, although we have confidence in our process, that no process is perfect," continued Massey. "Therefore, when we receive concerns such as this, we respond with due diligence."

With the process itself reaffirmed, the

specific books identified by the parent concern will be reviewed separately by the teacher-librarians and the administration, he said, who will determine the appropriateness of the materials "for their intended educational use."

The specific materials in question were not named by district officials, but the GISS library holds a print collection of over 14,000 books, according to a factsheet from Gulf Islands School District 64 (SD64). Last year the SD64 Board of Education allocated \$50,000 as part of a library revitalization effort, "to enhance and diversify school libraries, as part of its ongoing commitment to diversity and inclusion, so that all students feel welcomed, supported, and most importantly, represented in their school," according to the district, noting that commitment was a central pillar of SD64's adopted Strategic Plan.

BC FERRIES

Vesuvius terminal work on track

Overnight paving in final stretch

With much timber trestle remediation at Vesuvius complete, ferry officials announced this week's timber deck board work — expected to conclude Friday, Nov. 17 — heralds the beginning of the end for the terminal upgrade project.

BC Ferries said the day-time effort that began Tuesday is expected to have no operational impacts, and that workers will make every effort to minimize noise — and, to the likely delight of travellers and locals alike, that the project's final phase is expected to wrap up by the end of the month.

Some overnight work is planned to get through to completion, according to BC Ferries, and although dates have not yet been confirmed, an operational update indicated there would be new paving completed at both the Crofton and Vesuvius terminals.

The initial work to extend the life of the timber trestles at the Crofton and Vesuvius terminals began in July. For more information or traffic updates, visit bcferries.com.

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OPINION

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



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EDITORIAL

Still waiting

Avoiding the word "still" in headlines is a time-honoured goal among newspaper folk. It's not easy, particularly when the déjà vu lately is so strong it could lift the Parliament buildings.

Consider the story we have at Drake Road: there's a proposed housing project that's stalled, campers moved onto the five-acre parcel there in the interim, they were made to leave, and the project still continues to languish. If the story from recent weeks sounds familiar, it's because we told it (and many of you read it) in 2016. And we're still unable to write a conclusion.

Seven years ago, it was a proposed 80-unit Capital Regional District (CRD) project that stalled at Drake Road, not a 28-unit BC Housing one. The campers then were twice the number, and were asked to leave during a particularly dry October after (but not, according to staff, because of) a stump fire brought firefighters and apparatus to extinguish a

blaze at the property.

The languishing project of the day was for affordable, rather than supportive, housing; and it began falling apart in early planning stages largely because of drinking water availability issues, rather than the surface-water-rich riparian environment complexities that seems to have vexed BC Housing's first round of contractors.

But still.

Salt Spring's Point in Time homeless count this summer came in with a 15 per cent increase over the previous year, a number that is stubbornly rising as islanders continue to face a housing affordability crisis that has been advancing inexorably for decades and turned up to "high" since the pandemic.

Back in 2022, the enthusiasm of provincial housing ministry officials seemed boundless; it still seems the same way today. We've opined in this space about the disconnect between the provincial government's messaging and reality before, and as BC Housing thanks the community for their patience during the latest "unexpected" delay, we can only ask whether there are any Salt Spring Islanders left with patience remaining, or any who were actually surprised.



Say no to Trust 'spuddle'

BY SHELLEY MAHONEY

The Islands Trust and its "preserve and protect" mandate is for the benefit of all British Columbians, yet approximately 35,000 rural taxpayers pay for it all. Just shy of \$10 million, 240 meetings per year, over 100,000 pages of agendas. It is spuddle: a 17th-century word meaning to work ineffectively; to be extremely busy whilst achieving absolutely nothing.

Most taxpayers in British Columbia receive services for their tax dollars. The Islands Trust does not provide water or sewer, there are no ice rinks, engineering departments, subsidized housing or garbage pickup.

The Islands Trust operates by way of a Trust Council that plays out so islands with 200 residents get two trustees and an island with more than 10,000 residents gets two trustees, for a total of 26 trustees. Break that down into local Trust committees, where a trustee from another island gets the third vote to decide local planning issues.

Our tax dollars support a head office in Victoria filled with legislative assistants, media specialists, a CAO, species at risk coordinators, fresh water specialists, financial officers, chairs and vice chairs, all jobs other land use planning departments don't have. New in the proposed budget is a geographical systems specialist, please don't approve that.

The Islands Trust is land use planning, in partnership with regional districts, who do the real work on the ground, which we pay for as well, outside the Trust tax requisition. The Islands Trust is likely the most expensive planning body in all of Canada. It is a failed experiment.

Some 10 million rural tax dollars flowing through Victoria head office where they meet behind closed doors with lawyers we pay for, to play with secret words.

The words of the latest governance

VIEWPOINT

report card were clear. Change is required in every nook and cranny, in every little committee veering outside its purview; all of it, top to bottom, it all requires immediate attention.

The governance committee formed and met for over year and what do they have to report?

Island forums are full of housing chatter. The Trust has budgeted for some staff hours to smith some words about housing and may include cool graphics, but spuddle nonetheless. No thanks, please do not approve this budget item.

The NDP government is full of solutions for housing. All these new incentives, like the short-term vacation rental registry, \$40,000 grants to create housing, accessory dwelling unit zoning laws, incentives for provincial and federal housing funds, speculation taxes are just far too simple for the Trust Area.

It makes no sense to continue with Islands Trust. Every solution our province can offer is not a workable solution because you know we are so very special to be part of a governmental experiment that our own tax dollars paid to evaluate, and I believe it bloody failed, is unaccountable, inefficient and wasteful. Almost two years have passed since the report and they actually have the nerve to present us with a budget with no governance solutions, no streamlined anything, no cuts, no hard choices, just a tax increase, with thanks from Victoria where our rural tax dollars trickle down to Victoria residents. I guess that is what they mean when they say the Trust is for the benefit of all British Columbians.

We need a real government, we need our rural tax dollars for services, not words. We need authentic representation. Say no to spuddle.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Would you like to
try out a self-driving
car?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you wear a poppy
at Remembrance
Day time?

29 108
NO YES

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Lack of housing impacts visible

We were interested to see that The Driftwood, along with many island organizations and services, has recently noticed a drop-off in the number of volunteers whose work has sustained us all for decades ("Helping hands" editorial in the Nov. 1 issue).

We know that much of what keeps this community ticking is on the shoulders of volunteers.

We have seen the decline in volunteers happening for several years, as many have. Fewer events, fewer helping hands, fewer board members, fewer services. Our community feels diminished.

Shops and services can't find employees, so they close early or close their doors. Seniors and homeowners can't find tradespeople or help around the house. There is no lack of jobs, but there is certainly a lack of people to fill them. This is exactly to be expected when creating workforce housing continues to be a low priority or, even worse, is actively fought against.

Families and single working folks have been leaving Salt Spring in droves due to the lack of housing, and now we seem somehow surprised by the results. Here it is, folks, the future that many have warned about. It's not some distant time; it's happening before our eyes.

When will housing finally rise up the priority list, and when will our community start to create zoning, bylaws and other tools to enable islanders to build legal ADUs (accessory dwelling units), increase density in Ganges and allow for homes to be clustered so that our ecosystems can be protected? When

will we acknowledge the false narrative of an island that can somehow thrive while only allowing large detached homes on five- or 10-acre parcels of forested land?

The provincial government recently mandated that communities with a population larger than 5,000 enable bylaws to create ADUs, but areas in the Islands Trust are once again exempt from that legislation. When do we get to be actual communities, rather than playgrounds?

We remain hopeful that the tide can yet be turned, but it looks like it's going to take a crisis before we realize that we all depend on each other and that none of us is an actual island.

DARLENE GAGE,
FOR THE BOARD OF SALT SPRING SOLUTIONS

Support island youth

As a board member of The Circle Education and a former participant of the Pass it On program, an after-school mentorship program for kids in high school, I would like to bring attention to all the important work The Circle Education does in our community.

The Circle Education has been offering social-emotional educational programs, in and after school, in our school district for more than 20 years; giving young people the tools to understand healthy and respectful relationships.

