

inside:



2 Bridge construction to prevent future flooding



8 Music from the '60s at BackBeat concert

Arts and Entertainment.....	8
Classifieds.....	10
Editorial .....	4
Island Life .....	11
Letters.....	5
What's On.....	9

- INSERTS:**
- Country Grocer
  - The Local Liquor St.
  - Pharmasave
  - Thrifty Foods

**BEDDIS ROAD GARAGE**  
Repairs to all makes & models  
181A BEDDIS ROAD  
250-537-4122

**GROW YOUR COMMUNITY**  
*Buy Local*



# Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,  
March 13, 2024

64th year  
Issue 11  
**\$1.50**

Your Community Newspaper Since 1960 • gulfislandsdriftwood.com • 250.537.9933



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

**PICKING THE WINNERS:** From left, Adam Geddes of Windsor Plywood Salt Spring and Julian Diggins of JAKD Construction, select the draw prize winners of gothic arch greenhouses made by Diggins' company as displayed at the March 9-10 Home & Garden Show presented by Windsor Plywood at the Farmers' Institute. Carrie Smart won the deck-top greenhouse, Joyce Upex the eight-foot greenhouse model, and John Charlton a third model. David Roland won the grand prize of a Tigh-Na-Mara resort trip; Peter Court won the \$1,000 Windsor shopping spree prize, and Sarah Grindler won tickets to a Canucks versus Flames NHL hockey game. The show also raised \$2,000 for Gulf Islands Secondary School athletics through a 50/50 draw. For more photos from the event, see page 12.

## HOUSING

# Trustees halt ADU plans

LTC hopes to meet with Tsawout Nation leadership

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Land use officials have shelved their latest proposal for permitting accessory dwelling units (ADUs) on Salt Spring Island, putting that housing initiative on the back burner and focusing first on improving their relationship with First Nations leadership.

The deferral of proposed Bylaw 537 came Thursday, March 7, as the initiative was returned to the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) for adoption, after a Feb. 28 approval by the Islands Trust Executive Committee (EC).

The measure had been read three times in a single LTC meeting in late January and seemed poised to be adopted swiftly; trustees instead have pumped the brakes, citing a Feb. 2 letter to the EC from Tsawout First Nation Chief Abraham Pelkey expressing Tsawout's "deep concern and continuing opposition" to the bylaw, as well as frustration with the process — saying they were not consulted or even informed that the January meeting was taking place, nor given time to express opposition before it happened.

"The Salt Spring LTC lobbied us through much of last summer and fall, months after presenting a version of Bylaw 530 that was almost the same as Bylaw 537, and which we could not support," wrote Pelkey. "They then told us they would sponsor a potlatch to build a relationship for reconciliation, but never did so."

At the LTC meeting March 7, trustees worried a miscommunication during what they understood to be an informal, broad-ranging meeting with Tsawout representatives had led to a sense that a promise had been broken. Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick said the meeting where the idea of a potlatch came up was itself borne out of discussions Trust Council had in June, when Ministry of Municipal Affairs reps spoke about the importance of crafting relationships with First Nations leadership.

In that spirit, and as an "individual trustee," Patrick said, she had sent a letter to Pelkey to congratulate him on his election, introducing herself, and requesting a general meeting to discuss working together in the future.

BYLAW 537 continued on 3

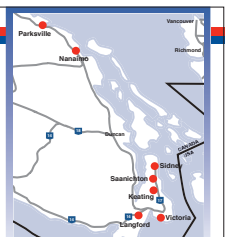
**BOYD**  
AUTOBODY & GLASS

Visit us at one of our **7**  
**ISLAND LOCATIONS!**

including the new  
**BOYD AUTOBODY & GLASS**  
**COMMERCIAL & FLEET DIVISION**  
(6722 Betram Pl, Saanichton, BC)

**PARKSVILLE** 531 STANFORD AVE E #1A  
**KEATING** 25-6809 KIRKPATRICK CR  
**SIDNEY** 103-2031 MALAVIEW AVE  
**NANAIMO** 624 COMOX RD  
**VICTORIA** 540 JOHN ST  
**LANGFORD** 2663 SOOKE RD  
**SAANICHTON** 6722 BERTRAM PL

boydautobody.com





## CLIMATE RESILIENCE

# Blackburn area bridge construction planned

MoTI improvements should prevent repeat of atmospheric river damage

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Construction is set to begin this summer addressing the “undersized and fatigued” culverts that allow Cusheon Creek to flow beneath Fulford-Ganges Road at the so-called Blackburn bridge — increasing climate resiliency at a spot where water topped the roadway during the November 2021 atmospheric river event.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) discharged parts of a conservation covenant and right-of-way agreement Thursday, March 7, clearing the way for the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) to proceed with road improvements that would have encroached upon a 10-metre setback from the natural boundary of Cusheon Creek.

Cusheon Creek is protected in part because it supports a population of coho salmon and sea-run cutthroat trout, according to the 2006 conservation agreement, and is the third largest fish-bearing stream in the Southern Gulf Islands.

But with approval to proceed from Fisheries and Oceans Canada — thanks in part to a design that provides improved



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

“Road closed” sign and equipment at site of flooding and damage on Fulford-Ganges Road near Blackburn Lake and Cusheon Creek from the November 2021 atmospheric river event.

fish passage and “restores a more natural stream environment,” according to planning documents — trustees agreed with staff recommendations and supported the planned work, which includes roadway and shoulder improvements at 1001 Fulford-Ganges Rd.

“They will be following stringent requirements for works in

and about a stream,” said planner Charly Caproff. “And this is a net benefit for the community; we don’t want to see wash-out of Fulford-Ganges Road, and we want to be prepared for future atmospheric rivers.”

Indeed, according to the project manager referenced in Caproff’s report, the next “significant weather event” could result in a complete failure of the road, which had been fully closed for several days in 2021 as the road shoulder was washed out.

“They’re actually building a bridge, not just a culvert,” said trustee Laura Patrick, as the LTC passed a resolution approving the discharge and requesting MoTI provide final plans when available. “So it’s pretty cool.”

The restrictive covenant and statutory right-of-way agreement was registered on the title for the residential lot at the time of its original subdivision, to protect the riparian area and hydrology of Cusheon Creek and Cusheon Lake; the rest of that property is still subject to those conditions, staff noted.

MoTI is planning for construction to continue into the fall, according to Caproff. Islanders will soon be able to follow progress for this and other planned Salt Spring Island road projects — including a potential summer start to Ganges Hill work between Seaview Avenue and Cranberry Road — by visiting MoTI’s Transportation and infrastructure projects website at [www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation-projects](http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation-projects).

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Local Trust staff prep to renovate, rent downtown

Leasing option advanced over building purchase

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With a new location yet to be formally revealed, Salt Spring should nevertheless expect to see a little less of Islands Trust staff over the coming months at their Lower Ganges Road address, as that office is shuttered one day per week due to lack of staff.

“With the coming staff shortage, and the upcoming move, there’s quite a bit of work that we have to do in the office,” said regional planning manager Chris Hutton, who notified Salt Spring’s Local Trust Committee (LTC) Thursday, March 7 that the office would be closed to the public on Wednesdays starting March 13.

But despite no official announcement, and as Islands Trust Council meets this week in Nanaimo, there are strong indications the plan is to lease a new “home base” at a specific downtown Ganges location, seemingly shelving what had been an extraordinary recent consideration: investing in Salt Spring Island real estate.

This past summer, BC Hydro — which owns the building currently being used by Trust staff on Lower Ganges Road — gave notice it would not renew that lease. Facing a limited

selection of available commercial properties on Salt Spring that would meet its needs — and with the high (and unrecoverable) renovation costs associated with what was available — some trustees had suggested it might be time to buy, not rent.

So for the first time, at the request of trustees, staff presented a business case that included ramifications of purchasing a property — and indeed, according to that document, staff had been instructed to “pursue the steps necessary to consider” placing a backup offer on a building in Ganges that already had an approved offer of purchase, subject to conditions.

The Islands Trust has never purchased property or buildings, according to the report.

The asking price was \$825,000 for an unnamed office building, according to the business case, which noted there would be additional costs required for inspection. And if the offer expired at the end of March without the first-position buyer’s conditions being met, the Islands Trust could still be next in line. An extensive report outlining costs, how to pay for it, and whether it would serve the interests of islanders was laid out for the Financial Planning Committee earlier this month, received by the Executive Committee Wednesday, Feb. 28, and forwarded for inclusion in this week’s Islands Trust Council quarterly meeting agenda.

The fulsome report showed options to

fund such a purchase through new borrowing were limited, leaving existing general revenue surplus funds — or the creation of a new capital reserve fund — as the most feasible route. Based on a number of early-stage assumptions, staff suggested the expected annual lease costs of \$65,000 could be repurposed to repay a depleted surplus fund over time. A “very basic comparison” of leasing and buying suggested building ownership over a long enough term was more beneficial than leasing.

That said, given the potential for a long-term disruption of services for a still-uncertain purchase process, staff recommended sticking with a leasing plan; indeed, with no clear political support for purchasing, there seemed to be no one officially steering the project in a new direction.

“No committee has expressed support for any action, or change in action regarding the tenure of an office on Salt Spring Island,” read the business case. “Only individual trustees have been encouraging exploring purchasing as an option.”

The Islands Trust sent an official announcement shortly after the LTC meeting on the coming Wednesday closures, specifically noting it was due in part to “an office relocation to a more accessible location.” That language suggests staff are finalizing a deal on a lease site so far only referred to as “Site 2” in planning documents — which, staff have

said, would “demonstrate a commitment to an increased level of access and service to the public” if selected.

Site 2, according to a staff report, is “downtown and very close to the existing Capital Regional District office,” referring to that agency’s McPhillips Avenue location.

