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North Pender's  
'Nighthawk Hill'



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Salt Spring growers  
offering 'super berry'

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# Wednesday, April 10, 2024

# Driftwood

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PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

**MEASURED ROOM FOR BIKES:** At Island Pathways' Saturday Market table, Buddy Pyper, Robin Jenkinson, Wendy Webb and Margaretha Nordine stand together, illustrating approximately 1.5 metres in width — the new distance B.C. drivers must soon be able to maintain when passing cyclists on highways where the speed limit is above 50 kilometres per hour. New changes to B.C.'s Motor Vehicle Act are expected to be in force beginning on June 3; check out Salt Spring's "Share the Road" brochure and other active transportation information at [islandpathways.ca](http://islandpathways.ca).

## HOUSING

# Drake Rd. plans shift

Supportive housing gets new timeline, adds affordable units

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A long-languishing supportive housing project on Salt Spring Island has a new timeline, will help more people than previously planned, and will include new units of affordable housing.

Among what is now 36 total units planned for BC Housing's project at 161 Drake Road, 32 will be supportive housing — and four will be "affordable rental housing for low- to moderate-income residents," according to a letter to staff published as an appendix to the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Hospitals and Housing Committee agenda Wednesday, April 3.

BC Housing had announced in 2022 it would build 28 units of supportive housing at the 5.5-acre parcel back in January of 2022; the province used its authority under the Interpretation Act — commonly known as "statutory immunity" — to bypass the local zoning process, predicting an opening date for the facility that summer.

But new details on the project, including plans for new construction, an elevator to increase accessibility and air-conditioning for all units, indicate an updated project schedule, showing plans for development by Vancouver Island-based Muchalat Group and opening the new homes "before the end of 2025."

"Using new construction also allows us to increase the number of units from 28 to 36," read the letter from BC Housing Vancouver Island Regional Development director Sarah Smith, "providing eight additional homes for vulnerable Salt Spring Island residents."

The four new "affordable" rental units will be ground-oriented, according to Smith, adding those would have a separate entrance from that for the supportive housing units.

Salt Spring CRD Director Gary Holman called the delays to date "frustrating," but said he was pleased with the planned improvements — despite promises of much earlier completion.

"And in the end, I believe the over 30 units of housing with ongoing supports for our most vulnerable will be hugely beneficial for our community, for which I'm very grateful," he added.

No rental rates for the affordable units have been announced.

BC Housing did publish a new rendering of what is now a three-storey building, along with other updates, to [letstalkhousingbc.ca/salt-spring-island-supportive-housing](http://letstalkhousingbc.ca/salt-spring-island-supportive-housing).

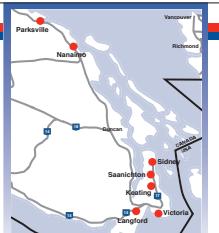
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DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
<b>10</b>	0:17	7.2	21.9	<b>14</b>	0:03	10.8	3.29
	5:57	10.7	3.26		5:07	9.7	2.96
	12:57	1.6	0.49		7:08	9.8	2.99
	20:25	10.4	3.17		16:11	2.2	0.67
<b>11</b>	1:08	8.2	2.5	<b>15</b>	1:14	10.8	3.29
	6:18	10.7	3.26		17:12	2.9	0.88
	13:41	1.3	0.4		2:13	10.8	3.29
	21:34	10.6	3.23		18:19	3.5	1.07
<b>12</b>	2:07	9	2.74	<b>16</b>	2:59	10.7	3.26
	6:39	10.5	3.2		19:27	4.1	1.25
	14:27	1.3	0.4				
	22:47	10.7	3.29				
<b>13</b>	3:21	9.5	2.9				
	6:58	10.2	3.11				
	15:16	1.6	0.49				

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## CONSERVATION

# North Pender habitat expanded

'Nighthawk Hill' NAPTEP covenant grows to 4.6 acres, protects species

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A protected land parcel on North Pender Island named for the at-risk bird it helps protect has doubled in size, according to the Islands Trust Conservancy, who announced the Nighthawk Hill covenant now covers 4.6 acres of forest, woodland and rocky outcrops.

The covenant includes protection for the provincially red-listed Douglas-fir-arbutus ecological community, according to Risa Smith, who chairs the Islands Trust Conservancy Board. It also provides important habitat for species at risk — including Common Nighthawk, a species of Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act.

The Nighthawk Hill conservation covenant is registered through the Islands Trust's Natural Area Protection Tax Exemption Program (NAPTEP) which will lower future property taxes on the area protected by the covenant for property owners Andy Nowak and Mary Reher. The pair came to Pender in the 1980s, purchasing in 2000; as development pressure increased on the island, they felt it was important to place a conservation covenant to protect and steward the vulnerable species and ecosystems on their land.

"Stepping up to do our part is a choice that is congruent with our values and how we live," said Reher. "Despite years of conservation and lobbying efforts, both on Pender and further afield, it seems our private property is the only thing we can really protect in a direct way."

Reher said placing a covenant on the land felt "enabling," and recommended the process for others interested in preserving land for the future.

"It feels good to know we did something of substance," said Reher, "to preserve the earth and its creatures, and encourage other private landowners to do the same."