High school was a vulnerable and challenging time for me, and I loved the Pass it On program. What has been powerful is that, in looking back close to 10 years later, I can actu-

ally see how much impact it had on me. This is something I didn't recognize at the time. Now, as part of the board of directors, I have the opportunity to witness firsthand how our programs benefit students in all kinds of age ranges. And the best of it all, thanks to our funders and donors, we can offer these programs for free.

The Circle Education is now accepting donations as part of its annual Giving Tuesday appeal (Nov. 28). We hope you will support our island youth and consider The Circle Education in your annual charitable giving this year.

OLIVIA HAYNE,
FOR THE CIRCLE EDUCATION

Name crusade

A large number of islands, points, straits, etc. on the coast were named after crew members on the ships exploring and mapping the area. I will bet dollars to doughnuts that Savage Point is no exception. I imagine that "Savage" is a surname.

It is also used as an adjective and can be used to describe certain groups of people. I worked at one time with a man named Bernard Savage. When his name was mentioned, no one on the crew thought it was meant as an insult to anyone. It was his name.

Somewhere out there is one of those sad people who spends every waking moment looking for new ways to be offended or, even better, offended on behalf of someone else. (Disgruntled by proxy?) The idea is to make things look as bad as possible, in order to emerge as the "great white saviour" and to out-left the other guy. Some have swung so hard to the left that they have drifted into

oncoming traffic. (Yes, that's me coming the other way, and no, I'm not slowing down.)

Most, if not all, mariners don't give the name of Tumbo's appendage a second thought. Whoever proposed the removal of its title apparently equates our First Nations friends and neighbours with uncivilized beasts. Not very inclusive, if you ask me.

And here's an eye opener, boys and girls, "inclusive" is not a wondrous new concept. It is, in fact, what we are supposed to have been doing all along. I know that because my mom told me so, around 1958 as I recall. Nope, not new.

With all the work that needs to be done towards integrating two segregated groups, why waste time on this? Change the name if you must (mariners love that, keeps 'em guessing), but unless you can show that the name was intentionally meant to be insulting, don't use that as a reason for your crusade. In view of the time and energy wasted on all this, might I suggest an alternative: Pointless Point.

MIKE STACEY,
SALT SPRING

Disrespectful

I am so upset and totally disgusted with the Capital Regional District for starting their renovations of Centennial Park less than one week before Remembrance Day. I think it was a blatant show of disrespect to our veterans.

Would it have hurt to wait just one lousy week?

FRAN LEASK,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I was imagining maybe 50 people would show up and we'd have a sweet little event with some tea and cookies. There were over 500 people in this room. It was spilling out into the hall!"

MORGAN FRASER, TSS CLIMATE ACTION COACH, ON THE OCT. 14 TSS CLOTHING SWAP

Housing task force members urge citizens to press Trust for change

BY HOUSING ACTION PROGRAM TASK FORCE MEMBERS

In April 2021, the Islands Trust appointed community members — including business owners, farmers, frontline workers, academics, tiny home and sustainable building experts — to an advisory task force to help address the housing crisis. During the first year of the Housing Action Program, the Trust conducted a housing survey among Salt Spring residents. This is what we heard:

- 83 per cent agreed secondary suites and accessory dwelling units (ADUs) should be permitted in garages and other accessory buildings
 - 80 per cent agreed more small residential lots should be created, for example for tiny home villages
 - 95 per cent are concerned about housing needs on the island
 - 94 per cent agreed Salt Spring needs more affordable housing
- (See islandstrust.bc.ca/docu-

salt-spring-housing-needs-survey-results-2022/ for the survey report.)

Starting with the first finding, we recommended increasing rental housing options through Bylaw 530 to allow accessory dwelling units in basements, garages and other places where housing already exists. This is one of the simplest zoning policies in the world to help create new housing and build inclusive communities where diverse people can live, work, raise a family, and age in place.

For two and a half years, the task force met twice monthly, volunteering our varying expertise, time, labour and resources to help enact policy changes that would allow for more suites and ADUs to be used for long-term housing. The task force included a diverse range of ages and voices. Some of us are homeowners, some are renters, and some have lived expe-

rience of homelessness. We are different in many ways. However, we agree on the need to improve the supply of long-term rental housing by allowing ADUs.

In 2023, the B.C. government introduced new legislation that legalizes small-scale accessory dwelling units in municipalities province-wide. The province is offering homeowners a forgivable loan of up to \$40,000 to create an accessory dwelling unit. While similar communities across the province have proven that this results in a modest uptake of 10 per cent of additional housing, our local government has not moved forward on implementing policy changes that would allow for ADUs. In the meantime, we have heard from workers in schools, businesses, Lady Minto Hospital and BC Ferries about how they struggle to provide essential services for our community due to our housing crisis.

Salt Spring Island is becoming a gated community that only provides housing for those who want and can afford to purchase a detached \$1-million-plus home.

We encourage you to attend Islands Trust meetings and to reach out to our local elected Trust members to remind them of the promises they made to our community when they were elected one year ago. Trustees Jamie Harris and Laura Patrick were elected to do something about housing and they were united in their support of Bylaw 530.

We are shocked and disheartened by the lack of trust, collaboration and goodwill between our trustees, the Islands Trust staff and different agencies across the island.

We call on everyone to stand up together and say enough is enough. We need to act now to improve housing options for our renters and our community.

Breaking the gridlock will only come when regular people from the community demand it.

We have been fighting to make sure that housing is not just a privilege but a right for every single person who lives here.

The next Islands Trust meeting is on Thursday, Nov. 16, from 9:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 122 Rainbow Rd. You can watch any part but the open floor to speak is only from 9:30 to 9:50 a.m. A town hall meeting also takes place on Nov. 15 at the Salt Spring Golf Club from 5 to 7 p.m. The elected trustees are Jamie Harris, jharris@islandstrust.bc.ca, and Laura Patrick, lpatrik@islandstrust.bc.ca.

Housing Action Program Task Force members signing this piece are Stanley Shapiro, Kerrie Proulx, Daniel Wood, Nejma Guerroudi, Bryce Chapman, Yvonne Saunders, Maikan (Forest) Bordeleau, Jessica Terezakis and Rhonan Heitzmann.

Gaza event organizer addresses allegations

Editor's note: When contacted by the Driftwood to respond to concerns expressed in letters to the editor on this page and in social media about a fundraising event publicized in last week's paper, quoting from parts of the cjpmc.org website, spokesperson Omrane Hassan provided the following response.

BY OMRANE HASSAN

I've answered every concern of these individuals, though not directly, as I don't know who actually said what, because all information has been made available to me through third parties.

What these concerned folk have failed to mention is the fact they only quoted half of the sentence used in the Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East (CJPME) article. Here, from cjpmc.org/fs_236, I quote the entire text which the person decided to choose specific, incomplete "information" out of in order to illegitimately justify their point: "On the other hand, violence directed at military targets, including Israeli occupation soldiers and military checkpoints, can be considered

IN RESPONSE

within an occupied people's right to resist. Erakat argues that "Palestinians have the right to use force against Israel and all military installations and targets to end their unjust rule."

Here, I quote another paragraph, in the same article that has been brought up.

"For this reason, UN experts and human rights groups including Amnesty International have argued that the indiscriminate firing of rockets by Palestinian militant groups in Gaza is unlawful and may constitute a war crime, as the rockets cannot be 'accurately directed at a military target' and therefore cannot distinguish between military objects and civilians."

For the accusation that CJPME has "not yet" condemned Hamas, I direct people to the cjpmc.org/talking_points_2023 page, which states:

"The violent attacks of Hamas and the ferocious retaliation of Israel, both targeting

civilians, unequivocally constitute breaches of international law and should be investigated by the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the International Court of Justice (ICJ) as war crimes. The rules are for everyone. We are calling on Canada to push for a ceasefire, suspend arms exports to Israel, and push for ICC and ICJ investigations into war crimes committed by all parties in this war."

It is difficult, when bombs and rockets are raining down, to summon the courage to hear each other, before passing judgement.

