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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

AS GOOD AS NEW: Michelle Bennett darns a hole in some gloves as part of the first Transition Salt Spring Repair Café held at the Salt Spring Public Library's program room on Saturday, Feb. 3, while other repairers and islanders are seen in the background. More than 60 items were brought to the event, which saw a crew of 13 volunteers with skills in a wide range of areas help fix fellow islanders' broken, torn, fizzled-out or otherwise in-need-of-repair goods. Organizers hope two more events can be held this year.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

LCC shrinks enforcement budget

Community, RCMP work deemed to have positive impact

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As alternative programs grow, Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) is taking what it calls a small first step in shifting how bylaw contraventions within its purview are resolved.

During a special meeting focused on the 2024 budget, LCC members voted to approve reducing their requisition for bylaw enforcement labour next year by \$10,000 — an ongoing reduction, according to resolution, not a one-time spending change, justified by the seeming success of both

RCMP community engagement efforts in Ganges and similar programs run at a community level.

"I think the best information we have from the RCMP is that specifically at Centennial Park, the number of incidents has dropped dramatically over a period of time," said LCC member Brian Webster at the meeting Thursday, Feb. 1. "I'm hoping to be able to shift gradually away from an enforcement approach and toward fostering positive activity in that park."

Webster said he envisioned a time where local expenditures on bylaw enforcement could be reduced by as much as half — "like it used to be," he said — but that even a modest reduction now

could be seen as a helpful first step in a cultural shift.

"And if the incidents are down dramatically, according to the police, then we shouldn't have to spend more than we did before," added Webster.

Salt Spring Electoral Area manager Dan Ovington cautioned of a potential risk of deficit spending if more enforcement is needed despite budgetary plans, noting staff are legislatively compelled to respond to complaints and enforce bylaws regardless.

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT continued on 3

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LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION

LCC, tourism group reach agreement on tax

Significant portion could go toward affordable housing

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) has agreed to recommend renewing the designation of the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership (SGITP) as the recipient of revenue from a short-term accommodation tax for the next five years.

The resolution came at the LCC's meeting Thursday, Feb. 1, having been somewhat delayed in the hope of better agreement among members of both groups on how to spend it. But starting in September, the renewed agreement will put revenues from the Municipal and Regional District tax (MRDT) into the SGITP's care, with commitments toward using much of it to create affordable housing on Salt Spring Island.

LCC support was subject to SGITP devoting the Online Accommodation Platform (OAP) MRDT revenues to affordable housing

initiatives, except for an instance when there might be a "severe unanticipated decline" in other MRDT revenues — or a significant change in the programs the SGITP is supporting — to the extent that it might compromise the SGITP's ability to deliver its core marketing programs.

The OAP portion represents much of the total collected tax, according to LCC member and Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman, who had said at the LCC's Jan. 18 meeting there was still a "fairly significant difference of opinion" about how much of the tax should be allocated for housing. And SGITP society chair Randy Cunningham said Thursday there was a "wide set of opinions" within SGITP about how to direct those dollars; the LCC held off on passing a resolution last month hoping for consensus.

But LCC member Brian Webster, who had sat down with Holman and Cunningham to hammer out details in the interim, downplayed the delay, saying the discussion had yielded a draft motion that all sides felt would be acceptable.

"There was some — I know it was stress-

ful for some — coverage in the Driftwood about it, that they characterized things as being more problematic than they really were," said Webster. "I have to thank Randy Cunningham for his patience and his open-mindedness in terms of recognizing a new Local Community Commission making a sincere attempt to fulfill its responsibilities to the larger community, as well as the 'visitor sector' on Salt Spring."

The new resolution, Webster added, is less "prescriptive" about dollar amounts, striking a balance between recognizing SGITP's commitment toward housing and acknowledging it as a marketing organization at its core.

"It has two very important mandates in our community, not just one," said Webster.

A second LCC resolution came in the form of several recommendations to the SGITP — including that approximately \$100,000 of that proposed OAP be allocated each year to the CRD's proposed Rural Housing Program, and approximately \$50,000 for the Housing Now initiative, subject to changes over time in those programs — and changes in OAP revenue.

The LCC also recommended \$100,000 of 2024's OAP be allocated to an extant capital reserve fund SGITP maintains, reportedly holding some \$200,000 earmarked for future affordable housing projects.

Cunningham said the SGITP membership seemed particularly excited about the Rural Housing Program, in that it seemed to be emerging as a method to multiply the effectiveness of the reserve fund.

"Let's say we'd have \$300,000 by the end of 2024," said Cunningham. "Then maybe we can do something like [Destination] Victoria did, they joined up with a housing society and they're building a three- or four-storey apartment building, and it's all for the workforce."

The final recommendation was that best efforts should be made to ensure an equitable distribution of all MRDT-related funding between the Salt Spring Island and Southern Gulf Islands electoral areas.

Holman said both the resolution agreement and the LCC's recommendations would ultimately be taken to the CRD's Electoral Areas Committee — and eventually to the CRD Board.

LAND USE

Islands Trust staff offices unlikely to end up at SIMS

Zoning, building code regs significant

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust staff have not pursued the possibility of moving Trust offices to Capital Regional District (CRD)-administered buildings for months, according to CRD staff, seemingly discouraged by the Salt Spring Multi-Space (SIMS) facility's zoning and building code requirements.

The Trust's Salt Spring Island staff have been casting about for a new home since summer, as that body's lease with BC Hydro at

their Lower Ganges Road location is not being renewed and will end on July 24. And as they seek an office for full- and part-time planners and administrative staff — along with document storage, meeting and server space for the land use authority — the SIMS building appears to have fallen out of the running early.

According to a Trust staff report, the Trust's 2022 governance review prioritizes serving the more than two-fifths of Islands Trust residents who live on Salt Spring through an on-island office — and they've been looking for a new one in an increasingly small commercial market.

While Islands Trust documents avoid mentioning specific buildings by name, SIMS has long seemed a likely possibility

— but Salt Spring's CRD Electoral Area manager Dan Ovington gave a sort of "preview" of an upcoming staff report on the matter Thursday, Feb. 1, during the Local Community Commission (LCC) meeting, suggesting SIMS might not be on the short list.

Ovington said Trust staff had reached out with some interest in late fall. For its part, the LCC had asked staff to report back what possibilities there were for bringing more of its own CRD offices under the same roof as current parks and recreation staff at the SIMS building — and even, perhaps, leasing space to the Islands Trust.

But Ovington said the impression he was left with after speaking with CRD building inspectors was that there would be a number of obstacles to overcome.

Apart from space, Ovington said, he'd been told the real problems to solve centred on zoning and building codes. The SIMS building's "Community Facilities" CF1 zoning, to start, requires any office space to be "accessory" to its permitted principal uses.

"So [administering] recreational programs, educational programs, that type of thing," said Ovington, noting that even CRD offices outside of parks and rec — like building inspection — wouldn't immediately qualify, much less those for the Islands Trust. And, Ovington said, while in his early discussions with Islands Trust staff they had suggested the Trust could issue a temporary use permit allowing those kinds of offices, CRD building inspectors have told him it would require a change in the occupancy permit — which would mean getting the building up to code for diversified uses.

If the CRD leases space — beyond the current facility booking regime currently in place, where CRD staff unlock the building in the morning and close it at night — building codes will require multiple safety improvements.