Renovation costs at Site 2, according to staff, reflect a likely need for an HVAC system upgrade, as the current system that supports other units in the building is not connected to the portion under consideration. The business case summary being presented to Trust Council estimates \$210,000 and 450 estimated staff hours will be required for the relocation.

In the meantime, even presuming the Trust Council advances the lease option, staff are planning for the possibility there might be an extended period without a “home base” on Salt Spring. According to a planning services report, staff are anticipating the Salt Spring Island community will be “without in person service for an undetermined amount of time,” noting that equipment and furniture will need to be stored offsite — and staff work locations determined.

The Trust’s human resources team noted in a Feb. 22 report the upcoming relocation could disrupt the staff work environment, “particularly if staff are displaced from their headquarters for a significant length of time.”

## Celebrate Spring & Saint Patrick's Day ALL WEEKEND! Friday-Sunday March 17<sup>th</sup>



with former Irish Rover  
**Will Millar**  
A Roving Irishman's  
Life in Art  
**Gallery 8**

Join us at the opening reception  
with music by Will Millar  
March 15<sup>th</sup> • 5pm to 8pm

Show Runs March 15<sup>th</sup> - March 24<sup>th</sup>, 2024

Grace Point Square, 3104-115 Fulford-Ganges Road  
250-537-8822 • [gallery8ssi@gmail.com](mailto:gallery8ssi@gmail.com) • [gallery8saltspring.com](http://gallery8saltspring.com)

## LOCAL ELECTIONS

# Water and fire elections set

Six candidates step up for four available positions on two improvement district boards

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Governance for Salt Spring's two largest improvement districts will see changes this spring, as candidates have been nominated and an election set for trustee positions with both the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) and the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD).

Three nominations for two trustee positions on the fire district's board triggered election plans there, according to SSIFPD staff. Rob Oliver (incumbent), Dennis Lucarelli and Jenny McClean were successfully nominated. That election will be held April 27, with trustees beginning a three-year term.

At NSSWD, three nominees will also vie for two seats on the water district's board at an election set for May 2; both positions there are also for three-year terms, according to that district's staff, who announced incumbents

bent Brian Pyper, with Bryce Chapman and David Courtney, are all seeking office.

SSIFPD trustee Wynona Cook and NSSWD trustee Chris Dixon will not be seeking further terms.

For the fire district, voting will take place by both mail-in ballot and in person; mail-in ballots will be sent out March 26 and must be received at the fire hall in Ganges — 105 Lower Ganges Rd. — by 4 p.m., Thursday, April 25. Advance in-person voting will be held 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday, April 24 at the fire hall, with regular voting at the same time and place Saturday, April 27.

Similarly, in the NSSWD election, voters can participate in an advance mail-in ballot process or an in-person voting process; voting packages and instructions will be mailed to all eligible voters on March 22, and ballots must be received at the district office — 761 Upper Ganges Rd. — by 4:30 p.m. April 30. In person voting on May 2 will begin at the Community Gospel Chapel at 2 p.m. and end at 6 p.m.

NSSWD's AGM will begin as soon as voting closes. The fire district's AGM will be held at the fire hall 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 29. A link to those meetings, for those interested in attending online, will be available closer to the dates at [northsaltspringwaterworks.ca](http://northsaltspringwaterworks.ca) and [saltspringfire.com](http://saltspringfire.com).

## NUMBERS DON'T LIE

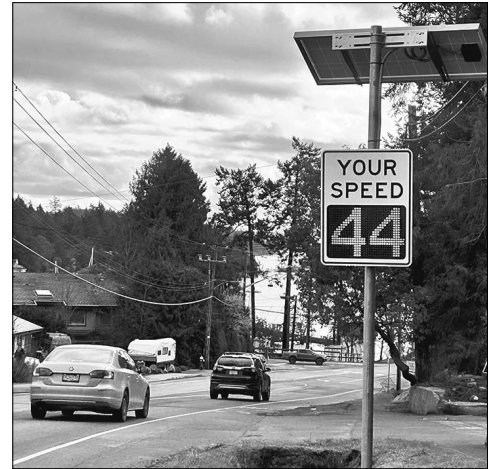


PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

One of three new Salt Spring Island speed reader signs in action on Lower Ganges Road before the intersection with Upper Ganges Road. The other two are on North End Road by St. Mary Lake and on Cusheon Lake Road.

# Meeting misconstrued

## BYLAW 537

continued from 1

The resulting gathering was not specifically about the ADU bylaw or any other policy, Patrick said; further, her recollection was that while everyone present supported a suggestion made "to host a feast with all 13 First Nations," at the time it was left for future planning.

Regional planning manager Chris Hutton said Islands Trust staff did continue the conversation around what that feast would look like, and were working to get "some sort of buy-in from Tsawout staff that there was a desire to proceed."

"Had that been an avenue [everyone] wanted to pursue, that would have come back to the LTC," said Hutton. "The understanding on the part of the Islands Trust was that this feast was not surrounding Bylaw 530, it was around our overall engagement and relationship-building."

Hutton pointed out the Islands Trust recently received a \$150,000 grant for First Nations relationship efforts — some of which could likely be allocated for a potlatch.

"Often, we are misunderstood," said Thetis Island trustee Peter Luckham, who was acting as LTC chair March 7. "There is a misunderstanding here, and we need to resolve that misunderstanding."

Luckham expressed further concern that the letter suggested Pelkey's interpretation was that the EC, which he chairs, "approved" the bylaw — a characterization he worried would cause "further offence," as EC was in receipt of Pelkey's letter when they acted.

"We don't 'approve' it," said Luckham. "It's just another check mark on that journey. It comes back [to LTC] and ultimately, we can decide today to proceed no further."

That distinction is subtle; the motion, made on Feb. 28 by Lasqueti Island trustee Tim Peterson and carried unanimously by the EC, was indeed that the committee "approve Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee Bylaw No. 537." EC approval does not put a bylaw into force, but it is the final procedural hurdle before an LTC may adopt it.

"And I think [the potlatch plan] probably was a kernel, a seed of an idea more than it was a formalized proposition," said Luckham. "I don't think we got to a place where there was a decision being made, or necessarily even an invitation."

Luckham, who was not at the Tsawout

meeting in question, said he had heard about the potlatch proposal — and remembered thinking it was a great idea, but that it was not developed any further.

"Clearly there was hurt here, for want of a better term," he continued. "There was something of an idea that was put forward and we haven't followed through with that, and we can take responsibility, I think. So let's fix it."

Patrick agreed, despite saying she was "inclined" to adopt Bylaw 537, as the 369 properties it would affect already have permission for a secondary suite.

"This is not an increase in density," said Patrick, addressing what had been a concern expressed by Tsawout representatives in the past, as they have the only reserve on Salt Spring Island at Fulford. "I was in favour of moving quickly with this version of the bylaw, because I believe the community was tired of hearing us talk about accessory dwelling units, and we had more important work to get to."

But, she said, trustees should have done a better job.

"We should have sat down, government to government, with First Nations," said Patrick. "We are on a journey of learning and relationship-building, and it is a journey that's fraught with bumps and potholes. But we should've."

Trustee Jamie Harris repeatedly emphasized that he was not himself part of any meeting or promise to hold a potlatch.

"That letter is of great concern. Chief Pelkey is concerned," said Harris. "Until the record is set straight, I am not in any way, shape or form able to support adoption of the bylaw at this time."

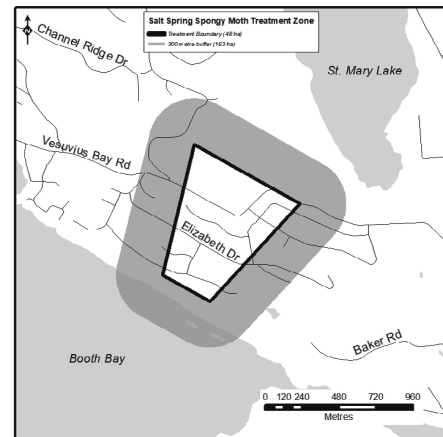
Trustees agreed to hold off on adoption of Bylaw 537, and by resolution directed staff to schedule a meeting between the LTC and Tsawout First Nation leadership.

Bylaw 537 would add a new map to Salt Spring Island's planning documents, indicating where ADUs would be allowed — essentially everywhere secondary suites are already permitted, except for lands subject to excessive saltwater intrusion and those subject to the existing moratorium on new connections within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's service area. Salt Spring's LTC has asked staff to develop a streamlined spot-zoning "pilot project" to allow residents request their properties be added to the map.

## ISSUANCE OF PESTICIDE USE PERMIT

### PERMIT NO. [738-0038-24-24]

Permit Holder: Minister of Forests, Government of British Columbia  
PO Box 9049 Stn Prov Govt, Victoria, B.C. V8W 9E2. Phone: 1 866 917-5999



The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy has issued the Ministry of Forests a permit to use Btk (*Bacillus thuringiensis* var. *Kurstaki*), commercial formulation Foray 48B, to eradicate an establishing spongy moth (*Lymantria dispar*; formerly referred to as gypsy moth) population in a 48-hectare parcel on Salt Spring Island near Vesuvius (see map). Btk has been approved for the control of spongy moth larvae in Canada since 1961.

Three aerial applications are planned between April 15 and June 30, 2024. Each treatment application will take up to two mornings to complete, unless interrupted by poor weather, and will be conducted between sunrise and 7:30 a.m. Treatment dates are weather dependent and will be advertised with lawn and highway signs prior to each application.

A copy of the permit and map can be viewed online, at: [gov.bc.ca/spongymoth-news](http://gov.bc.ca/spongymoth-news)

For more information on the program and spray dates, please visit [gov.bc.ca/spongymoth](http://gov.bc.ca/spongymoth) or contact the Ministry of Forests, toll free at: 1 866 917-5999. Multilingual health information is available through HealthLink BC by calling 811.