Back in 2004, according to Nowak, they first observed a Common Nighthawk nesting on the ground on the ridge — and

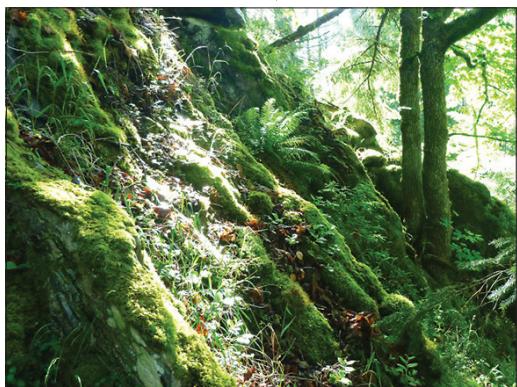


PHOTO COURTESY ISLANDS TRUST CONSERVANCY

A mossy ridgeline at the Nighthawk Hill conservation covenant on North Pender Island, home to the at-risk Common Nighthawk.

spotting them became an annual tradition.

"Each year in June, the Nighthawks arrive," said Nowak. "We listen to their calls and booms at dusk and dawn, and watch them along the ridge all summer."

The arbutus and Douglas-fir are sparsely distributed throughout the covenant, Nowak said, providing an ideal habitat for several species — including that Common Nighthawk.

"This is indeed 'Nighthawk Hill,'" said Nowak.

The Nighthawk Hill NAPTEP covenant was created with support from a \$4,615 grant from the Morrison Waxler Biodiversity Protection Legacy Fund, according to Smith; later this month, family, friends and Islands Trust Conservancy staff will gather on the property to celebrate the accomplishment.

"These funds covered the costs associated with a land survey of the conservation area," Smith said. "We are grateful for the generosity of the Morrison family."

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# SALT SPRING FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT ELECTION



## Fire board candidates make their case

The two largest improvement districts on Salt Spring Island are holding elections this month — with three candidates vying for two trustee positions at each.

The Driftwood reached out to all six candidates to offer them a chance to introduce (or re-introduce) themselves to voters with a short Q&A.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District responses are printed below; responses from the North Salt Spring Waterworks District candidates appear on page 9.

### Rob Oliver (incumbent)

*What do you bring to the table, and how has that motivated you to run for a trustee position?*

I was elected three years ago as a trustee. In those three years we researched how to manage and have a business plan. We put that to the community in a referendum. 75 per cent voted in favour of our plan. We then chose an architect, contractor and owners' representative. We have begun tendering contracts and equipment will be visible later this month. Concrete will be poured this summer and steel will be up in the fall.

*What is the biggest challenge facing the district, and how do you plan to face it?*

Resiliency. The job of a trustee is to ensure our training, staffing and equipment to respond is adequate and remains within budget. About 60 per cent of our calls are rescue medical and/or assistance. Our firefighters are trained first responders Level III (highest level). Some also have Emergency Medical Responder (EMR) training. Firefighters are called out at the same time as BC Ambulance. With two BC Ambulances on island one may be doing a patient transfer and the other may be busy. Often it is a fully qualified firefighter who is there first. It was the fire department working with BC Hydro that cleared trees off roads in the windstorm of 2015. It was firefighters who helped with rehabbing of Fulford Ganges road during the atmospheric river. Firefighters are our emergency response.

*At the end of a future term as trustee, what accomplishment would you hope to look back upon as a success?*

Completing the Firehall is Job #1. Bringing it in on time and on budget. Having fully trained firefighters with the equipment to respond.

### Jenny McClean

*What do you bring to the table, and how has that motivated you to run for a trustee position?*

I am familiar with local politics, and I know a lot of people. I am interested in forest fire mitigation from an ecological lens. I am a good communicator and reach a lot of people in my daily travels. I hope to be able to use my communication skills to speak with people about the goals of the fire board and to bridge any communication gaps as things roll out for the new fire hall. I am interested in the Fire Smart program and other public service educational programs run by the fire department. I know the community of school aged parents well and would like to be a part of community outreach. I am a mother and I feel it is a good to have a mix of women and men serving on the fire board. It is also a good idea to have new people at the table.

*What is the biggest challenge facing the district, and how do you plan to face it?*

I think the biggest challenge facing the district is how to build a new fire hall that has the least impact on the neighbourhood in terms of noise and also drainage issues. To house a new fire hall is significant for the residential community and I see that to be well accepted it should have the most ability to merge with the surrounding area and also keeping with the residential character of the neighbourhood in a way that is acceptable to those living close by.

*At the end of a future term as trustee, what accomplishment would you hope to look back upon as a success?*

I would feel very successful to have been able to learn from the fire board in terms of how they serve the community of Salt Spring. There is a lot to learn and the fire board does a good job and I would like to learn from them.

### Dennis Lucarelli

*The candidate chose to respond to all questions with a single statement.*

For eight years I was Director for Transition Salt Spring, including three as Secretary and two as President. I also served two years as the founding Secretary for Stqeeye' Learning Society. I'm running for Trustee as I value and respect our Fire/Rescue employees and volunteers for all that they have achieved.

