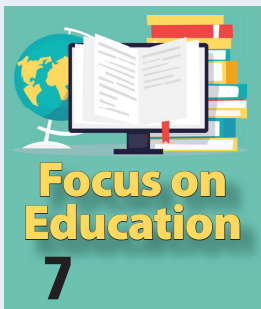


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Driftwood

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Wednesday,
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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DECKING THE HALL: Part of the team decorating Mahon Hall for the Artcraft Winter show and sale last week are, from left, Dan Zak, Janet Cliffe, Chris Gix, Diana Craig and Terry Manz. Artcraft Winter opens Friday, Nov. 24 at 10 a.m., with an evening celebration from 5 to 7 p.m. Gallery 8's 15th annual Christmas Show of Small Works also opens Friday, with a reception from 5 to 8 p.m.

HOUSING

LTC floats potential ADU process

'530-Lite' seen as foundation for spot zoning

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring officials may have found a way to accomplish one housing goal for the island — and if the details pencil out, the next meeting of the Local Trust Committee (LTC) could finally illuminate a path forward for legal accessory dwelling units (ADUs).

While it would be an understatement to say there are many details yet to be sorted, the sense in the room from all three trustees — and of Islands Trust staff, tasked with the sorting — seemed a combination of relief, fresh optimism and more than a little satisfaction.

"I think we had a really good day," said LTC chair Tim Peterson as he — metaphorically — gavelled the meeting to an end Thursday, Nov. 16.

After considerable collaboration — and

by unanimous vote — trustees advanced a plan to build upon the arguably watered-down version of Proposed Bylaw 530 tabled last month, a new map-based approach for ADU zoning that showed just a handful of properties where they would be allowed (and recently nicknamed "530-Lite" by trustee Laura Patrick).

Once that new map comes into effect through bylaw — Schedule "M," according to planner Chris Hutton — the LTC hopes to establish a streamlined, lower-cost and lower-staff-time process for landowners who want to be added.

Much concern sparked by early versions of Bylaw 530 surrounded its scope, in that an abrupt rezoning of hundreds or thousands of island properties to allow ADUs could run afoul of guidance in the Salt Spring Island Official Community Plan (OCP). One

OCP policy in particular states that zoning changes should be avoided if they would likely result in a larger population than was expected under the island's development potential as zoned in 2008, and that exceptions to that policy "are to be few and minor," and only to achieve affordable housing or other OCP objectives specifically.

The proposed "spot zoning" process, which trustees unanimously voted to ask staff to develop, is likely as minor as practicable for this LTC's goals — in theory affecting one parcel at a time.

"You'd simply be applying to amend that map, rather than have your zoning changed," said Hutton. "In order to provide a fast track, you'd have some criteria to meet."

LTC continued on 3

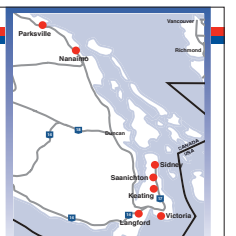
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LAND USE

Rainbow land stripped of housing agreement

Brackett Springs lender targets buyers interested in affordable housing

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Rainbow Road property's disposition has become an object lesson in dotting I's and crossing t's — and, possibly, in the value of a good reputation — as the saga of one affordable housing project comes to an end and another hopefully waits in the wings.

Salt Spring Island's Local Trust Committee (LTC) discharged a hous-

ing agreement from the 7.8-acre parcel once known as Brackett Springs Thursday, Nov. 16, essentially removing permission it granted in 2009 to build 10 units of affordable housing at the former Salt Spring Land Bank Society property.

The LTC has left open the possibility of granting it again — indeed, that body's interest in lower-cost housing has only grown in the last 14 years. But Islands Trust staff discovered problems with the extant agreement; one section gave no specific definition of "affordable," and as the property is currently under forced sale foreclosure, a new owner could potentially define it for themselves.

Moreover, according to senior Trust planner Anthony Fotino, some

wording in the current agreement doesn't even include "affordable," referring simply to a requirement to build 10 units.

"This could potentially lead to some confusion," said Fotino, "since the cancellation of the housing agreement through foreclosure could leave a possibility that a court-ordered purchaser could acquire the property and benefit from the covenant requiring 10 dwelling units — but not be bound by those units being affordable, because the covenant does not specify that the units must be affordable."

Fortunately, the housing agreement anticipated the possibility of foreclosure, and in the event of a court-ordered sale the former LTC agreed to officially abandon the agreement; that has happened, and according to representatives of lender Vancouver City Savings Credit Union (Vancity), multiple housing societies that have considered purchasing the property to build low-



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Two of several buildings on the Brackett Springs property now for sale following a foreclosure proceeding.

cost housing have been unable to effectively plan a way forward.

"We share Salt Spring Island's goal of having this be affordable housing in the future," said Vancity special accounts department team manager Chris Freeman. "But with this housing agreement that's in place, every offer we've tried to entertain — including with foundations and other groups that are on the island — can't work, with the terms that were set out back in 2010."

Freeman told trustees the credit union had fielded several offers in different forms — including one that contemplated housing for medical professionals who wanted to work on the island.

"If this is discharged, then [new owners] can negotiate a new agreement," said Freeman, "and let everybody move forward and get the housing on that land."

Trustee Laura Patrick expressed concern that the property could potentially now just be purchased for a single dwelling, which staff agreed was a possibility; but Freeman said Vancity was actively marketing the property in terms of its potential for affordable housing.

"We're not looking for people that just want to go back to the one [dwelling zoning] and have the land for themselves," said Freeman. "And we can control that bit when we take it to court — we can only take in offers where people are totally like-minded. It's Vancity's goal to see affordable housing [here], that's one of the pillars of our reputation in the community — and we're not looking to just do a fire sale and get out of it."

Patrick said since she believed Vancity had been proceeding in good faith, it was worth the well-mitigated risk.

"You could have disposed of this a long time ago, and quicker," said Patrick. "We were very fortunate that it's Vancity we're working with, and not 'big bank X'."

In a letter to the LTC, Vancity's legal counsel said that the sale is hoped to satisfy the Land Bank Society's outstanding indebtedness related to both the Rainbow Road property and another one at 384 Fulford-Ganges Rd. — possibly leaving the society with the ability to continue to operate at the latter.

The Land Bank Society originally envisioned as many as 15 affordable housing units when it began its efforts at Rainbow Road with a rezoning submission in 2008; delays and concerns over management led to the withdrawal of \$182,000 in grant funding from the Capital Regional District (CRD) in 2015. A CRD staff report at that time noted the project had also acquired \$500,000 in grant funding from BC Housing and a \$440,000 loan from the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC).

Some of the delays reportedly came from the project's plans to use recycled homes from on and off-island, which were to be renovated largely by using volunteer labour and recycled materials. In 2013, concern arose around construction delays and issues with documentation, which led to BC Housing and CMHC pulling out of the deal. The CRD report noted the BC Housing grant was largely repaid, but CMHC had written off the loan.



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HOUSING

Trustees briefed on housing laws

Provincial legislation will affect each island differently

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Relatively few of the new housing-related laws rolled out by the province recently will directly apply to the Gulf Islands — but those that do will likely feel significant.