"If we give keys to someone else," said Ovington as an example, "we have to put firewalls in, to separate them from the other users. That's what I've been told — I think if we want to do an in-depth needs assessment and evaluation, a higher level of expertise needs to be retained to give us some real clear recommendations. That's probably what my report back will say, and recommend that as a next step."

Holman asked if the Islands Trust was still considering SIMS at this point; Ovington said although it was still possible, there had been no indication they were.

"Essentially, what I was asked was if space was available at Portlock, and at SIMS, and I gave them the same response that I just gave you," said Ovington. "And that was probably in October; I haven't been approached again."

The report to the LCC is expected at its regular meeting Thursday, Feb. 8, which begins at 5 p.m.



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FOR THE RECORD

A quote from Salt Spring Islands Trust trustee Jamie Harris in a Jan. 31 story about a potential move of the Salt Spring Trust office was prefaced with a reference to an earlier-discussed location; Harris reached out to clarify he spoke in favour of moving to Sidney, not Oak Bay.

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Additionally, LMHAS is offering **Three Scholarships** to students graduating from GISS and entering studies in a healthcare-related field

ISLANDS TRUST

ADU Bylaw 537 approval delayed

B.C. loan program details out before local accessory dwelling regs in place

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

An announcement from the province heralding the inclusion of the Capital Regional District (CRD) in a new initiative meant to increase housing stock has come before Salt Spring's land use authority has finalized a bylaw designed to seize on that opportunity.

On Tuesday, Jan. 30, officials with B.C.'s Ministry of Housing said its Secondary Suites Incentive Program (SSIP), previously limited only to municipalities, will be expanding to include 15 regional districts — including the CRD. The three-year pilot project will launch in April, and promises to deliver as many as 1,000 affordable rental units per year, by setting up 3,000 homeowners across B.C. with forgivable loans for half the cost of creating a new secondary suite or accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on their property — up to \$40,000, according to the ministry, with the agreement that the units will be rented at "below market rates" for a minimum of five years.

Applications for the program will be accepted starting April 17. But while there may yet be untapped potential for properties on Salt Spring currently included in that island's extant Secondary Suites map — where those suites are permitted, but have not yet been realized — a similar map where ADUs could be permitted has yet to be approved by the Islands Trust's Executive Committee (EC).

Despite being read by Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) three times at a special meeting Jan. 22, Bylaw 537 did not make it onto the EC's Jan. 31 agenda — meaning the earliest it could come into force would be upon approval at EC's Feb. 28 meeting. The LTC's quick timing had "anticipated" enabling the bylaw to reach EC Jan. 31, according to Salt Spring LTC chair Tim Peterson, who also serves on the EC.

"But that didn't take place," he said. "These things happen."

That committee's legislative role is to "approve, refuse, or return" bylaws submitted by LTCs; per Islands Trust policy, the EC may also take into consideration whether the adoption of a bylaw would be contrary to the object of the Trust, or would

expose it to "unreasonable expense" in administration or enforcement.

At an LTC meeting last April, trustee Laura Patrick had anticipated how important that forgivable loan could be for Salt Spring property owners who had the best of intentions and wanted to create new affordable housing on the island, but were working with limited funds — and, she warned, there would need to be proper zoning in place in time.

"There will be a limit to that lovely [\$40,000] offer," said Patrick back on April 13. "And if we don't have a legal option for having secondary suites or accessory dwelling units on the island, none of our residents will be able to apply for that."

The number eligible will not ultimately be zero, it turns out, but it will be limited; owners of properties already on the Secondary Suites map could potentially begin assembling their applications to the program immediately.

But those anticipating inclusion in the ADU map Bylaw 537 will create may have to wait.

According to the province, homeowners need to both arrange for contractors and financing and apply for a building permit before submitting the online application — and, they say, you can't have planned it all too far in advance. While a building permit must be included in the application, according to a fact sheet, it cannot have been issued before April 1, 2023.

It's unclear how "below market rates" will be quantified on Salt Spring; the "rent affordability limit" is set by BC Housing, reportedly the median rent level for an area as determined by Canada Mortgage and Housing (CMHC) from their annual rental market survey. That survey has not, in its current release, included data more local than the Victoria Census Metropolitan Area (CMA), which does not include the Southern Gulf Islands.

Current requirements, however, include that the property must be the owner's primary home, and everyone on the property's title must have a combined gross annual income of less than \$209,420 the previous tax year. Further details are available online at www.bchousing.org/housing-assistance/secondary-suite.

"We're obviously receiving correspondence already, directly to the Executive Committee, with respect to this," said EC chair Peter Luckham, "and to that process."

Luckham said he expected "plenty of information" on Bylaw 537 when it arrives at the committee on Feb. 28

PARKS

Centennial Park work resumes

Low temps halted concrete

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A renovation project at the home of Salt Spring's Saturday Market will resume this week, according to officials, and is still on schedule for completion before vendors' "opening day" this spring.

Delays for the Centennial Park revitalization were weather related, according to Salt Spring Electoral Area manager Dan Ovington, who said while crews can work in most conditions, the extreme cold was beyond the tolerances of the materials themselves.

"We can't pour [concrete] in those temperatures," said Ovington, answering a question from Local Community Commission (LCC) member Ben Corno at that body's Feb. 1 meeting. Ovington added that concrete pouring was scheduled for the coming week, and the effects of predicted rain could be mitigated by tarps.

"We're still on schedule to be done March 15," said Ovington, which is two weeks before the Salt Spring Saturday Market Society's planned first market on March 30.

The Centennial Park upgrade has been underway since the beginning of November 2023 — right after the Saturday Market officially ended its season Oct. 28 — with crews removing and replacing the concrete and brick pavers, improving drainage and landscaping and adding lighting. The rush to beat inclement weather displaced many hoping to use the park during the winter; Salt Spring's Remembrance Day ceremony plans were largely shifted to Fulford-Ganges Road in front of the park, although park crews were able to move fencing to ensure access to the cenotaph, as well as the sidewalk, washroom and playground, for the event.

Ambassador Program among helping additions

BYLAW ENFORCEMENT

continued from 1

But LCC members were buoyed by the increasingly positive news coming from RCMP, as well as from Salt Spring's volunteer Ambassador Program, the green-vested community members that have been visible and approachable in Ganges since last summer, working to help solve small problems before they escalate.

"I've been careful about not doing the 'Susie Sunshine' act here," said commissioner Gayle Baker. "But I'm going to tell you that there are other alternatives, using our resources in a way to stop the issues and problems [beforehand] rather than having to address them with enforcement."

Baker said a large number of new volunteers were being trained to join the Ambassador Program in the coming weeks. And Ovington said the Salt Spring Island Saturday Market Society would be stepping up its education efforts regarding dogs not being allowed in the park, which can lead to conflict — particularly during the busy summer season.

"And bylaw [officers] are typically doing walkthroughs, checking to make sure they're supported in those efforts," Ovington said. "Then they're going to those alternative areas where people have been displaced to."

Commissioner and CRD director Gary Holman said he remained optimistic; while a current bylaw enforcement officer has been on medical leave "for some time," he said, necessitating bringing staff from off-island to fill gaps, he agreed the RCMP's reports of significantly fewer problems was a good sign — as was an expected completion of a long-languishing supportive housing project on Drake Road by the end of next year.

"And that's not just the housing, it's with the ongoing supports," said Holman, not-

ing that with the recent influx of charitable societies on Salt Spring bringing experience working with marginal populations, mental health and addiction issues, there could be multiple organizations vying for management of that facility.

