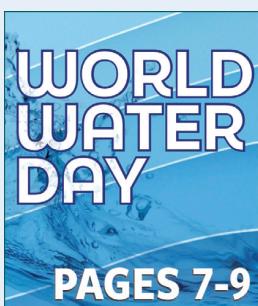
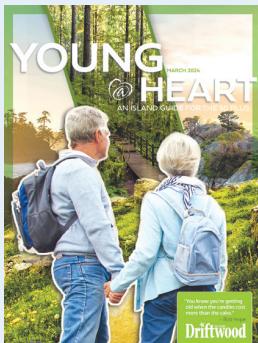


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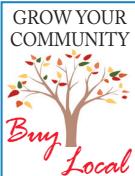


12 Panel shares ArtSpring birth and growth tales

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- Bucknerfield's
- Country Grocer
- Home Hardware
- Pharmasave
- The Local Liquor St.
- Thrifty Foods



Driftwood

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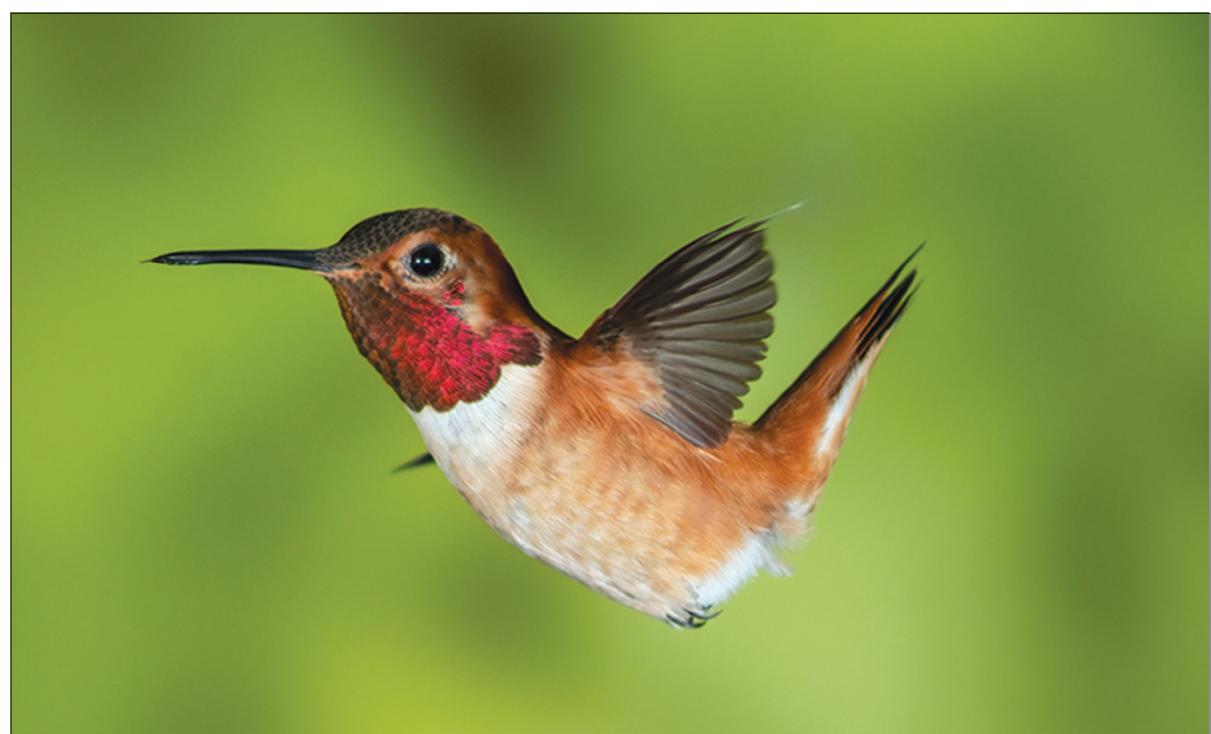


PHOTO BY BRUNO GONZALEZ

RETURN OF THE RUFOUS: The first Rufous hummingbird of 2024 reported on Salt Spring Island was this male photographed by Bruno Gonzalez at his Langs Road home at 3:30 p.m. on Friday, March 15. Gonzalez said he is usually visited by the first Rufous on March 18, so this one showed up earlier than usual. Gonzalez is an avid hummingbird enthusiast and photographer.

GANGES

Harbourwalk consultation begins

Steering committee meets, plans review before outreach

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With funding for outreach and designs allocated — and a consulting firm retained — Salt Spring's new Ganges Harbourwalk Steering Committee hit the ground running at its first meeting, as regional district staff laid out history and two different paths for a project revitalizing the waterfront.

Current harbourwalk infrastructure dates back to its installation in the 1980s, explained Capital Regional District (CRD) electoral area manager Dan Ovington, a collaborative initiative involving multiple public agencies and community volunteers. But the legal instruments required to guarantee public access along the entirety of the route — known as statutory rights of way — were not secured at the time of the original construction. As a result, there are gaps in the

harbourwalk — and some segments have fallen into disrepair.

As part of a provincial application to secure those rights of way, the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development needs to see detailed designs created in consultation with upland property owners, First Nations and the broader community.

Notably, Salt Spring's now-disbanded CRD transportation commission also allocated funding towards development of a harbourside pathway that could be placed in the existing road right of way upland from the harbourwalk — and that potential path, along Lower Ganges Road from the intersection with Rainbow Road to where Lower Ganges meets Upper Ganges Road, would also be a huge improvement for pedestrians.

So the also-now-disbanded Parks and Recre-

ation Commission approved a project charter to hire a single consulting firm to gather input on both possible projects — a 300-metre walk along the foreshore, connecting Rotary Park and the waterfront Farmers' Institute property to the languishing Ganges Harbour Community Park, and a 400-metre pathway along Lower Ganges Road — and \$100,000 has been allocated from capital reserves to move ahead with producing designs to show the province.

"That's in the 2024 budget," said Ovington. "We've applied for a grant for that same amount, and we should know if we're successful for that grant in early June, which would free up that capital reserve funding for other parks and recreation projects, so fingers crossed with that."

HARBOURWALK continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"For true perspective get a dog
to worship you and a cat to scorn you."

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**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 Brian Pyper

**TRUSTEE POSITIONS ARE: Bryce Chapman
(Both positions
are for a 3-year term) 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.

GANGES

Park paving complete



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

New textured paving at the front of Centennial Park is complete, according to park staff, and fencing will be removed in time for the first day of the Saturday Market on March 30.

Centennial set to shine for market's opening day

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Revitalization work on Salt Spring's busiest park is "pretty much done," according to Capital Regional District staff, who said fences that have surrounded the project all winter would be down in time for the unofficial start of the tourist season: the first Saturday Market.

"I'm doing a walk-through next week," said Salt Spring electoral area manager Dan Ovington, briefing the island's Local Community Commission Thursday, March 14 on progress of the Centennial Park renovation.

Ovington said park staff were leaving the fencing in place until right before the Saturday Market opening day, mostly to protect newly planted grass from "all of our friendly dogs that aren't supposed to be in there."

Representatives of the new Salt Spring Island Saturday Market Society, now in charge of operations for what might be the island's largest visitor attraction, came down to do measurements earlier and again last weekend, Ovington said, to sort out placement of vendor stands and tents for the upcoming season.

Centennial Park would be reopening without new benches and bike racks in place, Ovington said, at least at first.

"Rather than having the contractor do

that, there was quite a bit of cost savings for us to order and install those ourselves," said Ovington. "That created a bit of a delay, and what we also want to see is how the market is actually set up."

Both park staff and vendors noted that there were no benches on the plaza to begin with, Ovington added, so at the last walk-through everyone agreed to see how it shook out on the first weekend before final placement is determined.

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

The project launched thanks to a \$561,748 grant from Pacific Economic Development Canada, \$298,000 of Community Works funding and \$100,000 from the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation capital reserve fund — and is technically ahead of schedule, having been initially planned for completion by March 31.

The Saturday Market opens for the 2024 season on Saturday, March 30.

Pathway route considered

HARBOURWALK

continued from 1

The harbourwalk committee passed a motion to review the conceptual design before it goes out to consultation; committee member and Local Community Commission (LCC) member Brian Webster expressed a hope that communication between the harbourwalk committee and the LCC remain open so that there would be few surprises as commissioners were asked to sign off at what Ovington called "key project milestones" in the project charter.