That's the message so far from Islands Trust staff, tasked with sorting out the new initiatives from the government of British Columbia at the local level for trustees. And while many islanders may have looked eagerly toward the rapid-fire flurry of recent legislation coming from the province, several exclusions will be in place through amendments to the Islands Trust Act itself, according to planning services director Stefan Cermak, who briefed the Trust's Regional Planning Committee (RPC) Wednesday, Nov. 15.

"It's interesting times in the Legislature," said Cermak. "There are more legislative changes regarding housing and the Local Government Act than we've seen since the '80s."

The Short Term Rental Accommodation Act (Bill 35) received Royal assent last month and is expected to be brought into force by ministerial regulations in December, according to Cermak — and it will cast an unequal shadow from one island to the next. While the Trust area is itself excluded, each Local Trust Committee (LTC) will seemingly be able to opt into the legislation, which includes a principal residence requirement for short-term rentals, the creation of a mandatory province-wide licensing program, and the removal of any current protection enjoyed by so-called "legal non-conforming" operations, such as those essentially grandfathered-in on Hornby Island.

"Opting-in would mean the provincial restrictions on short-term rental accommodations will override any schemes that the LTC has enacted, where there is a collusion between them," according to the briefing. "For example, an LTC may have adopted a temporary use permit scheme and issued permits to non-resident owners; if that committee opts in, those temporary use permits would become void [and] currently legal non-conforming vacation rentals will no longer be lawful."

"You'll still want to hear from the community in some way, whether it's letter writing or informal meetings or coming to your town hall session."

DAVID MARLOR
*Legislative services director,
Islands Trust*

The Housing Statutes (Residential Development) Amendment Act (Bill 44) received first reading on Nov. 6, and Cermak said it's expected to receive Royal assent before the end of the year, coming into force in early 2024 — a long bill with multiple measures meant to encourage affordable housing, most of which won't apply in the Gulf Islands.

"They made an amendment to the Islands Trust Act, which excluded the Islands Trust from a lot of this," said Cermak. "You've heard about how the single-family dwelling is going the way of the dodo, and requiring three, four or six units per lot. That does not apply to the Islands Trust."

Requirements in Bill 44 regarding housing needs reports will apply,

however — now mandating a 20-year horizon, rather than five — as will a significant new prohibition on public hearings for most residential development projects.

"Public hearings on proposed zoning bylaws must not be held, if this gets adopted, for bylaws that are consistent with an official community plan," said Cermak, "and if the purpose of that bylaw is to permit a residential development. So it shows you the power of your official community plans."

Notably, adoption of an OCP — that can trigger the public hearing prohibition — is now mandatory for most of B.C., according to Cermak. That requirement also appears to specifically exclude the Islands Trust, possibly because every Local Trust Area already has an OCP.

Legislative services director David Marlor told trustees that staff did not anticipate any further prohibitions on more informal approaches, like community information meetings or open houses.

"You'll still want to hear from the community in some way, whether it's letter writing or informal meetings or coming to your town hall session," said Marlor. "And once you've received that information, it's still up to the LTC; it's still an unfettered authority."

The Housing Statutes (Development Financing) Amendment Act (Bill 46) received its first reading one day after Bill 44, and is also expected to come into force in early 2024. Cermak said LTCs are excluded from a new ability to levy amenity cost charges to fund infrastructure — since they are not responsible for infrastructure — but that it seemed that regional districts could, through bylaw, decide to collect those charges for new construction within the Islands Trust Area.

B.C.'s Housing Ministry is expected to clarify most regulations before the end of December.

PARKS

Leak fixed at aquatic centre

Annual Rainbow Road pool closure starts Dec. 3

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A leak from the ceiling briefly closed Salt Spring's pool to swimmers on Thursday, Nov. 16, according to recreation staff, but a quick repair allowed the doors to open the next day — and should be enough to keep the facility open until planned year-end maintenance is conducted.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) Rainbow Recreation Centre shut its doors midday Thursday, Nov. 16 in order to respond to the leak, according to Salt Spring CRD parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington.

"A leaky pipe in the ceiling resulted in the closure," said Ovington. "We have completed a temporary fix, and we are hoping to complete full repairs during the pre-scheduled annual maintenance."

Work at the pool did cause a short opening delay Friday morning, according to Ovington, but the centre was ready for its first Aquafit class by 8 a.m.

The pool's annual closure period for maintenance purposes runs from Dec. 3 until Jan. 1.

FOR THE RECORD

The Nov. 8 article "STVR powers may fall to Trust" omitted information from Salt Spring Island's Land Use Bylaw indicating that, as with bedrooms within some principal dwellings, some permitted seasonal cottages may operate as a bed and breakfast home-based business — subject to several conditions, and in only some of the island's zones.

Public hearings could be waived

LTC

continued from 1

Trustees asked staff to identify those criteria, and to find ways to make the process less expensive for applicants — hopefully resulting in more affordable rents as landowners seek to recoup fewer costs.

"If it's less work for staff, and we're even able to waive a public hearing, there's certainly rationale for seeking to amend the application fee," said Hutton.

The question of whether the LTC could waive public hearings may already be a settled matter. While many of the new housing-related laws being rolled out by the province will likely not apply within the Islands Trust, one part of the Housing Statutes Amendment Act probably will: Bill 44, which outright prohibits public hearings from being held on any land use bylaw amendments for residential (or mostly residential) applications

anywhere an OCP is in place, so long as that rezoning is consistent with the OCP.

Moreover, Salt Spring may not have to wait for the province to sort it out, trustees argued.

"We don't need Bill 44 to pass," said Patrick, "because we [already] have the right to waive a public hearing for projects that are compliant with the OCP."

What remains to be seen is how the new plan will land with the community; Thursday's lightly attended LTC meeting was preceded by a robust town hall the night before, with several attending expressing disappointment with the pace and scope of this LTC's efforts toward housing — as well as with the province's exclusion of Salt Spring Island from much new legislation aimed at increasing B.C.'s housing stock, despite local trustees stating they wish to participate.

"If you're saying it's not the Trust Council lobbying the province to have us excluded, and our LTC is

not lobbying the province, who is?" asked islander Corey Johnson during the Nov. 15 meeting held at the Salt Spring Golf Club. "Is it the lobbying groups that are currently opposing Bylaw 530? That concerns me greatly."

"I can't speak to what individuals or groups may have been lobbying the province, or not," answered Peterson. "I don't know."

Others suggested they would be willing to lobby the provincial government for Salt Spring to be included in Bill 44.

At Thursday's meeting, Salt Spring trustee Jamie Harris, who has long been an unequivocal supporter of the goals of Bylaw 530, told colleagues he was satisfied with the movement forward — particularly if plans can progress quickly enough to be able to approve an application process in time for the LTC's December meeting.

"It would be like a Christmas present for the community," quipped Harris.

Ask the Expert

Q: How much do I need to retire?

Expert: Terri Leslie,
Wealth Advisor—Ganges



As we move through our 40s, 50s and 60s, our thoughts increasingly turn toward retirement. One question looms large: "How much do I need to save for the retirement I want?" While you may hear figures like \$1m quoted, unfortunately there's no easy answer to the question of how much you need. For starters, everyone's idea of what retirement looks like varies drastically. Some want to travel the world. Others just want to putter around in their garden.