"Now we've got Lookout [Society] on the island, we've got the Umbrella Society," said Holman. "That supportive housing facility will provide another avenue for people to go, to get not just their housing but their broader needs met."

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7	515	3.4	11.2	11	659	3.5	11.5	13	37	1	3.3
	944	3.2	10.5		1222	2.4	7.9		747	3.5	11.5
	1223	3.2	10.5		1703	3	9.8		1410	1.6	5.2
	2102	0.2	0.7		2357	0.6	2		1947	2.7	8.9
8	544	3.5	11.5	12	723	3.5	11.5	14	118	1.5	4.9
	1014	3.1	10.2		1315	2	6.6		810	3.5	11.5
	1337	3.3	10.8		1820	2.8	9.2		1504	1.3	4.3
	2149	0.1	0.3		237	1	3.3		2127	2.6	8.5
9	611	3.5	11.5	13	37	1	3.3	14	118	1.5	4.9
	1049	2.9	9.5		747	3.5	11.5		810	3.5	11.5
	1445	3.1	10.2		1410	1.6	5.2		1504	1.3	4.3
	2234	0.2	0.7		1947	2.7	8.9		2127	2.6	8.5
10	636	3.5	11.5	14	118	1.5	4.9	14	118	1.5	4.9
	1132	2.7	8.9		810	3.5	11.5		1504	1.3	4.3
	1553	3.2	10.5		1504	1.3	4.3		2127	2.6	8.5
	2316	0.3	1		2127	2.6	8.5				

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OPINION

Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Outstanding Community Service | Silver - Best Front Page
Silver - Best Local Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Silver - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)

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



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EDITORIAL

Sorting cycles

It seems in our nature to look for increasingly simple solutions as the problems we face become increasingly complex.

Cycling on Salt Spring is already an adventure, with our narrow roads, scant shoulders, few dedicated bike lanes and ever-increasing vehicle traffic. What's more, the reality of arriving on an island by boat is that it's all uphill from the start — and nowhere is that in sharper focus than at ferry terminals, where vehicle traffic can back up behind the slower bikes on steep slopes.

Our own Ferry Advisory Committee — and no doubt many a delayed motorist — has imagined it might be simple enough to hold the bicycles back and let the vehicles through first. Operationally, according to ferry crews, it would be a nightmare to implement.

THE ISSUE: Bikes on ferries

WE SAY: Infrastructure is the priority

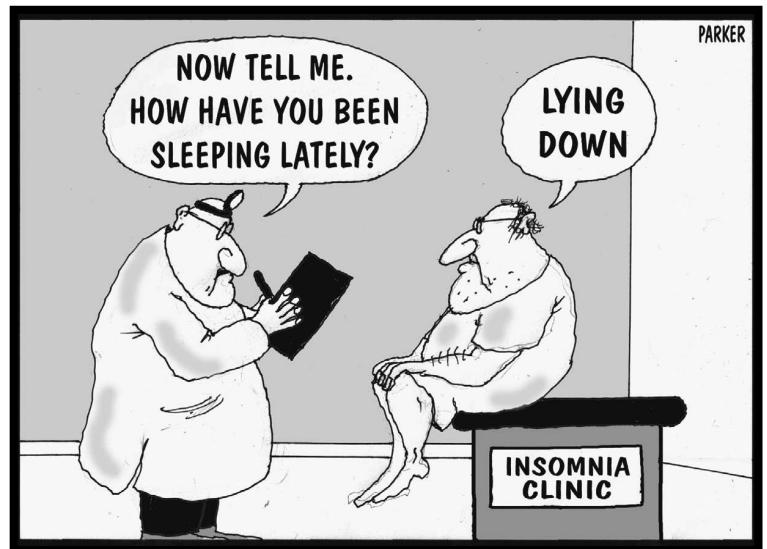
Setting aside compliance — who would want to be last? — we agree. The mental picture of people trying to walk their bikes between vehicles from the front to the back of a full car deck isn't pretty. And as one astute letter-writer has pointed out, many bicyclists disembarking aren't going any farther than the parking lot. Nothing would be gained, traffic-wise, from keeping them aboard longer — and discouraging those types of commuters from bringing their bikes would only add to the number of cars on the sailing.

A complex problem indeed. There seems to be a broad agreement among officials that more cyclists and pedestrians should be encouraged, from both a ferry capacity standpoint and an environmental one. It's a straightforward and popular position to take, but without prioritizing adequate infrastructure for both, it rings hollow.

BC Ferries can only do so much aboard their vessels; we're encouraged by their efforts to improve the "bike experience" on ferries. But if we truly want more cycling — and walking — on our ferry-served islands, we probably should solve the complex infrastructure puzzle first.

We can all be a little more patient with one another as we travel our island roads. But some impatience with our transportation ministry — now that we've completed our Active Transportation Plan and quantified gaps in our network — is perhaps warranted.

In improving how we move around, we look forward to signs of movement.



Care for cyclists will pay off

BY SIMON ROMPRE

I was very happy to read in last week's Driftwood that BC Ferries is looking into making the ferry terminal safer for cyclists and I think that painting lines at the terminal to prevent accidents is a good move ("BC Ferries targets biker safety at terminal"). Nevertheless, I think that considering moving all cyclists to the back of the ferry so drivers don't have to deal with people on bicycles while zipping off the ferry is a backward move that sends a message that visitors on bikes are not welcome here.

It is pretty obvious to anyone who has spent any time on Salt Spring that our island is not currently a cycling destination; many of our main roads are narrow and windy with no shoulders and in need of repair. Most local cyclists wanting to remain unharmed are well aware that staying out of drivers' way when unloading off the boat makes sense, but sending everyone on bikes to the back of the ferry to breathe car exhaust while unloading will not improve Salt Spring's popularity in the cycling population.

While many people that like to get from A to B as quickly as possible may like the idea of getting cyclists out of their way, I don't think there is a single Salt Springer that likes long ferry waits due to car overloads. No matter how annoying having to slow down to go around a cyclist may be, it is still preferable to have fewer ferry waits, more parking space in town on busy days and quieter roads. These are some of the advantages that come from having people on bikes and e-bikes rather than in cars; it actually is good for every-

VIEWPOINT

one, especially drivers and their passengers, something worth remembering next time we have to slow down for cyclists.

Another factor to keep in mind is that many riders are also drivers and leave their cars at the ferry terminals; they are not going to be in the way of hard-pressed-for-time drivers once off the ferry. As a matter of fact, by riding their bikes onto the ferry they create more space for other cars and should be encouraged rather than being sent to the back of the boat.

Salt Spring is located within a short distance of many big urban areas and our local economy could benefit tremendously from being more bike friendly. Many visitors don't come here because spending the better part of the day in a ferry line-up is understandably not their idea of a good time.

I encourage BC Ferries and the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure to make the needed changes, either by installing bike racks on the boats or creating safer shoulder lanes along the busiest parts of our main roads and ferry loading areas.

As someone once reminded me, you don't build bridges by counting how many people swim across the water, you build them because it is the best way to cross the river.

Once the infrastructure is in place, it will get used, and Salt Spring, because of its location, has great potential to be one of the best cycling destinations on the coast.