# 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



## Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by  
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



Nancy Johnson  
PUBLISHER

nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Gail Sjuberg  
MANAGING EDITOR

gail.sjuberg@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Robb Magley  
REPORTER

robb.magley@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Bryan McCrae  
ART DIRECTOR

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Robert McTavish  
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

production@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Chris Anderson  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com



Jane Gartrell  
OFFICE ASSISTANT

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

### EDITORIAL

## Getting it right

This week's issue of the Driftwood could potentially have presented one last story about a bylaw to allow accessory dwelling units on some Salt Spring properties.

After Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) Bylaw 537 received three readings on Jan. 22 and the Islands Trust's Executive Committee (EC) passed a motion approving the bylaw at its Feb. 28 meeting, the only thing left was for the LTC to give it fourth reading and adopt it on Thursday, March 7.

However, after absorbing a scathing letter sent by Tsawout First Nation Chief Abraham Pelkey to the EC denouncing the complete lack of engagement with his nation about the bylaw, the Salt Spring LTC decided to put Bylaw 537 on hold until further conversations could be held between the Trust and Tsawout.

This isn't the first time we've seen Salt Spring land use matters tripped up by alleged lack of engagement with First Nations in recent years, so it's disappointing to see the same situation arise once again. Each time, the Trust declares it must do better at ensuring First Nations are engaged in the planning process, if not involved in a hands-on way, while clarifying that First Nations do not have veto power over local bylaws. But how to ensure an adequate amount of discussion and consultation happens in a satisfactory way seems to elude the Trust when the rubber hits the road.

On this occasion, perhaps, the province can bear some responsibility. It was likely the province's "more housing faster" policy path that encouraged the LTC to take the no-referrals-required route when it crafted Bylaw 537 from the rubble of the Bylaw 530 process. That tool still sits on the books, even though taking shortcuts when it comes to public engagement doesn't reflect B.C.'s other current policy emphasis: the importance of consulting with First Nations on all matters.

Whatever the reason for the Salt Spring LTC acting as if the Tsawout didn't need to be engaged on the Bylaw 537 process, they and the Trust as a whole need to work with the region's First Nations to create some solid, mutually agreed-upon and practical policies for addressing future projects and bylaws.



## Community has changed

BY JAIME HALAN-HARRIS

I moved to Salt Spring Island 16 years ago.

What attracted me so much to the Island was how kind everyone was to everyone regardless of status, including how the whole community held the homeless carefully and with love and compassion, as it should be. Back then, and for years, the homeless population were mostly young adults and elderly who had experienced severe trauma in their lives.

Back then, due to the community's care and compassion, we didn't find young people overdosed on fentanyl. We also didn't have parents with children sleeping in their cars or RVs on the side of the road, or worse, in tents in the forest so as to feel safe from being attacked.

Back then, we didn't have RVs shot at or blown up or set on fire regardless of knowing who was in them.

Back then, it would have been unheard of to evict a single mom with three young children in winter.

Back then, we wouldn't have so many rescue dogs that need homes and people would have supported a rescue without any other funding that housed and fed said dogs. Due to Covid, all rescue operations, including ours, are full.

Back then, we would be supported and appreciated for all that we do for the community and have done free for everyone and with care for many years.

Today, we have families with children homeless, youth dying of fentanyl, RVs destroyed, people told they cannot have

### VIEWPOINT

**Today, our community does not look the same, nor does it treat people equally like it did in the past.**

roosters, and our rescue — Saltydog Retreat Kennel and Rescue — being told all dogs must be gone within 60 days. Today, our community does not look the same, nor does it treat people equally like it did in the past.

Today, even though we hired an engineer and biologist to make sure we are protecting the water, people continue to try to close and remove the kennel, which means a drastic end for some of the rescued dogs if we do not stay open. We are not closing. If needed, we will move the kennel up to the spot on the property where the zoning is Rural, which allows the kennel, but we are not closing.

Today, we are fined \$4,000 for keeping families, youth, war veterans and children safe and housed with a feeling of community — the community feeling that attracted me here 16 years ago.

Today, even though I paid a planner, a surveyor, a draftsman and an engineer to complete my application to amend the official community plan and rezone — within seven days my application was sent back to me with a long list of things to do. Two days after that I received all the fines.

Today, I am doing said list with the help of a planner, engineer and biologist, and sending my application back in.

Why? Because dogs deserve a safe place, as do people.

*The writer operates Saltydog Retreat Kennel and Rescue on Blackburn Road.*

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933  
Email: driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com | Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon Friday.  
SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:  
Print Edition: \$65 | Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00  
Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST

Driftwood

Funded by the  
Government  
of Canada

Canada

Community  
Newspapers  
Association  
CMCA  
AUDITED

Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782  
Member of News Media Canada + National NewsMedia Council, and BC & Yukon Community NewsMedia Association

News Media Canada  
Medias d'Info Canada

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Should Trust-area "unique amenities" mean only the environment?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Are you disturbed by noise in your neighbourhood?**

42 80  
YES NO

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Monday at noon or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.



# ISLAND VOICES

## LETTERS to the editor

### Debate continues

In his March 6 *And Another Thing* column, Paul McElroy notes that the Islands Trust struggles to define and help steward the rural character of over 400 islands in the Salish Sea.

("Rural," I'll note, includes people and geography. Land without people is wilderness; people without living landscapes are urban.) The Trust isn't alone. I'm floundering, and so is Mr. McElroy.

The problem is that "character" is indefinable. It's a pattern emerging out of a lot of interactions among a lot of elements, and disappears when you break it apart. Try analyzing the character of a friend and you'll see what I mean. If "rural character" can't be pinned down, how can you take care of it when your daily work is to decide how each one of a dozen mundane decisions fits the ideal (like how close to a brook you can build a septic system or whether roosters make or break a neighbourhood)?

Mr. McElroy runs aground on "unique

amenities," a phrase so prominent in the Trust's job description. He admits that the two words together define the Trust's work, but then drops the "unique" and talks just of amenities, for example heating, housing, ice rinks and libraries. I'd call heating and housing necessities; libraries and ice rinks are amenities but not unique. He attacks the Trust for not providing more of them anyway.

Over half a century ago, a generation of British Columbians tried to define what's special about this green archipelago, and to codify some hopeful protections for it. Meanwhile, as Joni Mitchell sang, "... something's lost and something's gained in living every day." Mr. McElroy and I came to Salt Spring Island because we liked it; then, willy-nilly, we saw changes we liked and others we didn't. The debate will continue, but with luck we'll continue to love this rural place for its green and blue beauty and the amenities earlier folks worked for.

**BOB WEEDEN,**  
SALT SPRING

### Unique amenities term not unclear to everyone

In his contribution to last week's *Driftwood*, columnist Paul McElroy shows that he, too, has a blind spot that makes it impossible to process the word "unique" when it is placed in front of the word "amenities." Our current trustees seem to have similarly challenged visual cortexes.

The architects of the Islands Trust Act deliberately preceded "amenities" with the adjective "unique" because it radically restricts its scope. To be precise, the word "unique" categorically prevents interpreting the word "amenities" in the "broader" sense to include housing, livelihoods, infrastructure, tourism, and anything else our current trustees and their cheerleaders would like it to be.

Those who framed the Islands Trust Act

made it clear in the provincial mandate that future trustees were to value and protect the islands' unique natural environment by making its well-being the priority in all land-use decisions. Indeed, the interpretation of the phrase "unique amenities," signed in 1986 by both Trust Council and the Minister of Municipal Affairs, specifically refers to natural features, such as Garry oak forests and the marine environment. This does not exclude housing, infrastructure and the like from consideration, but it does not make them priorities on an equal footing with the environment.

As residents and stewards of a protected area, we need to accept, when moving to the Gulf Islands, that some of what is taken for granted in other communities won't be possible here.

**ELISSA POOLE,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE OPINION** continued on 6

## QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Often, we are misunderstood. There is a misunderstanding here, and we need to resolve that misunderstanding."

PETER LUCKHAM, ISLANDS TRUST COUNCIL CHAIR, ON RELATIONSHIPS WITH FIRST NATIONS

# Achievements prove island's governance is not so dysfunctional

**BY GARY HOLMAN**  
SALT SPRING CRD DIRECTOR

A sample survey of former and current commissioners of Capital Regional District (CRD) water districts by North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) and recent commentary regarding Salt Spring Island's so-called "dysfunctional" governance structure deserve a response, notwithstanding their puzzling timing.

Conversion of NSSWD to a CRD entity is presently a non-issue, since their previous board rejected the province's virtual guarantee of 70 per cent funding for the Maxwell Lake treatment plant. The Feb. 28 *Viewpoint* commentary by Julia Lucich regarding fragmented governance is also a bit odd given the recent establishment of the Local Community Commission (LCC), which now consolidates delivery of most local CRD services.

There is no question that many local water districts, including NSSWD, are facing significant challenges of aging infrastructure, as are many municipal systems. Dealing with such significant liabilities is a difficult exercise. As a member of all CRD area-specific water utilities, I understand and take seriously the frustrations experienced by some commissioners. CRD can improve communications with commissioners and ratepayers, and the CRD director must help ensure this.

However, my experience over years of participating on such commissions, and the survey itself, caution against black and white con-

clusions. It's true that the majority of the 27 former and current commissioners completing the survey (over 50 were asked to respond) characterized their experience with the CRD as negative. However, 68 per cent were apparently still willing to consider conversion with appropriate due diligence. The majority of respondents also acknowledged that water quality, service reliability and financing were all positively impacted as a result of CRD management.