A helpful way to approach retirement is thinking about the annual income you'll need, rather than focusing on a lump sum. A common rule of thumb is to aim for around 70 percent of your income. For example, if you earn \$90,000 you could aim for an income of \$63,000. This can be a helpful starting point.

Here's a summary of the factors to consider:

- Your retirement age
- Your desired lifestyle
- Will you still work?
- Other sources of income (PP/OAS/GIS, pension etc.)
- Your debt and assets
- Your health

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OPINION

Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Housing matters

There's been a lot of talk about housing in recent issues of the Driftwood, but it reflects what's being discussed in public meetings, in cafes and on the street.

Recent provincial government legislative changes designed to spur housing creation through various means may largely not apply to the Trust Area, including Salt Spring, a fact that frustrated several people attending last Wednesday's Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) town hall meeting at the golf club. Some went so far as to offer their physical presence in Victoria to press the case for Salt Spring's inclusion in areas benefitting from the legislation, and Bill 44, in particular.

"People matter!" stressed islander Stanley Shapiro, a member of the LTC's Housing Action Program Task Force, who has been frustrated by the lack of action arising from their work and recommendations.

One of those recommendations was to change the island's land use bylaw to allow widespread use of accessory dwelling units (ADUs) and legalization of existing ones, which resulted in the much-discussed, and loved or loathed Bylaw 530.

While the original intention of Bylaw 530 has been discarded — basically because of fears it would be legally challenged for non-compliance with the island's official community plan — trustees have managed to keep alive the possibility of some land owners creating a legal ADU with a simplified spot rezoning process. The reality is that even one more safe and secure dwelling unit can have a big impact on our community, so the LTC's proposed plan appears to be a good one and should be a compromise that everyone can live with.

It shows how talking through and exploring all options with an open mind can lead to a resolution if the parties involved are willing.

Kudos should go to the LTC as well for instituting the two-hour evening town hall meeting format. So far it has proven to allow for a freer flow of information between the public, trustees and staff, leading to a better understanding of issues, public concerns and realities, and without the time pressure of a town hall within daytime LTC business meetings.

PARKER

FORGET ABOUT GOING TO SPAIN AND RUNNING WITH THE BULLS. WE'RE GOING TO WALMART FOR THE BLACK FRIDAY SALE



Imperfect, amazing grace

BY ANDREA PALFRAMAN

When I arrived at last Saturday's Middle Eastern dinner in support of Gaza citizens, my first conversation was with a friend who said, "I wasn't sure I was going to come. I have terribly mixed feelings about this. But I'm here."

I thought, "Oh dear. This is going to be hard."

But how could an evening dedicated to dialogue about the war in Israel and Palestine be anything but hard?

And it was. Hard, compassionate, messy: and transformative.

The program began with the panel moderator, Eva Peskin, walking slowly through the crowd, singing Leonard Cohen's *Come Healing*. She sang, "Behold the gates of mercy

In arbitrary space
And none of us deserving
Of cruelty or the grace."

This was the first sign of how vulnerable, and painstakingly careful, the organizers would be. Before the discussion, we were introduced to a care team comprising counsellors, present to support people overwhelmed by grief, and — though there was no need — to mediate in case conflict erupted. Attendees were asked to read, and sign, a community agreement outlining respectful rules of conduct.

We heard from people who'd spend time in Israel and Gaza acting as human shields, as aid workers, and as peace negotiators. Though they shared a vari-

ety of perspectives, many of the speakers repeated a similar entreaty: we can disagree with one another, without tearing each other

down.

My friend, who'd been so reluctant in the beginning, ended up staying for the wonderful feast of lamb and tagine. After more challenging but compassionate conversations, she shared that though she'd found it difficult, she was glad she'd come.

It is devastating, even so far from the conflict, that the bombs keep falling, and the hostages remain incarcerated. It must be unbearable to be living in Palestine, or Israel, with the horror unfolding day-by-day.

But when we gather, in all our diversity, with a shared commitment to respect one another's points of view, we create more than safety for one another. We create the conditions, in our hearts, for peace to take root.

I admit: I was also nervous to attend. I am so grateful to Omrane Hassan, Eva Peskin and the emergent Arab-Jewish Coalition for Peace in the Middle East group for helping us to overcome our fears so we could break bread together.

Of course the evening was not perfect — though the baklava absolutely was! But: because we took the time to listen to, and honour, each others stories, we found a way to be with one another — in imperfect, amazing grace.

VIEWPOINT

After more challenging but compassionate conversations, she shared that though she'd found it difficult, she was glad she'd come.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should Salt Spring be included in new B.C. housing laws?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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

21 113
YES NO

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

A "broad-ranging" mandate

In 2017, Salt Spring residents voted strongly in favour of remaining under Islands Trust governance. But it didn't end there. Those seeking to escape the environmental restrictions of the Trust have discovered a way of achieving their goal without the inconvenience of another referendum: hollow out the agency from within.

As reported in the Oct. 18 Driftwood, ("Islands Trust reveals mandate interpretation"), on Sept. 26, during a closed-door meeting, Trust Council, which consists of trustees from throughout the Trust Area, discussed legal opinions and ostensibly arrived at a "consensus" interpretation that the words "unique amenities" in the Trust mandate "are broad-ranging and may include issues such as, but not limited to, housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism." Who would have imagined that golfing, real estate sales, shopping and resource extraction would fall under the "preserve and protect" mandate (subject, of course, to "a reasoned recognition of all the elements")!

Which lawyer would ever agree to such

a perverse interpretation of the mandate? Did the Trust's Governance Committee, which includes both Salt Spring trustees, put their own spin on the legal summary? (Trustee Laura Patrick has argued that interpretation of the mandate should remain "as broad as possible," while trustee Jamie Harris vowed prior to his running for office to "Stop the Islands Trust.")

What was the exact wording of the motion, and why was the political discussion on such a critical matter not public? Was there really a "consensus" and were First Nations consulted?

The Sept. 26 "determination" has no legal force, but will guide development of the new Trust Policy Statement, which in turn will shape each island's official community plan. These documents are legal and determine what can happen on the ground.

Trustees and others who can't accept the Islands Trust Act as it is written should say so rather than engage in a costly and elaborate game of "let's pretend." There can be no open and honest discussion about the future of the islands until the political fog clears.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

Track threatened

On Thursday morning the Salt Spring Local Community Commission (LCC) will vote on a master plan for Portlock Park recommended by the Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture (PARC) department that will lead to the elimination of the only track on Salt Spring. This track is heavily used by many people of all ages and abilities throughout the year who are mostly not organized or affiliated with any user group.

PARC claims to have consulted with all user groups and had two community surveys. The surveys could be filled out multiple times by any one person so the results are not a fair representation of public opinion and likely highly biased.

There is room for compromise to accommodate all the needs of the potential users of Portlock if the LCC were to vote to ask PARC to go back and start fair and inclusive consultation with the public that includes opportunities for compromise.

Once the track is gone there is no plan to create one anywhere else. It will be a significant loss to our community. The LCC meeting begins at 9 a.m.

KAREN CLARK,
SALT SPRING

Centennial Park work should have waited

I attended the candidates' night preceding last fall's elections of four island community commissioners and two island trustees, and was impressed by their commitment to bring stronger leadership to what was described as dysfunctional island government.