"This is a fair-sized project, from a financial point of view," said Webster. "I understand there are sensitivities, particu-

larly around First Nations and negotiations with property owners. But I think we need to be respectful of the role of both committee members and the LCC to make the process work."

The steering committee will later bring the conceptual design to the LCC, Ovington said, after the consultation work has been completed. LCC can then approve, deny or amend that plan before moving ahead with detailed designs.

"My hope, and I think staff's concern, is that we not duplicate the process," said Webster at the LCC's evening meeting Thursday, March 14. "But at the same time, we need to be careful not to exclude the LCC from key decision points along the way."

CLIMATE ACTION

No funds set aside for 'Big Oil' lawsuit

Islands Trust will decide whether to join case first

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust isn't ready to set aside funding to join a class action climate impact lawsuit, voting to wait until June to consider whether they're even on board first.

On the last day of the Islands Trust Council (ITC) meeting Thursday, March 14, a motion from North Pender Island trustee Deb Morrison — to include \$15,256 in the 2024/25 budget to join the Sue Big Oil class action lawsuit against large oil, gas and coal corporations to recover climate impact related costs — was defeated 15-5, despite language that specified the funds would only be eligible for spending upon ITC resolving to join the movement.

The amount was an estimate based on a delegation from the group to ITC at its September meeting, Morrison said, and was meant to be reported on by December "so we could include it in budget reasoning."

"We're now here in March, we still don't have that reporting," said Morrison. "This is not a debate, at the moment, about whether we should join or not, [but] whether we should hold money contingent upon having that discussion in June."

ISLANDS TRUST

Trustees give approval to enforcement review

Council advances suggestions from Ombudsperson largely unchanged

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

"Administratively fair, reasonable and transparent with the aim of restoring public confidence."

That's the target for the Islands Trust's bylaw enforcement policies and procedures review, which was officially kicked off Thursday, March 14 as Trust Council voted unanimously to approve the project's charter.

A straight line can be drawn between those goals — and any future revisions to bylaw compliance and enforcement policies — and a list of recommendations from the provincial Office of the Ombudsperson received back in September, sought by Trust Council as a result of public complaints heard at previous council meetings.

Trust Council had directed staff develop a workflow plan and project charter to implement those recommendations — and that, as planning services director Stefan Cermak explained, is what happened.

"The scope of the work is to review, assess and implement the recommendations of the Ombudsperson's report," said Cermak, "through changes to Trust Council policies, bylaw enforcement practices and procedures, and [to] implement changes through staff training and regular communications."

The perhaps oddly-specific number would have set aside \$0.50 for every person living within the Islands Trust area, against the backdrop of \$10.98 million in proposed planned spending — similar to agreements made by municipalities who have signed onto the lawsuit so far, including the District of Squamish and the towns of Gibsons, Qualicum Beach and View Royal. But with funding that staff said amounted to local area taxation increasing by 0.14 per cent above the current projected increases, the majority of trustees felt it could wait — particularly in a climate where they felt residents think taxes are going up too much already. The general tax increase for local Trust areas sits at 5.9 per cent for the 2024/25 budget, with the Bowen Island levy seeing an increase of 13.1 per cent, according to administrative services director Julia Mobbs.

"I am not in favour of adding money and taxing the taxpayers for something that we have not decided to move ahead with," said South Pender Island trustee Kristina Evans, noting that should ITC later decide to join, money could possibly come from surplus.

"I think we have a clear indication that if we do decide to go with this action, we'll have sufficient funds in reserve to do so," said Lasqueti Island trustee Tim Peterson. "We've received a lot of pushback from the public for taxing for things that we don't end up spending."

ISLANDS TRUST

Special meeting on for April

Policy Statement draft to be reviewed online

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Within the next few weeks, both Islands Trust trustees and the broader public will be getting a first look at a draft of planned amendments to the Trust's official Policy Statement — and as staff repeatedly emphasized the word "draft," Trust Council voted to take their first look as a group next month.

The 8th version of the project's charter was presented to Council by Trust Area services director Clare Frater at that body's meeting Thursday, March 14, updated to include funding for a virtual "open house" discussion session, as well as a "professionally designed and administered" survey.

"Our anticipated timeframe now is to bring the document out in mid April," said

Frater. "I think the watch word is going to be 'flexibility'; as we move this forward, we're going to move at a pace that all of you are comfortable with."

At the March 14 meeting, Trust Council voted to amend the project charter just a bit more — to have the draft be provided to the full Trust Council instead, at a special meeting almost certain to be held electronically.

"We're intending to bring a whole suite of information associated with that draft," said Frater, "which will include a summary of how we've dealt with each of the 32 resolutions that directed the changes, a 45-page concordance table tracking every change from Draft 1 to Draft 2, and comments from First Nations."

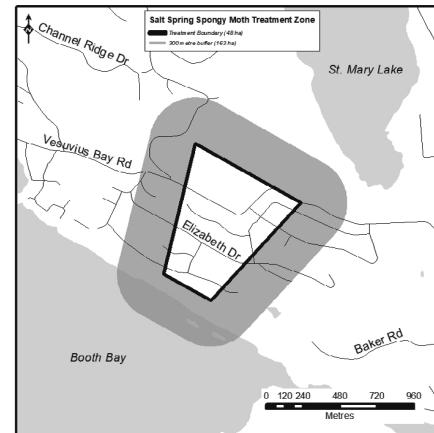
The process is unlikely to wrap up before current timeline estimates, putting Local Trust Committee referrals and the public survey on the calendar for April 2025.

The date and time for that special Trust Council meeting will be posted, when scheduled, at islandstrust.bc.ca.

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

For more information on the program and spray dates, please visit 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

Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Best policy

At just three words, the shortest sentence in the Islands Trust's 33-page-long Policy Statement reads: "Changes will occur."

It's a 30-year-old warning that the Trust, in its mandate to "preserve and protect" the area's environment and unique character, will have to make course corrections over time to accomplish its mission.

But moving that rudder has been a painful experience. The first effort since 1994 was met in 2021 after an early draft document was met with crowded public meetings, angry letters to the editor and online vitriol, and a general sense of a loss of public faith — in the direction being chosen, perhaps, but also in how decisions were made to choose it.

Trustees sent staff back to the drawing table with a daunting workload: take 32 individual resolutions, each recommending changes for the new Policy Statement, and weave them into the Trust's guiding document — and, simultaneously, gather "feedback and reflections" from almost a dozen First Nations and incorporate that, too.

Little wonder it's been a bit of a wait.

And, given the history, even smaller wonder that the Trust Council wants to start trustees and the community at the same point, planning to take a first look at the new draft all together.

The Policy Statement sits, in the hierarchy of Islands Trust's planning, at the top — above each local official community plan and every land use bylaw. In the Islands Trust, community plans and bylaws must be consistent with the Policy Statement — and it's that document regional and provincial agencies consult to determine whether their plans and policies are compatible with our islands.

With that significance, it's heartening to see a careful, thoughtful process being laid before us. We may not all be wonks excited to sift through a 45-page concordance table, but hopefully many will take time to join the public engagement in the coming two years — reading the draft, participating in the survey, attending discussion sessions and visiting with our local trustees.

THE ISSUE:

Trust Policy Statement revision

WE SAY:

Inclusive, collaborative process best

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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



ODD NUMBERS

Hall charger a great result

BY JIM STANDEN

The Salt Spring Island Electric Vehicle (EV) Group congratulates the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District for the successful negotiation with BC Hydro for the installation of the electric vehicle DCFC charging system ("Fire district agrees to new EV charging station," March 6 Driftwood).

Pay-for-use DCFC charging on our island has been the top priority of the EV group for the last two years and we are pleased that our reaching out and lobbying with BC Hydro helped pave the road.

Our initial meetings with BC Hydro revealed that DCFC installations along numbered highways were their number-one priority, which makes sense. By providing some additional information, we were able to steer them to the needs of smaller communities and the possibility of a test-dip to one that has a lot of EVs (estimated 450 owners, based on the most recent ICBC stats) and is located near Vancouver and Victoria. Salt Spring then moved from "not on the five-year installation list" to a higher priority, which led us teaming up to investigate possible locations and approaching local business partners.

The new DCFC stations fill an important gap. Even though our community is blessed with 18 currently free public chargers and, according to the CRD, 10 additional chargers are planned for the Ganges area, DCFC provides an additional unique service: very fast charging. This

VIEWPOINT

is required for the busiest of our high-demand vehicles that may need a quick boost during the day.

