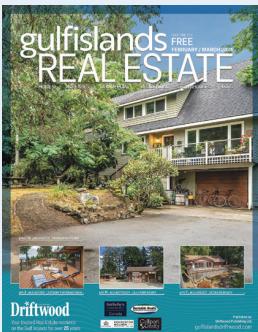


inside:



9 Family Day entertainment at Mahon Hall



7 GISS students bring Marcus Mosely Trio to island

Arts and Entertainment.....	7
Classifieds.....	10
Editorial	4
Island Life	12
Letters	5
Money Matters	11
What's On	8

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PHOTO BY DANIEL SQUIZZATO

CHARITY IN ACTION: Some of the Grade 3 to 6 students in the Owls Class at Salt Spring Centre School show artistic "cheques" for \$50 made out to the Salt Spring BCSPCA branch and the island's food bank. The class led by teacher Daniel Squizzato was the winner of the Driftwood's draw from classes submitting large numbers of stories to the paper's annual holiday story-writing contest, which sees \$100 donated from the Driftwood to local charities chosen by the students. Seen standing from left are students Tenzin Faraci-Winstone, Tao Prihoda, Coakley Oppmann, Frankie Mollberg, Millie Smid and Eve Carlton Dione, with school principal Helena Bryn-McLeod in front. The school's annual open house runs Feb. 28 at 6 p.m.

ENVIRONMENT

Three 'spray days' set for spring

Spongy moth presentation outlines treatment plan

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Scientists with B.C.'s Ministry of Forests have set late April — or early May — for a targeted aerial spraying effort, hoping to keep an invasive insect species from establishing a foothold in the province.

Last seen in the 1990s, spongy moths were detected again on Salt Spring Island in 2021; monitoring efforts the following year revealed a growing population of the insects which — while caterpillars — are voracious defoliators, according to Canadian Food Inspection Agency biologist Dave Holden.

Holden and members of the Spongy Moth Technical Advisory Committee hosted an online information session Wednesday, Feb. 7, outlining

the problems the moths bring and answering questions about the province's eradication program — and how it will unfold on Salt Spring.

The spongy moth is the common name for Lymantria dispar, renamed from "gypsy moth" by the Entomological Societies of both Canada and the United States in 2022. The name references the insect's "spongy" egg masses, often found in the branches of the same deciduous trees the hatched insects will devour — and which have been known to cause rashes when handled.

Recently, the egg masses have been found more often in human-made shelters — including under vehicles and even in bird houses, which has helped them spread from Ontario into B.C.

"It's a perfect hitchhiker," said Holden. "Often the egg masses are laid in concealed areas, sometimes in the wheel wells of cars."

The spongy egg masses are roughly the size of a quarter and are difficult to spot, Holden said, and it's generally understood that moths now found in B.C. came from established populations in Ontario in late 2020 — catching a ride behind vehicle bumpers and under RVs.

"With Covid restrictions, we saw a huge number of introductions into B.C., because [snowbirds] weren't moving south, because the borders were shut down," said Holden. "They were travelling to the west. That's what we're trying to 'mop up.'"

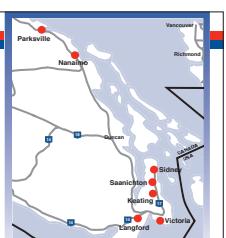
SPONGY MOTH continued on 2

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TAKING THE STAGE



PHOTO COURTESY JASON DONALDSON

GISS Improv Team members, from left, Cass Corbett, Peregrin McCormick, Luisa McCarvill-Russo (lying on the ground), Steph Cowan, Leelu Mann, Artemis Rome (obscured), Melody Silva and Reason Perry hoist a first-place trophy, celebrating their victory Sunday, Feb. 11 after the weekend's Vancouver Island Regional Tournament of the Canadian Improv Games. GISS Improv has earned a berth at the national competition in Ottawa, according to team coach Jason Donaldson. Details about how to support the team financially will be released soon, he said.

Elizabeth Drive area affected

SPONGY MOTH

continued from 1

Infestation impacts seen in Ontario range from the destruction of individual trees to defoliation "across the landscape," according to Holden, who said they generally attack deciduous trees — oak being their "favourite," he said — followed by alders, birches, arbutus, apple and pear trees. One of the biggest concerns for scientists are the vulnerable Garry oak ecosystems both on Salt Spring and Vancouver Island; but when they build up in an area, according to Holden, the conifers are eaten next. And while deciduous trees are often resilient enough to come back after a year or two, he added, a defoliated conifer usually doesn't survive.

"I've seen when they're super hungry, they'll actually eat the bark off the tree," said Holden. "But typically, they'll eat down to the mid-rib of a leaf."

This past summer's efforts to slow the infestation through a high-density trapping program on Salt Spring were successful, according to acting provincial forest entomologist Timothy Ebata, and as a result of data gathered the area to be sprayed is relatively small — a 48-hectare patch roughly centred on Elizabeth Drive, which will be treated from the air over three early mornings, likely in late April or early May.

The exact date, he said, would be determined by population growth modelling based on measured air temperatures — picking the precise moment when the insects will be at their most vulnerable.

"We were able to get the boundary

down to this basically bare minimum," said Ebata. "We have really good intelligence in terms of where we think the epicentre of this infestation is."

The spraying will be conducted by relatively low-flying aircraft — usually fixed-wing, according to Ebata, but sometimes a helicopter — using a GPS-controlled system. The pilots will fly in a line, he said, and the equipment turns on and off as boundaries are crossed, recording the whole event as a digital file to be reviewed later.

Ebata said despite the 300-metre "drift area" buffer zone allowed by their permit, his experience was that even the overspray tended to stay within 100 metres of the treatment boundary. Spraying will not occur at all if winds exceed 8 km/hr.

"It's very precise," said Ebata. "On the ground, we monitor the deposition of the product using 'spray cards' that are placed before the treatment, and then examined after."

In addition to public outreach efforts like postcards and newspaper ads, Ebata said there would be signs placed in the neighbourhood well in advance of the spraying days.

Unlike ground-based spraying, such as took place near Lee's Hill in 2007, aerial applications are advantageous partly because they require a lower concentration of the bacteria-based insecticide preferred by the province's Spongy Moth Technical Advisory Committee — Foray 48B, an Organic Materials Review Institute listed product certified in 2018 for use in organic production.

The program this spring will use about four litres of product per hectare, said Ebata, "about a coffee cup's amount over a typical city lot."

"It has no known toxic effects on any organisms other than lepidopterans," said Ebata — the order of winged insects that includes butterflies and moths. "That's because the mode of action of the bacterium is very unique to alkaline environments — alkaline guts, especially."

That does mean other caterpillars within spray areas can be affected, according to invertebrate conservation biologist Jennifer Heron, but most species present are non-native or not at risk — such as the European Skipper or cabbage white butterflies, she said — and pollinators like bees, wasps and beetles aren't affected by the bacteria at all.

Ebata did say there had been some human health effects reported from people directly hit by sprays — described as similar to seasonal allergies, he said, such as runny noses and itchy eyes, which can be avoided by not being outside in the targeted area for the hour or two it takes for the spray to dissipate.

"We're working very hard to get the word out," said Ebata. "If you think you're sensitive to aerosolized products and you want to avoid the treatment, you should stay indoors with the doors, windows and vents closed to completely avoid contact."

Ebata reiterated there were no toxic or detrimental effects of ingesting the product, and that groundwater would be unaffected; once it lands on a hard surface, it dries within 10 minutes, he said, and will fully break down within seven days — sooner, he added, if it rains.

For more information, visit gov.bc.ca/spongymoth-news or call the "mothline" at 1-866-917-5999.

LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION

LCC defers on rooster noise for now

Commission won't interfere with legal proceeding

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring poultry enthusiasts worried they might run afoul of the island's decades-old noise bylaws crowded into a meeting Thursday night, hoping for immediate support from members of the Local Community Commission (LCC).

But after hearing a delegation from the Salt Spring Island Poultry Club extolling the advantages of keeping chickens and the rural lifestyle generally — and situations where sometimes-noisy roosters are important specifically — commissioners told the group the LCC had been advised by the Capital Regional District (CRD) legal team to avoid all but general discussion of noise bylaw infractions, due to a legal case currently underway.