As a veteran who has marched in at least 30 Remembrance Day ceremonies since moving to Salt Spring, I was shocked and disappointed to discover that a plan had been approved to fence off and dig up the area around the cenotaph at Centennial Park on the days immediately preceding Nov. 11.

Surely one of our new commissioners, island trustees or our Capital Regional District director could have stepped in and insisted on at least the postponement of the work and fencing in progress until Nov. 12.

KEN LEE,
GANGES

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"In a world where beauty and horror coexist, the urgency of healing and reconciliation has never been more pronounced."

GRYPHON TRIO CO-FOUNDER ROMAN BORYS

'Twas the month before Christmas . . . in Toronto way back when

When we were little, we started thinking about Christmas just after Halloween. It began slowly, as it became clear that autumn was nearly over and winter was coming.

We knew winter was coming when Dad ordered the first coal delivery. As we heard it crashing and tumbling into the coal bin in the basement, we were excited because it meant that soon it would be cold and snowy.

When we were little and living in Toronto, the two big department stores were Eaton's and Simpson's. They had their stores on Yonge Street and we had to go by bus and streetcar to get there. But it was worth the trip for the shop windows alone. For some reason, my family was partial to Eaton's. They had the nicer window — tiny elves skating around on snow-sprinkled mirrors — and tiny reindeer pulling impossibly laden tiny sleighs piled high with equally tiny presents. And Eaton's had Punkinhead as well as Santa's castle.

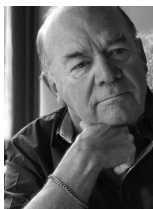
It sounds absurd now, but Punkinhead was as real to us kids as Santa. Even at times more than Santa. I realize now that it was all a very successful advertising production, but for us kids it was magic. I once stood in line to visit him and up close he was a strange orange creature. Pump-

kin-coloured, hence the name. I got a one-day job on a float with him in the Santa Claus Parade waving at the crowds. But the best, the most anticipated event before Christmas, was the arrival by mail of the Eaton's and Simpson's Christmas catalogues.

There was no television back then so we kids had nothing to look at inside the house except these catalogues, and outside at the increasingly wintry landscape. I mean, we still had fun skating on tiny backyard rinks, building snow forts, having snowball fights and taking sleigh rides in the gullies. Actually, that still sounds like fun, doesn't it? But no television meant we had to rely on the Christmas catalogues.

Before the Christmas catalogues, we had received gifts like really nice warm socks, gloves and sensible underwear. Necessary items to be sure, but not very exciting. The catalogues changed all that. Unlike the regular spring and summer catalogues, these were smaller, brightly coloured and printed on glossy paper. And they had no section on girdles, which was a relief.

When they arrived in the mail we sometimes just looked at them, unopened, wondering and hoping that this year at long last we would receive, finally, some



Chris Rideout
AND THAT WAS WHEN

of the amazing, wonderful toys and games that we were sure we were going to find in those glossy pages. As little kids we never thought about how our parents would be able to afford even a fraction of the high-priced and unbelievable toys and games.

Some of my favourite pages showed pictures of train sets. I used to just sit and look at them, planning layouts, choosing engines and cars. Some were wind-up, spring-driven types and these were okay, but the really amazing ones were electric. They seemed to me to be as close to perfect, magical machines as one could get. Just think of it: set the engine on the tracks, couple the cars, including the coal tender, sit back, reach for the transformer, give the knob a twist and, look at that! They began to move all by themselves. With a headlight! It was as close to magic as I ever got. With electric switches!

For my sister there were end-

less dolls with endless costumes. Doll houses, carriages and amazing hair styles. Barbie had yet to be unleashed on the market, so all the dolls were either babies or very young. Some cried when you turned them over, some spoke a few words like "feed me" and stuff like that. I knew they were there, but I was focused elsewhere, like on the toys that you could build things with.

There were Tinkertoys. They consisted of wooden round bits of wood with holes in them and sticks you could put in the holes. The things you could build looked kind of like stick monsters, yes, but they were almost too child-like for me.

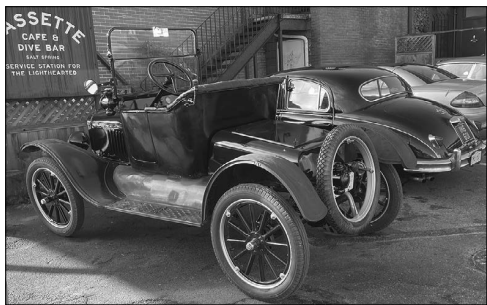
I preferred Meccano. Do you remember Meccano? Even then it was an expensive toy to give to a child. It was made of real metal with real nuts and bolts and real wrenches and screwdrivers. The sets came with directions for all the different machines a kid could make with the parts. It would not be an exaggeration to suggest that what little mechanical abilities I ended up with as a grown-up, I owed in part to Meccano. Later on, the sets included motors, pulleys and wheels, but by then I had moved on. I may be wrong but I think Meccano is still available. But because all my children are grown and I have my

own tools I believe I have finally grown out of the toy. At last.

At home, my sister and I would circle the pages we liked best. And underline the special toys on each page. Then we would leave the catalogue lying around where our parents would be bound to see it, and open it up to see our choices. Any sane parent would never have done something so foolish, I now know, but then, it was always a faint hope.

In spite of all this and the fact that we never, or almost never, received any of the impossible gifts in the Eaton's catalogue, Christmas was still always an unforgettable time for us. And, like Dylan Thomas says, there were always the uncles and aunts who, in spite of their never having pored over the pages of Eaton's Christmas catalogue, still managed to give us unexpected gifts. And there were the grandparents, too, whose love for us grandkids was expressed in very unique gifts, some of which took us years to fully appreciate. Like the film camera, a Brownie Hawkeye, (with flash!), which sits on my mantel today, reminding me every day of the love of my family and the glory of Christmas, even without the catalogues.

And that, after all, is what it's all about. And that's right.



PHOTOS BY STANLEY GARROD

HOT WHEELS: Seen outside the Cassette Cafe in Ganges on Friday morning are, from left, a 1919 Model T Ford owned by Bill Harrington, a 1959 Jaguar Mark 1 owned by Rob McMillan, a 1959 MGA owned by Andy Higgs, a 1967 MGB GT owned by Tobin Peever and a 1963 MGB Roadster owned by Vern Lhotzky. The vehicles belong to Salt Spring Crank Cases members, described by Higgs as "a very informal car and motorcycle club with no fees or club structure. In fact the club has only two rules, both strictly enforced; you can only moan about your health for 20 seconds, and you can only moan about the Islands Trust for 20 seconds." Members meet at the cafe every Friday at 9 a.m. to talk about cars and motorcycles, swap tall tales and help each other out with various ongoing car and motorcycle projects. Off-island trips are also part of club activities. Any islander with an interest in or owning an older car or motorcycle is welcome to drop by.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Cariboo Express evening something special

With missing Salt Spring Folk Club concerts so much in these past few years, it made us appreciate Sunday night's wonderful show featuring Barney Bentall and The Cariboo Express even more.

It's been four long years since this amazing group of musicians was last here playing at

the Fulford Hall. Every time they come they deliver, and the Bentall family's Hawthorne Foundation matches all donations made to our local food bank.