"Terrorism is commonly understood as 'violence against civilians for political purposes.' As such, deliberate acts of violence against civilians by Hamas on Oct. 7, as document-

ed by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch, do indeed constitute acts of terror."

Please know that we've thoroughly thought this through. Our event is 100 per cent about peace, though peace must be obtained through difficult conversations. In no way will we ever support anything condoning violence towards any civilians.

Water, medical aid, emergency aid: these are all projects by CJPME — the beneficiary organization of a fundraising dinner this Saturday at Beaver Point Hall in support of Palestinians under siege in Gaza.

The event also aims to foster dialogue and promote peace. Contrary to what some people are suggesting — that this is an anti-Zionist event, or has excluded Jewish perspectives — the event features a Jewish human rights lawyer and a panel moderator who is a member of the local Jewish community. It also brings Indigenous voices to bear on the impacts of settler colonialism. Let's not reproduce the same conflicts that are tearing peo-

ple apart in the Middle East, here on our island.

It is difficult, when bombs and rockets are raining down, to summon the courage to hear each other, before passing judgement. But to achieve peace, this is precisely what we must do.

The whole point of creating Arab-Jewish Coalition for Peace in the Middle-East is to be able to hold space to safely talk about these opinions. The exact events we are seeing unfolding before our eyes is what we are trying to avoid, and we strongly believe is part of a bigger problem, through which voices are often left unheard and misunderstood and leads to hostility between Jews and Arabs around the world.

We extend our invitation to everyone involved to join us for mediated conversation, or even just to contact us directly at ajcpmecontact@gmail.com, so together, we can build a better world, where all lives are treated equally, and where we can all live together, at peace with each other, and ourselves.

MORE LETTERS continued from 5

Point appropriately named

The proposal to rename Savage Point is a well-meant but fundamentally ignorant and counter-productive proposal that has wasted the valuable time of the Islands Trust Executive Committee and the BC Geographic Names Board ("Point's name questioned," Nov. 8 Driftwood).

It demeans the very necessary renaming of many features given new names by recent settlers who ignored those used by the much earlier settlers who migrated across the Pacific thousands of years ago. (This is all recent history from a geological perspective!)

The article states that the origin or significance of the name was not recorded, however, it can certainly be deduced from examination of the British Admiralty chart. First, imagine yourself in the cumbersome (by modern terms) of a square-rigged warship. Not readily maneuverable even by the competent officers and crew and requiring a lot of caution, particularly in the dangerous waters of this part of Georgia Strait.

Now imagine the common strong northwesterly winds that are blowing onto a lee shore of the steep rocky cliffs of Tumbo Island and line of fang-like reefs and rocks extending east from Savage Point across this part of the strait. Now look at the annotations on the chart. To the northeast are very heavy tide rips. To the south extending east beyond East Point is the Boiling Reef. Tidal currents in the strait can run up to five knots (nearly six mph) to the southeast. Quite the potential nightmare. The naming of Savage Point seems entirely appropriate and is highly unlikely to be related in any way to derogatory settler labels of Indigenous people. Changing it erases a small part of the overall history of our region to no good purpose and trivializes the necessary progress of reconciliation.

ANDREW OKULITCH,

FORMER GEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF CANADA REPRESENTATIVE ON THE CANADA GEOGRAPHIC NAMES BOARD, LIEUTENANT, ROYAL CANADIAN NAVAL RESERVE (RETIRED)

Apology owed

I read the invitation to attend the event sponsored by the so-called Arab Jewish Coalition for Peace in the Middle East, printed in the editorial and Viewpoint section of the Nov. 8 Driftwood.

I was dismayed and angry at the callous absence of any mention of the massacre on Oct. 7 of over 1,400 Jews by the terrorist

group Hamas. It was barbaric and beyond any rules of civility.

I do not believe the Salt Spring event was sanctioned by the Jewish community on the island, and for good reason. The article was completely one-sided and assumes that Israel was the aggressor. That assumption in itself is anti-Semitic. Omitting any reference to the massacre of babies, decapitations, disembowlements and other unspeakable murders, plus the taking of over 230 hostages, is reprehensible. I believe you owe the Jewish population a sincere apology, which I doubt is forthcoming.

HENRY BOUDIN,
SALT SPRING

Hamas is cause of war

On Nov. 18 there will be a fundraiser for the Palestinian people. Although I care a great deal about the suffering of the Palestinian people, it is important to know who and what is organizing this event.

Funds are being directed to an organization — Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East — that says that attacks like the one on Oct. 7 was legitimate. On their website it says "Under international law, Palestinians have a right to resort to armed violence," and they have yet to denounce the Oct. 7 massacre of innocent people in Israel, so many of which at Kibbutz Be'eri were working each day for peace ... taking Palestinians from the border to doctors' appointments and hospital treatments and operations in Israel.

Hamas is an arm of Jihad, celebrating killing of Jews at the expense of their own Palestinian people! Hiding in, under and among their own people. The blame for this war is Hamas. Only Hamas!

If Hamas lays down its weapons there will be peace. If Israeli lays down its weapons there will be the obliteration of Israel. Don't deceive yourself on who is to blame. It is Hamas and they must be destroyed.

Jihad is the enemy of every free-thinking person on planet Earth. It is the enemy of the Palestinians, of peace on this beautiful planet. Hamas is using the Palestinian people as shields to try to destroy Israel.

The organizers of the Salt Spring Island event must condemn Hamas as the cause of this conflict and show that they care about the 200-plus hostages and the 1,400 slaughtered people of Israel by Hamas.

The organizers of this event must acknowledge that Hamas has sacrificed its own Palestinian people for its etiology of Jihad.

Lay down your weapons, free the hostages. Put an end to anti-Semitism. Care for the Palestinian people as you should.

WAYNE TEPPER,
SALT SPRING

TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

NOVEMBER 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
15	0755	3.5	11.5	19	0226	0.5	1.6
	1224	3.0	9.8		1114	3.5	11.5
WE	1550	3.2	10.5	SU			
ME	2359	0.2	0.7	DI			
16	0847	3.5	11.5	20	0323	0.8	2.6
	1336	3.1	10.2		1154	3.5	11.5
TH	1611	3.2	10.5	MO	1910	2.3	7.5
JE				LU	2053	2.4	7.9
17	0043	0.2	0.7	21	0425	1.1	3.6
	0939	3.5	11.5		1228	3.5	11.5
FR				TU	1929	2.0	6.6
VE				MA	2340	2.3	7.5
18	0132	0.3	1.0	22	0530	1.4	4.6
SA	1028	3.5	11.5		1257	3.5	11.5
SA				WE	1957	1.6	5.2
SA				ME			

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FOOD SECURITY

Salt Spring Island's food network celebrated

The Root officially launched by the Farmland Trust

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR SSI FARMLAND TRUST



From left, attendees at the Oct. 29 Farmland Trust celebration check out a biochar kiln in action, with The Root food hub building seen behind, and a Food Share meal created following a cold smoked salmon workshop held at The Root as part of Knowledge Series events this summer.



the small surcharge patrons pay for take-away packaging.

In the lower basement/garage level, interest was piqued in the ample freezer and cold storage units for rent, as well as the apple press which is also available to the community for rent. Caitlyn Pal of the local.salt app invited visitors to learn more about her on-site Salt Jar Refillery, a zero-waste alternative for purchasing food basics, cleaning and personal hygiene products without plastic packaging.

Finally, inspired by the Food Share program meet-ups led by Nick Jones and Polly Orr of Grow Local at The Root throughout summer and fall, a robust potluck of homemade dishes was shared and the surplus exchange economy of "bring what you have, take what you need" was the communal theme of the day.

"This moment has been a long time in the making and the momentum is inspiring," said Dobie. "It has truly taken a village of dedicated board members, donors, partners, volunteers, local farmers, entrepreneurs, advocates, educators, government and foundation support, and the community at large to will this food hub into being. I'm excited and hopeful about the food and farmland future of our island and those who want to be a part of it."

Established in 2009, The Farmland Trust stewards the Burgoyne Valley Community Farm for tenant farmers, its community gardens for family and individual plots and The Root food hub. It acquires, restores and maintains farmland for lease and provides food and farming educational programs to support a more sustainable and knowledgeable food-secure community.