The writer is a member of Island Pathways and Cycling Salt Spring.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is reducing the CRD
bylaw enforcement
budget a good idea?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Dog gone manners

A couple of weeks ago I was hiking in Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park when I was attacked from behind by an off-leash dog.

The dog bit me in the calf and ran back to its dog walker. The wound wasn't serious, and after giving the dog walker a suitable lecture I carried on with my hike.

But I began to feel uneasy. What if my wound had been serious? What if this unleashed dog attacked someone else? What if the victim was a child who was seriously injured and traumatized for life?

I knew I had to speak up, so I placed a warning on the Salt Spring Exchange with details of the attack. I received emails of support but also tales of dog attacks on Salt Spring, one requiring hospitalization, stitches and rabies injections.

I have been hiking Salt Spring's beautiful trails for years and I have encountered many hikers and their dogs. Most dogs are friendly and well behaved but not all. I have been barked at, growled at, jumped on by overly friendly dogs while the owners shout at me, "Don't worry, my dog is friendly and won't hurt you."

I am dog friendly and not afraid of dogs, but some people are. A poorly trained dog that rushes towards another hiker can be a frightening experience for those people who are afraid.

You who are dog owners know your dog. Do they walk alongside you unleashed, or do they rush down the trail ahead of you looking for an exciting encounter? Perhaps a deer to chase or a hiker to bark at.

The rules in a provincial park are clear. All dogs must be leashed. Personally, if a dog is well trained and stays with its owner I don't think it needs to be leashed. But the rules are there to protect the public so everyone can feel safe. Unfortunately, we do not have strict CRD enforcement, and no one here seems to be enforcing the rules. My question to the CRD is this: Where are you?

If walkers and hikers could be brave enough and suggest to dog owners that their poorly behaved dog needs to be on a leash, we would all benefit. Most of us don't like to be told we are breaking the rules, and some owners may react defensively. I don't see any alternative.

Don't we all deserve to enjoy ourselves in this beautiful nature without fear and harassment? If all of us, dog owners and non-dog owners alike, could take responsibility to ensure our envi-

ronment is safe and friendly, then perhaps we can avoid dog aggression that leads to serious consequences.

If not, then incidents like this will happen again — sooner or later.

ROBERT STURREY,
SALT SPRING

Rental space mess rankles landlords

I know we will get slammed by people for our comments, but as we have just spent nine hours (between the two of us) cleaning our rental suite and we are only half done, we really felt the need to vent!

As we scrubbed, scraped and cursed we also thought about rental property and the small amount of rights landlords have.

We rented our suite out to help with our mortgage. But we also rented the suite for below market value because we feel some people are taking advantage of the rental market on Salt Spring and we wanted to help someone out with affordable housing.

We gave our tenant legal written notice to vacate the property, but it was due to the fact we have sold our home and the new buyers will be using the space for their family. Two months notice was given

and the tenant found a place within a month, but then informed us the second month was free of charge as we terminated the tenancy. Once it was pointed out to us we said thanks and watched for a whole month while the place sat mostly empty (except for stuff destined for the transfer station). Twice people showed up and removed items, but alas our lawn still looked like a dump with a box spring, metal bed frame, etc.

Finally came the day we could legally enter the suite and begin hauling out the remaining stuff and cleaning. We use the word "cleaning" loosely, as we really should have been wearing more than rubber gloves!

Maybe some people on Salt Spring feel it is better to keep their suites vacant than to deal with what we have dealt with.

We do realize there are a great number of rental units being lived in by people who treat their space with respect, and to those people, all we can say is we hope your landlords know how lucky they are!

But the next time you voice your concern over the lack of rental properties, think about it from the other side of the coin. Would you like to be pushing 70 years old and cleaning up other people's messes?

JOHANNA AND ED WALKNER,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I've been careful about not doing the 'Susie Sunshine' act here, but I'm going to tell you that there are other alternatives, using our resources in a way to stop the issues and problems [beforehand] rather than having to address them with enforcement."

GAYLE BAKER, LCC COMMISSIONER, ON PERCEIVED NEED FOR LESS CRD BYLAW ENFORCEMENT FUNDING

Community choir sing-alongs a nightmare for tuneless croakers

I think it is fair to say that singing, like ballet and floor gymnastics, doesn't come easily to me.

I believe (and you will have to take my mum's word for it) that I once had a voice that was as angelic as I was blond and cherubic and would regularly be called upon at family gatherings to sing. And I still remember the crushing misery of being coerced into singing *O for the Wings of a Dove* at one of my grandmother's interminable (and alcohol-free) Christmas so-called parties.

Those stultifying Christmas beanos were bad enough themselves, a clutch of elderly Quakers and Anabaptists serving rock-hard Christmas cake, egg sandwiches and endless cups of tea while my Great Aunt Sally played the harmonium, which was as much fun as a tooth extraction. Let's face it, Quakers and Anabaptists are not noted for their joie de vivre; they are nice people, good beyond saintliness, but dull, dull, dull. "What canst thou say, thee Quaker?" Any group of people for whom silence is a virtue is not much given to raucous partying and me banging out a hymn in a tortured treble accompanied

by Aunt Sally was unlikely to lift the mood. The harmonium, incidentally, is an instrument of torment for anyone with the slightest musical ear, a portable organ in a large wooden box that reduces anything as jolly as a sailor's hornpipe to a funereal drone. It suited Sally, who had lived her relentlessly pious life preparing for the hereafter and seemed to find joy in nothing.

My mum didn't really GET music at all, so her assessment of my singing would have been both partial and quite likely entirely at odds with the truth. She was almost completely, genuinely tone-deaf and, consequently, my brother and I grew up to nursery rhyme tunes that were alien to anyone else. You might recognize the words to our *Baa, Baa Black Sheep*, but you certainly won't recognize the tune because the actual melodies were a challenge to Mum, who could neither remember them nor reproduce them, so they were mainly rendered as a tuneless dirge.

My dad, on the other hand, had a lovely singing voice, but since he was Glaswegian with an accent so thick you could cut



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

it with a chainsaw, his nursery rhymes were melodic but utterly indecipherable. Dad's rendering of *My Love Is Like a Red, Red Rose* would bring tears to the eye just trying to figure out the lyrics. "Till a' the seas gang dry, my dear, And the rocks melt wi' the sun" seems harmless enough written down, but in his impenetrable Glaswegian accent it might as well have been in Norwegian.

Just before Christmas, I was at a concert of the Salt Spring Singers, one of our excellent local choirs. Mrs. Mac is a doyen of the altos there and I suspect that if I hadn't turned out in support, I'd be auditioning for the sopranos today, but the singing was lovely, perhaps not as Christmassy as I would have liked, but lovely nonetheless . . . until the conductor, the incomparable Don Conley, invited the audience to join in.

Do you remember what it was like at school when you'd been staring mindlessly out of the window and the teacher turned to you for an answer to a question you hadn't heard and which, in any case, couldn't possibly answer even if you had heard it because you'd dozed throughout the entire lesson?

I'd known it was coming, it was in the program, but that just made the anticipation more stressful. I'd be expected to sing in the company of strangers — and if I'd wanted to sing with others, I would have joined the damned choir!

Singing for me is not unlike dancing. I have in my mind an anticipation, a hopeless, misplaced expectation of how I would like things to turn out, a mellow, melodious tenor that will turn heads or, at the disco, snake hips that will bring the other dancers to an awestruck standstill. Instead, my voice has become a tuneless, unhappy croak, a low harsh sound that allows for only one word in five to make it into the world.