"I would prefer we not go into in-depth discussion of the matter tonight, just because I understand there is a court case pending and it's important that we not take action that will be seen as interfering," said LCC chair Earl Rook. "What I can say as chair is that the LCC has no authority specifically for bylaws and for bylaw enforcement. But we do act as an

elected body of the community." Commissioners explained the LCC's role could be to bring a sense of the entire community's desires regarding bylaws — such as the noise bylaw — to the CRD Board, who Rook said had been receptive.

"I would prefer we not go into in-depth discussion of the matter tonight, just because I understand there is a court case pending and it's important that we not take action that will be seen as interfering."

EARL ROOK
Chair, Salt Spring LCC

"Thus far the board takes us seriously," said Rook. "If we have a well-considered recommendation on any topic that's well thought-out, we can carry that to them and ask them to take action."

Any such advocacy, Rook explained, would necessarily be preceded by a

Notice of Motion, allowing members of the public plenty of time to weigh in before the LCC acted on their behalf.

"That way it's published, people in the community get to see it, talk about it, think about it, give us some feedback," said Rook. "And at that point, at the next meeting, we would discuss it amongst ourselves in public and take a vote on it."

Commissioners agreed it would be most appropriate to take up the broad issue at the LCC's first meeting in April, by which time the specific litigation currently in process — addressing several noise bylaw infractions at a single Salt Spring Island property — may be resolved.

"Given the understanding that March is when this will be before the courts," said commissioner Brian Webster, "and out of respect for that process, I'm grudgingly willing to defer giving notice of motion and undertaking that discussion."

The meeting Thursday, Feb. 8 was the first LCC regular meeting to take place in the evening hours; commissioners had held town hall-style events previously, but without staff and legal notice those gatherings were relatively informal; during a town hall the LCC can listen but may not advance commission business.

The next LCC meeting will be at 9 a.m. on Thursday, Feb. 15 at SIMS.

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PROFILE

Hospital foundation's new exec director looks ahead



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's new executive director Eric A.F. Jacobsen at his McPhillips Avenue office.

Grateful for local hospital, ED wants to share islanders' stories

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Inside one upstairs office in downtown Ganges, a fresh coat of paint has dried, a handful of indoor plants have found their footing and Eric A.F. Jacobsen — the new executive director for the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation — is as hopeful for what's ahead as the day is sunny.

Not quite two months into the new job, Jacobsen's excited about helping shape the future of the 32-year-old island charity — and the critical healthcare resource it supports. He and his family have been on Salt Spring Island for six years now, he said, since the birth of their first child — having lived the previous five years on Galiano Island. Long before the hustle-bustle of McPhillips Avenue, he worked with the Galiano Island Conservancy as an education coordinator.

"That was an amazing group of people, who did some really cool things there," said Jacobsen. "We built a community food forest! We worked with the Penelakut First Nation, I couldn't say enough about what a wonderful job that was."

His energy when speaking about projects is captivating, but still comes across fully grounded; Jacobsen dreams big, but practical. With a resume that includes work with several nonprofits — and co-founding a healthcare tech company — Jacobsen admitted he can't help but see things through a "feasibility lens," knowing what to do with what you've got.

"So it's about doing great big things," said Jacobsen, "but doing the groundwork to make sure that they are successful great big things."

The foundation's core mandate, according to Jacobsen, is raising money — to support healthcare on Salt Spring in general, and at the Lady Minto Hospital specifically. It's work that's all about nurturing partnerships, he added — understanding the needs of the community, the ability of governments to assist, and somehow aligning all the stakeholders and their priorities and figuring out how to make the biggest impact with every donated dollar.

Jacobsen said he's found one of the best ways to engage with people is through stories — and there are some big ones to tell on Salt Spring.

"I love the community here, I love raising my children here," said Jacobsen. "I feel like it's one of the

kindest communities I've ever experienced."

Nowhere is this clearer than in the story of Lady Minto's new emergency department, he pointed out — a \$12.8 million project, opening this spring, built with \$8 million raised and contributed by the LMHF.

"It's a huge deal," said Jacobsen. "It's a state-of-the-art facility. And we funded the lion's share of that through the generosity of the community. That's incredible."

Jacobsen and the LMHF board are working through a big strategic planning process at the moment, he said, to map out the future and find new opportunities to engage the community — and, of course, the donors. Perennial successes like the annual golf tournament will continue, as will the successful year-end donation drive (visit ladyminto-foundation.com).

But Jacobsen — with the help of a soon-to-be-hired communications admin — wants contributing islanders old and new to hear more about where their donations wind up — and how they affect everyone who makes their home here.

"Increasing the storytelling around that, making more opportunities to learn about the impact we're having," said Jacobsen, "and finding more opportunities for the community to tell their stories, tell us about their experiences with the hospital and the help they received."

Indeed, like many on Salt Spring, Jacobsen's not just a supporter of the hospital, he's also been a customer. He found himself at Lady Minto just a few months back with his two-year-old daughter, who had hit her head after a bad fall. He called it an especially scary time, particularly as a relatively new parent — you move as fast as you can, he said, and there's always some confusion as to what you should do first.

"I felt so grateful that the answer was so obvious," he said. "We showed up [at Lady Minto] and received just unbelievable fantastic, quality care."

Salt Spring is proud of its healthcare providers, Jacobsen said; community support for the people who work at Lady Minto is near-universal. The new emergency department is something to be proud of, and the foundation will celebrate with everyone else when it opens. But there's plenty of work ahead.

"There's still a lot of need on the island," said Jacobsen. "The hospital is an aging facility; it's going to need a lot of upgrades over the next 10 to 20 years. And we still have critical staffing problems."

Jacobsen smiled. "There's plenty to do," he said. "I think we can go a lot further together."

SMOOTH OPERATION



PHOTO BY GAIL SIUBERG

Finishing touches are put on the new cement surface in the plaza area of Centennial Park on Friday afternoon. Weather cooperated to facilitate completion of the multi-day pour that began on Feb. 6.

NOTICE NP-TUP-2023-6 NORTH PENDER ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE



Islands Trust

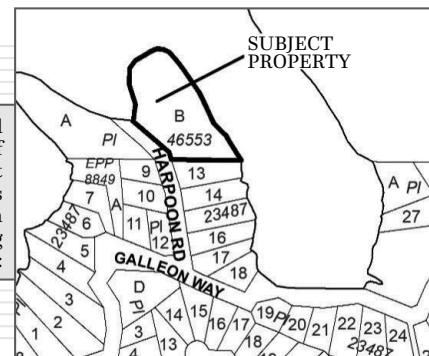
NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the Local Government Act that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to LOT B, SECTION 16, PENDER

ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 46553 (PID: 010-977-929). This property is located at 2602 Harpoon Road, North Pender Island.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a Short Term Vacation Rental use within the Dwelling Unit.

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

The use has been permitted by a previous Temporary Use Permit that was issued in 2018 and renewed in 2021.



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing February 2, 2024 and continuing up to and including February 14, 2024.

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

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandtrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., February 14, 2024.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular electronic business meeting starting at 10:00 a.m., February 23, 2024 via zoom.

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

OPINION

Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Impactful action

February is Black History Month in Canada, an opportunity to learn about and reflect on the contributions and experiences of Black people in our country.

While that history has been acknowledged in less formal ways in some parts of Canada since the 1930s, it wasn't until 1996 that Black History Month was recognized nationwide following passage of a House of Commons motion.

Next week on Salt Spring Island, school students and the whole community have a chance to learn about Black history in North America and locally through some special events. Thanks to the initiative of the Students for Racial Equity group at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS), the Marcus Mosely Trio will visit the island to give a presentation to 200 GISS students, a choral workshop to 60 — leading to a concert for Salt Spring Elementary School students — and a Feb. 20 Songs of Freedom concert for the whole community at ArtSpring. Gospel songs and the stories behind them will be shared by stellar musicians and vocalists, leading to a culturally rich understanding of Black history.

With the Salt Spring Historical Society and Archives as a project partner, displays about the significant role Black people played in our island's history will also be at school and ArtSpring events.