On Sunday, Oct. 29, close to 200 enthusiastic community members came together for a food- and event-packed afternoon to celebrate the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust (SSIFT) year-end and the official launch of The Root food hub on Beddis Road.

Guests were greeted with workshops, presentations, facility and kitchen tours, the Ox Eats Grass vegan food truck, and a shared potluck meal and food exchange featuring local produce.

"It was a time to celebrate and be grateful for all that has been achieved over the past year to enhance food security, knowledge, and community connections on our island," said SSIFT co-chair Sheila Dobie. "It was also an event to invite the community in to this long-awaited project, show what is possible and talk about exciting new opportunities to come."

In 2023, SSIFT saw the launch of six new programs and new financial support from First West/Island Savings, the Capital Regional District, Canadian Red Cross, Rural Economic Diversification and Infrastructure Program, Salt Spring Island Foundation and the Victoria Foundation. Its Knowledge Series of classes and workshops brought eager attendees information on everything from food product branding to bees to cold smoking salmon.

The completion of the com-

mercial kitchen was a major goal achieved, and the organization is now expanding its education offerings and extending its role in facilitating land matching partnerships between those who have land and those who want to farm it.

The Oct. 29 gathering was an integrated community affair, kicking off with the Transition Salt Spring Biochar Working Group in a workshop demo showcasing biochar as a sustainable soil amendment with many benefits to agriculture. The Salt Spring Seed Society highlighted its important work in preserving the island's Seed Bank, crucial for protecting heritage seeds and plants.

Moe Wendt, the permaculture lead and expert on The Root Gardens Restoration Project, offered numerous tours of the gardens and his work, which has now attracted its own sizable volunteer group.

An audience of 50 gathered to hear inspiring presentations from

this season's four Neighbourhood Food Security Grant recipients for whom funding and mentorship supported gleaning/foraging and garden sharing projects in their communities. Funding for these projects was supplied by a First West Foundation/Island Savings Community Endowment grant.

Presentations were heard from Growland Community Gardens, an active neighbourhood group who created a cooperative community garden on an unused backyard donated to the cause. Gigi's Orchards reported on its five inter-generational families who came together to restore a neglected heritage orchard.

Gabriel's Kitchen in the G.I.F.T.S building shared its model of meal making once a week for at-risk and food-insecure members of the community by including those who access this program in collaborating in the cooking and serving one

another.

Finally, IWAV's Grow For It program developed garden spaces for those using its transition housing. Processing fresh produce into products that would keep longer and be appealing for residents, their children and the public was identified as a need.

As visitors toured the capacity and equipment available at The Root's commercial kitchen, cookies and warm muffins came hot off the press, made from local zucchinis processed and frozen this summer.

Also on the food scene was Ox Eats Grass, celebrating its official grand opening as Salt Spring's newest food truck devoted to a plant-based vegan brunch menu now permanently located on-site at The Root. Salt Spring Coffee was present with urns of hot coffee, celebrating its 2023 partnership with the Farmland Trust as the recipient of its "Single Use Donation Fund,"

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LIGHTER LIVING

'Slow down' events merge community and action

Transition Salt Spring's clothing and toy swaps

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If the first Slow Down Salt Spring event is any indication, there's a real appetite on the island for the sort of traditional get-togethers organizers hope can become first steps toward climate action.

Transition Salt Spring (TSS) held a clothing swap at its SIMS office space on Saturday, Oct. 14, and it was a resounding success, according to TSS climate action coach Morgan Fraser, who said word-of-mouth led to a bigger turnout than they had expected.

"It was quite the thing," said Fraser. "I was imagining maybe 50 people would show up, we'd have a sweet little event with some tea and cookies."

She laughed. "There were



PHOTO BY NATASHA KONG/TSS

Part of the scene at the popular Oct. 14 Slow Down Salt Spring clothing swap hosted by Transition Salt Spring in its space at SIMS.

over 500 people in this room. It was spilling out into the hall!"

Fraser said the event took in more than 900 kilograms of clothing, and in a single afternoon participants took home over 800 kilograms — all of it

free, and all done without a single drop of fuel or a scrap of packaging. It's a culture change, she said, for people who normally might've bought something new to do something different — a wonderful

first step in realizing climate action efforts aren't all doom-and-gloom.

"There is something so empowering about it," said Fraser. "There's the community connection — there was clearly a huge need, and it was great seeing everyone taking the opportunity to say 'hi' to each other — but it's also exciting to have something empowering, because the climate crisis can feel overwhelming."

Taking part in these kinds of events answers a common question, said Fraser, of how we as individuals have an effect — and helps encourage people to do more.

"Now that you've had this first experience with 'climate action,' you can start to reconsider other things you do," said Fraser. "Maybe you look at things you can do in your own home, or your investments and where you bank, or how you spend — maybe it can inspire you to advocate, and vote in a way that will help with the

adaptation and mitigation of the climate crisis."

Fraser said the clothing swap was likely destined to be an annual — if not biannual — community event; it also is the launching point for additional efforts under the "Lighter Living" initiative, including the upcoming second Slow Down Salt Spring event: a toy swap next month, right in time for the holidays.

"We're planning Dec. 1 for intake, and Dec. 2 for the big free shopping day," said Fraser, adding that the toy swap would again be at SIMS.

Toys, she said, often are made of materials that are difficult to recycle — particularly on Salt Spring — and represent a huge amount of packaging and shipping fuel around the gift-giving season. And a community exchange is a great way to reach people who might never have considered buying something second-hand.

TSS continued on 9





Benjamin Moore^{MD}

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More events planned



PHOTO BY NATASHA KONG/TSS

Erinanne Harper with a beautiful treasure from Transition Salt Spring's first clothing swap event.

TSS

continued from 8

"When we're looking at how much new stuff gets made and sold every year, and ends up in the landfill, I think it'll be a big contribution to the community," said Fraser. "We can say yes, this is great for your wallet, but this is also what waste reduction looks like in your life. Maybe you'll think about doing a little clothing swap with

friends now, instead of going to the mall off-island, or buying something online."

The shift in thinking will hopefully inform the climate coaching program's next Lighter Living initiative: a Repair Café, according to Fraser, that's in early planning stages. They're reaching out to Salt Spring's fixers and tinkers, the menders and sewing pros — anyone who can support the idea of repairing things that might otherwise be discarded.

"So much of this could end up in a landfill," said Fraser. "But the Repair Café will be set up so if you bring in your broken lamp or toaster, you'll be able to sit beside someone and start learning as well — again, empowering people to be able to make better choices in their lives."

For information about volunteering for the upcoming toy swap, or to help with the Repair Café, email Fraser at climatecoach@transitionsaltspring.com. TSS has more information about their climate coaching program — including a list of rebates available to islanders, for everything from water storage tanks to heating systems — at transitionsaltspring.com/climate-action-coach-program.

Toy swap details

Organizers are seeking no-longer-needed toys for tots, kids, tweens and teens for the Slow Down Salt Spring Toy Swap — and shoppers are encouraged to return for the latest event, regardless of whether they were able to donate.

Items in giftable, used condition will be accepted for drop-off Friday, Dec. 1 from 2 to 4:30 p.m. at the Transition Salt Spring room at SIMS, top of the hill at 124 Rainbow Rd. Organizers and volunteers will then sort and curate, welcoming everyone on Salt Spring to come shop for free on Saturday, Dec. 2, from noon to 3 p.m.

Shoppers are encouraged to bring their own bags, and cash donations will be accepted. The event is made possible by



the TSS Climate Action Coach Program and the CRD Rethink Waste Grant; to pre-register (recommended), visit tinyurl.com/toy-swap.



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For Indoor Water Use

- Keep showers under 5 minutes and turn off water while lathering.
- Run only full loads in dishwashers and washing machines.
- Shut off the tap while brushing teeth, shaving, and washing.
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ELECTRIC VEHICLE

Self-driving experience shared by beta tester

Lots of pluses noted

I really enjoyed Shilo Zylbergold's humorous take on self-driving cars in his Nobody Asked Me But column in the Sept. 27 Driftwood.