The audience responded to the performers' enthusiasm, talent and humour with three standing ovations. Just when we thought it couldn't get any better we were treated to an unexpected guest appearance by our own Bill Henderson. Accompanied by the musicians in the band, Bill absolutely rocked his song Fly by Night, bringing the audience to their feet again, roaring, clapping and cheering.

I think anyone who was there could feel the magic and know we were all part of something very special.

Our sincere thanks to Barney Bentall and

The Cariboo Express, Bill Henderson, Trish Nobile and her army of folk club volunteers that made it all happen. It was truly a night to remember!

**ANN MARIE DAVIDSON &
TOM MCKEACHIE,**
SALT SPRING

Island's generosity impresses again

Sincere appreciation is again expressed to this caring community. Donations related to the Help Ukraine raffle of the past August were sent to Dr. Vitaliy Kubatsky, a Van-

couver friend of islander Igor Darmokhid's. Our \$3,200 was added to a Vancouver campaign.

Vitaliy emailed: "Big thank you to all donors . . . we were able to buy about 60 kg of life-saving medical supplies for battlefield medics operating near Avdiivka, Eastern Ukraine." The needs expressed include stretchers, slings, elastic sleeves, bandages and medicines.

And, my personal thanks to all who helped celebrate my 90th birthday at Fulford Seniors two weeks ago. Your donations, an amazing \$645, will be going to Myroslava in Lviv, to be spent on the children at an orphanage.

VICTORIA OLCHOWECKI,
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
22	0530	1.4	4.6	26	0529	3.3	10.8
	1257	3.5	11.5		0939	2.8	9.2
WE	1957	1.6	5.2		SU 1429	3.3	10.8
ME					DI 2206	0.2	0.7
23	0146	2.4	7.9	27	0622	3.5	11.5
	0634	1.8	5.9		1043	2.9	9.5
TH	1322	3.4	11.2	MO	1456	3.3	10.8
JE	2027	1.1	3.6	LU	2243	0.2	0.7
24	0319	2.7	8.9	28	0710	3.6	11.8
	0736	2.2	7.2		1151	3.0	9.8
FR	1344	3.4	11.2	TU	1525	3.2	10.5
VE	2059	0.8	2.6	MA	2321	0.2	0.7
25	0431	3.0	9.8	29	0758	3.6	11.8
	0837	2.5	8.2		1305	3.0	9.8
SA	1406	3.4	11.2	WE	1555	3.1	10.2
SA	2132	0.4	1.3	ME			

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The Long Reckoning author visits

BY GEORGE SIPOS
FOR SALT SPRING FORUM

Many Salt Springers who hike the fine trail to Yeo Point know that the reason it is called the Chris Hatfield Trail is that a few years before his death in 2022, Hatfield donated the land around Cusheon Cove to BC Parks as an addition to Ruckle Park.

He did it because he loved this corner of the island as a place of seclusion, tranquility and peace.

What many may not know is that 30 years previously, Hatfield and a team of B.C. scientists worked on an international project as separate from peace as you can get: studying the human health and environmental harm done along the Vietnamese/Laotian border by aerial warfare during the Vietnam War.

The chief culprit was a defoliant called Agent Orange that U.S. planes sprayed over huge tracts of jungle to deprive Viet Cong soldiers of forest canopy as they fought against American forces. Once the war was over, the damage caused became apparent. The natural ecosystem of the area was found to be devastated, and, worse, the health of Laotian and Vietnamese

people had deteriorated greatly. As a result of the dioxins contained in Agent Orange, birth defects in children and other chronic ailments were widespread.

It was not until the 1990s that the causes and extent of these harms came to be understood. Key to this understanding was work done by a Vancouver-based environmental consulting company called, as you might have guessed, Hatfield Consultants.

The impact of their work on the health harms of dioxin, studied not only scientifically but in the field in Vietnam and Laos among the people living there, led eventually (though not until 2012) to spur the Obama administration to begin addressing the damage done.

The whole complex story, both of the wartime use of Agent Orange and of the effort over post-war decades to understand what had happened, to accept responsibility and to work toward remedies, is told for the first time in a new book just published called *The Long Reckoning* by British/American author George Black.

Black will be a guest of the Salt Spring Forum on Wednesday, Nov. 29 on what promises to be a remarkable

evening. It will be remarkable because the key scientists who worked with Hatfield will reunite at Beaver Point Hall. Tom Boivin and Grant Bruce now live on Salt Spring. Wayne Dwernychuk will come from Vancouver Island. Chris Bailey, who, as head of the Ford Foundation office in Hanoi, funded Hatfield's work in Vietnam, will also join the others. And Susan Hammond, who worked with Tom Boivin in Laos, is coming from Vermont.

Like other forum speaker events, the focus will be on hearing from Black as the author, not only about the history of the story, but also about the lessons we can derive for our own time from the Hatfield team's work. Here is what Black has to say about those lessons:

"A lot of readers focus on the darker aspects of the book, but to me it's above all an inspirational story of what a small group of dedicated individuals can do to transform government policy and change the course of history."

The evening with Black starts at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 29 at Beaver Point Hall.

Tickets are available via the forum's website: saltspringforum.com.

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Rants + ROSES

Roses

• They say it takes a village to raise a child, it also takes a neighbourhood to look after horses. A multitude of roses to Kris Plambeck of Diggin

It Excavating, and Dylan, Steve and Moriah for their assistance in cleaning up the pasture and making it a more comfortable place for all of us to hang out. *With love and much gratitude, Ruby, Sephi, Mateo, Michelle and Steve.*

Send your submissions to
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



• After we backed up (and got stuck) to let a Windsor Plywood truck get by us on Musgrave Road, the two drivers kindly backed up and pulled us back onto the road. Many thanks to them. *Two off the gridders.*



Focus on Education



Social-emotional learning provides benefits

The Circle Education shares list

ARTICLE COURTESY THE CIRCLE EDUCATION

Social-emotional learning (SEL) is the process of developing self-awareness, self-control and interpersonal skills that are vital for school, work and life success.

The benefits of SEL in the classroom are abundant and wide-ranging. Here are six of the most important rewards.

1. Increases academic success

Studies show that developing stronger social and emotional skills improves students' academic performance. When students feel heard and respected in the classroom, they can more easily focus on their learning and feel confident in their abilities. SEL also improves youths' attitudes toward school—increasing their attendance and motivating them to learn.

2. Improves self-awareness and confidence

SEL encourages a developmental



PHOTO COURTESY THE CIRCLE EDUCATION
The Circle Education facilitator Kate Nash with School District 64 elementary school kids in a social-emotional learning session.

shift wherein students move from relying on outside sources for direction about how to act, toward trusting in themselves and their own values. This process allows kids to build their self-confidence and belief in themselves.

SEL also increases youths' self-awareness by teaching them to notice how their actions and deci-

sions affect themselves and others.

3. Increases empathy for others

Empathy, the ability to understand the feelings and perspectives of another person, is considered a core social skill. Yet, it is often overlooked in traditional school curricula. A social-emotional education encourages kids to consider

the perspectives and feelings of their peers, teachers, and parents. Practising empathy is a gateway to building other important skills such as conflict resolution, healthy communication and kindness towards others.