The SFRE group originated under a different name in response to a specific racist incident at GISS, as well as the murder of George Floyd, a Black man, by a white police officer in Minneapolis in 2020, which prompted a cry for action against racism around the world. An Anti-racism Advocacy Working Group with members from within and outside of the school district was also established. While the student-led group is obviously active and thriving, the adult committee was unfortunately abruptly terminated by the Gulf Islands Board of Education in May of 2023, leaving highly committed racialized community members frustrated and their recommendations only partly fulfilled. While all efforts to create a society and school system free of racism are of value, actions that "tick the boxes" of a plan or refer to broad, provincially set guidelines to address systemic racism in a school district are not as impactful as doing the difficult work required to achieve "deep equity."

The motivation and convictions of GISS students are a sign of hope. A school board willing to revisit its decision to disband the Anti-racism Advocacy Working Group would be another.

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Silver - Community Service Award



The madness of it all

BY ERIC BOOTH

Last month, our MLA Adam Olsen declared the Drake Road supportive housing project "a disaster." He should have gone further and declared the entire island a disaster zone when it comes to housing.

Trustee Laura Patrick, (whose resignation I publicly requested a couple of months ago), after over five years in office, has now taken us backwards with Bylaw 537, the dumbed down, self-proclaimed "silly" version she had Trust staff concoct to replace proposed accessory dwelling unit Bylaw 530.

There are literally hundreds of "illegal" suites and cottages on the island. Everyone with even half a brain knows that 537 will not legalize them. Thus, those tenants fortunate enough to be clinging to them will continue to live under the tenuous possibility of eviction.

Of the 100 or so properties which 537 WILL legalize accessory dwelling units on, according to estimates given by Patrick herself during the election debate, less than 10 of them are likely to create a unit.

Twenty years ago, Tim Wake, a housing consultant from Whistler, recommended to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) the legalization of ALL suites and cottages on the island. He reiterated that recommendation in 2011 to the LTC. Details of his recommendations are available at my blog site at <http://tinyurl.com/2xzcpku2>.

His prime rationale, based on every other jurisdiction which has legalized accessory dwelling units, was there is, as Patrick stated, very little uptake.

He also said the long-term solution to housing is to split the real estate market into two sectors, the regular housing market, and a controlled housing market like Whistler has done. I have been advocating for this now for two decades, apparently to deaf ears.

VIEWPOINT

And to add to the insanity of the situation, the Province has announced financing assistance for accessory dwelling units and Patrick just said no to most of them.

Salt Spring, your workforce community is dying in front of your eyes. In case you weren't aware, people in the middle or working classes cannot afford an \$850,000 home.

Wake the hell up. Get mad. Write a letter to the editor. Demand action of your elected representatives. If they don't act, demand they resign. Those you elect have the power to effect the changes necessary. You have given them that responsibility. To date they have failed miserably.

I have not seen any proposed plan from them as to exactly how they are going to solve the crisis. Another study? Another groupthink? Another advisory committee? Where is the visionary leadership that a community of over 12,000 citizens should expect?

Are you seeing answers to any of those questions? At what point will you be "mad as hell, and not going to take it any more?" When you get your eviction notice? When there is another cancelled ferry sailing? When your child is in a classroom of 40 because of a lack of teachers? When you arrive at the hospital only to be shuttled off island? When you can't find an employee because there is nowhere for them to live?

Yes, it's madness nothing is being done, when clear, proven and well-tested solutions were provided to the Trust two decades ago.

To paraphrase Einstein: "The definition of insanity is to repeatedly study the same problem over and over and over and expect to achieve a different outcome just by studying the problem."

The writer was a Salt Spring Islands Trust trustee from 2002-2005.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Can we safely declare winter to be over?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is reducing the CRD bylaw enforcement budget a good idea?



Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Ganges fire hall project updated

Salt Spring's upcoming fire hall project is proceeding smoothly, staying on track both in terms of schedule and budget, as reported by CAO Rodney Dieleman and the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District board of trustees.

The recently received Schedule-B cost estimates, a crucial construction milestone offering up to 90 per cent cost certainty, validate the meticulous planning and estimation efforts, resulting in a project likely to meet or even surpass the original budget. Board chair Rollie Cook expressed confidence that the approved \$9.7 million borrowing from ratepayers is adequate for project completion.

The owner's representative on the project, Hans Hazenboom, pointed out that "the project is now entering the active tendering and construction phase, including inviting local contractors to get involved."

Hans added that while installing solar panels was beyond the original budget, "provisions are being made to accommodate a future installation."

Building permits are in progress, and water hookup negotiations have been successful. Action on the site is expected this spring as tenders for various project aspects are anticipated to be awarded in the next four to six weeks.

Chief Jamie Holmes highlighted key enhancements in disaster resilience, stating that the new fire hall, in contrast to its predecessor, will adhere to significantly higher disaster-proof standards.

Additional features, such as water storage and reclamation, have been incorporated into the plans.

CAO Dieleman mentioned the inclusion of extra space for CRD Emergency Management Salt Spring Island operations in the new fire hall, reinforcing community resilience against natural disasters for generations to come.

For more information and updates on the project, visit our website page at saltspringfire.com/new-firehall or call 250-537-2531 and speak with CAO Rodney Dieleman.

**SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT
BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

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

Rants + ROSES



Roses

We would like to thank paramedics Mike and Martin who ploughed through the snow on Jan. 17 to access my husband, who had fallen and was hurt. He has recovered well and our thanks go to them for their quick response. *H & T*

Rants

I would like to rant about the 80-km/hour speed limit sign posted on the Fulford-Ganges Road just north of Cusheon Lake Road by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The signage as seen in the photo above is very confusing. It is only 33 metres in front of a 40-km/hr dangerous curve sign. Roses to the people of the island who have worked so hard to get the speed reduced in Ganges. We all need to slow down our traffic to protect our islanders and island environment. *Heather Neville*

The Salt Spring Island Public Library sends roses to all who helped create and launch the new *ITOTELNEW HÁUTW / Tatul' utew't-hw* Indigenous Learning Area, including Rose Spahan, Myrna Crossley Elliot, Chazz Elliott, James Jimmy, Maynard Johnny Jr, Angela Marston, Dr. John Elliot, Cosiniye Elliot, Rae Anne Claxton, Bill Jamison, Phil Vernon, Chris Marshall, Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, The Salt Spring Island Foundation, The Philip and Muriel Berman Foundation, Salt Spring Books, Library donors, Library board, Christine Hunt, Anne Zeller, Library volunteers and staff, Caroline Dick, Maya Rosborough, Rob Bartram, Bobbi Ruckle, Alex Hasenfratz, Matt Tong, Calum O'Neill, Library Reconciliation Reading Circle members, CRD, Gulf Islands Driftwood, CBC Radio, Hungry Bubba's catering, and everyone else who contributed in any way. *Huy ch q'u! HÍSWKE!*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I've seen when they're super hungry, they'll actually eat the bark off the tree. But typically they'll eat down to the mid-rib of a leaf."

DAVE HOLDEN, CANADIAN FOOD INSPECTION AGENCY BIOLIST, ON SPONGY MOTH BEHAVIOUR

Islands Trust 'runs rogue' with object and policy statement moves

BY DAVID J. RAPPORT AND
LUISA MAFFI

One often hears that being an Islands Trust trustee is a thankless job — one of the classic "damned if you do [uphold the Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate], damned if you don't" sort. Confronted with that uneasy dilemma, the current Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) and a majority within Trust Council (TC) at large seem to have chosen to overcome the impasse by simply ignoring, and indeed undermining, the Trust's mandate. To put it succinctly, in our view the Trust is now running rogue.

We do not say that lightly. It is hard to imagine that fellow islanders would vie for the opportunity to serve as trustees and then deliberately turn their backs on the Trust's core mission. But how else might one interpret recent events in which we can only describe as the Trust's "Theatre of the Absurd"?

First, the TC has taken it upon itself to redefine the "object" of the Trust, turning it into a vehicle to

preserve and protect such "unique amenities" as housing, livelihoods, infrastructure, and tourism — seemingly without a hint of recognition that none of the above really qualify as being "amenities," let alone being "unique."