The actual record of CRD utility management on Salt Spring Island (which was not presented to the interviewees) should also be considered. Although CRD has made mistakes in the past (NSSWD's dismantling of the St. Mary Lake aerators suggests no operator is infallible), substantial progress has also been made. For example, the three water utilities that rely on lake water — Fulford, Beddis and Highland-Fernwood — installed state-of-the-art dissolved air flotation (DAF) plants well over a decade before NSSWD installed their first DAF plant on St. Mary Lake under orders from Island Health. Cedar Lane and Cedars of Tuam also upgraded their treatment plants. All of these investments were supported by several million in infrastructure grants. These grants have enabled three CRD water districts to pay off the debt for these upgrades, and the other two districts will retire this debt within three years. Significant infrastructure challenges remain, as for

## IN RESPONSE

NSSWD, including the eventual replacement of decades old asbestos-cement distribution systems.

Water conservation measures, a requirement for infrastructure grant funding, have also meant that no moratorium on new water connections have been necessary in CRD water districts, in part because of more progressive rate structures that incentivized lower water consumption. Let's also not forget that CRD water districts, subject to the Local Government Act, allow renters to vote on any necessary borrowing and for their commission representatives, unlike NSSWD, in which only property owners are enfranchised.

Notwithstanding the above, the priority at this time, which NSSWD has been diligently working on, is to address the water moratorium. The welcome announcement of a \$10-million provincial grant to raise the weir on St. Mary Lake could be a decisive factor in these deliberations, depending on the resolution of the outstanding litigation regarding the Channel Ridge properties. As I've stated publicly and conveyed to the NSSWD board, the CRD may also have a role in resolving the moratorium.

Regarding the broader governance issue on Salt Spring Island, the newly established LCC broadens local representation, improves

accountability and transparency and consolidates service delivery. Voters recognized this with a 62 per cent "yes" vote for the LCC, compared to 30 and 38 per cent support in the last two incorporation referenda. The public support and interest in the LCC was also confirmed when 15 islanders offered themselves as candidates for the four available positions. What Ms. Lucich characterizes as voters failing "to grow up," I suggest is more fairly viewed as exercising prudent judgment.

The effectiveness of our local governance should take into account Salt Spring's many accomplishments, which I contend would compare favourably with other communities of our population size and tax base. For example, in the last five years alone, construction was completed or funding commitments secured for 130 units of affordable and supportive housing (SS Commons, Croftonbrook, Drake Road supported housing, Seabreeze Inn for health worker housing), and the Trust legalized hundreds of properties for suites and cottages outside the NSSWD moratorium area.

There have been many more accomplishments: new CRD and NSSWD water treatment plants as noted above; indoor swimming pool and more recent additions of shared recreation and daycare space; a soon to be built new fire hall and retention of the Ganges hall in public hands; an almost completed emergency room at

Lady Minto; a 25,000-square-foot community centre; a new library; miles of pathways and sidewalks in and around Ganges, including the soon to be repaved Ganges hill with wider shoulder bike lanes; acquisition of a 75-acre community park on Mount Maxwell; upgrading of Centennial Park; upgrades to the Ganges sewage treatment plant and replacement of the Malaview plant; free recycling; establishment of The Root food storage and processing centre and Salt Spring's first large-scale composting facility.

Many of these accomplishments were achieved by securing tens of millions in federal, provincial and CRD grants. Part of our unique system of governance is also enhanced by the efforts of a remarkable ecosystem of community groups, a number of which are funded by CRD to deliver important local services such as the library, recycling centre, arts facilities and programs, and search and rescue.

The proof is in the pudding and while our governance system is still somewhat fragmented, it is far from dysfunctional, and we need to understand when we're winning. Got a question about who does what? Here's a thought: call or email me, or any one of the newly elected LCC commissioners, and we'll get you the answer. It's not that complicated.

[directorssi@crd.bc.ca](mailto:directorssi@crd.bc.ca)

## LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!\*

It's time for the Driftwood's annual island-wide clean-up campaign! Join your friends and neighbours in clearing litter and other debris from island roadsides and beaches.

**HERE'S HOW IT WORKS...**

- 1 Pick a section of road, beach or neighbourhood** that you'd like to rid of trash in April.
- 2 Phone or email us** at the Driftwood with your name and the area you've chosen. [nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or 250-537-9933.
- 3 Enjoy being recognized** in the Driftwood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make Salt Spring a cleaner and healthier place to live.

\*Recipient of the 2021 & 2022 BC Media Industry Community Service Award

**Driftwood**  
250-537-9933 • 241 Fulford-Ganges Road  
[www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) • [driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

# Irresponsibility of no response

BY DAVID RAPPORT  
AND LUISA MAFFI

If someone publicly charged you with "running rogue" for not adhering to your mandate, more likely than not you would feel compelled to respond and justify your actions, wouldn't you? Not so, it seems, in the case of our Local Trust Committee (LTC) and the Islands Trust Council (ITC). In the face of a scathing critique ("Islands Trust 'runs rogue' with object and policy statement moves," Driftwood, Feb. 14) that asserts their actions undermine the mandate they were elected to uphold, they choose to remain silent.

Why this would be one can only guess. But if, as the adage goes, "Silence speaks volumes," then lack of response may suggest that, at the very least, trustees have nothing valid to say in response.

Both the LTC and the ITC well know that their "preserve and protect" mandate has nothing to do with taking on responsibility for fostering tourism, building infrastructure, or solving the affordable housing crisis. Their mandate is, unequivocally, to ensure that our life-supporting ecosystems remain viable and are able to sustain present and future generations of islanders. Accomplishing that means doing everything possible to reduce anthropogenic stress on the island's ecosystems. For quite a while now, the LTC and ITC have been doing the exact opposite. Encouraging more tourism and further development increases, rather than diminishes, anthropogenic stress, and puts our ecosystems, and therefore our lives and livelihoods, at increasing risk. Far from staying the course of "preserve and protect," the LTC and ITC are now veering toward "disturb and neglect."

Whether the LTC and the ITC have set this course because they don't know enough or don't care is a matter for debate. What is certain is that any attempt to claim the Trust today is giving priority to preserving and protecting the natural environment that sustains us all is ludicrous. Trustees are making decisions, largely without public consultation, that blatantly conflict with the Trust Act and the Trust Policy Statement (and, on Salt Spring, with our official community plan). In so doing, they are acting against the expressed wishes of the large majority of respondents to the Trust's own 2019 survey "Islands 2050: The Future of the Trust Area," who stated that the natural environment and the preserve and protect mandate are what they value most and that environmental change and environmental protection are their top concerns.

Even more shockingly, the Trust is also acting against the expressed, and repeated, wishes of the First Nations who have been the long-term stewards of these lands. Witness most recently the Feb. 2 letter by Tsawout Chief Abraham Pelkey to the Trust's Executive Committee, reiterating the First Nation's opposition to Bylaw 537 and expressing deep frustration for the Trust's lack of consultation on and consideration of their positions. That First Nations' views are so persistently ignored casts a dark shadow on the Trust's commitment to reconciliation and poses disturbing questions as to whether colonialist

thinking remains alive and well within the Trust.

The failure to uphold "preserve and protect" by opening the door to "disturb and neglect" is furthering the degradation of our life-support systems, and in so doing it is compromising the health and wellbeing of our island communities. Are our trustees blind to the fact we already have insufficient water to accommodate our existing population on the islands, let alone accommodate more tourists? Are they forgetting that, in recent summer droughts, the Trust was asking visitors to "BYO" — and they weren't talking about beer? Is it not apparent that, should the health of our island ecosystems continue to degrade, we are all at risk — not only for our health, but for our livelihoods and economic and social wellbeing?

**Even more shockingly,  
the Trust is also acting  
against the expressed,  
and repeated, wishes of  
the First Nations who  
have been the  
long-term stewards of  
these lands.**

Have the ITC and the Salt Spring LTC in particular embraced unrestrained development on islands that are not only intrinsically fragile, but also highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, as we have witnessed with increasingly severe episodes of drought and atmospheric rivers? Having an LTC and a majority of the ITC show little interest in adhering to the Trust's mandate and to reconciliation, and rather act in ways that undermine what they committed themselves to uphold is akin to having pyromaniacs as fire board trustees or proponents of fake news as school trustees.

As we see it, those trustees who have taken this course are betraying the mandate they pledged to honour. In our view, they should either recognize their unsuitability for the job and resign en masse or go back to serving the remit they were given with commitment and competence. The people of the Gulf Islands should expect and demand no less.

*David J. Rapport holds a doctorate in economic development and international trade. He spearheaded Statistics Canada's statistical system for reporting on the state of the environment in relation to human activities, which has been widely adopted by national and international bodies.*

*Luisa Maffi holds a doctorate in anthropology and has spearheaded the field of biocultural diversity, which focuses on the vital interdependence of people and the natural world globally.*

*Both live on Salt Spring Island.*

**Questions about your career?  
WorkBC can help.**

WorkBC helps connect people living with disabilities with supports to succeed in the workplace and their career.

Visit [WorkBC.ca/FindAnswers](http://WorkBC.ca/FindAnswers)  
or your nearest WorkBC centre.

Canada WorkBC

This program is funded by the Government of Canada  
and the Province of British Columbia.

## NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS WILL BE  
CARRIED OUT IN THE DISTRICT ON  
TUESDAYS, WEDNESDAYS, THURSDAYS  
AND FRIDAYS -  
MARCH 4 - APRIL 30, 2024

Short periods of low pressure and discolouration of water can be expected between these dates. Consumers are warned to be on alert for discoloured water, especially before using washing machines, dishwashers and other appliances.

Commercial establishments such as laundromats, restaurants and beauty salons will receive advance warning of flushing in their vicinity if a request for such notification is received by the District.

Please contact the NSSWD at 250-537-9902.