4. Improves relationship-building skills

When kids learn to put themselves in someone else's shoes and practise empathy, they also become more skilled in building and maintaining relationships. This includes knowing how to be a good friend, recognizing others' emotions, and engaging in conflict resolution.

SEL also teaches youth how to work well with others and practise teamwork. These are lifetime skills that will benefit students in the classroom and beyond.

5. Decreases emotional distress

It's becoming apparent that students who are exposed to SEL in the classroom experience fewer instances of anxiety, depression, stress and social withdrawal. On top of equipping students with tools to manage their emotions, SEL programs impact students' cen-

tral executive cognitive functions, which improves their ability to self-regulate and gives them a greater ability to manage and cope with their emotions.

These benefits are especially important in the current social climate, as the pandemic has caused higher levels of mental health issues and social disconnection in students.

6. Encourages positive social behaviour

According to recent research, students demonstrate more positive social behaviour with peers, teachers, and parents when SEL activities are implemented in the classroom. Once kids are equipped with skills for managing their emotions and practising self-regulation, they have fewer opportunities to have aggressive behaviours.

When students build teamwork and relationship skills, they feel more confident during social interactions. And, when students learn to work well with one another, they can handle interpersonal conflict in a respectful and productive way.

(List sources: Woolf and Pathway 2 Success)

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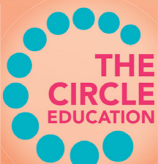
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Cathy George
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PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

ALWAYS ROCKIN': Some of The Cariboo Express personnel joining guest Bill Henderson at the Salt Spring Folk Club presentation of the Bentall family's musical revue and food bank fundraiser on Sunday night are, from left, Geoffrey Kelly, Stephanie Cadman, Dustin Bentall, Rob Becker, Henderson, Trixie Van Harten, Barney Bentall and Scott Smith. The Cariboo Express returned to Fulford Hall after a four-year hiatus, with all 15 performers getting a chance to shine and entertain the enthusiastic full-house crowd. Donations to the Salt Spring Food Bank were matched by the Bentalls' Hawthorne Foundation, with Island Community Services estimating at least \$10,000 raised. The Cariboo Express project has raised more than \$5.5 million for charitable causes since its inception in 2005.

CONTEMPORARY PERFORMANCE

Echo makes premiere at ArtSpring

Worldwide classical and Indigenous voices merged

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

It is often said artists serve as the custodians and storytellers of our shared heritage — their creative expressions transcending time and space to connect us across generations. Yet, throughout history and today, certain memories and voices have been marginalized, silenced and stolen.

Seeking to explore these themes and create an inspiring new narrative for the future is the aim of the ambitious multimedia concert project *Echo: Memories of the World*, presented by Gryphon Trio and a diverse array of Indigenous and non-Indigenous collaborators.

After an extensive process of research, creative residencies and "work in progress" presentations, *Echo* makes its world premiere at ArtSpring on Thursday, Nov. 30 at 7:30 p.m. before touring Canadian cities and abroad.

"I have been following this project with great interest and am thrilled to be able to bring it to Salt Spring for its debut," said Howard Jang, ArtSpring executive and artistic director. "It is very powerful, and its message about the complexity and dignity of the human experience is something I know will resonate within our community."

Inviting audiences on this remarkable global journey, the classical piano-cello-violin ensemble Gryphon Trio, mezzo-soprano Marion Newman Nege'ga, and narrator čačumhi Aaron Wells unite with a team of multinational composers, poets, researchers, theatre artists and filmmakers to share powerful stories from Canada, Norway, Mali and Ukraine.

It promises to be an emotionally charged experience that delves into the ways history has been erased and manipulated, while simultaneously celebrating visionary artists who have defied suppression and breathed life into enduring works of profound significance. Issues and voices about conflict, the environment, culture and reconciliation are all brought to the fore.

Spoken word from Sámi poet/playwright Rawdna Carita Eira is interwoven with music from Valentin Silvestrov, the internationally renowned composer from Ukraine, alongside Euro-based compositions by Bach,

Beethoven and Mendelssohn. Film, pre-recorded voice and audio, live musical, operatic and spoken performance all come together for this unique experience.

This daring "mash-up" project not only tackles, but engages, in the process of establishing and maintaining mutually respectful relationships between artistic genres, timeframes, spaces, histories and peoples.

"In a world where beauty and horror coexist, the urgency of healing and reconciliation has never been more pronounced," said Gryphon Trio co-founder Roman Borys, cellist and concept and content creator. "In that spirit, *Echo* illu-

minates a potential alternative approach to producing and creating both classical and traditional works in the 21st century in Canada. In that diversity, I think we find the key to healing and unity."

A post-show talk back will also take place.

Thank you to the Reinette Foundation for sponsoring this performance.

Tickets are on sale for \$35, with the new Angel Ticket program opening up seats for only \$15 a week before the performance, and youth, as always, at \$5. Angel Tickets are available in person or by phone only during open box office hours.

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DOCUMENTARY FILM

Best of the Fests screenings prove popular

The Road to Patagonia a sell-out with next film expected to be the same

BY STEVE MARTINDALE
FOR SS FILM FESTIVAL

The Salt Spring Film Festival's annual Best of the Fests film series continues at ArtSpring with one-night-only screenings of the award-winning documentary *The Road to Patagonia* on Nov. 29 and the classic 1970s concert film *The Last Waltz* on Dec. 6.

After last week's well-attended screening of *Swan Song* featuring the National Ballet of Canada's Karen Kain, advance tickets for *The Road to Patagonia* have already sold out. Co-presented by the Gulf Islands Horse Association, a limited number of tickets to this film will be available at the door when the ArtSpring box office opens an hour prior to the screening.

Salt Spring residents will be among the first people in the world to see Matty Hannon's incredible documentary about what begins as a daring solo surfing adventure from Alaska to Tierra del Fuego on a motorcycle, and which becomes so much



IMAGE COURTESY SS FILM FEST

Horses carry surfboards in a scene from *The Road to Patagonia*.

richer when he meets Heather Hillier right here in B.C., who risks it all for love by selling her house, buying a motorcycle of her own and following the handsome Australian adventurer south.

After crossing the treacherous Darién Gap, they eventually

trade in their motorcycles and continue their arduous journey through South America on horseback, with their surfboards strapped to their saddles, meeting Indigenous people along the way who provide them with new perspectives on our relationship with the natural world.

Tickets are still available for *The Last Waltz*, Martin Scorsese's revered 1978 documentary featuring the final performance of The Band at San Francisco's Winterland Ballroom, although this rare opportunity to see what is widely considered to be the best concert film of all time — now with HD video quality and remastered 5.1 audio — is also expected to sell out.

Canadian music legends Joni Mitchell and Neil Young join Robbie Robertson and his beloved bandmates on stage in *The Last Waltz*, along with an astonishing array of talented performers such as Bob Dylan, Van Morrison, Neil Diamond, Eric Clapton, Muddy Waters, Emmylou Harris, Ringo Starr and the Staples Singers. Co-presented by Gulf Islands Radio, this masterpiece of music cinema is being re-released across Canada on its 45th anniversary to celebrate the life of Robertson, who died in August at the age of 80.