Second, it appears to us that the TC is seeking to reformulate the all-important Trust Policy Statement (TPS) in ways that align with their twisted concept of "amenities." That will prove to be difficult. The concept of "unique amenities," as defined and approved by the TC in 1986, clearly refers to the benefits of our natural environment, its rural character, and its cultural history for our island communities and people in British Columbia and beyond.

Third, the TC is so keen to promote its new "vision" for the TPS (apparently one of unrestrained economic growth and development — precisely the circumstances that the Trust Act was established to curb in our beautiful and fragile islands) — that it seems unwilling to wait for the required

IN DEPTH

input from First Nations before going ahead and formulating its public relations strategy, complete with "talking points," "speaking notes" and "frequently asked questions" (as detailed in the Jan. 31 Driftwood's "Draft Policy Plan Delayed" story).

Fourth, our LTC recently attempted an "end-run" around public opposition to their proposal to open the floodgates on more ADUs by requesting Salt Spring's inclusion under the provisions of provincial Bill 44 — which was designed for municipalities, outlawing public hearings on housing matters provided that relevant decisions don't conflict with official community plans. That effort was thwarted by the Ministry of Housing, eliciting a sharp rebuke from Minister Ravi Kahlon, who reminded the LTC of our "existing infrastructure capacity issues" (particularly around water and waste

disposal), the interests of local First Nations and the LTC's obligations under the Trust's "preserve and protect" mandate.

Rather than focusing on "talking points," our LTC and the TC might be better advised to reflect on the limits of their authority.

Much as some of them may fancy otherwise, they were not elected as politicians — that is, as authorities entrusted with "all-purpose" governance over the islands. Quite to the contrary, islands trustees — much like trustees for the fire board, school district or North Salt Spring Waterworks District — are elected for special purpose governance: to carry out a specific and limited, if crucial, mandate. Issues beyond their given remit are not within their purview.

Ironically, this is happening just as our provincial government is owning up its failure to ensure the health of ecosystems across the province. If the Minister for Land, Water, and Resource Stewardship has done so, it is more than high time for the Trust to follow suit.

Under all accounts, our island ecosystems are in dire straits. Yet, the LTC and the TC appear to be oblivious to this fact, blissfully pursuing an agenda that conflicts with their own mandate, at an increasing cost for our island ecosystems and, as a result, for the health and well-being of island residents.

The draft of the Province's flagship Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework program (November 2023) should be mandatory reading for all Islands Trust trustees, as well as for island residents. It sets a new course on the stewardship of the environment, addressing head-on the life-essential need to restore health to our life-support systems. The draft document is available on the B.C. government's website.

David J. Rapport is an economist and ecologist who pioneered the field of ecosystem health. Luisa Maffi is a linguist and anthropologist who pioneered the field of biocultural diversity. They live on Salt Spring Island.

What I learned as a new hospice volunteer

BY CONNIE GIBBS

In July 2022, I read in the Driftwood that the Salt Spring Hospice Society was recruiting new volunteers. I knew nothing about the hospice society. And the little I thought I knew turned out to be wrong.

Running errands in Ganges, I would sometimes wonder where the hospice was. I imagined a homey place, tucked away on a quiet side street where people were cared for lovingly in their last days.

When I showed up for my interview at the cozy hospice office on Rainbow Road, two veteran volunteers soon set me straight. There is no physical hospice building, they explained. Hospice on Salt Spring operates as a set of services to provide compassionate support to the dying and bereaved. There is no charge for any of these services.

In the training sessions, I learned

more about these services. They include a vigil hotline that connects volunteer vigil sitters with family members who need respite from long hours sitting by the bedside of a loved one in their final days.

Many people want to be confident that someone is keeping watch over their loved one, especially through the night. The dedicated vigil team meets that need.

Later I would be amazed by how quickly the Salt Spring Hospice vigil team is able to show up at Lady Minto or Greenwoods, ensuring that someone will always be at the bedside and allowing family members to leave for much-needed sleep.

Our group of trainees had a full learning curriculum, starting with grief companioning. One-to-one bereavement support is a key service offered by Salt Spring Hospice, and is available in person, in the

INDEPTH

hospice office, or by phone. We spent a lot of time learning about grief companioning, what it is and what it is not. At the heart of grief support, I learned, is compassionate and attentive listening. My job as a grief companion would be to pay attention, in a mindful and caring way to what the bereaved person is saying, or not saying if they are silent. Later when I put this into practice, I was surprised by the power of this kind of listening. It struck me as a form of mindful meditation, something I've tried and failed at many times as I have an annoyingly chatty mind. The training taught me to bring a steady focus to my listening that I had seldom experienced before. (My husband would agree I'm more

of a talker than a good listener.) I had tried meditating by focusing on my breath or a candle, but this kind of attentive listening to another person was profoundly different from any of my previous meditation attempts. More importantly, the person I was listening to felt deeply heard. Together we created a safe and trustworthy space where grief could be expressed, validated and supported.

Beyond the overwhelming sense of loss that comes when a loved one dies, other unsettling emotions may arise during grieving and are unique to the bereaved person. I was taught that ALL emotions are acceptable to express, including uncomfortable ones like guilt, relief, shame, anger. Short of throwing furniture around, anything goes in a one-to-one grief support session. Grief support companions are

NOT counsellors and are not trained to help with mental health concerns and complex personal issues. I appreciated that boundaries and self care were essential parts of the training curriculum for volunteers.

Facilitated grief groups are offered from time to time, usually with no more than nine participants.

Finally, hospice volunteers visit residents and patients in Greenwoods and Lady Minto who indicate they would like a friendly visit.

Hospice on Salt Spring may not have a building, but it has compassionate, dedicated volunteers providing needed services to people at their most vulnerable time of life.

I take comfort knowing that, when my time on Earth is up, there are caring, skilled and trustworthy people who will be there for my family if they need support.

Province shouldn't compromise on biodiversity process

The following is a version of the writer's submission to the provincial government's Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework public input process.

BY RODNEY POLDEN

Thanks for this public input process, a very positive step.

It is encouraging to see moves now being made, putting conservation policies on serious, sustained footing to meet challenges of ecological degradation and calamitous loss of biodiversity, allowed to occur by not prioritizing protection/sustenance of ecosystems, instead exploiting them into near-collapse.

It's essential there be re-balancing of the previous equation of industrial exploitation (profiting mostly foreign-owned corporations) over the needs of human society and nature. Re-balancing would permit survival and flourishing of healthy, functioning ecosystems that provide essential services we all need.

Those essential services — provided by stable natural processes of water, air, climate, soil health, vegetation cover, control and moderation of erosion/wildfire/flooding — are the same factors needed also by our very diverse ecosystems and species, in order to endure through adverse times.

The challenges we're facing are those same difficulties that species and ecosystems struggle to overcome, but we have ability to control some factors causing recently increasing instabilities.

What's been lacking? Political will to prioritize long-term needs over short-term profits: prioritizing fundamental needs of us all — both human and natural species — over the corporate industrial drive to turn public landscapes into private financial advantage, regardless of the less-quantifiable benefits that those ecosystems provided us previously, before being impacted or destroyed.

Are we ready yet, both our society and our system of governance and regulation, to make the choice for a more balanced, hopeful future, than the present headlong rush toward ever more extinctions and disruption facing us in the immediate future.

It's obvious there has to be change. Every competent scientist/researcher knows the present entirely profit-driven corporate system of running the world cannot hold. Too much is breaking down, or getting lost, for "business as usual" to be an adequate response.

Fortunately, there's clarity about what it'll take for us to turn around the twin, global, deepening crises of climate imbalance and

biodiversity loss. For B.C.'s future to work, those steps — necessary, reasonable, within our reach — can provide solutions to a number of different issues, both for nature and for human society.

Closest to my home, the endangered Garry oak ecosystem brought a growing familiarity with the wide variety of species specific to that natural habitat's very limited range, leading me to see how much biodiversity's found within precise, often quite local areas, not accurately reflected in a "percentage of land area" basis. It's excellent that 30 per cent of B.C.'s land area is to be protected, but much more important is not number of hectares, but rather: What's found IN those hectares? If much of that area is "rock and ice" with low productivity of trees grown and low biodiversity of its habitants, then the 30 per cent goal is almost irrelevant as a measure of success.