Most readers may not be aware of the fact that self-driving cars have been operating on the streets of Salt Spring Island for more than two years. Tesla has been on the forefront of this technology. The current software is a beta version, which is not ready for prime time, just for select cool beta-testers.

When you purchase a Tesla, the self-driving software is an optional add-on. However, to be able to use it, you have to apply and commit to some safe driving rules. The first is that you must have your hands on the steering wheel at all times in case something goes awry. You also have to agree to some legalese.

You have to manually turn on the full self driving (FSD) software and optionally enter a destination. At all times when the FSD software is active, your driving habits are monitored. If you don't have your hands on the wheel, are not paying attention or are distracted, the car will



Jim Standen
EV
OLUTION

flash a warning and give penalty points. After five points, you are bumped out of the program.

Does the self-driving car have advantages? I believe so. I only have eyes in the front of my face. The car has way more electronic eyes and they are located at the front of the car, on the left and right, allowing the vehicle to see around corners, and in the rear and also inside the car. It can process images and avoid objects, like deer, faster than I can. It has the experience of millions of miles of self-driving video footage, which is uploaded to Tesla, analyzed in a massive computer, optimized and downloaded to your car as free updates. It is always 100 per cent aware and can take action to avoid an accident or shift your direction slightly to reduce the odds of



PHOTO COURTESY JIM STANDEN
Self-driving screen in writer's Tesla.

personal injury. Tesla is very serious about driving and occupant safety, making the brand among the safest cars you can buy.

My understanding is that impaired driving is not just driving over the blood alcohol limit, but any impairment to safe driving. Unclean windows come to mind. However, if you are legally within the .05 blood alcohol limit and driving, you may still actually be less than 100 per cent of your peak performance. With FSD turned off the car is fully alert and will warn you about lane-drifting, getting too close to road side lines, speeding, etc. Or if FSD is turned on, it will safely drive you

back to your home.

Another example? I was recently apple picking and was asked to pick those at the top of the trees. After a few hours of looking up, my neck froze in pain. Driving home, shoulder checking at intersections was a real pain. I was an impaired driver. The solution? FSD came to the rescue and drove me home (but I still shoulder checked to the best of my limited abilities).

Note: under no circumstance can the use of FSD keep you from a potential impaired driving charge if you are over the legal limit or intoxicated. You are still the operator and if caught you will get your day in court.

What does the average drive look like? As I drive to town from Vesuvius, the software recognizes speed limit signs and follows them. Especially important are playground zones. It sees stop signs and stops (something humans rarely do), signals turns approaching intersections, and after ensuring it is safe to do so, completes the turn and accelerates at a reasonable pace. It follows cars in traffic at an appropriate distance (one of the many attri-

butes that are adjustable to your personal preference). It especially recognized the wonderful new 30 km/h zone signs in Ganges. It even does reasonably well on our narrow unlined roads and seems to love driving in darkness. When I discuss the state of the software with the other Salt Spring Island beta testers, we agree that the current version is impressive, but FSD is a very tough problem and much more refinement is required.

This, to me, is the most interesting use of Artificial Intelligence I have encountered. It is actually very cool (and a bit creepy) to feel the car do its decision making while I hold the steering wheel. It takes a bit of getting used to.

If you want to see a shocking video of a Tesla in FSD mode saving the lives of the occupants of a car by preventing it from entering an intersection when an unseen car is running a red light, google "Tesla Intersection saved lives."

I have yet to be pulled over by our local friendly RCMP while FSD is engaged but I am ready to say I was not driving. I wonder how that will go?



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DANCE

Bouge de là for the young and young at heart

Award-winning dance performance

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

A curious mystery about exploring the very nature of creativity is afoot at ArtSpring for the young and young at heart thanks to Québec-based dance company Bouge de là in their Nov. 21 award-winning performance of *Through My Eyes*.

A dancer enters the stage and discovers a larger-than-life ball. Intrigued,

she moves towards it, carefully. As soon as she touches it, the magic of the stage is unleashed. The lights go up, the decor appears all around her, shadows play their tricks and transform one dancer into many. Now there are four of her to play together and discover a constantly changing environment — a graphical world made up of forms, colours, textures, sounds and illusions.

A topsy-turvy playground where dance continually shifts with the context, this performance promises to be full of surprises and invites audiences to see the world afresh through the curious eyes of a child.

The work is conceived, directed and choreographed by Bouge de là's artistic director Hélène Langevin, who has been creating children's dance shows for nearly three decades. It won the Prix du CALQ for best choreographic work of the 2018-19 artistic season from Prix de la danse de Montréal, the first piece for youth to win the title, and has since been toured across Canada.

While specifically designed for youth, *Through My Eyes* is sure to delight parents, grandparents, teachers and dance enthusiasts of all ages. The show begins at 7:30 p.m.



PHOTO BY ROLLINE LAPORTE

Scene from Bouge de là's *Through My Eyes* show, which comes to ArtSpring on Tuesday, Nov. 21.

COMMUNITY MUSIC

Bands team up for concert



PHOTO BY KIM THOMPSON

Michelle Footz, left, leads Swing Shift band members in rehearsal at SIMS. Swing Shift and Bandemonium are ready to present a fun Nov. 26 afternoon concert at Fulford Hall.

30 years ago to a number of younger players.

"We've got a really strong group of players right now . . . and I've been really focused on building the next generation of musicians and making sure that the organization stays strong and keeps with the high quality that it has been producing all these years."

Footz, who is the Gulf Islands Secondary School music teacher, is in her first season of leading Swing Shift Big Band and is also loving it.

The Mingus theme for the Nov. 26 concert came from Footz' interest in his music and arranging style, and the ability to explore pieces by Mingus' contemporaries like Duke Ellington and Sammy Nestico as well. Improvisation will be part of the performance.

"That's something I've been having everybody do," said Footz. "They learn that it's not really a scary thing to do. Once you have the basics it's about expressing yourself."

Some Bandemonium members will also do some improvising when the two groups team up for a Miles Davis piece.

Both Footz and McConchie observe that making music as a group strengthens the community, with people from diverse backgrounds, age ranges and different opinions coming together.

"Getting lots of people out to community art groups, or any type of group where you're working on a common goal, is such a good way to build community here," said McConchie.

Both bands welcome new members.

Tickets for the Nov. 26 show, which begins at 2 p.m., are \$20 in advance at Mondo Trading or at the door.

New leaders inspired by their musical groups

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

When it comes to putting together a memorable musical event, the leaders of Salt Spring's community concert and big bands don't see a need to mess with success for their Mingus on Mars show.

Bandemonium director Ben McConchie told the Driftwood last week he is excited about next Sunday's concert, which will see his band do the first 40-minute set, followed by the Swing Shift Big Band performing for the second half, and one piece done together. The concert band will present some classic works by composers such as Gustav Holst, Ralph Vaughan Williams and Eric Whitacre, as well as newer, innovative works by some current composers. Swing Shift, directed by Michelle Footz, will play pieces by jazz legend Charles Mingus and musicians who inspired him, and familiar songs from the band's repertoire.

The two bands teamed up for a concert at Fulford Hall in May, and McConchie said it was "a big success." "We actually gained a whole bunch of new members as a result of that, so I'm stoked."

McConchie, who is a Pender-based SD64 music teacher, has been Bandemonium's director for almost one year.

"I've been blown away by how good they are," he said of his members, who range from musicians who have been with Bandemonium since it was established

Quartetto Gelato
Tasty Tunes

ArtSpring Presents
25th Anniversary

Thu Nov 23
7:30pm
\$35 | \$5

artspring.ca
tickets.artspring.ca
250.537.2102

Bouge de là
Through My Eyes

ArtSpring Presents
25th Anniversary

Thu Nov 21
7:30pm
\$35 | \$5

artspring.ca
tickets.artspring.ca
250.537.2102

SPONSORED BY COUNTRY GROCER

ArtSpring 25th

Island Arts Centre Society
NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
ARTSPRING AGM
Mon Dec 4, 2023 | 5:30pm

For the receipt of Annual Reports, Financial Statements, and the Election of Directors. All who have been members for 30 days as of December 4, 2023 are eligible to vote. (2022-2023 members are at liberty to renew right up to the date of the AGM in order to vote).