That could include taxi and delivery vehicles, but in the near future, other uses, which could include hospital, public transportation, RCMP and emergency vehicles that are now coming to the market in EV format. The vehicles have a much lower cost of operation, which draws the attention of government and agency bean counters.

There is also another need, and that is tourism. I have personally received messages from day-trippers coming to Salt Spring who did not bring their EV to the island as they were concerned about getting in "tourist time" and then taking a few minutes to obtain a fast charge to get back home.

Other uses are an alternate way to charge your vehicles if your Level 2 port is damaged, or for homes where Level 2 charging is difficult or impossible to install. For those uses, think of DCFC charging as the gas station model (pay and fill).

The centrally located DCFC chargers will be a welcome solution to the above challenges, and probably some additional ones that will reveal themselves.

Thank you, Fire Chief Jamie Holmes, the fire hall board and the negotiation crew for a great result.

The writer is the team lead for the Salt Spring Island Electric Vehicle Group.

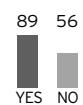
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you visit the Saturday Market on opening day?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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



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



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

Clanna Morna members, from left, Finn Letourneau, Cody Baresich and Mark Leigh play at a celebration of Irish music concert that also featured The Slieves at Mahon Hall on March 15. A letter-to-the-editor writer suggests dancing space should have been placed at the back of the hall so seated audience members could see the bands clearly.

Put dancers at back, please

The music at Mahon Hall with Clanna Morna and The Slieves was wonderful. Sitting there on Friday night 120 years after the hall was built, the place was full of people and babies.

When they mentioned the song Danny Boy, I remembered my dad telling me that the crew (he was a tail gunner on a Wellington airplane) would get him to sing Danny Boy. Knowing beers would be sent over all night, the boys would drink for free. He had a

beautiful voice.

In the '60s it was about peace and love and, oh yeah, bar-room brawling. In the old days, if a group of people were literally standing in front of you so you could not see the stage, the fight was on. Is it because we are just seniors? I hate to think that.

I suggest that for an event like Friday's show at Mahon Hall, the seats be moved forward so that people who want to stand or dance can do so behind the seats. Also, it's better for recording sales.

JOHN NOSELY,
SALT SPRING

I was heartened to read in the March 13 editorial ("Getting it right") that Bylaw 537 has not been adopted, due to a lack of engagement on the part of the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) with Tsawout First Nation Chief Abraham Pelkey and his nation.

Instead of pointing a finger at the LTC, let's start to make more time to learn about what we can each do to engage and care for this sacred land.

I recommend that people read two books: Saltwater People, as told by Dave Elliott Sr., and The Saanich Year by Earl Claxton and John Elliott, which have nurtured and enlightened me over the past 30 years.

The Salt Spring Public Library has Saltwater People in its collection, and both books can be ordered directly from School District

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

Purpose of lease

After reading the "Local Trust staff prep to renovate, rent downtown" story in your March 13 issue, I'm left wondering: Wasn't the CRD's lease of the middle school done with this sort of eventuality in mind?

JO ANN GAINOR,
SALT SPRING

#63 (Saanich) by mail or telephone (250-652-7300). The address is School District #63, attention Sheri Burton, 2125 Keating Cross Road, Saanichton, B.C., V8M 2A5.

NINA RAGINSKY,
WALTER BAY

More incentives

Further to the March 13 article regarding heat pumps, including information on financial incentives for buying one, the Clean BC Better Homes "Income Qualified Program" offers a grant up to \$5,000 for households with a pre-tax income of less than \$42,593, with lesser grants for five additional categories of higher income.

I love my new heat pump, but with so many electrical outages here on the island, it is not wise to give up a secondary heat source. At very cold temperatures, you may want the additional heat source as well.

Clean BC Better Homes has an additional program, called ECAP — the Energy Conservation Assistance Program. If your income for two is less than \$47,600, they assess your home, provide many free smaller energy-saving items, and can even provide a free fridge (if the one you have is at least eight years old), possible insulation and air conditioning.

ANNIE PALOVCIK,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"As we all know, this is a community that is not short on ideas."

HOWARD JANG, ARTSPRING EXECUTIVE AND ARTISTIC DIRECTOR, ON ARTSPRING 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

Kodak Brownie Hawkeye filled albums with images for the future

I don't know who bought me my first camera, but it certainly wasn't my mother who didn't believe in gifts. And my dad didn't make very much money. He had brought a twin-lens Zeiss back from the war, but it was too complicated for me. At the age of 12, everything was too complicated for me.

So it was either my Nana and Da (they were Irish) or my Aunt Pat and her husband Uncle Rolf. I know it doesn't really matter, but it's important to get things right. It really is.

I got the camera on Christmas morning. It was under the tree and in a pretty big box. In those days, Christmas was not the outpouring of presents like today. Socks were common gifts. And sweaters. My Dad once bought me batteries for my bicycle light. And one of my aunts gave me a model airplane kit in balsa. That was really nice. But there was still another box.

In it was a brand new Kodak Brownie Hawkeye camera with (I couldn't believe it) a flash attachment! I have no idea what it must have cost but they are collectors' items now on eBay. It was a plain box camera, black, with a waist-

level viewfinder. There were no adjustments except a button for time exposures. The flash fit on the side and took large flashbulbs. I was one happy kid, I can tell you.

Of course I knew what photographs were; I had suffered, like most kids, through endless sessions of family photograph albums featuring endless pictures of mostly dead people who were my ancestors, I guess. I know they were important somehow, but even the recent past is remote and gone for a 12-year-old. But I had not the foggiest notion of how they were made. I had no way of knowing about film and negatives and chemical darkroom processing. None of us kids did. The Kodak Hawkeye was a 1949 model and everything about it was new. But even at that age I knew that recording events and people was somehow important. I wouldn't have been able to articulate it, but I felt it keenly. Maybe all those hours of looking at photo albums of the past had taught me something. Maybe. I don't know.

And, although I could not have said it then: the past is important. I, of course, know it now, but then



Chris
Rideout
AND THAT
WAS
WHEN

it was only an inarticulate feeling. All this will pass. Get a picture of it. Now. So I did.

The Kodak Hawkeye was a very simple camera. It was fixed-focus, slow shutter speed, and took 620 film, which is now obsolete. I didn't know any of this and I didn't care. Among the first pictures I took were of immediate family. Because they were close. And the second ones were of my friends.

You remember how important friends were when you were in Grade 6 and 7. They were a critical part of the fabric of your young life. Secrets were critically important. Notes passed around at recess became archival artifacts; changing everything in a moment. Imagine then this pushy kid with his box camera invading your space and telling you to stand still. (Slow shut-

ter speed.) Nowadays, everyone has a camera in their phone so pictures are easy and the quality is so good almost all "point and shoot" cameras are long gone. But my friends seemed uneasy, hesitant smiles was all I got. I took my camera to those basement parties with the concrete block walls and bare hanging light bulbs.

Everyone got dressed up at those parties. Well, not the boys. I took pictures of my bicycle (brand new 3-speed), took a picture of my little record player, my wind-up train set and other stupid goofy things. When the film was done I rode to the drugstore to have it developed. When I got the envelope a few days later I saved it until I was alone to look at the pictures. You have to remember that this was as close to magic as it ever got to in Scarborough.

Since I was just a kid and had not yet taken any philosophy courses I didn't realize at the time that what I was doing was, in a sense, freezing time. I was enough of a weird kid then and I didn't need any philosophical insight (which I still don't really have and that's okay). I did not realize that I was

creating a kind of time machine, like in science fiction, that was taking a moment — a one-thirtieth of a second moment — and stretching it out for 70 years. And if that ain't magic I don't know what is.

Like a kid, I pretty much ignored the negatives. They looked like junk to me. I stuck the pictures into a photograph album which I bought with paper route money. And this is weird: I wrote captions under each picture with white ink. I don't know why. I pulled out the album when I was writing this piece and, wondrous to say, they are all still there. With their goofy captions which are so goofy I am not even going to write them down here. It's hard enough to look at them. I woke up in the middle of the night last week and I realized what I had done way back then.

In my innocence, I had created the very thing that had bored me to death when I was a kid: those old, creaking, dusty photo albums full of pictures of mostly dead people. Except now, they were my dead people. Kept alive and still young, by means of that box camera — the Kodak Brownie Hawkeye. With flash.