"Good . . . Wens . . . on . . . of Stephen." I do occasionally sing with more abandon dur-

ing my Aquafit classes when I forget for a moment that I'm surrounded by dozens of barely dressed people. "I . . . ca . . . get . . . isfaction!" "It's . . . ual . . . oo . . . umbody."

But in that case, I at least have the excuse of being made to do something energetic between notes, mindful of the fact that if I sang and jumped at the same time I'd most likely pass out.

But the very worst moment for a singaphobe is that instant when, for a hemidemisemiquaver, you fall out of lockstep with the other singers and go forte when they go pianissimo, or they go low, you go high and everyone is looking at you. They're not, of course, but that's what paranoia does to you. Best just keep your mouth shut, eh?

And my dancing? I'm sure I twisted with the best of them when twisting was a thing, and hippy, hippy, shook, shook with all my might, but eventually knees, hips and the realization that I was as graceless as a brick took their toll and I stopped doing it. It seemed the decent thing to do.

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LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring hosts bop and beauty next weekend

Buddy Holly musical play and acclaimed Ensemble Mirabilia

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

Get ready to jump to your feet and sing along next weekend as The Buddy Holly Concert takes over ArtSpring with high spirits on the evenings of Feb. 16 and 17.

This joyous concert is a dynamic two-act show featuring Zachary Stevenson in a dead-ringer performance of the famed rock-and-roller, bringing such hits to life as *That'll Be the Day*, *Peggy Sue* and *True Love Ways*. Stevenson presents Buddy Holly so perfectly we seem to be watching a genuine replica of the nerdy, hip young Texan, right down to the guitar licks, trademark hiccup and energetic dance moves.

Above and beyond the ballads and rock-a-billy songs, Stevenson weaves in engaging stories about Buddy and pays tribute to Buddy's friends — The Big Bopper, Ritchie Valens, Dion and Eddie Cochran — to recreate this nostalgic era and connect it to today, proving the music lives on.

Raised on Vancouver Island, Stevenson is an internationally recognized award-winning actor, musician and writer, a true showman with well over a thousand performances under his belt.



PHOTO BY MANDIE GUERARD

Award-winning Canadian soprano Myriam Leblanc, who will perform with Ensemble Mirabilia at ArtSpring on the afternoon of Feb. 18.

Vancouver Presents calls him "the epitome of effortless cool with a gorgeous voice and a star-quality stage presence," while The Chicago Sun Tribune simply says, "If you don't like him, you don't like much of anybody!"

From toe-tapping bop to the beauty of baroque, Sunday, Feb. 18 changes gears with an intimate Sunday matinee to present Ensemble Mirabilia, featuring rising Canadian soprano Myriam Leblanc, winner of, among other titles, the Audience Choice Award at the Canadian Opera Company Centre Stage Competition.

From her acclaimed debut album, *Luce e Ombra* ("Light and Shadow") Leblanc assembles a collection of her favourite works by Venetian composer Antonio Vivaldi: opera excerpts, a chamber cantata, along with instrumental pieces transcribed or adapted for Ensemble Mirabilia's inspired accompaniment consisting of Antoine Malette-Chénier on the baroque triple harp, Marie-Michel Beauparlant on cello and artistic director Grégoire Jeay on baroque flute.

Audiences can expect a warmth and pure scale in Leblanc's voice that conjures up a cozy room with a few close friends rather than an opulent chamber soiree. As *The Montrealer* reviewed, "It's like a brandy distillate, absolutely transparent... one of the most beautiful voices, perhaps the most beautiful, to come out of the Québec breeding ground in the past 10 years."

Founded by Leblanc and Jeay, Ensemble Mirabilia seeks to promote mainly baroque music played on period instruments, but also explores earlier and more contemporary genres to create a wide repertoire reaching audiences of all back-

grounds, while remaining in the great sphere of the classic.

The Buddy Holly Concert
with Zachary Stevenson

ArtSpring Presents
25th Anniversary

Fri Feb 16
Sat Feb 17
7:30pm
\$35 | \$5

artspring.ca
tickets.artspring.ca
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what's on this week

Wed. Feb. 7

ACTIVITIES

- **Best of the Fests: 20,000 Species of Bees.** A SS Film Festival Society film presentation of award-winning Spanish film at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.
- **Bridge.** In the library program room. 12:45 to 4:15 p.m.
- **Music Bingo.** Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. Feb. 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

- **Open Mic & Jam.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

- **Mother Goose.** For ages 0-4 years and their parents/caregivers. Salt Spring Public Library. 10 to 11 a.m.

- **SSI Local Community Commission Regular Meeting.** At the SIMS Boardroom. 5 p.m.

Fri. Feb. 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

- **Friday Nights With DJ Boomtown.** Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.
- **Karaoke.** At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

- **Live at the Library: Story Time.** In the children's area. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Fri. Feb. 9

ACTIVITIES

- **ASK Salt Spring.** Salt Spring Local Community Commission members are the guests in the TSS/Restorative Justice room at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- **Road Safety Meeting.** Discuss your Salt Spring road safety concerns and start to prioritize them with the group. In the TSS/Restorative Justice room at SIMS. 1:30 p.m.

- **Youth Games & Chess Club.** For ages 9 to 13. Library children's area. 1 to 4 p.m.

- **Friday Game Night.** For ages 13 to 19. 7 p.m.

- **Bingo.** A SSI Rowing Club fundraiser at Lions Hall. 6 to 9 p.m.

Sat. Feb. 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

- **ArtSpring Presents: Concert** with Joëlle Rabu and Nico Rhodes. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

- **OK Dope!** Stand-up comedy night with visiting comedians at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

- **Blues Jam.** At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

Sun. Feb. 11

ACTIVITIES

- **Salt Spring Forum: Kim Bolan.** Longtime Vancouver Sun reporter talks about gang warfare in B.C.'s Lower Mainland. Mahon Hall. 3 p.m.

Mon. Feb. 12

ACTIVITIES

- **Celebrating Ometepe Coffee & Culture.** Enjoy complimentary Ometepe coffee, view and purchase Nicaraguan pottery. Library program room. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Plus a slide show and talk from 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Ometepe Gulf Islands Friendship Association meeting from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Tues. Feb. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

- **Folk Jam.** With open mic. Legion. 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

- **Probus Club of Salt Spring Island Valentine Social.** Finger food, wine, chocolates, coffee, tea. Public welcome. Lions Hall. 10 a.m.

- **Spiritual Conversation: Mystery and the Unknown.** Facilitated by Heather Martin and Brian Day, recurring monthly, every 2nd Tuesday. St. Mary's Church, Fulford. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

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

CINEMA

- **Poor Things** runs Friday, Feb. 9 to Tuesday, Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. each night. No Sunday matinee.

See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- **Painter Elaine Potter's Nature Marks** exhibition runs in the Salt Spring Public Library program room through February when the room is not in use on Mondays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

- **Impromptu**, a multi-media exhibition of work by Wendy Andrews, Lorraine Douglas, Johanna Hoskins, Deborah Miller, Pam Plumb, Suzanne Prendergast and Susan Underwood, is this month's ArtSpring lobby show.

- **Natascha Wille** exhibits *Faces of Forgotten Horses* at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe until Feb. 12.