In no case can the District accept responsibility for any claims arising out of the use of discoloured water.



# Will time-of-day billing shrink hydro costs?

Dissecting the possibilities for families

## GUEST COLUMN

BY MARKUS WENZEL

They say if you look after the pennies, the dollars will take care of themselves.

So, when our provincial electrical utility rolls out its optional time-of-day billing system this summer, you might find that it could save you a few bucks on electricity every month. While many power utilities automatically charge you a premium for using electricity in the peak hours, and give discounts when you pull from the grid in off-peak times, our local utility is planning to provide us with an optional time-of-use billing system, starting in June. Should you sign on? Well, like many things financial, the answer is, "it depends!"

Power grids are designed around trying to supply everyone the power they need when they need it, and invariably there are "peak" periods of demand (typically 4 to 9 p.m. weekdays). If utilities can change consumer behaviour to reduce peak demand, they can reduce the number of on-demand power generating facilities (dams, coal, natural gas, nuclear) they need for a given population. (Wind and solar, unless equipped with storage, typically do not factor in to reliability supplying peak demand, as they cannot be counted on at any given time.) The advent of the "smart meter" gives utilities the ability to know when we use power, and gives them the ability to use carrots and sticks to encourage us to use less peak energy.

The "deal" they propose is pretty simple compared to what other utilities are doing, and at this stage it looks like it's going to be completely optional. Any electricity used during the peak times of 4 to 9 p.m. weekdays is charged out at 5 cents/kWh more than the current rate. Meanwhile, any power used between 11 p.m. and 7 a.m. gets a 5 cent/kWh discount. The rest of the time, the rates are the same as they are now.

I'm trying to figure out if this is worth it for our two-person family. Really, it comes down to, "What do we power now until 11 p.m.?" We spend about \$2,000 a year with BC Hydro, so I looked at where we are spending that:

**Space Heating:** With a well-insulated home, we can certainly program our heat pump to turn off at 4 p.m., perhaps after giving a bit of a heat "boost" between 2 and 4 p.m. (normal rate), and another one between 5 a.m. and 7 a.m. (cheap rate).

**Water Heating:** I don't see us having any specific high volume hot water needs between 4 and 9 that would require the tank turning on, so perhaps one could put a timer on that fuse to disable it from 4 to 11 p.m.?

**EV Charging:** Currently, we charge our electric car whenever it needs it, quite often in the 4 to 9 p.m. time slot after coming home. This is an easy one to adjust, by programming our car or charger to start charging at 11 p.m., even if we plug it in at 4 p.m. Just like that, we will save about one-third on our driving costs!

**Appliances:** When it comes to the dishwasher, most now come with a "time delay" feature to accommodate time-of-day energy billing. With the washer/dryer, it would have to be more of a "behaviour modification" to avoid loads during peak times. There is not much I could do about the timing of energy use of the fridge or freezer, and likely the stove/oven consumption might not see much change either. For people with hot tubs, the scheduling of the heating cycles can be done to avoid the 4 to 9 p.m. peak and perhaps also catch the 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. "cheap" time.

I have not done the specific math as to the balance between the 4 to 9 p.m. surcharge vs. the 11 a.m. to 7 p.m. discount, but as most of these changes are easy, I'm going to give it a try and do my part for "peak saving" and attempt at "wallet fattening!"

*The writer is a certified financial planner living and working on Salt Spring Island.*

### Proposed Bylaws 140 and 141

Rezoning to allow for an additional dwelling density to be added to 100/101 Payne Road and donation of other densities to the Community Amenity Density Reserve (CADR) Subject Property Addresses: 100/101 Payne Road and 201 Harris Road, Saturna Island Parcel Identifier Numbers: 004-007-395, 002-614-383 Application: SA-RZ-2023.2 (Thachuk)

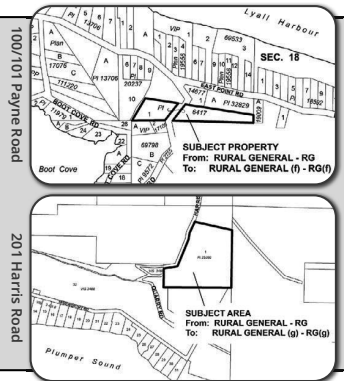
COMMUNITY INFORMATION MEETING & PUBLIC HEARING  
SATURNA ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE



### What are Proposed Bylaw Nos. 140 and 141 about?

Proposed Bylaw Nos. 140 and 141 will amend the Saturna Island Land Use Bylaw No. 119, 2018 (LUB) and the Saturna Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 70 (OCP) by rezoning the subject parcel located at 100/101 Payne Road to allow for an additional dwelling density to be added. Currently, the shared property has a single primary dwelling and an accessory cottage which are owned by separate families.

The proposed additional density is to be transferred from the subject parcel located at 201 Harris Road. Three additional densities are also being donated by the Harris Road property owner to the Community Amenity Density Reserve (CADR), to be used for future property acquisition for conservation purposes.



### How do I get more information?

Copies of the proposed bylaws, the Public Hearing Binder and other information on the application is available on the Saturna Island Current Application webpage and, at the Islands Trust office at 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 from the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday,

excluding statutory holidays, after March 13, 2024. A Community Information Meeting (CIM) will be held electronically prior to the Public Hearing and will provide the opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the proposed bylaw amendments. The Public Hearing will also occur electronically.

### Submissions

Prior to the Public Hearing: Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., March 25, 2024, by Email: vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca, or Mail or Drop Off: Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8 At the Public Hearing:

Only written submissions presented at the Public Hearing will be accepted until the close of the Public Hearing. Written comments made in response to this notice will be available for public review.

Community Information Meeting & Public Hearing  
Tuesday, March 26 at 1:30 p.m.  
(Electronically)

Enquiries?  
Brad Smith  
Island Planner  
bsmith@islandstrust.bc.ca  
778-679-5185

Location: Via Zoom  
<https://islandstrust.zoom.us/j/61479433786>  
Meeting ID: 614 7943 3786  
Via phone: 833-958-1164 / 833-955-1088

## FOR THE RECORD

A submitted article in last week's paper about the Saturday, March 16 roundtable panel discussion event on The Prehistory of ArtSpring had an incorrect start time. The event, which features panelists April Curtis, Sue Newman, Victoria Olcho-wecki and Tom Toynbee talking about the years leading up to ArtSpring's initiation and completion in April of 1999 takes place in the ArtSpring gallery beginning at 12 noon.

# Your Local Business Specialists!

## GET YOUR VEHICLE READY FOR WINTER DRIVING

From car wash soap to battery chargers, air fresheners to stereos tune-up parts to mag wheel sockets sets, pickup everything you need to "Ride & Shine" on the roads this season.

**Bumper to Bumper® Saltspring**  
CANADA'S PARTS PEOPLE  
106 JACKSON AVENUE 250-537-5507

## Dan Hardy Denturist



Salt Spring office located at the **Gulf Clinic**  
241 Lower Ganges Rd.

- New Dentures
- Reline & Repairs
- Home & Care Facility Visits

For appointments call 1-250-710-1884

## Your "clear" choice for glass.

- Auto Glass • Residential & Commercial
- Aluminum Fabrication • Custom Skylights
- Mirrors & Shower Doors
- Custom Sunrooms • Free Estimates



TROY KAYE

**Kapa Kai Glass 250-653-4148**

Residential & Commercial Glass

## Shoreline Glass

Julian Cronin

250-537-7858

juliancronin@icloud.com



**SMYTHE ROOFING**

Vince Smythe

RESIDENTIAL & COMMERCIAL

Ph: 250-213-6316

Fax: 778-746-7310

info@smytheroofing.com

"Quality Workmanship - Reliable Service"

**GROW YOUR BUSINESS**  
CALL TODAY TO ADVERTISE

**Driftwood**

250-537-9933 • 241 FULFORD-GANGES RD  
DRIFTWOOD@GULFISLANDSDRIFTWOOD.COM



# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

**SALT SPRING INN** SALTSPRINGINN.COM  
250-537-9339

**Cozy Indoor Dining & Take-Out Too!**  
11AM-8PM WEEKDAYS | 9AM-8PM SAT & SUN  
Reservations at saltspringinn.com

## WORLD MUSIC

# Passion for tango gets unleashed at ArtSpring

Award-winning Payadora Ensemble on stage March 22

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

Get ready to be whisked off your feet by Tangomania when the South American-inspired Payadora Ensemble takes to the stage at ArtSpring Friday, March 22.

Officially endorsed by the Argentinian Consulate in Toronto for its adherence to the spirit of tango, the award-winning Payadora has had global

audiences flocking to its lively performances since 2013, each of which set out to convey a signature joy, virtuosity, humour and, of course, passion.

The ensemble performs its own arrangements of a core repertoire drawing from the Argentinian/Uruguayan traditions of tangos, milongas, waltzes and folk music such as the zamba and chacarera, as well as original songs inspired by those traditions.

Comprised of five musicians who are each noted to be musical powerhouses in their own right, this "superstar group" has combined their profound love of tango with their classical, jazz and world music backgrounds to create something entirely new.

This new twist has extended into collaborations with the London Symphony, the Cathedral Bluffs Symphony, as well as PointeTango Dance Company, which explores the intersection between classical dance and earthy tango.

In the spring of 2023, the group released its third and latest CD, the critically acclaimed *Silent Tears: The Last Yiddish Tango*, which reached #1 on the World Music Charts in Europe, accompanied by rave reviews, airtime and press coverage including the BBC, CBC television and radio, the Bangkok Post, NPR and RTE Irish Public Radio. Of the album, one *WholeNote* Magazine reviewer declared it was simply "the most memorable release I have ever had the privilege to listen to and review."