Please email board@artspring.ca to register.
100 Jackson Avenue, Salt Spring Island

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Strength, Fragility & Beauty
Through Song!

Director Caroni Young Accompanist Shirley Bunyan

SATURDAY
NOVEMBER 18, 7:30 PM

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER 19, 2:00 PM

Tickets at ArtSpring
Adults \$25; Youth (18 or under) \$5

ARTSPRING

2023

Scan for Concert Detail

CONCERT PREVIEW

Quartet set to thrill

Group acclaimed around the world

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

Returning to ArtSpring on Nov. 23 is the lively ensemble that has enchanted the world for 30 years, continually replacing its musicians with the brightest of up-and-comers.

This is Quartetto Gelato, and its members now include an oboist who is also a Cirque du Soleil acrobat and musical theatre actor, a Serbian violinist, an award-winning Finnish accordionist and a self-proclaimed "wandering cellist."

"Classical by training, eclectic by design" is their slogan, and their music is comprised of virtuosic showpieces and romantic ballads, blazing Romani tunes and forgotten chestnuts, all brought to life with multi-instrument mastery.

Quartetto Gelato has performed sold-out concerts around the world, including in New York, Washington, L.A., London and Tokyo, and appeared with major North American orchestras such as the Toronto Symphony Orchestra, Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra, Calgary Philharmonic and Edmonton Symphony Orchestra, and produced 11 CDs reflecting their signature style of multi-instrument humour and storytelling.

Their music has been heard on Hollywood soundtracks, and two of their CDs were chosen by Canadian astronaut Robert Thirsk for his flight on board the space shuttle Columbia to be heard around the world. They will be performing from their 2021 album Tasty Tunes, an energetic repertoire sure to put a smile on everyone's faces with interpretations of music from cartoons, a Cuban sonata, a salute to Minnie the Moocher and a "Klezmer Explosion."

See artspring.ca for tickets.

LIVE MUSIC

Jazz night in ArtSpring gallery

Iain Duncan and friends perform

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

Following their sold-out performance at Mateada in September, local saxophonist Iain Duncan and B3 organist Nick Peck are set to present an evening of jazz, blues and bossa nova in the ArtSpring gallery, joined by Hans Verhoeven on drums and surprise guests.

The concert is on Friday, Nov. 24, running from 7 to 9 p.m. with doors open at 6:15 p.m.

A Salt Spring resident since early 2022, Duncan holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Victoria, where he has appeared in the Victoria Jazz Festival and various other venues. He is currently an interdisciplinary Ph.D. student in music and computer science at the University of Victoria.

Peck is an award-winning composer, pianist and organist, originally from the U.K., where he completed his Master of Music degree at London's prestigious Guildhall School of Music and Drama. Peck appears at clubs and festivals across the country, records for the Cellar Live Label and accompanies some of the country's finest musicians.

Verhoeven is on the jazz faculty at Vancouver Island University. He holds a Master of Music degree from the University of Victoria, and is a regular at clubs and festivals, supporting local and touring musicians from across the country.

This event is the first of its kind at the ArtSpring gallery space, and is intended to be accessible to all. Cover charge is by donation at the door, either by cash or e-transfer, and it is open to all ages as it is an alcohol-free event. However, as space is limited (and the first set filled up for the last show), advanced reservations are still recommended and can be made by e-transferring to iainduncan@gmail.com.

what's on this week

Wed. Nov. 15

ACTIVITIES

Best of the Fests: Swan Song. First film in Salt Spring Film Festival winter series at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Knit Purl Community. Knitters of all levels welcome to gathering at the library program room. 5 to 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Town Hall. Salt Spring Golf and Country Club. 5 to 7 p.m.

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

Thur. Nov. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Ensemble La Cigale. Salt Spring Baroque presents Montreal early music ensemble. All Saints. 7 p.m.

Janice Jo Lee with Richard Garvey. Live at Mateada. 7 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

Mother Goose. Free group experience for babies, young children (0-4 years) and their parents/caregivers. Presented in partnership with Family Place at the Salt Spring Public Library. 10 to 11 a.m.

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Meeting. SD64 Learning Hub and viewable online through an Islands Trust website link. 9:30 a.m.

Nature Salt Spring: Wonderful Winter Birds. Presentation by John Nevill. Lions Hall. 7 p.m.

Fri. Nov. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Unfaithful Servants. Live at Mateada. 8 to 11 p.m.

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

Fri. Nov. 17

ACTIVITIES

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

ASK Salt Spring. William McPherson and David Norget of the Mental Wellness Initiative and Ambassador Program are guests at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Sat. Nov. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Chorale! Kintsugi. Concert by community choir at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Drag Night! With world-class queens from Victoria and Vancouver. Live at Mateada. 8 to 11 p.m.

We Found a Love Bird. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Seasons in the Salish Sea. Audio-visual presentation by underwater photographer Ann Donahue and marine biologist Anne Parkinson. Library program room. 2 p.m.

Salt Spring For Gaza: A Day of Culture, Solidarity, and Support. Live music, silent auction, Arabic feast and facilitated discussion. Beaver Point Hall. 2:30 p.m. Advance tickets at Salt Spring Books. Info: ajcpmecontact@gmail.com.

Sun. Nov. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Viva Chorale! Kintsugi. Concert by community choir at ArtSpring. 2 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Cariboo Express. Salt Spring Folk Club presents food bank fundraiser. Fulford Hall. 7 p.m. (Check for ticket availability at Salt Spring Books.)

ACTIVITIES

Holiday Nature Art. Make some nature-inspired holiday crafts to take home, enjoy a warm drink and go for a walk with your family. Free drop-in at the Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Death Cafe. A Star of the Sea offering with JayaLynda Cole and Rhema Cossever, at St. Mary's Church. 2 to 4 p.m.

Mon. Nov. 20

ACTIVITIES

Book Launch: Chris Levan. Having Jesus for Dinner: Community or Cannibalism. Library program room. 2 p.m.

Tue. Nov. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Bouge de là. Quebec dance group presents Through My Eyes at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Country Band With Open Mic. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Restorative Justice In Our Community. An evening of information-sharing and storytelling about peace-making circles, casework, and volunteering opportunities. Library program room. 6:30 to 8 p.m. Registration required at info@rjsi.org.

Sacred Poetry: Poetry of Death. A Star of the Sea event on Zoom with Brian Day. starofthesea.ca. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

Wed. Nov. 22

ACTIVITIES

Native Plants Propagation Techniques Workshop. With ecologist Chris Drake at Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. Session 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. and Session 2 from 1 to 3 p.m. Registration required by Nov. 21 at noon by emailing Debra at debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• See theftritz.ca for this week's movie information.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Shannon Wardroper** presents The Beholders Share at Salt Spring Gallery from Nov. 10-29, Tuesdays through Saturdays, with an opening reception on Nov. 10 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **Jason Newport** shows paintings in the library program room in November.

• **Brian Purcell** shows his photography show called **One's View of Humanity** in the ArtSpring lobby through November.

• **Pat Page** shows some of her photos at Country Grocer Cafe this month.

WinterFaire

One-Stop shopping,
music and lunch
SSI United Church
Saturday, Nov. 25,
10 am to 3 p.m.

THRIFTY FOODS

Ganges, Mouat's Centre 7:30am to 9pm
Customer Service 250-537-1522





ISLAND LIFE

COMMUNITY GROWTH

Restorative Justice Week activities coming up



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

From left, RJ Salt Spring Island board member/volunteer Laura Dafoe, coordinator Jessica Terezakis and board member/volunteer Roberta Temmel create a "clothesline" of RJ terminology.

Info session and Land Acknowledgement Circle

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Restorative Justice (RJ) Week runs Nov. 19 to 25 nationwide, and Salt Spring's RJ group has organized two special public awareness events during that period.

The first is an information sharing gathering on Tuesday, Nov. 21 that will include storytelling about the transformative power of peace-making circles and casework, and volunteering opportunities with RJ Salt Spring Island. It takes place in the library program room from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Registration to info@rjsi.org is requested.