Triple Book Launch

Diana Hayes, Ken Meade, Celia Meade
Saturday, Feb. 17, 7 p.m.
SS Library Program Room

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FINANCIAL PLANNING

What women want



PHOTO: HOLY COW COMMUNICATION DESIGN

When it comes to financial planning, women want to know "Will I be okay?"

Advisor encourages women to ask questions and embrace financial life

BY VIOLA VANDERUYT
CIM, FCSI - WEALTH ADVISOR

"What Women Want" was the title of the 2000 hit film starring Mel Gibson and Helen Hunt. In the movie, Mel's character magically could hear what women were thinking. At first, he was overwhelmed, but then used the ability to his advantage in his advertising career and relationship with Helen's character.

What I have learned over four decades in the financial industry is that similar to the advertising industry portrayed in the movie, it is built by men for men and many women do not feel it understands them or what they need.

I am often asked what motivated me to

focus my practice on the needs of women.

Here's my story:

I was born an entrepreneur, which started at age four. While I was great at working and earning, I just accepted what I was paid and was afraid to ask questions. It was this entrepreneurial spirit that led me to a career in the financial industry.

On my path to becoming an Advisor I was often still afraid to ask questions, but learned to boldly challenge the advice from others until I understood the decisions I was making. This led me to a confidence I never knew I had.

That's why my passion as a Wealth Advisor is encouraging every woman to ask questions, face their fears and embrace their financial life so that they too can go from a feeling of uncertainty to that wonderful place of feeling confident.

That's why I do what I do.

Learn more at violavanderuyt.com or email viola.vanderuyt@nbc.ca.



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TAX TIME

CRA sets out 2024 filing dates

Webinar for seniors also set for Feb. 14

Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) says it wants to make tax-filing as easy as possible, and reminds people about important dates coming up this season.

Filing an income tax and benefit return annually is important to ensure you receive any refund, benefit or credit payments you may be entitled to. That's especially the case for seniors.

Important Dates

- Feb. 14, 2024 – Join the CRA's webinar on Benefits and Credits for Adults 65 years and Older. It runs from 11 to 11:45 a.m. PST. Sign up through the CRA website.

- Feb. 19, 2024 – This is the first day when you can start filing your 2023 tax

return online. If you file on paper, you should receive your income tax package in the mail by this date.

- April 30, 2024 – This is the deadline to file a tax return for most Canadians. By filing your tax return on time, you'll avoid delays to any refund, benefit or credit payments you may be entitled to. If you owe money to the CRA, this is also the deadline to make a payment. By filing and paying on time, you'll avoid late-filing penalties and interest.

- June 15, 2024 – If you or your spouse or common-law partner are self-employed, this is the deadline to file your tax returns. As this date falls on a Saturday, your return will be considered filed on time if the CRA receives it or it is postmarked on or before June 17, 2024. If you owe money to the CRA, you'll still need to pay by April 30, 2024, to avoid interest.

Now that I'm on my own, will I be okay?

We strive to create an environment where women feel safe and encouraged to build their confidence in making wise financial decisions on the path to the life they envision.



We meet monthly, on the third Wednesday of the month. Scan the QR code for event details.

Please join us for a free women's workshop to discover your financial purpose and to start your *Life By Design*.



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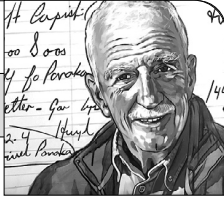
Coming Events

Coming Events

Building Materials

Martyn David Day

1938 - 2024



Martyn David Day was born May 1st, 1938 in the small village of Aberbeeg, South Wales. He died of pneumonia on January 20th, 2024 just three days after a successful, long awaited hip operation.

He first came to Salt Spring in 1990. The island offered him a refuge from a very busy life as an engineer in the metals business. By the time he retired to the island full time in 1999 he had traveled through and worked in 52 different countries. His greatest pleasure came from finally being able to stay at home, make a garden, join a choir and do some serious hiking.

He loved that we were able to share the property with so many artists over the years and he relished the rich diversity their ideas and work brought to the place. That some of them came with children was an added bonus. He was unwavering in his support for a wife, two daughters and four grandchildren all involved in design and the visual arts but he really hoped that his two very youngest grandsons might one day choose a sensible career in the sciences. He was tremendously proud of his only son, a ski guide, who carries on the family tradition of loving a good adventure.

All his life Martyn loved a good time, an honest day's work, and the company of good friends. He was able to enjoy most of those things to the end of his days.

A celebration of his life was held at his home with family and close friends on January 27th.

*For those who love, time is not.
Missing you today and always.*



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In Memorium

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Wagon Wheel Housing Society

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wagon Wheel Housing Society
February 10, 2 pm
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ISLAND LIFE

COMMUNITY GROUPS

Ometepe coffee and culture celebrated



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Ometepe-Gulf Islands Friendship Association board members Debbie Magnusson, left, and Frances Hill hold pottery created by Nicaraguan artisans in front of a burlap bag that held Ometepe coffee beans in anticipation of the Ometepe Coffee and Culture Celebration set for the Salt Spring Public Library's community program room on Monday, Feb. 12.

Slide show, talks, coffee samples, pottery sale and more brewed up

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island coffee drinkers may be familiar with Ometepe Coffee by seeing the signature brown bags at Country Grocer or buying brewed cups at the Saturday Market or other community gatherings, but an event at the library on Monday, Feb. 12 will share the Ometepe story and much more.

The Ometepe-Gulf Islands Friendship Association (OGIFA), first formed in 1988 to help bring potable water to the almost 30,000 people living on Ometepe Island in Lake Nicaragua, is responsible for importing Ometepe Coffee to Salt Spring and other locales.

As people attending Monday's event in the library's community program room will learn, coffee sales through OGIFA currently support about 70 farmers in two co-ops in Nicaragua. In partnership with the Bainbridge-Ometepe Sister Islands Association (BOSIA) of Washington state, funds have helped farmers survive some particularly challenging years.

OGIFA secretary Debbie Magnusson and board member Frances Hill explain that the impact of a coffee rust disease, aging trees, hurricanes and Covid combined for "some terrible years" for the farmers.

"They said the coffee plant varieties had to be completely changed in order to consider rust resistance and climate change," said Hill, who takes care of the coffee ordering and pricing.

In partnership with BOSIA, coffee sale profits have paid for an agronomist, who has helped navigate the farmers through the crises. After only three years, beans are growing on a new crop of plants.

"And so the coffee plantations are much stronger now," said Magnusson.

Ometepe Coffee has also recently received a "Denomination of Origin" designation, recognizing the coffee's unique characteristics specific to its growing region.

"And it's not just fair-trade coffee, it's fair-wage," said Hill.

A slide show and talk about both OGIFA and another non-profit venture — the Nicaragua Children's Foundation (NCF) and pottery from the small village of San Juan de Oriente in southwestern Nicaragua — takes place from 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. in the library's program room.

Salt Spring residents Mona and Allan Donovan created the NCF, which helps support educational efforts in the region, and will have ceramics for sale at the library on Monday. The ceramic artists are also paid fairly, they stressed.

From 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., people can view exhibits, enjoy complimentary coffee and shop for pottery as well as note cards by the late Art Simons.

People are also welcome to the group's annual general meeting set to run from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m. in the same space.

One reason for holding the event is simply to let more people know about the organization, with the hope that they will be interested in becoming involved. Like many volunteer-run societies on the island, long-serving members are aging out or dying, and new people are needed to continue the valuable work.