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A REAL BARGAIN: Valdy checks out a piece of audio equipment while volunteering at the Salt Spring Lions Club's garage sale held every Friday and Saturday morning from 10 a.m. to noon at Hart Bradley Memorial Hall on Bonnet Avenue. All proceeds benefit the Lions Club's many philanthropic programs

PHOTO BY ROB LOWREY

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

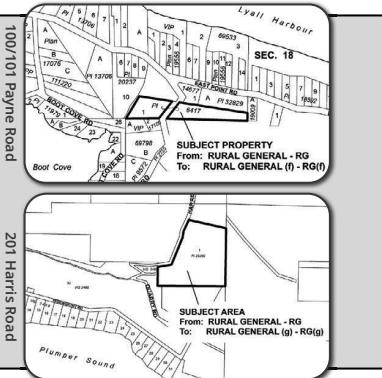
What are Proposed Bylaw Nos. 140 and 141 about?

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: vcipchsub@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.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

Rants + ROSES

Roses

• Salt Spring Arts is sending baskets of roses to our vibrant creative community for making the 10th Annual BC Family Day Event a success! A special thank you to our attendees, volunteers, performers and community sponsors/funders: Country Grocer, Wheat Kids Clothing, Harbour House Hotel, West of the Moon, OMG Boutique, Moby's Pub, Glad's Gelateria, Whiskers Pet Store, Metta Rose Photography, BC Ferries and the Government of British Columbia.

• A huge bouquet of red roses from the Salt Spring Film Festival board to all who made the 2024 festival such a wonderful event! Our Presenting sponsor Country Grocer, Gala sponsor Kia, Diamond sponsor SaltyPay, Filmmakers sponsor Harbour House Hotel, Affordability sponsor Salt Spring Legion, grantor Salt Spring Island Foundation, and many businesses, grantors, community partners and individuals contribute so generously. The staff of GISS graciously host us, our two staff and 100 volunteers work with charm and dedication, the social justice displays get us thinking and acting, and the patrons are passionate about the films and the world. Thank you all so much! P.S. Lost & Found 250-537-5169.

• Roses to Mark Laberge for all he has done for live music on Salt Spring in the last few years. He has made the Legion "the place to be" for all different genres. It is now a multi-generational music scene not to be missed. He is the sweetest, down-to-earth guy. Go say hi, give thanks and, if you have not heard him play guitar, make it happen because he absolutely kills it. PB

for kindly hosting our two on-island events. And we are delighted that so many local businesses and individuals contributed to our silent auction on the evening of Saturday, March 9. Buy local!

With your incredible generosity, nearly \$12,000 will be going to support African grandmothers and ensure the children in their care have access to health care, counselling, peer support groups, and programs that will support economic empowerment. Our online appeal is still open at slf.akaraisin.com/ui/grandmotherscampaign2024/tssiscrabb2024.

JILL TARSWELL,
SALT SPRING GRAND(M)OTHERS TO GRANDMOTHERS

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

G-2-G members thank Scrabble donors

The Salt Spring Grand(m)others to Grandmothers thank our wonderful friends, long-time and new, for coming out to support our annual Scrabble Fundraiser and the Stephen Lewis Foundation's Grandmothers Campaign.

We are especially grateful to the Salt Spring Inn and the Harbour House

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

MARCH 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
20	332	3.3	10.8	24	502	3.1	10.2
	941	2.5	8.2		1103	1.8	5.9
	1218	2.6	8.5		1648	2.7	8.9
	2002	1	3.3		2237	1.5	4.9
	405	3.2	10.5		515	3	9.8
21	1001	2.3	7.5	25	1126	1.6	5.2
	1346	2.6	8.5		1739	2.8	9.2
	2048	1.1	3.6		2311	1.7	5.6
	430	3.2	10.5		527	3	9.8
	1021	2.2	7.2		1151	1.3	4.3
22	1456	2.6	8.5	26	1831	2.8	9.2
	2128	1.2	3.9		2344	2	6.6
	448	3.1	10.2		539	3	9.8
	1042	2	6.6		1218	1.1	3.6
	1555	2.7	8.9		1925	2.9	9.5
23	2204	1.3	4.3				

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WORLD MARCH 22ND WATER DAY 2024

FRESHWATER USE DEMANDS CAUTION

A LOCAL PERSPECTIVE ON WORLD WATER DAY

SUBMITTED BY SSI WATER PRESERVATION SOCIETY

Freshwater is a precious planetary resource and needs loving care. We know in our hearts that clean freshwater is something that should be equitably available to all, and the upcoming World Water Day on March 22 is a reminder of this to all our planet's communities. The world's natural systems already know where it's at.

Here are some Water Preservation Society thoughts for our island's World Water Day.

Our small island's water comes entirely from local rainfall, snow and hail (precipitation), with an expected healthy (though very seasonal) approximately one metre (39 inches) of precipitation per year. In these Salish Seas the good news is that substantial annual seasonal rainfall is often/usually forthcoming, though back-to-back years of reduced rainfall and long, dry summers do happen. And for our island, surrounded by sea water, aside from precipitation there is no other "way in" for our freshwater — except for trucking.

We have and enjoy our island's beautiful natural systems: recreational parks, forests, wetlands, lakes, flowing creeks, shorelines, etc. These natural areas help capture our island's rainwater, in our lakes (surface water) and, via infiltration, in the ground (groundwater). For our island

communities and those natural systems, some 40 per cent of our available freshwater is in our island's nine lakes, but the majority of our community and most of the natural environments rely on groundwater — and/or creeks, ponds and wetlands — for their health.

Not surprisingly, our surface freshwater and groundwater systems share something of a common plumbing system, which is good (because infiltration and storage take place) and bad (the storage system is not good). Underpinning our natural systems are, as some folks refer to Salt Spring, "The Rock." Geologically this is certainly a truism, though our island's rocks don't make for great groundwater storage. That means what we can actually store from that one metre +/- of annual rainfall is quite limited, and without those regular seasonal top-ups we would almost certainly have a problem.

So, with our current seasonal rainfall being what we have, and the overall rainfall levels for our island being lower than average right now (an El Nino phenomenon), we may be moving towards being a part of the 70 per cent of Canada that is currently abnormally dry and at risk of extreme and exceptional drought. Couple that with our limited underground storage capacity and some caution on the use of our freshwater is necessary.

Our island is dependant on our rainfall top-ups and our freshwater is finite due to storage and availability limits. So . . . let's celebrate our island's World Water Day but consider a Less (freshwater use) is More (care for the community and environment) as our way to go!

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PHOTOS BY ROB LOWRIE

IRISH EYES: Will Millar, of Irish Rovers music group fame, stands with one of his paintings in his new exhibition at Gallery 8, with part of another seen at right. Millar met with art and music lovers at his show opening on Friday evening, providing lively music and stories as he connected with attendees. Millar said he is a lifelong artist whose work is found in Gallery 8 – his main gallery – and in two others in Florida and Ireland. Millar now lives in Maple Bay. The exhibit called A Roving Irishman's Life in Art continues at Gallery 8 in Grace Point Square through March 24.

CONTEMPORARY DANCE

Legion
Branch 92
Salt Spring Island
NOTICE OF AGM

**Sunday, March 31
2:00pm**

**Meaden Hall, 120 Blain Road
(downstairs at the Legion)**

**All members welcome
and encouraged to attend.**

www.saltspringlegion.ca

Powerful dance event arrives

Loneliness and isolation explored
by Shay Kuebler

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

In 2018, when dancer, choreographer and Radical System Art's artistic director Shay Kuebler learned the U.K. had just appointed a Minister of Loneliness, he felt the concept of social isolation and loneliness might be a relevant theme to explore for his next work. Little did he know that with the arrival of Covid, that disconnection would take on a whole new meaning and even greater global resonance.

The result was Momentum of Isolation (MOI), a show about isolation created in isolation through 2020 and 2021, which debuted as the first live performance back on stage in Vancouver after lockdowns. It was deemed to be arguably the most formidably compelling piece in his repertoire to date.

Through inventive and powerful choreographic language, MOI beautifully translates this universal emotion. Kuebler's signature style — highly physical dance rooted in his background in martial arts, urban dance and theatre — is on full display, along with his versatile chorus of seven energetic performers.

"It is a topic that has so many layers for me, including society's shifting values and our ever-advancing attachment to technology and a digital way of life," said Kuebler from his tour stop in Vernon. "The story very much highlights how important our social bonds are for meaning and real connection."