RJ Salt Spring Island coordinator Jessica Terezakis, and long-time organization volunteers and current board members Roberta Temmel and Laura Dafoe, will be at that session.

Temmel said it is exciting to have Terezakis, who has recently completed Simon Fraser University's restorative justice program, as the group's new leader. But Terezakis points to the relationships built by Temmel, Dafoe and others as being critical to the success of RJ on Salt Spring.

"I think the largest and most important part of restorative justice is the relationship building," said Terezakis, "and when you've been in this community doing that kind of work for that long, relationships are at its centre."

RJ is usually thought of in the context of the criminal justice system, as an alternative to traditional court appearances and judgements in cases where harm has been done. It involves bringing the responsible party together with the affected party in a circle facilitated by individuals trained in RJ. The responsible party hears about the impact of their actions directly from the affected party, and the affected party hears what may have led to those actions.

"For me, the biggest part of restorative justice

is that connection with people," said Temmel, "and giving that time for somebody to feel that they're heard and that you meet them where they're at, and to give them the opportunity to share what was happening with them. I always think nobody is the worst thing they've ever done, this isn't who we are, this is just a part of our path."

People who make poor choices have often lacked support in the past, she adds, and RJ volunteers can help provide that support.

Dafoe observed that RJ "holds complexity . . . it's not guilty/not guilty, or good/bad. It's a structure and the processes are able to hold complexity — and every single thing that happens is complex."

She also said RJ is not just for the criminal justice system, but people and groups can request their services to help resolve any kind of personal or organizational conflict.

RJ has its roots in Indigenous cultures, which makes a second Restorative Justice Week event that much more meaningful.

A Land Acknowledgement Circle led by the library's Indigenous coordinator Caroline Dick will be an opportunity for settlers to learn more about how to meaningfully incorporate land acknowledgements into their lives as an important part of Truth and Reconciliation.

It will run on Saturday, Nov. 25 from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m., also in the library's program room.

Dafoe said Dick will talk about what the land means, and participants will learn proper pronunciations and how to create their own acknowledgments.

"When we go to another meeting we'll be ready to be the one to stand up and say, 'Hey, I'd like to do this,'" said Temmel.

To register for the Nov. 25 session, email info@saltspring-library.com.

For more information

about Restorative Justice Salt Spring Island, visit rjsi.org, email info@rjsi.org, check out RJ books at the Salt Spring library or explore YouTube videos about restorative justice.



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"My experience with the Restorative Justice Program (RJP) surprised me. I had a mentor assigned to me and they were so kind and empathetic. I felt safe with them. They said to me, 'If you don't keep in contact with me, this won't work' and I took that to heart because I didn't want to be charged again by the police. It's just what I needed at the time — guidance, support and acknowledgement. Someone who genuinely cared for my well-being. I was starving of eldership in my life and this opportunity with the RJP nourished that aspect. With the commitment for weekly communication, consistency, I felt less alone. My mentor made me feel anchored during a pivotal time in my life and I can't express fully how much that has helped me heal from what led me to Salt Spring Island.

"Through my journey with the program, I built connections with the community which was all I desired from the beginning. A sense of belonging and purpose. I learned that there are more people out there than we realize that truly care for all. That there is always a solution. It's allowing the time and creation of space to do it.

"I have so much gratitude for the people who worked with me and listened to my story. I hope we can continue to collaborate with community and rise together, instead of repeated behaviour of immediately casting out individuals who don't fit the status quo. Thank you for your extending your hand to me.

- Anonymous Restorative Justice process participant

FAMILIES

Santa's Workshop application period opens

Phone only used this year

Parents who feel that providing gifts to their children aged infant to 12 this Christmas will be a struggle are invited to apply for Santa's Workshop between Monday, Nov. 20 and Friday, Dec. 1.

Applications will only be taken by phone this year, and not online or through Community Services, as in the past. People must phone Victoria Skinner at 250-538-8353 or Wendy Eggertson at 250-537-

2658 on those dates between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. If people are unable to get through they are asked to phone again rather than leaving a message.

"No late applications will be accepted and duplicate applications will be penalized so be sure you are the only one applying for your children," said Eggertson.

Parents of children will be given a time to shop the week of Dec. 11 to 16 in the basement of the Salt Spring Island Baptist Church. Gift certificates will also be

provided.

Anyone who has new or lightly used toys, books, art supplies, sports equipment or Christmas decorations to donate can drop them in Santa's Workshop boxes at West of the Moon, Mouat's Home Hardware or Country Grocer between Nov. 20 and Dec. 10.

Anyone interested in helping out with Santa's Workshop or able to provide funding should contact Eggertson at 250-537-2658.



**Write a story of 500 words or less
whose topic relates to Christmas
or the Christmas season.**

The deadline for our annual writing contest is Friday, December 8th. Win a Salt Spring Books gift certificate for a story of up to 500 words about Christmas or the Christmas Season.

- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Send entries to the Driftwood, 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2V3, email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com.
- For more information, 250-537-9933.

Teachers: Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Notices

Notices

In Memoriam



VERNA HELEN ELLIOTT
September 1950 —
November 2, 2023

Verna passed away in palliative care at the Saanich Peninsula Hospital with family by her side after a short illness.

Born in Grande Prairie, Alberta to Peter and Annie Toews, both of whom were born in Russia, Verna was the youngest of six and is survived by four brothers, Donald, John, Henry and Lawrence, and one sister, Melita. The family farmed grain and in the early years a few mixed livestock. There were so many wonderful memories she had of the adventures with her siblings, like using an old tractor to tow each other around on an ice-covered pond when their parents were away, having it break through the ice and then borrowing all the chains in the neighbourhood to get it out and back into the barn before their parents' return. She remembered winter chores before school, like chopping a hole in the ice on the dugout for the cows to drink in 40-below weather. Verna credits being the youngest and smallest as giving her strength and tenacity to keep up and play with the big boys without complaint.

She attended secretary college, much to her father's disdain as he wanted her to be a teacher. He reluctantly went to her graduation ceremony and was so proud of all the awards and accolades she received. After graduation she moved to Calgary with very little capital, found work and struggled the first few months. After paying her rent, money for food was minimal and liver was a high-protein, low-cost staple. She endured and it wasn't long before wages and living costs found a balance.

She continued her education in career development, social philosophy and fundamentals of petroleum technology and went on to become a valued team member of Marathon Petroleum.

The mountains being so close beckoned to her. Weekends in the mountains spent hiking or cross-country skiing with her brother Lawrence and friends gave her so much enjoyment. This slowly led to mountain climbing and with her brother or a past boyfriend she had been to the top of every major mountain from California to Alaska. This was by no means a small feat.

The next chapter of her life started when while visiting friends who had moved to Salt Spring she was introduced to John, a commercial fisherman. After a few visits back and forth and many letters, they married in 1990. She also accepted into her life two step-children, Adrian and Nigel. She wore fishing well, an ever-changing adventure, with fresh air, hard work and always an uncomplaining attitude for any obstacles the day put in front of her.

Verna and John retired in 2005, but kept their boat and made many beachcombing and sports fishing trips around Vancouver Island. Locally, prawns and crab were always near at hand. They enjoyed camper trips to Arizona and to the Olympic Peninsula where they had an oceanfront lot. Ocean waves and miles of beach always left her rejuvenated.

Verna's happy place these past few years was her yard. It's a little wild in places. Rhododendrons, flower beds, lawn and always a few tomatoes. She thoroughly enjoyed looking after it all.

Verna volunteered at the Lady Minto Thrift Shop for the past 15 years and treasured the friendship of so many of her workmates and the comments of appreciation from so many happy customers.

Verna was a remarkable woman. Her soft-spoken, kind and gentle nature, paired with her strengths and a smile that took so little to earn, endeared her to all who came to know her. She left with a large circle of friends.

Her passing leaves a large hole in many hearts that can't be filled. We can only try to borrow some of her strength and learn to live with the loss.

There was no service by her choice, but hopefully a celebration of life will be held in the spring when her yard comes into bloom.

Thank you to all the medical staff and doctors at various locations that took part in helping her the best they could over these past few months.