All Best of the Fests screenings are on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring. Info and tickets are available via saltspringfilmfestival.com.

what's on this week

Wed. Nov. 22

ACTIVITIES

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

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

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

Thur. Nov. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Quartetto Gelato. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission Regular Meeting. SIMS Boardroom. 9 a.m. start. Or attend virtually via the Microsoft Teams link in the agenda on the CRD website.

Mother Goose. Free group experience for babies, young children (0-4 years) and their parents/caregivers. Salt Spring Public Library. 10 to 11 a.m.

Fri. Nov. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz Night: Iain Duncan, Nick Peck and Hans Verhoeven perform at the ArtSpring gallery. 7 p.m. Doors at 6:15 p.m.

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

Friday Nights With DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

ACTIVITIES

Neighbourhood Story Time. In the library's children's area every Friday from 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Fri. Nov. 24

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. The island's emergency program is the topic of discussion in the ASK spot in the Transition Salt Spring/Restorative Justice room 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.

Friday Game Night. For ages 13 to 21. Salt Spring library program room. 7 p.m. start.

Sat. Nov. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Makana Youth Choirs Concert. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Old Times Cafe Open Stage. Fulford Hall annex. 7 to 11 p.m.

Dave Carl Band. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

The Coalition. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.

Evening of Christmas Music. Plus light refreshments. Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Winterfaire. Handicrafts, baking, preserves, silent auction, lunch. SSI United Church. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Christmas Bazaar. Baking, needlework, crafts, jewellery, treasures. Delicious lunch. All Saints church. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Land Acknowledgement Circle. A Restorative Justice Week event led by Salt Spring library Indigenous coordinator Caroline Dick. Salt Spring library program room. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Register at info@saltspringlibrary.com.

The Arizona Trail. Talk and slide show presentation by Jenny and Nick Coghlan.

Sun. Nov. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Sun. Nov. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mingus on Mars. Bandemonium concert band and Swing Shift Big Band present concert at Fulford Hall. 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SSI Foundation Project Wrap Up Celebration. For Neighbourhood Small Grants project. Lions Hall. 1 to 3 p.m. RSVP to nsg@ssifoundation.ca.

Island Pathways Public AGM. Library program room. 2 to 3 p.m.

Tue. Nov. 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Folk Jam & Open Mic. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Webinar: From Salt Spring to Skibbereen. Ecologist Chris Drake about lessons learned while helping to restore Myross House Woods in Ireland. 7 to 8:15 p.m. Register: debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.

Webinar: Ready or Not: Facing the Climate Challenges Ahead. A Transition Salt Spring event. 6:30 to 8 p.m. tinyurl.com/Climate-Report-Card

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

Wed. Nov. 29

ACTIVITIES

Zoom Author Talk: Susan Juby. Author of *Mindful of Murder* and many other books. 7 to 8 p.m. Email program@saltspringlibrary.com for the link.

Best of the Fests: The Road to Patagonia. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Forum: Author George Black. Beaver Point Hall. 7:30 p.m.

LCC Office Hours. See last Wednesday's listing.

Bridge. See last Wednesday's listing.

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

Wed. Nov. 29

ACTIVITIES

Webinar: Small Housing in Rural Communities: Expanding Housing Options and Reducing Development Impacts. 6:30-8 p.m. Register at events@saltspringsolutions.com

CINEMA

• **Killers of the Flower Moon** runs Friday, Nov. 24 to Tuesday, Nov. 28 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

EXHIBITIONS

• **Artcraft Winter** runs daily from Friday, Nov. 24 through Dec. 24, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., with an opening reception on Friday, Nov. 24 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **Gallery 8** presents the 15th Annual Christmas Exhibition of Small Works from Nov. 24 to Dec. 31 with an opening reception on Friday, Nov. 24 from 5 to 8 p.m.

• **Shannon Wardroper** presents *The Beholders Share* at Salt Spring Gallery until Nov. 29, Tuesdays through Saturdays, 10 a.m. to 4 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** has photos on display at Country Grocer Cafe this month.

Mingus on Mars

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Obituaries

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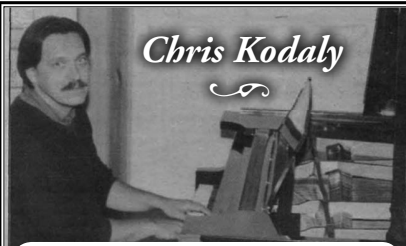
Notice

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Chris Kodaly

Chris Kodaly peacefully passed away on October 31st at 3:33PM in Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island after a short battle with cancer. He is survived by his loving wife, Melissa, and children Laylah, Daeman, Zoltan (Trina) and Nova, and grandchildren Daylin, Jace, Sarah and Aiden.

Since moving to Salt Spring Island in the early 1980s Chris Kodaly helped establish Soya Nova Tofu Shop with Deb, (mother of Zoltan and Nova), volunteered countless hours to help establish the Dharma center on Mt Tuam, and accompanied Tuned Air Choir for over 25 years.

Chris touched the lives of countless islanders through his classical piano instruction (along with his wife Melissa at their B Natural School of Music), and his many memorable performances over the last few decades. He was a brilliant accompanist and a masterful soloist. His recitals moved audiences to tears and made their hearts swell.

Chris was a caring, loving husband, father and friend. He is profoundly missed and forever loved.

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.

NOTICE

Notice of intention to dispose of a vessel under section 39 of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act

25ft Green hull Sailboat "Shiraz" sunk on Ganges Harbour Saltspring Island B.C.

In accordance with section 39 of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act (WAHVA), the Minister of Transport may dispose of a vessel, wreck or their contents, if considered to be dilapidated, abandoned or likely to deteriorate rapidly.

This notice serves as official notice of the Minister's intention to dispose of this vessel after 30 days from which this notice was given. Should you have any questions, you may contact, Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program at NPPAC-PPNPAC@tc.gc.ca or 604-775-8867 and reference file W2023-502108.

NOTICE

Notice of intention to dispose of a vessel under section 39 of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act

30 ft Catamarine "Ding Ho" also known as "Toe Me" beached in Ganges Harbour Saltspring Island B.C.

In accordance with section 39 of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act (WAHVA), the Minister of Transport may dispose of a vessel, wreck or their contents, if considered to be dilapidated, abandoned or likely to deteriorate rapidly.

This notice serves as official notice of the Minister's intention to dispose of this vessel after 30 days from which this notice was given. Should you have any questions, you may contact, Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program at NPPAC-PPNPAC@tc.gc.ca or 604-775-8867 and reference file W2023-502221.

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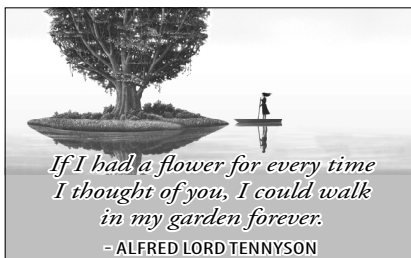
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ISLAND LIFE

PERFORMING ARTS

'Tsunami Junior' kicks off



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Tsunami Circus alumni and current coaches, from left, Soilei Bennett-Peters, Jaqueline Wightman and Xzana Nesbitt, who are designing a new program for younger students interested in performance called Tsunami Junior.

Mentor-coaches giving back to new Circus generation

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's an exciting time of year for young circus enthusiasts: application season for the Tsunami Circus performance troupe. And Salt Spring's 12-and-up youth — many of whom will perform in the storied program's annual show — are eagerly looking forward to their next steps on practice mats and up ropes.