In some places, species are now dying out and gone forever, more rapidly than they can be named, studied or evaluated. At this point the necessity is to turn around a dreadful loss of essential, irretrievable biodiversity.

We have to be serious about what will work and what won't.

Protecting large areas of rock and ice does little to prevent species getting wiped out elsewhere.

Wiped out by: urban sprawl in lowland temperate areas of southern BC; industrial and domestic pollution; defoliants, pesticides, other chemicals, and agricultural runoff; damaging consequences of B.C.'s increased fossil-fuel use; clearcut logging of the most productive forests remaining, including 'mature' and old-growth; fragmentation and disruption of integrity in previously-intact natural areas, from roads, driveways, powerlines, resource-development and infrastructure; widespread loss of vegetation cover, by industry, agriculture, individual landowners, causing declines in water quality and quantity in potable water-sheds; loss of rare, endangered plant species from unregulated ATVs, dirt-bikes and horse-riders; and over-harvesting of many wild species, from salmon and herring to cedar and Douglas fir.

Addressing these issues appropriately requires:

- Policies and legislation setting clear,

legally binding, ecosystem-based targets for protection, based on both science and Indigenous peoples' wisdom from deep familiarity with the land and species it supports;

- Committees that represent that wisdom as traditional ecological knowledge;
- Parallel scientific expertise, including the latest conservation biology, devising ecosystem-based targets that represent B.C.'s full ecosystem diversity, ensuring their persistence and endurance far into the future.

Those targets, sufficiently detailed to include all ecological communities, must take close account of distinctions of forest productivity, since previously all the most productive forests tended to be excluded from protection, to permit their exploitation by industry. Consequently, only a tiny percentage still stands of B.C.'s once-widespread mature and old-growth forests.

Legislation needs to ensure development of B.C. Protected Areas Strategy, with ecosystem-based targets as its basis, using B.C. Nature Agreement and Conservation Financing funds, and guiding expansion of conservation reserve network including old-growth management areas and wildlife habitat areas.

Protected areas only work as well as the degree of integrity accorded them by legislators, managers and staff, hopefully "in perpetuity," going forward. These issues matter deeply, recognized or not.

Society is realizing now that many sustained mistakes have brought the "human/nature" interaction and relationship so close to endangerment presently — possibly even actual collapse, as many fear. How many more unnoticed tipping points are left before such a climate/environmental collapse is inevitable? We don't know. Time is critical.

Consequently, if protection of this kind is to be successful, achieving the urgently needed results, legislation needs to be fully robust, detailed, serious in its intent and uncompromising. We've seen in the past how the best of intentions regarding conservation measures have been watered down, rendered largely ineffective, by the persuasive power upon the legislative process of those with deep pockets, through lobbyists and rarely-disclosed interests.

If the survival of both our ecosystems and, ultimately, our human society that depends

on them, is to triumph over the adversity those past mistakes and wrong choices have brought upon us, then we better make sure now that — this time — the legislation is better in every way, with greater integrity and far-sightedness, strong standards ... and too, with some teeth to see it defended through the opposition that may be thrown at it.

Example: the previous system of old-growth management areas shows clearly how loopholes get incorporated, enabling the timber industry to step around some provisions, using lobbyist pressure to switch one area with big trees for other areas with smaller trees; or else, as with wildlife habitat areas, logging is simply permitted to keep going regardless. Commercial logging should be clearly forbidden in any future designated Indigenous protected and conserved area. Cutting by First Nations of a single cedar for cultural purposes, such as dugout canoe, totem pole or longhouse construction, is not, of course, included in suggested restrictions.

Independent advisory committees of ecologists and traditional ecological knowledge holders will be needed to develop methodology of ecosystem targets, followed by specific targets for each ecosystem. Accountability and transparency must be assured in order to assess progress towards those overall and ecosystem-based protection targets. Policy implementation committees of policy and legal experts including First Nations should develop implementation plans on how BC can reach those targets. Independent audits of how well government is meeting these targets must occur and be publicly reported, and the province needs to develop plans to remedy any shortfalls.

As the Ancient Forest Alliance has stated: "If done well, the resulting legislation and policies of the Biodiversity and Ecosystem Health Framework would make B.C. a global leader in conservation — or it could be a squandered opportunity."

Please, quite sincerely, let us all contribute to making it be the very best it can be, without needless compromise.

The amazing and probably unparalleled biodiversity of this province of ours deserves no less than that.

For far too long, such an intentional care for our natural home has been missing. Now may be the last chance to achieve that.

Thank you everyone for your skill, hard work and attention to all the details on this important project.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



BLACK HISTORY MONTH

GISS initiative merges Black history and music

ArtSpring concert and high school events led by Marcus Moseley Trio

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring gets to celebrate Black History Month with a musical powerhouse thanks to the efforts of some Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) students.

The high school's Students for Racial Equity (SFRE) group has arranged for the Marcus Moseley Trio to visit the island on Feb. 20-21, with a presentation and workshop taking place at GISS, and the trio's *Songs of Freedom* concert at ArtSpring on Tuesday, Feb. 20 at 7:30 p.m. Proceeds from the ArtSpring event will help SFRE organize more activities.

Moseley and fellow musicians Bill Sample and Darlene Cooper have had long and distinguished music and choral careers.

The idea to mark Black History Month this way originated with SFRE member and Grade 12 student Cole Thompson. When he and peer Claire Whitelaw were members of the Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts program last year, they participated in a community-wide choral workshop led by Moseley and hosted by Viva Chorale! Choir. Thompson thought the workshop had broad educational value and was supported by other SFRE club members in proposing a visit by Moseley.

"I was thinking about how educational that workshop was on a few different levels, because obviously, there's the music aspect to it, but also just the history — all the meanings behind all of these songs, and the story of gospel in general, how that connects to the civil rights movement later on . . . it combines the music aspect along with the history, so it's combining a couple of things that people might be interested in," he said.

Whitelaw gave one example of a



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

From left are Abby Bouchard, Claire Whitelaw and Cole Thompson, three of the Students for Racial Equity group members who have worked on bringing the Marcus Moseley Trio to GISS and Salt Spring next week for a concert, presentation and workshop. A puzzle depicting slave trading routes made by Bouchard is in front of them on the table.

song's origins gleaned from last year's workshop. *Up Above My Head*, she explained, is about enslaved people who were hidden under floorboards in homes or in carriages as they were escaping. It refers to the singing heard above their heads while they were hiding, and also connects to angels singing in Heaven.

"So songs that we have heard out of context being put into context is really educational," she said.

The Marcus Moseley Trio will give a presentation to a crowd of 200 at GISS on Feb. 20. Then 60 students will spend additional time in a workshop where the songs they learn will be performed the next day for Salt Spring Elementary School students in what they're calling a *Songs of Hope* concert.

Whitelaw and Thompson stressed that youth participating in the workshop don't

need prior experience with music.

"The way [Moseley] teaches the songs is really accessible to people, because you don't need to know how to read music, and you don't need to have very much technique. You just need to listen to him and repeat back, basically," said Whitelaw.

Thompson added that "a lot of the specific gospel techniques are new to a lot of people even in choir, so a lot of what you're learning there is going to be new regardless, which kind of levels the playing in."

Abby Bouchard is a SFRE member whose Social Studies 8 class members will be among the 200 hearing the trio's presentation. Her class taught by Marla Renn did a deep dive into the history of the African slave trade this year, which Bouchard found super interesting.

"I think our Socials class this year was

LITERARY EVENT

Poetry and music at launch event

Celia and Karl Meade, Diana Hayes at the library this Saturday

SUBMITTED BY RAVEN CHAPBOOKS

Raven Chapbooks is sponsoring a triple book launch with music at the Salt Spring Public Library on Saturday, Feb. 17.

Beginning at 7 p.m., the event will feature readings by Salt Spring poets Diana Hayes, Celia Meade and Karl Meade interspersed with live music by Screech Owl, featuring acclaimed musician and filmmaker Ando Leuchter.