Theresa (Terry) Fuoco

July 29, 1948-
October 23, 2023

It is with profound sadness that we announce the passing of Theresa (Terry) Fuoco, beloved sister, auntie and friend after a brief, but bravely fought, battle with cancer.

Predeceased by her parents Santy (2005) and Louise (2018), she is survived by her brothers Russ (Star) and Michael (Karen) Fuoco, nieces Holly, Kristi, Leila and Nicole and their children.

Terry spent her youth in Grand Prairie, Victoria, Nanaimo, Winnipeg and Vancouver. In Winnipeg her lifelong passion for music and attending rock concerts began. In 1964, at the age of 16, she travelled by train from Winnipeg to Vancouver to see The Beatles. Terry also interviewed an emerging band from Winnipeg, for her high school newspaper: The Guess Who!

Over the following 43 years, Terry attended over 50 U2 shows around the globe in places like Toronto, California, Hawaii and even Ireland.

Terry was a vibrant woman. People naturally gravitated to her friendly and fun personality. She never had a dull day after taking early retirement from Telus in 1999. She began her retirement by enrolling in a Vet technician course, a lifetime dream. Another dream was to move to Salt Spring Island where in 2006, she purchased a lovely home above St. Mary Lake.

She made many new friends on the Island, volunteered at the SPCA and worked as a Vet Clinic technician. She had an abiding love for all animals and took meticulous care of those in her charge.

Terry had a way with cats and was called the "cat whisperer" by friends. After 16 happy years living on Salt Spring, Terry decided it was time for a change. She bought a lovely apartment in Downtown Sidney in 2022 and immediately made many new friends.

Special thanks to all her wonderful friends during this difficult time and to the Care team at Royal Jubilee Hospital.

In lieu of flowers donations to the Angel Fund at Gulf Island Veterinary Clinic or the Victoria Humane Society would be appreciated.

A celebration of life will be held on Friday, November 24, from 11 AM to 1 PM at the Mary Winspear Centre, 2243 Beacon Avenue, Sidney BC.

"I know that this is

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



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Land Act:

Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that, Shaw Cablesystems Limited, has applied to the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS), for a Temporary Licence of Occupation leading to a Statutory Right of Way for the purposes of a Telecommunication Line described as the underwater portion of Swanson Channel between Saltspring Island and Pender Island containing 6.72 hectares more or less.

The Land File Number that has been established for this application is 1415439.

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/>. Alternatively hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9. Comments will be received by WLRS up to Monday December 18th 2023. WLRS may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Please visit the website at <https://comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/> for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship office in Nanaimo.

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Employment

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RECYCLE
THIS
NEWS
PAPER.

Remembrance Day

photos by Rob Lowrie



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 member and veteran Bill McKenzie leads the parade, followed by Salt Spring Pipes & Drums members and visiting Royal Canadian Navy sailors. Armed service veterans, members of Salt Spring's emergency services groups and the Girl Guides of Canada also participated in the parade.



Lee Roland-Cook, from a Salt Spring family with both Hawaiian and First Nations background, was among honoured guests at the Nov. 11 ceremony, with visiting Royal Canadian Navy sailors seen at right.



Terry Owen, who served with NATO on the HMCS Iroquois as a radar operator.



Ron Woods, a World War II navy veteran who spent 330 days serving convoy duty on the North Atlantic, took the salute during the ceremony.



League of Veterans members visiting from Victoria.



Michelle Footz plays The Last Post.



Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 president Bruce Angus at the Legion's open house event after the ceremony.



Headstone with Lest We Forget marker placed by Salt Spring Pathfinders through the No Stone Left Alone project in the Ganges Community Cemetery.

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TREE FROG JOY



Happy to receive a cheque for \$10,500 from the 100 Men Who Care Salt Spring group are in front, from left, Ellis Crossin, Nova Hart, Caitlin Hart, Lisa Bleskie, Sloane Hart, Luna Artz-Mazzaro and Joelle Morrison from Tree Frog Daycare Society. In the back row are, from left, 100 Men members Urs Dietschi, Iain Pennington and Kirk Laidlaw. More men are welcome to join the group. Information is available at 100mensaltspring.org/become-a-member/. The next meeting is Feb. 6, 2024.

PHOTO COURTESY 100 MEN WHO CARE SSI

AUTHOR EVENTS

Levan launches new book

Baker and theologian presents Jesus for Dinner

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If you've been lucky enough to have heard the jaunty sound of bagpipes near the water some afternoon on Walker's Hook Road, you already know something about island author Chris Levan.

But in addition to holding a more-than-dabbling interest in that instrument — and to being the baker behind The Piper's Buns farmstand — Levan is also a retired minister, professor, principal and university president. And Levan is launching his latest book, the compellingly titled *Having Jesus for Dinner: Community or Cannibalism*, at 2 p.m. Monday, Nov. 20 at the Salt Spring Island Library.

Written over 10 years, the book examines

the development of Christians' meal practice "from having Jesus as the guest at their table, to having Jesus as the main course," he writes. In a few short years, argues Levan, believers moved from Jesus being the host at a common shared meal to Christians "eating" Jesus — the bread of life — as an act of devotion.

Making sense of the shift, considering its consequences and advocating to "reset the table," Levan interweaves his thoughts on the ritualized sacrament with bread recipes, from the delightfully Scottish bannock to croissants. At the book launch, Levan will begin with an entertaining examination of the complaints levelled against Jesus, explain the three miracles of his meal fellowship, and illustrate that, with a hands-on exercise of what it would be like to eat with Jesus.

For more details on the book launch, as well as other library events, visit saltspring.bc.libraries.coop/calendar.

OUTDOOR REC

Arizona Trail adventures shared by Coghlan

Library event set for Nov. 25

BY MARGRIET RUURS
FOR SSI TRAIL AND NATURE CLUB

Salt Spring residents Jenny and Nick Coghlan are not afraid of a challenge. Originally from the U.K., immigrants to Canada in 1981, they retired to Salt Spring Island after living a turbulent and exciting life.

First as a teacher, then as Canadian diplomat, Nick was posted to seven different countries; Jenny repeatedly reinvented herself, working in information technology and for the United Nations.

In the late 1970s, from their base in Buenos Aires, Nick and

Jenny enjoyed adventures in Patagonia and the Falklands over three successive summers. Later they lived in Pakistan, where Nick served as deputy high commissioner; their hikes there included a trek to the K2 base camp.

Nick also served as the first Canadian Head of Mission in Khartoum (Sudan) and the first resident Canadian ambassador in Juba, the capital of the newly independent country of South Sudan. The Coghlanes were awarded the Meritorious Service Cross for their role in the evacuation of Canadian citizens from Juba when civil war broke out in South Sudan late in 2013.

For relaxation, or perhaps for more adventures in between jobs, the couple sailed their 27-foot sailboat around the

world in the 1980s, then made a second voyage from Cape Town, South Africa, across the South Atlantic and into the stormy winter waters around Tierra del Fuego, South America. In his book *Winter in Fireland: A Patagonian Sailing Adventure*, Nick shares their adventures as they negotiate the labyrinth of channels and inlets around snow-covered Fireland, and reflects on voyages of past explorers, including Magellan, Cook and Darwin.

In his subsequent book *Colapse of a Country: a Diplomat's Memoir of South Sudan*, he shares the couple's harrowing experiences of living through a civil war. Both books are available through the Salt Spring Public Library.

After first arriving in Canada, Nick taught at Shawnigan Lake School on Vancouver Island. During that time they fell in love with Salt Spring Island, to which they returned in 2017.

On Saturday, Nov. 25, the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club is pleased to present both Nick and Jenny Coghlan as speakers for a free public event. Not content to sit at home, the couple recently embarked on a 300-mile long-distance hike. Through stories and a slideshow presentation they will share stories about hiking the Arizona Trail, from the Mexican border half way to Utah. Carrying camping gear and water, with most fellow hikers being a third of their age, Jenny laughs: "Yes, we lost weight!" They will share many stories about Trail



PHOTO COURTESY SSITNC

Jenny and Nick Coghlan.

Angels, undocumented migrants and much more.

The Arizona Trail talk runs from 2 to 3 p.m. in the Salt Spring Public Library program room.

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