In one of his company's most theatrical and narratively driven works, Kuebler plays a character who works alone, speaking only occasionally to his single green plant and inanimate objects, creating a disconnection with reality. The ambitious production furthers this sensation by integrating video, sound, puppetry



PHOTO BY DAVID COOPER

Scene from Radical System Art's Momentum of Isolation (MOI) show, which comes to ArtSpring on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:30 p.m.

and stage craft to surround the dancers and shape its vignettes of a digital world.

With these effects and production values in mind, Kuebler is quick to point out that audiences often find themselves surprised by the emotional range of the scenes.

"One of the things I cherish the most about MOI has been the diversity of reactions we have received," he explained. "In one talkback, we had both youth and senior audience members equally respond to the work, but differ entirely on their interpretations of it and why. For me, it sheds light on our goal of being accessible yet inventive to reach people at different levels."

Since forming in 2014, the Vancouver-based company Radical System Art has represented Canada at the Incolballet Festival in Colombia and the CanaDanse Festival in Israel, performed with the National Arts Centre of Canada three times and completed 12 provincial, national and international tours. Edmonton-born Kuebler, formerly of Vancouver, is now based in Courtenay.

Prior to the performance on March 27, Kuebler will sit down at Salt Spring Coffee with café proprietor and ArtSpring's Dance Connector Robbyn Scott to host an informal all-welcome community chat on Tuesday, March 26 from 1 to 2:30 p.m. This is the community's opportunity to enjoy a coffee and engage with Kuebler over his thoughts about the human value of creativity, play and exploration after 20 years of working in arts and entertainment.

In bringing now his fifth show over 10 years to ArtSpring, Kuebler is reflective.

"I've always enjoyed my time on Salt Spring Island," he said. "There's a sense of community and support here that is very unique in B.C. — a genuine passion, curiosity, and interest for the arts that makes performing here such a privilege."

Tickets for next Wednesday's show, which begins at 7:30 p.m., are on sale at tickets.artspring.ca or through the box office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Thank you to Joan Farlinger and Salt Spring Coffee for sponsoring this performance, and a special thanks to Dance West Network for supporting this presentation.

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CREATIVE LIFE

Open house offered for artist calls

Salt Spring Arts staff available March 26 to discuss numerous opportunities

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Islanders can get the scoop on multiple ways to showcase and advance their artistic expression over the coming year during an open house hosted by Salt Spring Arts later this week.

Salt Spring Arts staff will welcome questions and offer help with forms during the casual session, which takes place from 2 to 6 p.m. at Mahon Hall on Tuesday, March 26. With a number of artist opportunities aimed at helping to build and nurture the community's creative capacity — and some deadlines quickly approaching — now is the time to meet the team helping facilitate these applications.

"Our Salt Spring Arts Project

Grant provided the opportunity for us to enrich lives, create community and foster inclusion by bringing quality music performances to local seniors in a variety of settings," said local musician Tony Prosk, who witnessed the widespread positive impact as a result of his successful grant application in 2023.

Local creative endeavours of cultural benefit to the community can apply for a Project Grant, while material support may be awarded through an application to the Susan Benson Fund for Visual Artists. The deadline for both grants is March 31.

Salt Spring Arts' open calls for visual artists and makers also include applications to the 2024 Artcraft season for new and returning participants, and proposals for the 2025 Showcase Exhibition series on the Mahon Hall stage. Artists who have teaching skills are meanwhile encouraged to learn more about the Artist in the Class program; applications for the 2024-25



PHOTO COURTESY SS ARTS

A Music for Seniors and Shut-ins event led by Tony Prosk and held last year at seniors' care homes was a recipient of a 2023 project grant from Salt Spring Arts. An open house to provide information and assistance in applying for various 2024 grants and awards is set for Tuesday, March 26 from 2 to 6 p.m. at Mahon Hall.

school year are also now being accepted.

No registration is needed for the free open house event on March 26.

To learn more about the individual programs and application deadlines, people should visit the Calls for Artists page at saltspringarts.com.

Shay Kuebler
Radical System Art
(MOI)
Momentum
of Isolation

ArtSpring
Presents
25TH ANNIVERSARY



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7:30pm
\$35 | \$5

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tickets.artspring.ca
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what's on this week

Wed.

March 20

ACTIVITIES

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

Knit Purl Community. All levels of knitters and crocheters welcome. Library program room. 5 to 7 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 21

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Community Commission Meeting. SIMS board room. 9 a.m.

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

Bingo. Rotary Club fundraiser. Meaden Hall. 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. (Doors at 6.)

Rowing Through Time: Adventure and Natural History in the Grand Canyon. Multimedia presentation by David Denning. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Fri.

March 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Payadora Ensemble and the Tangomania Show. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Fri.

March 22

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. Enjoying Local Food is this week's topic in the TSS/Restorative Justice room at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Friday Game Night. For ages 13 and up. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Sat.

March 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Met Opera: Live in HD – Romeo & Juliette. Gounod's Shakespeare adaptation. ArtSpring. 9:55 a.m.

We Found a Lovebird, With Salome Cullen Band. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Celestial Rhythms: An Equinox Celebration. Dancing under the dome at Honest Farms. 7 p.m. Info: bsharperavecoach@gmail.com.

ACTIVITIES

Fabulous Flea Market. Community vendors, food and refreshments at Fulford Hall. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sun.

March 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz Jam. With open mic at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Death Café. The session led by Rhema Cossever invites people to think about death and share their feelings and experience about death and dying. Star of the Sea, St. Mary's Church. 2 to 4 p.m.

Mon.

March 25

ACTIVITIES

Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Society AGM. At Lions Hall. 1:30 p.m.

Tues.

March 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Community Chat With Shay Kuebler. Choreographer and dancer meets with community at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe & Kitchen. 1 to 2:30 p.m.

Artist Calls Open House. Salt Spring Arts session to help people take advantage of funding opportunities. Mahon Hall. 2 to 6 p.m.

Ribbets, Rivals and Ripples of Red-legged Frogs. A presentation by wetlands biologist Barb Beasley. Blackburn Lake Nature Reserve. 7 p.m. Register through debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.

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

Wed.

March 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Shay Kuebler I Radical System Art: Momentum of Isolation. Dance show at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bridge. See last Wednesday's listing.

Swing Dancing. See last Wednesday's listing.

Music Bingo. See last Wednesday's listing.

CINEMA

• **King Fu Panda 4** runs Friday, March 22 to Tuesday, March 26 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Rated PG. 1 hour, 34 minutes. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Drawing From Life – A Selection of Work from the Dragonfly Life Drawing Group** runs at Salt Spring Gallery from March 22 to April 10, with an opening reception on Friday, March 22 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **A Roving Irishman's Life in Art**, an exhibit of work by former Irish Rover Will Millar, runs at Gallery 8 in Grace Point Square through March 24.

• **Kaya Reiss – Roman Portraits** shows in the Salt Spring Public Library program room through the month of March.

• **Works by Salt Spring Painters Guild** members are on display in the ArtSpring lobby during the month of March. These are works done in groups, under instruction, or in workshops, and reflect the guild's diverse activities.

• **Judy H. McPhee** shows photographs taken at the July 1 car show at the Country Grocer cafe this month.

Fabulous Flea Market

At Fulford Hall
Sat., March 23, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Fundraiser for the hall

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ISLAND LIFE

ARTSPRING

Road to arts centre opening recalled by panel



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

From left, Bob Weeden, who was president of the Island Arts Centre Society when ArtSpring was opened in 1999, adds to discussion at the March 16 Pre-history of ArtSpring event held at the ArtSpring gallery Saturday, along with four of the people involved in some way with the arts centre's creation: April Curtis, Sue Newman, Victoria Olchowecski and Tom Toynbee.

People involved and community members share pre-1999 memories

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A gathering held in ArtSpring's gallery on Saturday afternoon may not have been an "official part" of the arts centre's 25th anniversary celebrations set for April 17-21, but it was a perfect kick-off to get the ball rolling.

The Pre-history of ArtSpring panel event saw the gallery packed with people who had both lived through all or part of the arguably challenging 10-year process to fund and build ArtSpring, and those who have come to use and appreciate the facility in the past 25 years.

And judging by the warm applause and laughter—sometimes occurring spontaneously in response to a specific anecdote or phrase—and comments made in the Q&A portion of the event, all the blood, sweat and tears required to create ArtSpring were worth it.

The panel discussion was the first in a series of events being organized by the Community Roundtable Committee, which formed as a result of a "listening session" with members of the public hosted in May of 2023 by ArtSpring's executive and artistic director Howard Jang, who took on the post in January of 2022.