Hayes was born in Toronto and has lived on the east and west coasts of Canada. She received her BA (UVIC) and MFA (UBC) in Creative Writing and has seven published books of poetry. She is the publisher for Raven Chapbooks and has lived on Salt Spring Island since 1981. Hayes will read from her most recent book, *Sapphire and the Hollow Bone* (Ekstasis Editions), with poems that celebrate nature's resilience and the inherent potential of the human spirit to heal; poems that honour fam-

ily and the life cycles of our earthly habitat.

Celia Meade holds an MFA in Poetry from Sarah Lawrence College in New York and lives on Salt Spring Island. Her poetry, essays and stories have appeared in dozens of magazines. She will read from her debut, *Anatomy of the World*, a collection of poems about Meade's world, told through the anatomy of family life. The book reflects Meade's life as she grows older and her children enter adulthood and continue to evolve. Follow her on Instagram @poet_meade.

Karl Meade has been longlisted for five CBC Literary Prizes, shortlisted for Arc Poetry Magazine's Poem of the Year, and shortlisted for The Malahat Review's Open Season Creative Nonfiction Award. His work has appeared in dozens of magazines, including *Literary Review of Canada*, *Contemporary Verse 2*, *Grain* and *Fiddlehead*. He will read from his new poetry chapbook from Raven Chapbooks, called *doom eager*, an Icelandic term for the obsession that an artist experiences when caught by something they can't let go.

All three books are available from Salt Spring Books or through ravenchapbooks.ca.

really important and really got a lot heavier than the classes I had previously experienced. We really dove into the slave trade and enslaved peoples more than anything else we did . . . it was a lot of learning to do to take it to another level from the level that we were taught in elementary schools."

Bouchard's research project for that class was to make a wooden puzzle that showed the trans-Atlantic slave-trading routes.

Shari Hambrook is the teacher connected to the SFRE group. She is also excited about next week's activities, and notes that 40 vouchers for free tickets for the Moseley Trio concert have been made available for SD64 parents thanks to generous sponsorship from the District Parents' Advisory Council. However, voucher requests must be made and tickets acquired from the ArtSpring box office by 2 p.m. on Friday, Feb. 16. Typing "forms.office.com/r/HeDnvUmnPE" into a browser takes people to the applicable site. Concert tickets are otherwise available through ArtSpring.

Hambrook said the Salt Spring Historical Society and Archives is also contributing to events with a display about Black history on Salt Spring set up at both GISS and ArtSpring.

SFRE students also worked hard to submit a successful grant application to the Salt Spring Island Foundation. School District 64 has also supported the events.

SFRE originated in 2020 as an anti-racism collective in response to a racist incident that occurred at GISS. Thompson said the group is expanding activities to focus on education among the student populace.

The next GISS educational event is a school-wide "P is for Privilege" Zoom session offered by Montreal-based Overture With the Arts next month.



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ARTSPRING

Innovative direction with off-site Miller shows

The Stonehouse hosts intimate concert series next week

SUBMITTED BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

When ArtSpring launched its 2023/24 season in September, executive and artistic director Howard Jang described to audiences that ArtSpring, entering its 25th anniversary year, had a vision to be "not just a place, but an idea."

With that, the seed was planted that ArtSpring could evolve beyond being a physical building or a performance space, and into a creative mindset, a distinctive spark, or a branded experience that would see ArtSpring engagements in different locations, with differently sized audiences, new partners and even pushing boundaries through different technologies.

For the first time, ArtSpring is experimenting with a new concept to its traditional programming with a special five-day off-site series, hosted in a private residence for limited gatherings of only 25 people per show.

From Tuesday, Feb. 20 to Saturday, Feb. 24, Toronto-based singer and pianist Jane Miller, and Brian Quirt, artistic director of the Nightswimming theatre company, will host *These Are The Songs That I Sing When I'm Sad*, an intimate, interactive and ultimately joyous evening at The Stonehouse, a former B&B and remarkable Salt Spring property overlooking the ocean from on high. The Friday evening show is already sold out.

Part musicianship, part theatre, part conversation, *Sad Songs* explores the songs people turn to when they're sad; the songs they play to soothe their blues or



PHOTO BY MAX TELZEROW

Pianist-singer Jane Miller brings the profound and entertaining *These Are The Songs That I Sing When I'm Sad* production to Salt Spring from Feb. 20 to 24.

lift them up out of the depths.

From break-up songs to reflective melancholy, Miller sings and tells stories about songs that played a role in her own life and invites the audience to share the songs that they sing (or play or listen to) when they are sad. Those planning to attend may want to come with some favourites to contribute to an idea box of requests.

From Johnny Cash to James Taylor, Sinéad O'Connor to Joni Mitchell, The Smiths to U2 to Billy Holiday, each evening promises to be an evocative medley that connects to memories and the heart. After each performance, a playlist of songs performed or mentioned during the show is published online.

Sad Songs, despite its name, includes a good deal of laughter. It is a rare opportunity to hear a superb singer up close and personal as she delves into the link

between deep emotions and the musical elements that make sad songs so impactful and addictive.

Tickets are on sale at tickets.artspring.ca or at the box office, which is open Tuesday to Friday, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Please note that Theatre Angel tickets are not offered for this performance.

The Stonehouse is located at 641 Fulford-Ganges Rd.

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25th ANNIVERSARY



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25th ANNIVERSARY



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what's on this week

Wed.	Feb. 14	Fri.	Feb. 16	Sun.	Feb. 18	Wed.	Feb. 21
ACTIVITIES		ACTIVITIES		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT	
Bridge. In the Library Community Program Room. 12:45 to 4:15 p.m.		Neighbourhood Story Time. In the children's area. 11 to 11:30 a.m.		ArtSpring Presents: Ensemble Mirabilia. ArtSpring. 2:30 p.m.		ArtSpring Presents: These are the Songs I Sing When I'm Sad. See Tuesday listing.	
Swing Dancing. Every Wednesday at the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.		ASK Salt Spring. How to get funding for local community projects is the topic of this week's session in the TSS/Restorative Justice room at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Jazz Jam. Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.		Best of the Fests: Call Me Dancer. A SS Film Festival Society presentation at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.	
Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.		Youth Games & Chess Club. For ages 9 to 13. Library children's area. 1 to 4 p.m.		Mon.		ACTIVITIES	
Thur.	Feb. 15	Sat.	Feb. 17	Tues.	Feb. 19	CINEMA	
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		• Migration runs Fri., Feb. 16 & Sat., Feb. 17 at 7 p.m. and Sun., Feb. 18 at 3 p.m. The Colour Purple runs Sun., Feb. 18 to Tues., Feb. 20 at 7 p.m.	
Open Mic & Jam. Legion. 7:30 p.m.		ArtSpring Presents: The Buddy Holly Concert. 7:30 p.m.		The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Revue. A Family Day event sponsored by Salt Spring Arts at Mahon Hall. 2 p.m., with doors at 1 p.m. and crafts and treats.		ART EXHIBITIONS	
ACTIVITIES		Raven Chapbooks sponsors launch of works by Diana Hayes, Celia Meade and Karl Meade, with music. Library program room. 7 p.m.		Country Jam. With open mic. Legion. 6 p.m.		• Painter Elaine Potter's Nature Marks exhibition shows in the library program room through February.	
Mother Goose. For ages 0-4 years and their parents/caregivers. Salt Spring Public Library. 10 to 11 a.m.		Swing Dance With Swing Shift. At Fulford Hall. 7:30 p.m.		Marcus Moseley Trio: Songs of Freedom. Gulf Islands Secondary School Students for Racial Equity host The Marcus Moseley Trio for a Black History Month historic gospel concert and event. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.		• Impromptu, a multi-media, multi-artist show, is the February ArtSpring lobby show.	
SSI Local Community Commission Regular Meeting. SIMS Boardroom. 9 a.m.		Ashton Bachman. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.		ArtSpring Presents: These are the Songs I Sing When I'm Sad. Intimate concert with Jane Miller. The Stonehouse. 7:30 p.m.		• Painters Guild member Joy Fenske exhibits art in a variety of mediums at the Country Grocer coffee bar in February.	
SSI Local Trust Committee Meeting. Meaden Hall. 9:30 a.m.		ACTIVITIES		ACTIVITIES			
Fri.	Feb. 16	Seedy Saturday. Seed sales and swap, vendors, workshops and more. Farmers' Institute. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.		Sacred Poetry of Love. A Star of the Sea event with Brian Day at St. Mary's Church, Fulford. Bring a love poem to share or just come to listen and respond to poems brought by others. 7 to 8:30 p.m.		Marcus Moseley Trio	
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT		Swing Dance Workshop. Kat Single-Dain offers workshop at Fulford Hall. 3 to 5 p.m., in advance of evening dance.		Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.		Songs of Freedom concert	
ArtSpring Presents: The Buddy Holly Concert. 7:30 p.m.						Tuesday, Feb. 20, 7:30 p.m.	
John Reischman & the Jaybirds. All Saints by-the-Sea. 7:30 p.m.						ArtSpring	
Friday Nights With DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.							
Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.							