Payadora comes to Salt Spring after its November 2023 tour of South Amer-



PHOTO COURTESY PAYADORA ENSEMBLE

Payadora Ensemble performs at ArtSpring on March 22 at 7:30 p.m.

ica, a huge success for the ensemble, which included winning Best New Piece at the 2023 Yiddish Music Awards in São Paulo.

Leading up to this concert, ArtSpring partnered with Salt Spring's local tango society Por el Amor al Tango to offer a morning lesson last Sunday for curious beginners to learn the basics of dancing the tango. The instructors were Lya Elcagu from Buenos Aires and Ivan Aleksandrov from Ottawa, who were on island as guest teachers at Por el Amor al Tango's popular monthly milonga (tango dance) event on March 9.

"This was a fun initiative to reach out and connect community to the theme

of what was coming to ArtSpring and also provide a bit of an enriched experience," said Howard Jang, ArtSpring's executive and artistic director, who himself participated on the dance floor. "Partnering with local groups, clubs and experts to create public programming and more connections is something we are keen to keep building."

Tickets for next Friday's show are on sale at tickets.artspring.ca or at the box office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Theatre Angel tickets are available for \$15 one week prior to ArtSpring Presents shows in person or by phone. Youth tickets cost only \$5.

ArtSpring thanks Gérald Tibbits for sponsoring this performance.

## LIVE MUSIC

# 'Cavalcade' brings music of 1960s

Homage performance sees Victoria quartet on ArtSpring stage

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Four self-described "pretty fab guys" from Victoria are set to dazzle Salt Spring music lovers with a tribute to a pivotal decade in music history: the 1960s.

This Friday, March 15, ArtSpring and BackBeat Entertainment present "The '60s Cavalcade of Stars" — a loving musical tribute celebrating the music of The Beatles, The Beach Boys, The Rolling Stones, The Monkees, The Dave Clark Five and Creedence Clearwater Revival. The homage to influential artists is presented as a live variety show and multimedia presentation, promising to transport audience members back in time to re-live the sights and sounds of a '60s pop show.

BackBeat frontman George Penwarrn, guitarist and keyboard player Duncan Meiklejohn, bassist — and penny-whistler — Kelt Eccleston and percussionist Jon Baglo have been "living and breathing" music from the



PHOTO COURTESY BACKBEAT ENTERTAINMENT

George Penwarrn, Duncan Meiklejohn, Kelt Eccleston and Jon Baglo are the BackBeat band presenting "The '60s Cavalcade of Stars" on Friday, March 15 at ArtSpring.

1960s and sharing it with audiences since 1988, according to press materials, earning a reputation as "Canada's most authentic musical tribute to the '60s."

Friday's performance at ArtSpring begins at 7:30 p.m. and runs approximately two hours. Tickets are available online at artspring.ca or through the box office.



**MILL BAY**  
VETERINARY HOSPITAL

**Accepting New Patients**

Discover compassionate care, up-to-date treatments, and a friendly atmosphere at our small animal practice located in Cowichan Valley.



840 Deloume Road, Mill Bay, BC  
250.743.3223 • millbayvet.com

**Book your FREE Hearing Test today!\***

**SALT SPRING ISLAND**  
1108—115 Fulford-Ganges Road  
(Grace Point Square)  
**1-888-347-5891**

Mention code: **NSP-1700-DRFTW**



Selene Finlayson  
RHIP



Terena LeCorre  
RAUD

**HearingLife**  
Formerly **NEXGEN HEARING**

\*A comprehensive hearing assessment is provided to adults ages 18 and older at no cost. The results of this assessment will be communicated verbally to you. If you request a copy of the Audiological Report, a fee will apply. This guarantee is valid for select premium or advanced hearing aid models and cannot be combined with any other discount. Applies to private sales of premium or advanced hearing aids and discount is applied after any Government funding has been deducted. Some conditions apply, see clinic for details. Offer not valid in Quebec. Offer expires 20/04/2024. Worksites BC and other Provincial WCB Networks, VAC, MSP, and PNH/NHSP accepted. Registered under the College of Speech and Hearing Health Professionals of BC.



**ADOPT A PET TODAY!**

**Promise** is a very friendly and loving 4 year old girl. She may look like a kitten but she's big in personality.

**BCSPCA**  
SPEAKING FOR ANIMALS

Contact the BCSPCA at  
**250-537-2123**

**PROUD SUPPORTERS OF THE LOCAL SPCA**  
250-653-4013



**GULF ISLANDS SEPTIC LTD.**



## OPERA

# Met series ends on high note

Roméo et Juliette  
final opera of season

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

"There are few perfect evenings in opera, but *Roméo et Juliette* on Thursday evening at the Metropolitan Opera provided one," was the glowing opinion of the *New York Classical Review*.

For Salt Spring opera lovers, and for those who have never been but are curious, this lush presentation of the world's consummate love story promises to be the must-see experience that closes out ArtSpring's Met Opera Live in HD 2023/24 season.

Two singers at the height of their game — powerhouse soprano Nadine Sierra and

tenor Benjamin Bernheim — come together as the star-crossed lovers in Charles Gounod's Shakespeare adaptation, with crowd-favourite Yannick Nézet-Séguin on the podium to conduct one of the repertoire's most romantic scores.

With many of the Met's operas over the past few years staging classics reimagined in modern settings, *Roméo et Juliette* follows in that vein, but with a difference. Renaissance Verona is updated to an 18th-century town square dominated by a sole Corinthian column with deft transitions to make it a marketplace, chapel, bedroom and tomb. Traditional audiences who love the costumes, sets and spectacle will not be disappointed.

The opera had its world premiere in Paris in 1867 and is noted to be an excellent exam-

ple of French Romanticism, a tradition that values subtlety, sensuality and graceful vocal delivery over showy effects.

That being said, gold confetti showers down during the fairytale masked ball in the Capulets' palace. The dynamic physical swordplay between Tybalt and Mercutio is matched with escalating vocal thrusts and parries. The solemnity with which the sleeping Juliette is shrouded in white becomes an exquisitely poignant moment, only surpassed by her dying wrapped in the same cloth in the opera's final moments.

The opera is sung in French with English subtitles. As always, quiche, cookies and coffee at intermission make for a wonderful time to connect.

Tickets are now on sale in the box office or online for \$25 adult, \$20 senior and \$15 youth.

Metropolitan  
Opera:  
Live in HD  
Broadcast  
**ROMÉO ET  
JULIETTE**

ArtSpring  
Presents  
25th  
ANNIVERSARY

Sat Mar 23  
9:55am  
\$25 adult  
\$20 senior  
\$15 youth

artspring.ca  
tickets.artspring.ca  
250.537.2102

**Payadora  
Tangomania**

ArtSpring  
Presents  
25th  
ANNIVERSARY

Fri Mar 22  
7:30pm  
\$35 | \$5

artspring.ca  
tickets.artspring.ca  
250.537.2102

HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR?  
**send an email to:**  
**news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com**

## what's on this week

**Wed. March 13**

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Robin Layne: Journey Into Rhythm.** Family show. Library program room. 11 a.m.

**ArtSpring Presents: Axis Theatre – Frog Belly Rat Bone.** All-ages show and post-show talkback. ArtSpring. 1 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Bridge.** In the library program room. 12:45 to 4:15 p.m.

**Swing Dancing.** Every Wednesday at the Legion. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

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

**Thur. March 14**

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**GISS Improv: On the Road Again.** Last show before the team heads to national championships. At the Legion. 7 to 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Mother Goose.** Group for babies, young children (0-4 years) and their parents/caregivers. Library. 10 to 11 a.m.

**Salt Spring Local Community Commission Meeting.** Regular business meeting. SIMS board room. 5 p.m.

**Fun & Therapeutic Workshops For Senior 2SLGBTQIA+ and Invited Friends.** Movement, writing circle, lunch. Core Inn 3rd floor. 11:30 a.m. RSVP to jburgess@ssics.ca.

**Salt Spring Public Library Association AGM.** Library program room. 3:30 p.m.

**Fri. March 15**

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Clanna Morna and The Slieves.** Two-band evening celebrating Irish/Celtic music. Mahon Hall. Doors 7 p.m.; music at 7:30.

**Fri. March 15**

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Karaoke. At the Legion.** 7 p.m.

**Cavalcade of Stars – A Complete '60s Music Experience.** BackBeat presents music by the best bands of the 1960s era. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

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

### ACTIVITIES

**Quiet Morning: Patrick (Almost) Everyone's Patron Saint.** Richard Stetson leads the session reflecting on the life and beliefs of St. Patrick. Star of the Sea, St. Mary's Church. 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

**Neighbourhood Story Time.** Library children's area. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

**ASK Salt Spring.** MLA Adam Olsen is this week's guest in the TSS/Restorative Justice room at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

**Youth Games & Chess Club.** For youth aged 9-13 in the library children's area. 1 to 4 p.m.

**Sat. March 16**

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Bach on the Rock.** Concert of Mozart & Brahms by choir and orchestra. All Saints by-the-Sea. 7 p.m.

**Caravan of Desire.** Burlesque show from Victoria-based SINnergy Productions. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. 18+ restriction.

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

### ACTIVITIES

**Community Roundtable Panel: The Pre-history of ArtSpring.** Join April Curtis, Sue Newman, Victoria Olchowecki and Tom Toynbee in learning about the years leading up to ArtSpring's opening in 1999. ArtSpring gallery. Noon to 2 p.m.

**Sat. March 16**

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Forum: Christopher Pollon.** Author of Pitfall: The Race to Mine the World's Most Vulnerable Places is the guest. Mahon Hall. 7:30 p.m.

**Sun. March 17**

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Bach on the Rock: Concert of Mozart & Brahms** by choir and orchestra. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2 p.m.