"As we all know, this is a community that is not short on ideas," said Jang in describing the beginning of planning for how to celebrate the centre's 25th anniversary. "I mean that in the nicest way possible."

After Jang's introduction, four people involved with different aspects of advocating for the arts centre from its birth to opening shared some of the history, which was followed by a social break and then questions posed or memories shared by attendees.

April Curtis, who was the artistic director of Off Centre Stage in the latter 1980s, was in the original organizing group and on the first Island Arts Centre Society (IACS) board, which was formed in 1989. She recounted how various art groups were discussing the need for a large, centralized space for their activities "when a miracle happened." Two large government grant possibilities—a

\$200,000 "Windfall" grant from the Capital Regional District and a \$434,000 Go BC (provincial) program grant—came available and were acquired by 1990, after support for the project was proven with a well-supported petition. At that time the centre was estimated to cost \$1.3 million, so local fundraising activities—often with fun themes, as audience member Debbie Magnusson noted—took place. The initial volunteer committee, formed in November of 1989, consisted of Curtis, Bill Cowan, Arvid Chalmers, Bob Hassell (the building's architect), Trish Nobile, Simon Rook, Mary Koroscil, Lawrie Neish, Stan Lam and Geoff Swift.

Curtis described how the ArtSpring name was chosen.

"We were actually building over deep springs that fed Ganges Creek, and we also hoped to build a space where the community could come to be absorbed and refreshed by the essences of art, music and creativity. So I suggested it be named ArtSpring, and the majority agreed and it was passed."

Sue Newman, a dance teacher, choreographer and head of Newman Family Productions, gave people a sense of the high level of local performing arts activity that existed in the 1980s, which was the major reason for the push to create a centre to be shared by many groups. After detailing a fulsome list of dance, theatre and music initiatives and events, Newman asked, rhetorically, "So was there a need for a dedicated place? I don't know!"

That one of the pre-ArtSpring fundraisers was a Salt Spring Academy Awards (and Chair-ity Night)—with tiny golden gumboots handed out to winners—was an indication of how much was going on in the various community halls and churches, at Off Centre Stage (where the Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary Thrift Shop is now located) and the Salt Spring Elementary School gymnasium, AKA the Activity Centre.

Newman also reminded everyone that while the official opening of ArtSpring took place on April 16, 1999 with a ribbon-cutting by Birgit and Robert Bateman, who were major supporters of the project, a soft opening event was held on the weekend of Dec. 5-6, 1998, with non-stop local entertainment.

Victoria Olchowecski, who joined the Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild when she moved to the island in 1993, recounted the various guilds' financial contributions to the

centre. Some guilds were raising funds right off the bat, with Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild meeting minutes from 1991 noting that \$75 was being budgeted for the ArtSpring project that year. In 1999, guild president Ida-Marie Threadkell presented a cheque for \$6,000.

"So when these weavers put aside \$75, and then \$500, and \$250, we're talking about a meeting, we're talking about a raffle, we're talking about deciding how much money goes where and how you pay your bills. So that sense of ownership of ArtSpring is very, very strong," said Olchowecski.

"One of the things that an organization such as ours must have – and I think we have shown – is imagination. And with imagination, you can achieve almost anything."

JOAN FARLINGER
IACS supporter and board member

The Salt Spring Island Painters Guild paid for the gallery lights—both initially and for an upgrade—and the Salt Spring Potters Guild bought a special trap for the sink and provided the plinths.

For Saturday's event, the gallery walls were hung with work by weavers/spinners and painters guild members.

Tom Toynbee was general manager of Mouat's Trading Co. in 1998 when fundraising to complete the building had stalled.

"I began to hear comments in the community like, 'Oh, it's like another [Ganges] boardwalk and we'll never get it finished. I thought this was really dangerous and was concerned about it,'" he said.

Toynbee said he was then approached by Bob Weeden, IACS president at the time, for Mouat's to not only provide a financial donation but for Toynbee to chair a "Funding to the Finish" committee with a goal of raising the final amounts needed within a one month period.

"In addition to his many talents in academia, Bob proved to be a very good salesman, because he said the things that I was

really wanting to hear," said Toynbee.

With a realistic but conservative number of dollars—\$375,000—set as a fundraising target, Toynbee agreed to be the committee chair, and especially because his wife Yvonne had a career in theatre as a vocalist and they were big supporters of the arts.

Mouat's Trading made a contribution, he said, and then he asked a part-time island resident of means named Robb Peters if he and his wife Ruth would consider donating to the cause. Peters offered a donation of up to \$50,000, conditional upon matching funds coming from other contributors. That was a quickly successful effort, and Toynbee was then contacted by Susan Bloom, who said she wanted to do the same.

A further \$195,000 in federal-provincial infrastructure funds were promised during the campaign, which sent the fundraising total over the top.

"It is certainly something that we've been so pleased to be associated with and continue to be pleased to be associated with," said Toynbee. "I was just looking around today at the building and its condition, 25 years later, and it's top notch. Look at all the performances that have gone on here, and all the exhibitions, in the last 25 years. It's a wonderful achievement and I'm so happy to be celebrating the 25th anniversary."

ArtSpring supporter and past board member Joan Farlinger recounted how in the early days of ArtSpring a committee did the programming and looked after the visiting artists. One occasion saw a classical ballet company willing to perform, but only if a hot meal could be provided to all the dancers before the show.

"Now today we just would have gotten take-out, but there was no take-out in those days, and even then we couldn't have afforded it."

Farlinger said the volunteers ended making a spaghetti dinner in ArtSpring's tiny kitchen and serving it to the troupe in the gallery.

"The audience loved their performance and wanted them to come back, and we received thank-you notes and Christmas cards from that company for years to come," she said. "So, one of the things that an organization such as ours must have—and I think we have shown—is imagination. And with imagination, you can achieve almost anything. It was a very happy occasion."

PHILANTHROPY

Little Red Schoolhouse awarded \$15k

100+ Women Who Care donates to Beaver Point single room school

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR 100+ WOMEN WHO CARE

After three compelling five-minute presentations, including from Cats of Salt Spring Rescue Society and Salt Spring Therapeutic Riding Society, high school teacher Shari Hambrook's presentation on behalf of The Little Red School House was declared the winner during 100+ Women Who Care's meeting on Feb. 26.

The organization was awarded the collected total of approximately \$15,000 to go towards building improvements, creating a community play area, and provide support and relief to families and teachers working with preschool aged students.

Founded in 1885, The Little Red School House remains the longest running single room schoolhouse in B.C. Tucked in the far end of Beaver Point Hall Park and sitting next to Beaver Point Hall, "Little Red," as it is called, has different funding from the hall and has a special permit to operate on the land. In return, families and teachers act as caretakers of the historical buildings and surrounding grounds.

Catering to children aged three to six years old, with an emphasis on nature-based experiences and activities, Little Red serves 26 island families. Parents sit on the board, plan fundraisers and work-parties, and share their own talents as musicians, weavers, gardeners and more.

The preschool runs on registration fees, as well as a small operating fund based on enrollment. Fundraising has always been a large part of the annual budget for supplies, building maintenance and groundskeeping.

The win was a bit of a thrill for Hambrook who has been nominating the organization since 2018.

"This preschool and heritage building has been hit with a

triple-blow since I nominated them in November 2018. After buying \$20 worth of raffle tickets as a fundraiser for a new roof, and doing a little research about the heritage building, it was clear the society needed help," said Hambrook.

At the time, the outhouses were demolished and part of the exterior wall, roof, and chimney were badly damaged in the 2018 windstorm. All efforts went into grants and its roof was repaired thanks to local builders who jumped in quickly. A large covered porch was added which proved invaluable in complying with pandemic regulations when COVID19 brought the next blow. In an effort to be space conscious, fewer families registered, but costs increased due to paid sick leave for the educators and reimbursed session fees for families. Fundraising efforts during Covid in 2020 and 2021 were a struggle and the school was not making ends meet. Blow number three.

Hambrook's presentation broke down the \$13,000 quote for repairing the interior of a 100-plus-year-old building, from replacing single pane windows and doors to coating silvery floorboards, painting, and lighting. Adding a rainwater catchment system, updating the garden and the treasured south end playground are all on the list.

"Receiving support from the 100+ Women Who Care organization means the world to us," said Minette Moolman, Program Director for Little Red Schoolhouse. "Many of the 100 Women are mothers, grandmothers and teachers, and many have crossed paths with Little Red in one way or another over the years. These women know that investing in our future generations is always money well spent."