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MAHON HALL

Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Revue at Mahon Hall



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING ARTS

Puppets perform as part of The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Revue, coming to Mahon Hall Monday, Feb. 19.

Salt Spring Arts presents 10th annual Family Day event

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

For 10 years Salt Spring Arts has offered a vibrant creative community event at Mahon Hall for B.C. Family Day, inviting local families to spend the provincial holiday in celebration of the arts.

Over the decade, hundreds of Salt Spring kids and caregivers have enjoyed fun activities and theatrical performances featuring music and storytelling by exceptional B.C. acts.

For the event's 10th anniversary on Monday, Feb. 19, Vancouver-based theatre company The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Revue will take the stage, showcasing a dynamic performance. Doors will open at 1 p.m. to craft activities, face painting, photobooth pictures and more, followed by a 2 p.m. show. Be sure to arrive early as the event can be very popular and space is available on a first come first serve basis.

Audiences can expect the unexpected during The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Revue's quirky combo of live music, puppetry and swing and go-go dancing. With music led by Jack Garton and choreography by Kat Single-Dain, this is like a musical stuffed into a band, telling the story of alien mimes from another planet on a journey to discover music and dance. It's a family show for all ages.

Salt Spring Arts is committed to building and nurturing the creative capacity of our community, which is reflected in their free, accessible celebration of arts and culture. The annual event provides an opportunity for kids and caregivers to meaningfully

connect through hands-on activities and performing arts. Generous funders and community sponsors are thanked for their help in making this event possible.

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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

FEBRUARY 2024 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
14	118	1.5	4.9		247	3.2	10.5	
	810	3.5	11.5		646	3	9.8	
	1504	1.3	4.3		956	3.1	10.2	
	2127	2.6	8.5		1847	0.7	2.3	
15	201	2	6.6		342	3.3	10.8	
	834	3.5	11.5		906	3	9.8	
	1558	1	3.3		1046	3	9.8	
	2324	2.7	8.9		1943	0.7	2.3	
16	254	2.5	8.2		425	3.4	11.2	
	859	3.3	10.8		959	2.9	9.5	
	1652	0.8	2.6		1204	2.9	9.5	
	2234	2.7	8.9		2033	0.7	2.3	
17	126	2.9	9.5		593	3.4	11.2	
	445	2.8	9.2		1029	2.8	9.2	
	925	3.2	10.5		1318	2.9	9.5	
	1749	0.7	2.3		2118	0.7	2.3	

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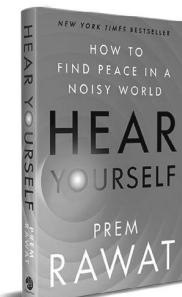
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FILM

'Call Me Dancer' final series film

Annual documentary festival runs March 1 to 3

BY STEVE MARTINDALE
FOR SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

The Salt Spring Film Festival wraps up this season's very popular "Best of the Fests" film series with the joyfully celebratory documentary *Call Me Dancer* at ArtSpring on Wednesday, Feb. 21, just a week prior to the annual documentary film festival, which runs from March 1 to 3 at Gulf Islands Secondary School.

A naturally talented self-taught street acrobat, Manish Chauhan dreams of one day becoming a professional dancer on the world stage, but seemingly insurmountable odds are stacked against him. Both his father and grandfather are taxi drivers, and Manish is expected to follow a traditional path, as his hardworking parents are relying on their son's future financial support in their retirement years.

"Dancing is a hobby for rich kids," his father tells him, dismissing Manish's

impractical dream. Other than his beloved grandmother — who encourages him to follow his heart — Manish's extended family criticizes his parents, shaming them because Manish is unemployed and seems to want to do nothing more than waste his time dancing.

Dreaming of an unlikely future and struggling to break free from the confines of his economic and social circumstances, Manish doesn't tell his parents that he has secretly dropped out of school and used the tuition to pay for classes at Mumbai's DanceWorx, an inner-city performing arts academy.

In this classic Horatio Alger story of a determined young man without means who makes a success of himself with the help of a benevolent older mentor, Manish has the good fortune to cross paths with the curmudgeonly Yehuda Maor, a self-exiled Israeli dance instructor. Recognizing the young man's potential, Yehuda encourages a rivalry between Manish and adolescent ballet prodigy Amiruddin Shah.

Disadvantaged by a late start to ballet,

Manish is instead directed to try his hand at modern dance at the Kibbutz Contemporary Dance Company in Israel, while Amir is fast-tracked to the Royal Ballet School in London. Nothing can stand in the way of Manish realizing his dream, however, which he pursues — despite repeated setbacks — all the way to the bright lights of Broadway. Filmed in India, the U.K., Israel and the U.S., this family-friendly crowd-pleaser is co-directed by Pip Gilmour and former professional dancer Leslie Shampaine, who provides an insider's perspective on the passion that drives dancers past the pain in order to achieve greatness.

A story of hope, heartache and hard work, *Call Me Dancer* has received accolades and standing ovations at film festivals around the world, including the Vancouver International Film Festival, where it won an audience award in October.

Co-presented by Dance Your Ability, tickets to *Call Me Dancer* are \$13 each and available via the ArtSpring box office, where full film festival passes are also available for advance purchase.

LIVE MUSIC

Dance workshop set before Fulford concert

Swing Shift plays for both events

Islanders have a chance to beat the winter blahs by joining Swing Shift members and Kat Single-Dain for an afternoon and night of swing dancing this Saturday, Feb. 17.

Single-Dain, who is from Vancouver, will offer a swing-dance workshop (with Swing Shift as the house band) at Fulford Hall in the afternoon from 3 to 5 p.m. A dance at the hall in the evening, beginning at 7:30 p.m., will give workshop participants a chance to try out their new skills.

People can come to just the workshop, just the dance, or both. No prior experience is necessary, say organizers, "just a willingness to have fun."

"Kat absolutely loves teaching swing, especially to newcomers, and is the host of Vancouver's only weekly live band swing

dance, The Swing Out."

Salt Spring's Swing Shift band will be playing classic swing favourites and more.

Cost is \$25 for the workshop, \$25 for the dance, or \$40 for both. Tickets are cash only at Mondo Trading Company or at the door.

Single-Dain is also an award-winning filmmaker, critically acclaimed performer and writer/director/choreographer of five full-length, original musical theatre productions, including the Jesse-nominated *Hard Times Hit Parade*, an immersive musical set in a 1933 dance marathon, and the most recent *Disco Inferno*. She is also the artistic director of The Dusty Flowerpot Cabaret Society, named one of "Vancouver's best kept secrets" by the CBC. The Flowerpot crew will also be performing at Salt Spring Arts' Family Day event on the afternoon of Feb. 19.