But starting this January, three Tsunami Circus alumni and current coaches — Soilei Bennett-Peters, Jaqueline Wightman and Xzana Nesbitt — are helping to expand the Salt Spring program to include a younger demographic in part of the big show. And, if things go according to plan, they'll also be helping to build the next generation of circus leadership.

Generally, the performance troupe targets kids aged 12 and up, according to Salt Spring Circus and Gymnastics volunteer coordinator Michelle Bennett. Much of that level of circus involves a lot of choreography, and usually more self-led study — and rehearsals — than younger students might have in them.

But for some, the draw of the circus is strong, and can come early. Nesbitt remembers when the trio, who will be graduating from Gulf Islands Secondary School this spring, were elementary students and the administration would invite all the kids to watch the dress rehearsal.

The lights, the performances, the sparkling costumes — it was positively hypnotizing.

"Soilei, Jacqueline and I remember having that experience — seeing the bigger kids doing all that," said Nesbitt. "And still now, we have a lot of little kids saying, 'I want to do that, that looks really cool!'"

Last January in particular, according to Bennett-Peters, the Tsunami Circus program had a big influx of younger kids, many of whom showed that enthusiasm the coaches remembered from their early days.

"So we thought, why not create a program where they could do that as younger kids?" said Bennett-Peters. "If we can support them in that, we could work with them to get them thinking about what they want to learn, and what they want to perform."

Thus began the planning and prep for the new 'Tsunami Junior' ground-based performance offering, said Bennett: an hour-and-15-minute session on Fridays for ages seven to 11 who have been

in a circus class before, with the three current coaches/mentors for Salt Spring Circus and Gymnastics building the new collaborative, play-to-strengths program from scratch.

"We already know there's significant demand from younger children who are interested," said Bennett, "but who aren't ready for the commitment required to join the performance troupe. It's really amazing that they are taking the initiative to create this new program."

All three of the junior coaches have been with circus since Grade 6. Nesbitt said circus often appeals to kids who might not always find success in more "traditional" sports.

"For me, it developed that physical literacy," said Nesbitt. "It opened a lot of doors, to go into theatre and music and performance; I was prepared for those kinds of things."

Wightman agreed. "We've always kind of been the odd ones out," she laughed, and said the circus was a unique space where older kids are actively mentoring the younger ones, and that translates into their lives elsewhere.

"Now they know that there's these older kids that want to help them any way they can," said Wightman. "It creates that community of helping each other; when I see them at the high school, they know that if they ever need anything, I'm there for them."

For Bennett-Peters, the circus experience has been nothing short of transformational.

"I was very socially anxious when I was younger," said Bennett-Peters, who now splits a good portion of her non-circus time between peer tutoring at the elementary school and teaching swimming lessons.

"Being a part of circus made me realize how much I can bring; that's such a powerful thing. If we can give that to this generation of aspiring circus kids after us, it would be so special."

Bennett said the program would be putting a call out for expressions of interest for the 'Tsunami Junior' program, and was also likely expanding its adapted gymnastics/circus offering for youth with extra needs, neurodivergence or physical disabilities, who might not be able to join the regular classes because they're too busy, loud or overstimulating.

"Circus is an inclusive place," said Wightman. "It's a place to make mistakes, and grow as a human being. Wherever I go, I know circus is always going to be part of my life."

For registration and information, visit sscircusandgymnastics.com.

NATURE

Record coho tallied



PHOTO COURTESY ISSES
Longtime Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society volunteer Brook Speed displays a large male coho salmon he caught and released in Fulford Creek.

At Fulford Creek

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A record number of coho salmon have been spotted this year returning to Salt Spring Island's Fulford Creek, according to volunteer counters.

Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society (ISSES) biologist Kathy Reimer said the group has counted nearly 100 spawning coho along the length of the stream — the most ever, she said, and a happy result given reports from other salmon counts in British Columbia this year.

"Goldstream Hatchery were quite worried," said Reimer, adding that officials at Vancouver Island's Goldstream River had seen just 98 coho on their initial count this year, a fraction of the number tallied at the same time in 2022. "I mean, they've got 10 times the creek we have."

The record return of both of adult fish and the "jacks" — the smaller salmon that have matured earlier and return to their home streams before the more typical three-year schedule — were the follow-on result of a high return of 55 fish the group recorded in 2019.

"We feel that the reason Fulford Creek has a stable population of fish is that almost all the landowners along the creek are taking good care of the stream," said Reimer, "and many have helped as volunteers."

Fulford Creek is the largest fish-bearing stream in the southern Gulf Islands and one of just 15 "sensitive" streams listed by the provincial government — a designation meant to protect fish populations at risk from damage to the stream's aquatic ecosystem.

That means residents and visitors need to take extra care near Salt Spring's small streams; Reimer said it's a good idea to be mindful year-round, but especially in the spring after the eggs hatch and the salmon are particularly vulnerable.

"The eggs are pretty resilient," said Reimer. "But the little alevins — that have the little bubble of the egg hooked to a fish-like body — they're easily killed by squishing."

Reimer promised an update when final counts for all the island's salmon streams — including Cusheon and Duck creeks — are completed. ISSES plans to take a few eggs for the hatchery at Cusheon, Reimer said, letting the rest spawn naturally.

Marriage Commissioner

The Vital Statistics Agency, Ministry of Health, is looking for an individual to serve as a Marriage Commissioner for Mayne Island. The individual will perform civil marriages within their community on behalf of the Agency. Applicants must reside on Mayne Island in order to be considered for this position.

For information and an application form
please visit our website at:
gov.bc.ca/becoming-a-marriage-commissioner



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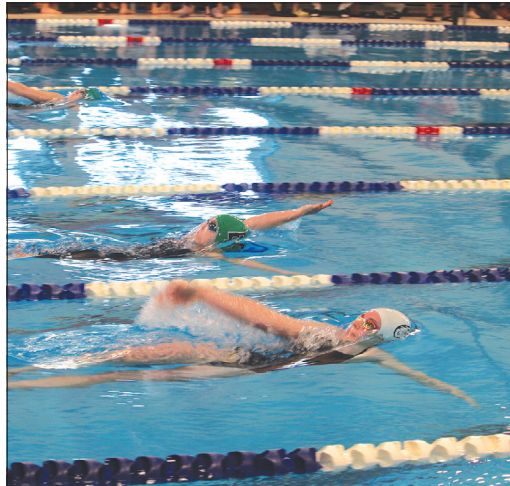
- All Gulf Islands students in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged by retired teachers and librarians on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone 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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LOCAL NEWS**



PHOTOS BY BRAD BUNYAN

SCORPIONS SWIM DAY: Clockwise from top left, Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Scorpions swimmer Elyse Walsh, left, leads the heat in backstroke; at right, Matthias Woodley, foreground, and Will Harder, background, look on and prepare for their freestyle relay race. Below, team captain Zoe Sanchez-Wickland warms up the team. Ten GISS swimmers qualified to travel from Salt Spring Island to join the 2023 B.C. School Sports Provincial Championships held Friday and Saturday, Nov. 17-18, at the Nanaimo Aquatic Centre. Complete results were not available at press time.



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