The 100 Women Who Care initiative was launched in 2006; 100 (or more) women each contribute \$100 and vote for one of three nominated charities three times a year. The Salt Spring branch has raised over \$270,000 for 16 causes in five years, ranging from eldercare services, pathways, early childhood education, the SPCA, IAVV, Community Services, and Search and Rescue.

The nominations deadline for the next 100+ Women Who Care vote is April 25.

NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT NOTICE FLUSHING OF WATERMAINS

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Constance
"Connie" Britt
1924 - 2024

Connie Britt passed away on March 6, 2024, at age 99. She was born into the Crandall family in Kalamazoo, Michigan, joining older sister Genevieve in what would be a close sibling friendship lasting a lifetime.

Growing up for Connie was a happy time. Her family weathered the Depression as did all Americans but still managed to vacation at the lake. Connie was a good student, intelligent and vivacious. She graduated with a degree in Economics from Kalamazoo College. Sadly, her father passed away during her final year.

Connie met her future husband, Max Holt Britt, while working a summer job at a lakeside resort. The couple waited to become engaged until after Max had safely returned from WWI. Meanwhile Connie went to work for United Airlines.

Connie and Max married in 1946. Max hailed from the Britt family, well known in ranching and horse racing circles in New Mexico and Texas. They moved to Pasamonte, the family ranch in Union County, New Mexico, working in tandem to create the ranch infrastructure and start their family. Their first child was son Michael, followed by daughter Kimberly.

By this time Max had suffered a heart attack and the young family decided to move from the family ranch to Los Angeles, where Max became a sought-after horse trainer, racing primarily at Santa Anita and Del Mar racetracks. By all accounts the couple had a good life during this time, making frequent trips to Las Vegas, entertaining friends and clients at their home in Arcadia, and spending much of each summer in Arcadia, and spending much of each summer in Arcadia.

In 1966, Max succumbed to another heart attack. Widowed at the age of 40 with two young children, Connie made the decision to move the family from Los Angeles to Lubbock, Texas, where her sister Genevieve lived with her husband.

In Lubbock, Connie became involved with confirmation dog shows. Before the family left Los Angeles, she had gotten a Norwegian Elkhound. This dog turned out to be quite a specimen, and Connie was approached about breeding and showing the dog. This turned into a hobby for the next two decades, first with Norwegian Elkhounds followed by Finnish Spitz, before finally adopting her first and only rescue dog Roomie.

During the height of the dog shows, Connie moved to Denver, then in the mid-1980s she moved to Austin, where she lived for the remainder of her life. Connie was also involved with the League of Women Voters and began to sharpen her bridge-playing skills, which only improved as she aged. Connie enjoyed music all her life (cutting her own demo recording as a teenager), especially big band music; once she moved to Austin, she quickly found kindred spirits in support of the Austin Symphony.

In the early '80s she took a trip with her daughter to Europe - 13 countries in 27 days! That trip sparked an insatiable travel appetite for the next 40 years. Connie visited all seven continents, several more than once, including five trips to her favorite destination - Africa.

In 2008 she discovered the island of Salt Spring in British Columbia and promptly set up a summer residence schedule. She made fast friends with her love of bridge, fishing, and nature. Nothing was more fun to Connie than taking the ferry over to Duncan and then driving herself to Nanaimo for a day of shopping. In her 100th year she was able to spend 10 weeks in her Canadian home, bird watching and reading a novel a day.

Constance was a mother, a sister, a wife, an adventurer, and an avid bridge player - a life well lived for over 99 years. She is survived by her daughter Kim, her son Mike (Anne), her granddaughter Winter and her great-grandson Robert (son of Melanie and Brandon; granddaughter Melanie predeceased her).

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests a donation to Central Texas Food Bank or your favorite charity. A private celebration of life will be held at a later date.

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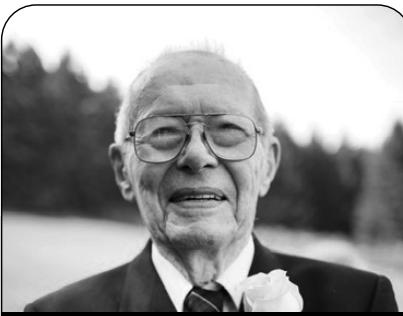
Obituaries

Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



DAVID WOOD PEAT
1925-2024

David Peat, aged 98, passed away peacefully on Thursday, March 7th at Heritage Place on Salt Spring Island with family present.

Born in 1925 in Portland Maine, he was the eldest child of David M. Peat and Elizabeth D. (Lochhead) Peat. After serving in the U.S. Navy in World War II he returned to McGill University in Montreal graduating in 1950 and worked in the pulp and paper industry in the New England states and across Canada before retiring to Salt Spring Island in 1989.

He was predeceased by his wife of forty-eight years Helen K. Peat. He leaves behind his sisters Janet, Margaret and Mary, sons Andrew and George (Liana), daughters Janet (Marcel) and Elizabeth, seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. A private service will be held at a later date with interment at St. Mary's Anglican Church (Fulford).

Thanks to the staff at Lady Minto Hospital and Dr. Magda Leon for the care given our father and a special thanks to Ms. Sandi Muller and staff at Heritage Place - dad's second home for the past four-and-a-half years.

If wished, contributions in David's memory can be made to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (www.ladymintofoundation.com/donate/) or the Barbara E. Peat Memorial Fund at the University of British Columbia (<https://give.ubc.ca/barbara-peat-memorial>).

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PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

SCIENTIFIC INQUIRY: Just four of an estimated 100 Grades 6-7 students from Fulford, Salt Spring and Fernwood elementary schools participating in a March 13 science fair held at the Salt Spring elementary gym are, at top, Ryder McNairn, left, and Leo Skrivan with their rock candy-making experiment report; and Juniper Lee, left, and Yara Holmes, who had conducted experiments on the interactions between Mentos and diet versus regular Coke. Community judges of the approximately 80 projects presented were Blair Carley, Briony Penn, Dave Astill, David Denning, Deborah Miller and Lindsay MacQueen, all scientists and/or retired educators. The fair was initiated by Fulford elementary teacher Kate Richer, who said she loved participating in science fairs as a youth.



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SPORTS + RECREATION

VOLLEYBALL

High-level athletes compete



PHOTO BY MARCIA JANSEN

Gulf Islands Secondary School Grade 12 students Finn Hughes and Izzy Nowell, who, along with other Salt Spring youth, travel off island to play on clubs in Nanaimo and Victoria.

Grade 12 volleyball players Izzy Nowell and Finn Hughes

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Seven Salt Spring high school students travel off island a few times a week for club volleyball in Nanaimo and Victoria.

Finn Hughes will be playing Nationals in April with his Victoria Volleyball Association (VVA) U-18 team and earned himself a four-year scholarship to play on the University of Guelph volleyball team next year. Izzy Nowell, who also graduates from the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) this year, is part of the Mariners U18 team and hopes to play varsity volleyball at UBC Okanagan.

Hughes and Nowell started playing volleyball at Salt Spring Island Middle School in Grade 8 and decided to level up in Grade 11. Hughes' volley-

ball coach at GISS, Kellie Suzanne, suggested he should try out for a club team and Nowell gave the try-outs a go after she participated in volleyball camps over the summer in 2022.

Both of them made the cut. Hughes was selected out of 300 players his age and Nowell out of 150.

"I was surprised that I made the team," Nowell said. "I hadn't learned much about the specific skills because we don't have a club team here on Salt Spring."

Hughes said, "We only play for a few weeks during the school season, while club volleyball runs from January until May. We are less experienced, so I didn't expect to make the A team."

After a successful first season, in which Hughes played one year up in the national championships, he made the team again in 2024.

"When I started last year, I didn't know anyone. I was that one weird Salt Spring kid on the team," he said with a smile. "This year we have the same group of guys, some of whom are now my best friends. We are second in B.C. at the moment and we are playing nationals again in April."

Nowell and her team will be heading to provincials next month.

"We have a great season so far," she said. "Our coach is amazing, I've learned to put myself out there on the court and I've built stronger connections with my teammates. I like how we collaborate as a team and the fact that I have been able to make new friends through volleyball."

As Hughes and Nowell will graduate from GISS this year, this is their last year in the club league. Hughes received a four-year scholarship to play for the Guelph University volleyball team. He is enrolled in the arts program and his goal is to play volleyball as much as possible.