"Hopefully there'll be a free flow of people who wouldn't ordinarily know about us," said Magnusson.

Members will be invited to an upcoming tour of the Serious Coffee roasting facility in Duncan.

People who want more information about OGIFA but can't attend the Feb. 12 Celebrating Ometepe Coffee and Culture event can contact chairperson Nedjo Rogers at nedjo@islandnet.com.



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, that nominations for TWO trustees will be received in the District office between:

8:00 a.m. February 7, 2024

12:00 noon March 6, 2024

Nomination of candidates for these positions must be made in writing, duly signed and seconded, by two duly qualified electors of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office at or before 12:00 noon, Tuesday, March 6, 2024.

Wednesday February 21st at 7:00 pm NSSWD will be hosting a 2nd Candidates Information Session virtually for anyone interested in learning about the position of Trustee. **The link will be posted on our website on February 19th.**

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

Both of the Trustee positions are for a three year term commencing at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at 6:00 p.m. at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road and virtually through Microsoft Teams. The link will be posted on the district website for the public to join. The Trustee election will use both a mail-in ballot process for advanced voting, and an in person ballot process for voting on the day of the AGM. Voting packages for advanced voting will be mailed on March 22, 2024 and ballots must be received at the District office by April 30, 2024 at 4:30 p.m. In person voting on the day of the AGM will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. The results of the election will be announced at the AGM as soon as they are available.

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the Elections Act.

Visit the "Who We Are" and "Becoming a Trustee" pages on our website for more information about the role of a Trustee.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office and online in the Documents/Forms section of the District website.

NOTICE OF 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, and virtually through Microsoft Teams (the link will be available on our website).



SPORTS + RECREATION

ON THE COURTS

High-performance youth tennis program thrives

Off-island players join Salt Spring youth with coach Mukul Karthikeyan

BY MARJORIE BLACKWOOD
FOR SALT SPRING TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Salt Spring Tennis Association supercoach Mukul Karthikeyan has been working hard on the courts with local juniors and sees some big potential here on Salt Spring Island.

Offering tennis for all levels and ages, Karthikeyan has also created a high-performance group of players keen to compete and train hard together. Youth from Victoria and Vancouver are adding to the mix, coming to train privately and in groups with local players.

Up-and-coming nine-year-old athlete Fiona Huang of Victoria trains regularly with coach Karthikeyan and is seeing major progress. Unseeded Huang recently got to the finals of the Girls Provincial U12 Selection Series in Vancouver, losing in three sets to top-seeded Angelica Panzieri. This performance brings Huang an opportunity to qualify for the B.C. team that goes to indoor national competition later this winter, a first for one of our juniors.

Scott Goddard, last year's Gulf Islands Open event winner, has graduated to U18 groups this year and is looking forward to pitting his skills in tournaments this season.



PHOTO COURTESY SSTA

Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) high-performance group members taking a break from training and having fun at the SSTA's Centre Court are, from left, Scott Goddard, Rio Lloyd-Kar, Nate Kray-Gibson, Gabriel Gordon, coach Mukul Karthikeyan and Fiona Huang.

HIKING

Generosity expands trail network

Landowners donating trail space and local map makers honoured by club

BY MARGRIET RUURS
FOR SSTNC

In England it is quite common to hike a trail that is on private land. In North America, most publicly accessible trails are on public lands such as parks or nature reserves.

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club (SSTNC) recently recognized landowners who have generously allowed walking trails to be developed on their private property.

Claire and Will Cupples are long-time Salt Spring residents living at the north end of the island. They offered the club the opportunity to establish a two-kilometre, round-trip trail on their property. Through the Gulf Islands Trails Society, the Trail and Nature Club is able to provide liability insurance for such a trail on private property. The Cupples' initiative is a commendable act of community mindedness that benefits hikers. The property borders North View Nature Reserve. It is hoped that others will consider a similar act by allowing more trails on private property.

The SSTNC also presented a Trail Blazer Award to Nicholas Courtier for his valuable contribution to trails on the island. He has created and designed maps for all Salt Spring's provincial parks, as well as the new "you-are-here" maps in Channel Ridge.

"Nicholas has indexed all the new trails that we've developed with the club over the last 10 to 15 years on GPS," said the SSTNC's Charles Kahn. "His digitized map collection has proved a terrific resource for us, as well as for emergency services, the Salt Spring Search and Rescue Society and the Salt Spring Island Conservancy."

The SSTNC helps develop and maintain most of the trails on the island. The club has signed agreements with BC Parks to work on trails in the provincial parks. It also has an agreement with the Islands Trust Conservancy to maintain the trail in the Lower Mount Erskine Nature Reserve.

The generosity of both the Cupples and Courtier benefits all islanders who enjoy using the hiking trails.

For more information on joining the club or information on making land available for trails, send an email message to info@sstnc.ca.

**Celebrating
Ometepe
Coffee &
Culture**

Monday, February 12th
Salt Spring Public Library - Program Room



OMETEPE COFFEE

10:00AM-5:00PM
View exhibits

11:00AM-12:00PM
Speakers & slide show

1:30PM-2:30PM
General meeting

**Lady Minto Hospital
AUXILIARY
Society**

Information & applications at:
lmhas.ca/bursaries
Application deadline:
April 15, 2024

Lady Minto Hospital Auxillary is offering three "Back to School" Bursaries

Applicants must be mature adults who wish to pursue a career in a health-related field

Send completed applications to contact@lmhas.ca or mail to: LMHAS Scholarship Committee 328 Lower Ganges Rd SSI, V8K 2V3

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* Some conditions apply.

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Qualify to WIN \$1,000 towards an Island local, weekend getaway**

CHOOSE FROM:

The Fairmont Empress - Victoria
Kingfisher Oceanside Resort - Royston
Tigh-Na-Mara Seaside Spa Resort - Parksville

* Call for details. Some restrictions apply. ** Non transferable. No cash value. GRAND PRIZE DRAW: March 31, 2024.

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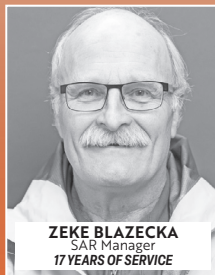
We are proud to support our Search and Rescue volunteers.

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116 HEREFORD AVENUE
250-537-2241

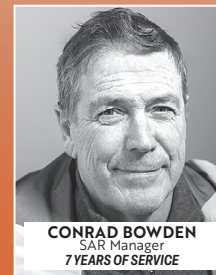
Proudly Supporting our Local Ground Search and Rescue Volunteers.