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Coming Events

Coming Events

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SALT SPRING HOSPICE SOCIETY

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday, February 27, 2024 @ 7pm
(doors open at 6:30pm)Salt Spring Senior Centre - 379 Lower Ganges Rd
(across from Country Grocer)

This meeting is open to the public. Members only will be able to vote (membership fee is \$10). To purchase a membership please contact the office. **email:** office@saltspingshospice.org **phone:** (250) 537-2770

Coming Events

Building Materials

ONLINE AUCTION on Tues, Feb 20, 2024 - 400 PLUS LOTS OF RESTAURANT & BAKERY EQUIPMENT, BAILIFF SEIZED GOODS PLUS OTHERS. Lots incl. Rational Roll In Rack Ovens, Hobart 60 Quart Mixer, Freezers, Coolers, Slicers, Combi Ovens, Kettles, Proofers, Ice Machines, Coffee Equip, Stainless Steel Equip., Spiral Mixers, Dough Dividers & More! **VIEW IN PERSON** at 909 Foothills Road, Chase, BC. **VIEW LOTS, REGISTER & BID ONLINE** at WWW.ACTIVEAUCTIONMART.COM - Questions about lots call 778-838-2645 or email buyit@activeauctionmart.com. **NOW OPEN FOR BIDDING!!**


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LOOKING AHEAD

Get retirement plans in order this year

Expert advice invaluable for making important decisions

Whether you're just starting out in the job market or you're approaching the end of your career, it's never too late or too early to plan for your retirement. Make this the year you get those plans in order. Here are four things to consider.

Full stop or semi-retirement?

For some of us, one of the joys of retirement is that it means you'll never have to work again. Others plan to continue working part-time or seasonally to keep themselves active or to bring in some extra income. If your goal is to stop working completely, you'll need to make sure you have enough investments to fund the lifestyle you seek for as long as you're alive. An investment planner can help you determine how much money you'll need for the retirement of your dreams.

Downsize or age in place?

For many of us, our homes are our biggest investment. As such, some homeowners have it in the back of their minds to downsize when they retire and use the proceeds from the sale to help fund their retirement. But older Canadians are increasingly opting to "age in place" in the home where they lived or raised their family. If that's what you plan on doing, there may be options to draw on the equity of the home without selling. A financial advisor can walk you through your choices.

Diversify your investments

Fewer and fewer jobs come with pensions that can fully — or mostly — fund a

retirement. As a result, people increasingly need to invest for their retirement on their own. The most common option is to invest in a Registered Retirement Savings Plan, or RRSP. But note that any funds withdrawn from an RRSP are considered taxable income for that year.

With a Tax-Free Savings Account, or TFSA, any earnings on your investments are non-taxable, so you don't have to pay any taxes when you withdraw them.

Other options include investing in the stock market or real estate, both of which come with risk and potentially significant returns. Do your research to decide what options are best for you.

Reap the rewards of your working years

If you can think back to your first-ever paycheque, it was probably a bit of a shock to see how much money was deducted for various taxes.

The good news is that once you retire, you benefit from many of the programs that that money helped fund. This includes Old Age Security, a monthly payment you'll start to receive once you turn 65.

Another is the Canada Pension Plan. CPP Investments, the professional investment management organization that manages the fund, recently reported a 10-year annualized return of 9.6 per cent, growing the fund to a total of \$576 billion.

CPP Investments was the best-performing pension fund in the world from 2013 to 2022, according to Global SWF, and an independent review concluded the plan is sustainable for at least 75 years at current funding rates.

Find out more at the cppinvestments.com website.

Article provided by newscanada.com.



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FINANCIAL PLANNING

Moving from fear to confidence

Anticipating life's changes

BY VIOLA VANDERUYT
 CIM, FCSI - WEALTH ADVISOR

Many investors have questions about what is ahead in 2024. When you combine those questions with a 24-hour news cycle and a crisis such as loss of a spouse, it typically causes three big worries.

#1 - Will I run out of money (and become a "bag lady")?

#2 - Will I have to change my lifestyle?

#3 - How can I make sure I make wise decisions?

These are the fears that we address with the women and couples we work with. But before even looking at what is happening in the markets and economy it's important to ensure you know what assets you have and what is important to you.

• Do you know what you need to pay for your basic living expenses?

• Do you know how much your preferred lifestyle costs?

• Do you know what all your assets are?

While these questions may seem basic, in the throws of a crisis, combined with negative daily news, it can feel overwhelming and paralyzing.

It may also be difficult to calculate an answer to these questions if you have had a busy professional career where there was always a paycheque, or if you have been busy raising a family and not part of those discussions.

During these times of crisis, it is important for you to feel that you have a financial professional who will help you not only navigate the complexities of your assets but most importantly help you define what your needs and priorities are.

These priorities may be different from your spouse's or the priorities you had as a couple — and that's OK.

While it can feel overwhelming, your trusted Wealth Advisor can help you find answers to these questions and find solutions for your fears.

That's why I do what I do.

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

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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ISLAND LIFE

AGRICULTURE

Seedy Saturday ready for growing excitement

Seed swap, sales, panel, workshops and more

SUBMITTED BY ISLAND NATURAL GROWERS

Island Natural Growers is proud to present the 29th annual Salt Spring Seedy Saturday. Join us Saturday, Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Farmers' Institute.

Entry is by donation. This seasonal community event is a great opportunity to meet fellow gardeners, pick up some locally grown seeds and plants, and learn from your neighbours.

There will be seed producers, fruit tree growers, beekeepers, community groups and more from Salt Spring and surrounding islands. The heart of the event is always our seed swap table. There will also be a free educational series held during the afternoon, featuring talks and demonstrations. Coffee and food vendors will be there with some delicious offerings to snack on through the day.

We will have more educational opportunities on Sunday, Feb. 18 from 1 to 3:30 p.m., again at the Farmers' Institute. A farmer-to-farmer panel discussion will include topics such as adapting to climate change and unpredictable weather, and the viability of



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO
Island Natural Growers' Anne Macey welcomes visitors to last year's Seedy Saturday event.

small-scale farming and tips for financial success.

Join us for conversations about overcoming the challenges facing farmers on Salt Spring, whether it's drought, heat or high costs of production. You don't have to be a farmer to participate and you can gain valuable insight from experienced growers. Panelists will include growers from Duck Creek Farm, Bright Farm, Ruckle Heritage Farm and Chorus Frog Farm. Entry to this event is by donation, with a suggested amount of \$5.

WELLNESS

Local trauma film premieres

Understanding Trauma
at The Fritz on Feb. 24

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A mental health practitioner on Salt Spring Island is sharing a creative offering, one she hopes will help remove the confusion and stigma around the physical, emotional and social impacts of trauma.

Understanding Trauma is a new documentary film produced by registered clinical counsellor Teresa Waters, in collaboration with videographer and editor Bill Warriner, premiering at The Fritz theatre. Waters said the film — through touching images, stories, music and simplified educational explanations, sensitively addresses a complex topic.

"I wanted to produce something for anybody," said Waters, "whether they were a counsellor, or somebody that has trauma, somebody that's in Japan or the United States or Canada or Mexico — they could watch it, and get a feeling inside for what trauma is, why somebody gets trauma, and what happens in the physiology of people who are vulnerable to it."

The awareness-building work attempts to condense decades of study, hundreds of books and trainings and her own journey with PTSD and working with people with trauma, according to Waters — an admittedly "big journey," she said.

"It's not meant to sensationalize," said Waters. "It's really meant to help people have compassion for themselves and others. That's



TERESA
WATERS

the goal."

The storytelling throughout the documentary is narrated by several Salt Spring actors — Waters said she reached out to islanders she knew were involved in theatre, and was delighted with peoples' willingness to take part. And with Warriner's "incredible" skills with the camera and editing, she was pleased to see how well the messages of understanding, compassion, self-kindness and hope are delivered on the big screen.

Waters said people often think their emotional reactivity in some situations is simply about that moment, rather than considering how past trauma might have led them there; a moment can abruptly awaken a memory, she said — and the nervous system reacts as if it's being re-lived.

"When people understand there's physiology, it normalizes the experience," said Waters, "and compassion comes in through that, too."

Rather than thinking of that reaction as a character defect, Waters said, she hopes the film will help people understand some of what happens "in the wiring" — and that change is possible.

"My theory is, once we understand, we can be aware; and once we're aware, we can start to be curious," said Waters. "Once we're curious, we can start to be compassionate."

Understanding Trauma will be shown at 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, with a suggested donation of \$15 to support distribution efforts.



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).