**Blues Jam With House Band and Open Mic.** Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Central Community Hall Annual General Meeting.** Public welcome. Central Community Hall. 1 p.m.

**Spanish Conversation Group.** Chat with other Spanish speakers or learners in a fun and relaxed atmosphere. Library program room. 2 to 3:30 p.m.

**Mon. March 18**

### ACTIVITIES

**Salt Spring Fire Protection District Board of Trustees Meeting.** At the Ganges fire hall. 7 p.m.

**Wonders of the Salish Sea Series.** First of four Zoom sessions. 7-9 p.m. Info/register: marinestewardshipssi@gmail.com.

**Tues. March 19**

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Country Jam With Open Mic.** At the Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

**Sacred Poetry.** Facilitated by Brian Day. Share and respond to poems that speak of the sacred. Star of the Sea, St. Mary's Church. 7 to 9:30 p.m.

**Wed. March 20**

### ACTIVITIES

**Bridge.** See last Wednesday's listing.

**Knit Purl Community.** Library program room. 5 to 7 p.m.

**Swing Dancing.** See last Wednesday's listing.

**Music Bingo.** See last Wednesday's listing.

### CINEMA

• **Dune: Part Two** runs Friday, March 15 to Tuesday, March 19 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

### ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Celebrate Spring and St. Patrick's Day at Gallery 8 with former Irish Rover Will Millar – a Roving Irishman's Life in Art.** Opening reception with music by Will Millar on Friday, March 15, 5 to 8 p.m. Show runs through March 24.

• **Salt Spring Gallery: The Elements and the Elementals, artworks by the She Said Collective,** through March 30. Open Tuesdays through Saturdays.

• **Kaya Reiss – Roman Portraits:** Salt Spring Public Library program room.

• **Works by Salt Spring Painters Guild** members are on display in the ArtSpring lobby during the month of March.

• **Judy H. McPhee** shows photographs at the Country Grocer cafe.

**Community Roundtable:**  
The Pre-history of ArtSpring  
panel event in ArtSpring's gallery  
Sat., March 16, noon to 2 p.m.

**THRIFTY FOODS**  
Ganges, Mout's Centre 7:30am to 9pm  
Customer Service 250-537-1522

# DRIFTWOOD Classifieds

www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

CALL 250-537-9933

OR 1-855-310-3535 • OVER 20,000 CLASSIFIEDS ON-LINE UPDATED DAILY

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

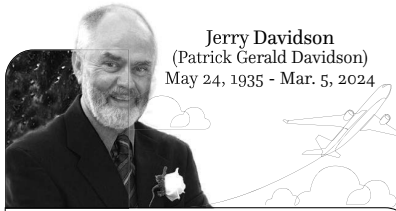
## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## In Memoriam



**Jerry Davidson**  
(Patrick Gerald Davidson)  
May 24, 1935 - Mar. 5, 2024

Jerry Davidson (Patrick Gerald Davidson) passed away on March 5, 2024 at Avenir Memory Care in Nanaimo. Jerry was born on May 24, 1935 in Regina, Saskatchewan to Terence (Pat) and Florence Davidson. Jerry is predeceased by his beloved wife Shirley (Bowie) and his much adored, older brother Ken.

Inspired by his father's military service in WWI and WWII, and his brother Ken's naval service in WWII, Jerry left high school to join the Royal Canadian Air Force where he earned his wings at age eighteen.

In 1956, while stationed at CFB Baden-Soellingen, Germany, Jerry married his childhood sweetheart Shirley whom he'd known since they were fifteen. During their air force years, Jerry and Shirley had two children, Scott and Kelly; as a family, they moved across Canada several times eventually settling in Richmond, BC.

In 1967, Jerry left the RCAF to fly with Canadian Airlines. Also serving as a photographer for the Canadian Forces' iconic Snowbirds, Jerry once calculated that he'd spent two years of his life above the Earth. A passionate photographer and darkroom devotee, Jerry shot a diverse range of subjects including ballet dancers, prairies, and airplanes. He wrote several magazine articles and authored a book on darkroom techniques.

In 1987, Jerry and Shirley built their dream retirement home on Salt Spring Island. A talented, life long and prolific artist, Jerry retired in 1990 to spend more time with Shirley, pursue his art and photography, enjoy time with his Eggheads companions, and play golf with his PGA buddies. Known for his sharp wit and genuine care for others, Jerry enjoyed many deep and abiding friendships.

After grieving the passing of Shirley in 2002, a new friendship, and soon a romance, emerged with Susan (Biddlecombe) who would later become his wife. They shared much joy and many adventures in their eighteen years together. Jerry said that God had blessed him and surprised him with two parallel lives.

Jerry loved his family and treasured any and all visits together: walking at Fernwood or up Mt. Belcher, Christmas gatherings, coffee houses, time together in each other's homes. A deeply moral and upright man, Jerry loved his Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ and is with Him now.

Jerry is survived by his children, Scott (Kelly Stauffer) and Kelly (Richard Gilker), his darling wife, Susan, and many friends, more than we could mention here. You know who you are, and Jerry loved you deeply.

The family would like to thank Sandi and staff at Heritage Place, for making him feel so treasured and at home, and the staff at Avenir who knew him for only a short time but treated him with great compassion and tenderness until the end.

A celebration of life for Jerry will be announced at a later date.



**Maggie White**  
1946-2024

"Here I lie unknown in excellent silence". That's my epitaph...hahaha." Maggie White. 1946-2024

Our mother's spirit left us today, March 4th. Loved by her children, Judith Adam and Carol Adam, grandchildren Emily, Joey and Jamin, and far-away family and friends for all her quirkiness.

In her early years she was an instructress at Brown's School of Dancing. She met Dad when he went there with 3 friends to learn all the latest moves and the common dances of the time like the foxtrot, jive, and the Charleston. She also competed in contests and demonstrations. She was very good and loved dancing throughout her life.

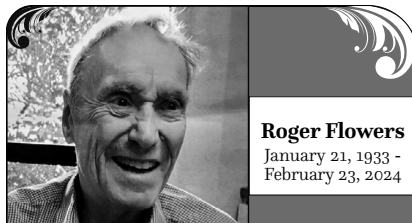
Known locally as a happy hitchhiker and caring human, Mum was a familiar Salt Spring face. Often people would tell me (Carol) they knew her (although they were shocked to hear we were related).

Our family moved a lot, but the pillar of strength in the home was Mum. She always worked quickly to make a new place feel like home to help everyone adjust. Gardening everywhere she ever lived, flowers were her favourite thing, along with the colours and smells of spring, life and joy.

Mum/Maggie found her spiritual path here on the West Coast, Salt Spring, to her last breath. She loved this island and its quirks.

"Now't so queer as folk," something she said often, applies to her and all of us around her.

She will be truly missed.



**Roger Flowers**

January 21, 1933 - February 23, 2024

Roger Flowers passed away peacefully on February 23rd, 2024 at the Greenwoods care facility on Salt Spring Island. He was 91 years old.

Roger was born in London, England, on January 21, 1933 to George and Mable Flowers. While growing up he had two keen interests; bicycle racing, where he won numerous races, and becoming an electrician, starting his apprenticeship at the age of 15.

A year after marrying Audrey Miller in 1955, they immigrated to Canada. After living in Vancouver for a few years they eventually settled in Tsawwassen at the beginning of 1963. This was the place they would call home until 2015, when Roger and Audrey moved permanently to Salt Spring Island. They had always loved Salt Spring, having purchased a place there in 1972.

Roger's career as an electrician took him all over British Columbia and sustained his interest in the trade for over 50 years. As cycling was prevalent here in Canada, Roger started learning as much as he could about all the trades he encountered throughout his career, feeling it was necessary in order to build a successful life in Canada.

Roger is predeceased by his parents, George and Mable, sister Joan and his beloved son Adrian. He leaves behind numerous nieces & nephews by marriage in England who were a constant source of interest and affection.

He is survived by his wife Audrey of 69 years and his son Chris.

The family would like to thank the staff at Greenwoods for all of the incredible support they provided.



**Ronald Weisner**  
1943 - 2024

Ron left us peacefully on February 23, 2024 having struggled with cancer. He was surrounded by the love of family and friends. He leaves Kathy, wife of 57 years, daughter Lianne Grogan (Chris), son Michael (Sarah DuBois) and 2 grandchildren, and sisters Mary-Lou Brown and Susan Stoneberg.

Born in Vancouver, Ron began square dancing and calling as a teenager. Ron attended UBC, where he met Kathy and graduated Mechanical Engineering. He was a nuclear power plant shift supervisor for Ontario Hydro, in Petawawa and then Kincardine. His favourite activities were gardening and calling/teaching square dancing, including calling at a National Square Dance Convention.

A visit to Salt Spring Island sparked Ron's dream of making a space for his family in rural, natural surroundings. He designed their new home and undertook most of the construction. Ron changed careers, setting up his own company servicing computer and business equipment. He was treasurer for the United Church for a while and joined the Legion in respect for his father. Ron loved gardening and completed multiple building projects with his son Michael, including a post and beam building.

More recently Ron and Kathy took Ballroom Dancing lessons, the source of great enjoyment and lasting memories. Eventually they taught these skills, sharing their passion with wonderful people in the dance community on Salt Spring and beyond. Ron was proud to have been integral to a group demonstration of Viennese Waltz at Fulford Waltz Night.

Ron was a dear, thoughtful and caring individual. He was well thought of and will be missed by many.

The family wishes to express their gratitude to Dr Kalf and the medical community, including the staff at Lady Minto hospital, for their care and kindness.

## Coming Events

## Coming Events

## Salt Spring Island Public Library Association

## Annual General Meeting

Thursday March 14, 2024 3:30 pm

Salt Spring Island Public Library  
129 McPhillips Avenue, Ganges, BC

A resolution to amend the bylaws of the Association will be presented for approval.