"First years obviously don't get a lot of playing time, but I want to develop myself and do as well as I can; shooting for as much rookie stuff I can do."

Nowell was recently accepted into the sciences program at UBC Okanagan.

"I am in contact with the coach and I hope I can play varsity volleyball there. I just love volleyball and my goal is to keep playing. If I don't make the team, I will sign up for an intramural league."

SOCER

United club welcomes spring activities



Malcolm Legg
SOCER
ROUND-UP

Showcase of Stars and Spring League among events

Although the weather has not seemed spring-like until this past weekend, the Salt Spring United winter soccer program came to an end on the weekend of March 9-10, as all league play ended.

It was also the weekend of the District Cup finals in Victoria and Salt Spring had two of its four teams in finals: Girls U-15 and Boys U-18. This is a tremendous achievement for both these teams and congrats go to all the players and their coaches on a fabulous season.

With the winter season ending, Salt Spring United brings on their spring season with more programs for youths and adults. All programs can be signed up for on our website saltspring-united.com, under the registration tab.

SS United Windsor Plywood Spring League: Yes, our successful Spring League is back again, running for 10 Wednesdays from April 10 to June 12 at Portlock Park.

Tentative structure is as follows: 5 p.m. Boys and Girls U-8 to U-10; 6 p.m. Girls and Boys U-11 to U-15; 7 p.m. Adult Co-ed soccer, including Boys and Girls U-16 and up. We hope to have both boys and girls divisions in both the 5 and 6 p.m. times, but will amalgamate where necessary.

The co-ed program is for league players, youth and adult, or just interested athletes who want to play recreational soccer.

The Women's Recreational Soccer Program, run by myself, is a continuation of last year's program geared towards ladies new to the game, or those who have not played in awhile. The program includes skill training, walking soccer and non-competitive games.

Showcase of Stars: This is SS United's season wrap-up event where we showcase all our teams, referees, coaches and more. It will be held on Saturday, April 20 from 9 a.m. to about 4 p.m. at Portlock Park.

Registration: March 1 saw registration open for the 2024/25 soccer season. The best part is for the next month you can get the early bird price before full fees are charged. So get registered now. It is good planning and avoids being on a waiting list for registering later. Last season, four teams had waiting lists.

Sign-up for this and all our programs is at saltspringunited.com under the registration tab.

For information about registration, email Maggie at ssiuregistrar@gmail.com.

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WORLDWATER



**NORTH
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DISTRICT**

Policy Review Underway after 10 Years of Conservation

Back in 2014, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) observed the warning signs of impacts to the largest supply of community water on Salt Spring Island. An initial short-term moratorium led to multiple hydrology studies. These studies highlighted serious concerns with the future reliability of our water system particularly around the predicted impacts of a changing climate. This prompted the Board to implement a full water connections moratorium to slow the impacts on our water supply.

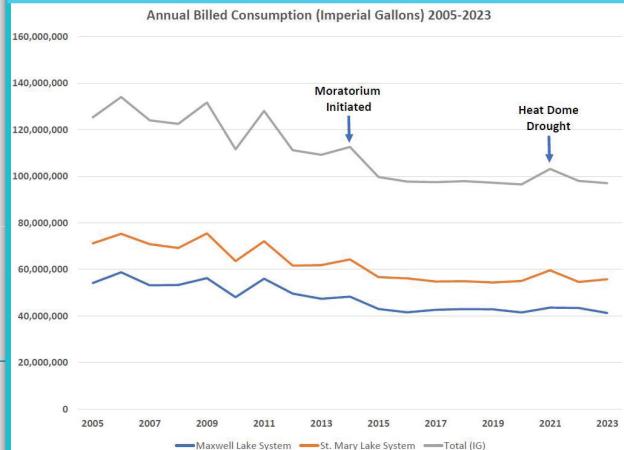
The policy led to metered consumption immediately dropping by over 10 million (45,000 m³) imperial gallons after the moratorium was put in place. Based on historical consumption, and the potential impact new connections could have had, the moratorium and conservation efforts has likely reduced annual consumption by a staggering 35 million (160,000 m³) imperial gallons. The policy has been hugely successful in stabilizing demand as shown in the table at right.

Moratorium Review Update Coming at May 2nd AGM

To ensure we continue responsible management of our water supply, NSSWD presented its plan to conduct an extensive review of the moratorium at the 2023 Annual General Meeting. The Moratorium Review Roadmap includes a Water Master Plan, a detailed assessment of existing and needed infrastructure, and a Comprehensive Water Supply study to assess opportunities to increase supply and ensure the reliability of our existing sources.

Potential infrastructure improvements under review include raising the weir at St. Mary Lake, increased storage capacity

MORATORIUM CONTINUES TO ENSURE WATER RELIABILITY FOR SALT SPRING ISLAND



at strategic locations on the system, and an eventual connection of our two water systems, St. Mary Lake and Maxwell Lake, once a new water treatment plan is constructed by 2026. An update on these projects will be provided at the upcoming NSSWD Annual General Meeting on May 2nd.

Provincial Funding of \$10M to Raise St. Mary Lake Weir

NSSWD was excited to learn that one of our key infrastructure projects has received Provincial funding. A \$10 million 2024 Provincial budget contribution was allocated to increase the height of the St. Mary Lake weir for the purpose of responding to climate emergencies. The weir upgrade project will provide improved domestic and emergency water

storage and greater resiliency to current and projected climate impacts on our system. NSSWD will be confirming funding details with the Province over the coming weeks and NSSWD will be engaging with residents in the coming months as we develop designs and timelines for the upgrade.

Additional Conservation Initiatives Coming

The moratorium was the most significant measure taken in a range of efforts made to conserve our domestic water. Over the past decade, NSSWD has added new watering restrictions, increased seasonal water rate charges, and enhanced our leak detection programs. We are also fortunate to have a fully metered system for all connections. This year we will hold public consultations on potential updates to watering restrictions and we are developing an updated Water Smart Program that will include a new rebate program currently under development.

Lending for Water Storage & More

Transition Salt Spring Enterprise Co-op offers Climate Action Loans to homeowners and individuals for equipment that helps address climate change and adapt to its effects. Currently they are offering loans at 3.5% interest for water storage tanks to store water in winter for use in the summer drought season. For more information or to apply please visit www.transitionsaltspringenterprisecooperative.com



ER DAY

MARCH 22TH
2024

World Water Day

Here's what you can do to help



Check regularly for leaks at home

Read your water meter when water is not being used. If the dials are moving, there is a leak. Have a shut off installed for when you are away.



Raise awareness and share information

Did you know that 2.1 billion people lack safe water at home?

Reuse extra water

Use extra water that has cooled down from the kitchen or bathroom.



Help clean rivers and beaches

3.6 million people die from water related diseases each year.



SAVE MONEY AND WATER WITH LOW-FLOW FIXTURES AND APPLIANCES

An average Canadian family of 3 uses 52,316 imperial gallons of water per year!

Low-flow appliances and fixtures can help reduce that number.



FAUCET

If the faucet is run for 4 minutes a day...



WASHING MACHINE

If you do just 2 loads every week...



SHOWER HEAD

If every other day you took a 15 min shower...



TOILET

If a toilet is flushed 15 times per day.

NORMAL FIXTURE	NORMAL FIXTURE	NORMAL FIXTURE	NORMAL FIXTURE
			
2,657 gal/yr	4,576 gal/yr	12,017 gal/yr	8,430 gal/yr
HIGH EFFICIENCY	HIGH EFFICIENCY	LOW-FLOW FIXTURE	LOW-FLOW FIXTURE
			
1,825 gal/yr	2,744 gal/yr	4,571 gal/yr	4,817 gal/yr
SAVINGS OF 832 GAL/yr.	SAVINGS OF 1,832 GAL/yr.	SAVINGS OF 7,446 GAL/yr.	SAVINGS OF 3,612 GAL/yr.



THANKS FOR DOING YOUR PART TO CONSERVE WATER!

DID YOU KNOW:



It takes 29 - 42 gallons of water to have a bath?



Up to 4.18 gallons of water are wasted when the tap is left running while you brush your teeth?



A leaky faucet that drips one drop per minute wastes up to 2,419 gallons of water a year?

HERE'S HOW:

TAKE QUICK SHOWERS - DO FULL LOADS OF LAUNDRY - FIX LEAKY FAUCETS

USE WATER-EFFICIENT APPLIANCES - REUSE AND RECYCLE WATER