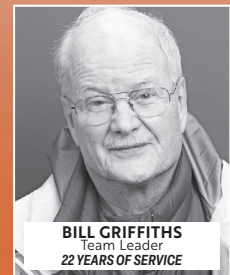
ZEKE BLAZEKA
SAR Manager
17 YEARS OF SERVICE



JASON GRINDLER
SAR Manager
12 YEARS OF SERVICE



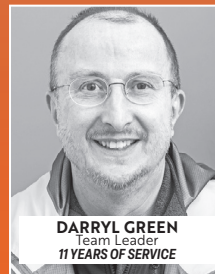
CONRAD BOWDEN
SAR Manager
7 YEARS OF SERVICE



BILL GRIFFITHS
Team Leader
22 YEARS OF SERVICE



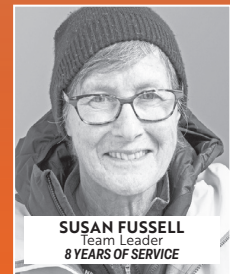
DEREK CAPITAINE
Team Leader
12 YEARS OF SERVICE



DARRYL GREEN
Team Leader
11 YEARS OF SERVICE



MARC MUNRO
Team Leader
8 YEARS OF SERVICE



SUSAN FUSSELL
Team Leader
8 YEARS OF SERVICE



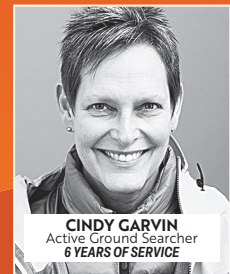
PATRICK FRISCH
Active Ground Searcher
7 YEARS OF SERVICE



JEN WILSON
Active Ground Searcher
6 YEARS OF SERVICE



KEVIN WILSON
Active Ground Searcher
6 YEARS OF SERVICE



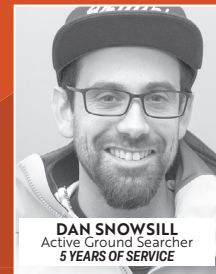
CINDY GARVIN
Active Ground Searcher
6 YEARS OF SERVICE

SUPPORT TEAM

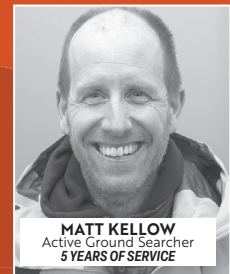
MIKE BUTLER - 22 years
LAURIE CLARK - 7 years
JAN COATES - 22 years
SARAH GRINDLER - 10 years
FERNANDO MARCENA - 6 years
DAVE MARSHALL - 7 years
JESSICA REVELEY - 5 years
CHRIS ORTLEPP - 5 years
PAUL WESTON - 5 years
WENDY WEBB - 16 years

MEMBERS IN TRAINING

Alexei Marko
Brent Simpson
Darren Snowden
MacKenzie Flett
Chris Wild
Chris Dodd
Jane Patterson

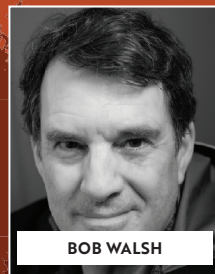


DAN SNOWSILL
Active Ground Searcher
5 YEARS OF SERVICE



MATT KELLOW
Active Ground Searcher
5 YEARS OF SERVICE

NEW MEMBERS



BOB WALSH



JAZZI GRIFFITHS



KATE MARTINEZ



A HEARTFELT THANK-YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND SERVICE.

Elizabeth
M.P.
May

ELIZABETHMAYMP.CA
9711 4TH ST. SIDNEY, BC V8L 2Y8

250 657-2000

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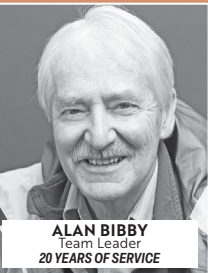
SAANICH-GULF ISLANDS



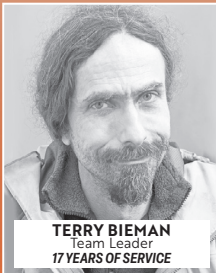
EMAIL: ssiepc

Search and Rescue Society

www.salt springsar.com • Instagram: @salt springsar • Twitter: @SSI_SAR



ALAN BIBBY
Team Leader
20 YEARS OF SERVICE



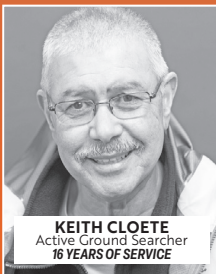
TERRY BIEMAN
Team Leader
17 YEARS OF SERVICE



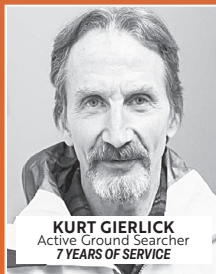
SHASTA COFFEY
Team Leader
13 YEARS OF SERVICE



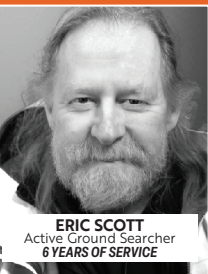
JANE LIZOTTE
Team Leader
7 YEARS OF SERVICE



KEITH CLOETE
Active Ground Searcher
16 YEARS OF SERVICE



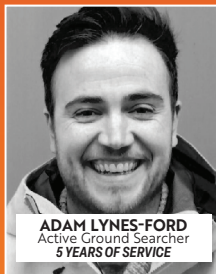
KURT GIERLICK
Active Ground Searcher
7 YEARS OF SERVICE



ERIC SCOTT
Active Ground Searcher
6 YEARS OF SERVICE



MIKE COTTON
Active Ground Searcher
6 YEARS OF SERVICE



ADAM LYNES-FORD
Active Ground Searcher
5 YEARS OF SERVICE



LAURA PEACH
Active Ground Searcher
4 YEARS OF SERVICE



ROHAN HILL
Active Ground Searcher
4 YEARS OF SERVICE



JEANNE LEESON
Active Ground Searcher
2 YEARS OF SERVICE



EMILIJAR KOLAR



MATTEW SETO

PHOTO NOT
AVAILABLE AT
PRESS TIME

PATRICK CALLAS
Active Ground Searcher
NEW MEMBER



COMMAND VEHICLE A GAME CHANGER

SUBMITTED BY JASON GRINDLER
SAR MANAGER, PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICER (PIO)

After a highly successful fundraising campaign in 2022-23, Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISAR) is pleased to publicly announce the deployment of our new customized Mobile Incident Command Vehicle (CV).

This modern, purpose-built, four-wheel-drive self-contained Mobile Incident Command Centre fills a critical gap in the SSISAR vehicle fleet, replacing our aged and limited 1998 converted bread van. This new vehicle will allow access to a greater number of areas in all weather conditions. It has been custom built to leverage all the technological and safety improvements that a high-functioning SAR group requires.

Since soft launching the deployment in mid-2023, SSISAR volunteers have been putting this customized vehicle through its paces; testing, upgrading, fine-tuning and leveraging all the capabilities it offers.

Utilizing Satellite based internet connection and an onboard integrated generator, this vehicle can function without interruption, anywhere it is required. Linked computer systems use electronic mapping software that allows for real time tracking of search teams, clues and search areas that seamlessly connect to electronic search planning and management software, making searches and rescues as efficient and as safe as possible.

"This CV represents an incredible leap forward in our capabilities and will be the operations hub for all of our search, rescue and emergency activities on Salt Spring and the other Southern Gulf Islands for years to come," says search and rescue society president and SAR manager Conrad Bowden.

This vehicle and all the significant benefits it provides to the members of the community in need, as well as the increased safety for our responders, could not have been possible without the support of so many generous and giving individuals and organizations.

We want to give particular thanks to the following organizations; the Province of British Columbia, Salt Spring Island 100+ Women Who Care, Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 - Salt Spring, Country Grocer, Windsor Plywood and several anonymous donors.

On behalf of our non-profit team of unpaid professional SAR volunteers, we cannot thank you enough for your support.

Did you know that Salt Spring SAR's coverage area not only includes Salt Spring Island, but the other Southern Gulf Islands as well?

SSISAR responds 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. In case of emergency, call 911 at no cost for rescue. Our team of committed volunteers are here to help. Learn more at ssisar.org.



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