The full text of the resolution is posted on the Library's website:  
<https://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop>

All valid Library cardholders are welcome to attend and are eligible to vote at the meeting.

## Storage



SALTSPRING SELF STORAGE IS NOW

PACIFIC RIM STORAGE CO.

347 UPPER GANGES RD

250-537-5888

PACIFICRIMSTORAGE.CA

## Employment

## WE'RE HIRING

*We offer:* Competitive commission compensation Remote & Project work a possibility

Previous sales experience an asset but we are happy to train

Send your resume to:  
[nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

**Driftwood** 250.537.9933

241 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Salt Spring, BC V8K 2K7 Canada



## Looking for GRIEF SUPPORT?

Hospice offers 1-on-1 and group help.

Call for info

250-537-2770

250-537-2770 • [saltspringhospice.org](mailto:saltspringhospice.org)



## Coming Events

Central Community Hall,  
Board of Directors,  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

SUNDAY MARCH 17TH  
at 1 pm in the  
main hall at  
901 NORTH END RD.

PUBLIC WELCOME

## Coming Events

Lady Minto Hospital  
**AUXILIARY**  
Society  
ALL AUXILIARY MEMBERS  
ARE ADVISED THE  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
of the  
Lady Minto Hospital  
Auxiliary Society  
will take place on  
Monday, Mar 25th, 2024  
at 1:30pm at Lions Hall

## Building Materials



Serving the Gulf Islands

- Concrete
- Concrete Pumps
- Sand/Rock
- Colour & Sealers

Call to schedule material.

All payments to be made by credit card over the phone.

345 Rainbow Road  
250-537-2611

## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam



Salt Spring Island  
**NATURAL CEMETERY**

2100 Fulford-Ganges Road  
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z7  
250-653-9884

[saltspringcemetery.ca](http://saltspringcemetery.ca)





# ISLAND LIFE

## HOME IMPROVEMENTS

# Rebate program gets back in gear for 2024

Ideal time to switch to a heat pump or more efficient wood stove

SUBMITTED BY TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Many households on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands rely on wood as their primary source of heating during the colder months, only to endure increasingly sweltering summers without air conditioning.

However, as we face the challenges of a changing climate and escalating energy costs, there's never been a better time to embrace the benefits of modern comfort by transitioning to a heat pump for complete home climate control.

Transition Salt Spring's (TSS) Coach Program provides direct support to locals by helping them navigate rebates for heat pump installations. Directly through our home rebate program, islanders can receive \$1,500, as well as access the provincially funded rebates of up to an additional \$2,000 offered through Clean B.C. for upgrading from an outdated wood stove to an EPA 2020 Certified model or a heat pump.

If a heat pump is not accessible to you, there are rebates available to upgrade from an old, high-polluting wood stove to a newer, far more efficient EPA 2020 model (\$600) and even a bounty rebate of \$300 to simply remove and decommission old wood stoves.

Here are eight reasons why we think that now is the time to make the switch:

### 1. Environmental Responsibility

Heat pumps produce significantly fewer emissions compared to wood stoves, which makes a significant impact on our local air quality. By harnessing energy from the air or ground, they offer the greenest option for heating and cooling your home.

### 2. Enhanced Energy Efficiency

Heat pumps can offer remarkable energy efficiency, leading to savings on utility bills. They can generate up to four times more energy than they consume, making them a cost-effective and sustainable choice for homeowners.

### 3. Improved Indoor Air Quality

Heat pumps eliminate the need for burning wood (except during power outages or extreme cold), promoting healthier indoor and outdoor air quality by reducing pollutants and allergens. Wood-burning smoke is a big contributor to respiratory issues for many people, resulting in significant health impacts.

### 4. Financial Incentives

TSS's 2024 Rebate Program offers significant incentives, including a \$1,500 rebate for upgrading to a qualified heat pump (with the option to keep an existing EPA-certified wood stove), or a \$600 rebate for upgrading to an EPA 2020 or CSA



TRANSITIONSALTSRING.COM

External unit of heat pump system.

B415.1 compliant wood stove, or a \$300 bounty for removing/disposing of an existing old wood stove (with no heat source upgrade). TSS can help you access additional provincial rebates through Clean BC of up to \$2,000. TSS Enterprise Cooperative can provide low-interest micro-loans to help you make the switch.

### 5. Long-Term Savings Potential

Despite the initial heat pump installation cost, available rebates help offset expenses, leading to long-term savings. The potential for reduced energy bills and lower maintenance costs make heat pumps a wise investment for homeowners. Not to mention the time and effort you'll save when you don't have to chop wood all winter.

### 6. Year-Round Comfort

Heat pumps provide both heating and cooling capabilities, ensuring consistent comfort throughout the year, regardless of the season or outdoor temperature. Heat domes are, unfortunately, a more regular occurrence, and heat pumps also act as air conditioners and provide the filtration for air purification.

### 7. Safety Assurance

Unlike wood stoves, which pose fire hazards and indoor quality concerns, heat pumps operate without combustion, prioritizing safety for your family and your neighbours.

### 8. Convenience and Control

Modern heat pumps require minimal maintenance and offer remote control capabilities for added convenience.

The upgrade from wood stoves to heat pumps is a significant step towards a more sustainable, comfortable and cost-effective future for homeowners. Take advantage of available rebates and make a positive impact on your home and the planet. Funding is limited and provided on a first-come, first-served basis. Apply now through our pre-screening form linked at [transitionsaltspring.com/woodsmoke](https://transitionsaltspring.com/woodsmoke), or email us directly at [coach@transitionsaltspring.com](mailto:coach@transitionsaltspring.com) and we'll guide you through the next steps.



**NORTH  
SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT**

## NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATER- WORKS DISTRICT

## 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, virtually through Microsoft Teams, and in person at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. The link to the meeting can be found in the top right-hand corner of our website.

**NOMINEES FOR 2 TRUSTEE POSITIONS ARE:**  
(Both positions are for a 3-year term)

**Brian Pyper**  
**Bryce Chapman**  
**David Courtney**

### Candidates Forum – Hosted by Gayle Baker of Ask Salt Spring

A Candidates Forum will be held on April 10th at 7pm online. The link will be posted on the District website a few days prior to the event. This is your opportunity to ask the candidates any questions you have before voting.

## AGM Voter Eligibility and Process

The Trustee election will use an advance mail-in ballot process and an in-person voting process. Voting packages and instructions will be mailed to all eligible voters 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.

Per the *Election Act* and the District's Letters Patent, an eligible elector for the purpose of a Trustee election is a North Salt Spring Waterworks District ratepayer who meets the following criteria:

- Is a Canadian Citizen 18 years of age or older, who has been a resident of British Columbia for at least the prior 6 months;
- Can only vote once in this election unless the owner is also an authorized agent.
- Is a registered owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area, or the authorized agent of any board or corporation that is an owner of such land, or the legal representative of any owner of such land who has died, become insolvent or insane (written proof must be provided by the representative);
- Has been a registered owner of a property within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District area for at least 30 days prior to election packages being mailed out;
- Has an account in good standing;
- Is entitled to be registered as a voter under the *Election Act* and is not disqualified from voting by the *Local Government Act* or any other enactment; and
- Spouses or partners who are not registered on title per BC Assessment are not entitled to vote.



# Salt Spring Home & Garden 2024 Show March 9-10

Scenes from the Farmers' Institute event  
presented by Windsor Plywood

Photos by Rob Lowrie



Offering muffins and more to the weekend Home & Garden Show crowd at the Farmers' Institute is the South End Sausage crew of, from left, Jana Roerick, Morgain Cuddy, Josh Clarke and Ramona Reigel.



Matt Nowell of Gulf Islands Irrigation, left, gives Home & Garden Show attendee Reg James some information about irrigation systems.



Damian Inwood of the Gulf Islands Community Radio Society broadcasts live from the show through its website. The society hopes its CHIR FM radio station will be operational by the end of May.



Excited to try Clapham's Beeswax products with local proprietor Roger Clapham are Michelle Gould, right, and Henri Wipperman.



Ramona Devane, who is in charge of the Lions Club Directory holds last year's edition – the 43rd – in front of a display of past covers as the deadline to participate in the 2024-25 directory looms.



Holger Hermann of Gulf Island Pool and Spa, left, chats with Chris Fawcett about barrel saunas.

## Windsor Plywood SALT SPRING



Full line building supplies  
from foundation to roof!

PH: 250-537-5564 • FAX: 250-537-1207

RAINBOW ROAD

Mon to Fri 7am to 5pm / Saturdays 8am to 5pm

Closed Sundays and holidays



BEDDIS ROAD

Mon to Fri 6:30am to 3pm | Sat 8am to 4pm



## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

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
13	17	1.7	5.6	17	49	3.2	10.5
	636	3.4	11.2		548	2.9	9.5
	1323	0.9	3		808	2.9	9.5
	2023	2.9	9.5		1657	0.8	2.6
14	105	2.2	7.2	18	157	3.3	10.8
	659	3.3	10.8		1803	0.9	3
	1412	0.7	2.3		250	3.3	10.8
	2150	3	9.8		1907	0.9	3
15	202	2.5	8.2	19	332	3.3	10.8
	724	3.2	10.5		941	2.5	8.2
	1502	0.6	2		1218	2.6	8.5
	2323	3.1	10.2		2002	1	3.3
16	322	2.8	9.2				
	748	3.1	10.2				
	1557	0.7	2.3				

Driftwood

250-537-9933

241 Fulford-Ganges Rd,  
Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2K7

driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com • www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

# There's an easier way to get news.



Scan to subscribe to our  
free email newsletter

Driftwood



Bookmark: gulfislandsdriftwood.com