After earning my law degree (California Berkeley, 1977) I spent a decade abroad including five years in Tokyo, where I worked on maritime finance contacts, patent/trademark agreements, and real estate partnerships. In 1999 I earned my PMP certification (Project Management Professional) and taught workshops for the next 18 years, to project managers at an electric utility, various government offices (including one whose staff who referred to their workplace as "the Agency"), and at a micro-chip maker's corporate campuses across North America, Europe, and Asia.

If elected I will join the push for completing the new Fire Hall on-time and under budget, which I hope is a prelude to upgrading both the south end Fire/Rescue Training Facility (it needs earthquake-proofing and other upgrades) and the Central fire hall which, if north-islanders agree, could feasibly be moved further north, closer to more homes for faster emergency response.

My primary aim would be that the Trustees, firefighters, emergency personnel and volunteers alike, will continue to enjoy the trust and respect that I share with so very many Islanders. If we're also able to accomplish future safety and structural upgrades, so much the better.

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# OPINION

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### EDITORIAL

## Public duty

**S**alt Spring's miniature "election season" this month is a little less crowded than this time last year.

It was about now in 2023 when we learned there would be 15 candidates for the four positions on the then-all-new Local Community Commission, and the level of political chatter reached a fever pitch practically before the ink had dried on their nomination paperwork.

This year, we were just one candidate beyond acclamation in both upcoming contests.

We have heard it suggested that the reason might lie in there being less "excitement," compared to a new CRD commission, in serving on a board of trustees for an improvement district, even for the largest ones on the island.

Setting aside the unsupported idea that there are no thrills to stir the blood at the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (new infrastructure! Paths to ending the connection moratorium!) or at the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (a new fire hall!), we would note the work-to-renumeration ratio

for those trustees, and humbly propose the relative drought of candidates may be yet another reflection of Salt Spring's most rapidly dwindling resource: volunteerism.

Time and again we hear calls for help from the volunteer groups that work to make Salt Spring the vibrant community we all want it to be; time and again, we hear the services those groups used to offer with aplomb are now found wanting. The connection is obvious, the solution perhaps less so — but the distress signal can be seen across the horizon.

This weekend, as one of our most recently-elected community members Ben Corno notes elsewhere on this page, Salt Spring is sending up its biggest flare yet. The list of volunteer groups coming to SIMS on Saturday for the inaugural 2024 Salt Spring Island Volunteer Fair seems to grow every time we check it — many of them operating on the human resource equivalent of "driving on fumes."

Islanders cherish a collective independence from those "across the water" that cannot thrive without a robust local volunteer force.

We look forward to Salt Spring rising to the challenge.

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



## Holding Salt Spring together

BY BEN CORNO

We live in the ideal size of community. People love to tell each other, "10,000 people" or "12,000 in the summer."

That's how I know how many people are 10,000, or 12,000 in the summer: it feels perfect.

I also hear that "this place runs on volunteers" or "volunteers are the glue." I have, incorrectly, thought that the "volunteer glue" thing is a function of our community size, but now, I actually think that everywhere, in any size of community, volunteers are the glue. We just have that perfect size community to notice it.

We all know someone who is volunteering with some community organization, club, team, pod, society, or some other type of non-profit adventure.

It is a thrill to think that those organizations and their volunteers really are holding our community together, and that we all know each other so well — so it looks to us like we are holding our community together.

Almost every one of those people would say that their group could use more volunteers, or that they just lost some long-dedicated volunteers.

Sports teams, youth activities, social clubs, halls, emergency services, human supporters, nature stewards, agricultural societies, art supporters, non-profits —

### VIEWPOINT

just think of all the energy that goes into all those things which have become beloved and critical components of our community. It is astounding, and all the people who put their time into those pursuits deserve — of course — a huge "thank you." But also a little support of their own.

The Inaugural 2024 Salt Spring Island Volunteer Fair will take place on April 13 at SIMS from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Its purpose is simple: to bring the groups who could use more volunteer help to connect with people who want to help these organizations out.

Whether you are new to your perfect-size community, looking for a change of perspective or just want to meet more people, consider walking the foyer at SIMS for a moment to come and say hello to some of the many groups who help keep our community together and see if you have time and energy to help one of them out.

Entry is free. Don't forget about the parking behind SIMS on Park Drive across from the skatepark. If you have an easy time walking up the hill from the lower lot, consider saving the upper parking lot spots for those who find it harder. And if you can walk, or bike, that could be a great way to travel on a Saturday.

Ben Corno serves on Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC).

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you prefer mail-in ballots to in-person election voting?  Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you regularly volunteer in the community?



Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://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

### Process matters

In a March 27 Viewpoint, I explained how, in 2020, a group of six hand-picked housing strategists hostile to Islands Trust restrictions, led by a like-minded trustee, changed the focus of Salt Spring's Official Community Plan (OCP) amendment process from environment to housing. Last week, Trustee Laura Patrick responded with copy and paste from her group's final report, claiming it "speaks for itself." In fact, the report speaks to none of the issues I raised.

The group, which Trustee Patrick had the temerity to call "a small diverse group of Salt Springers," met "informally" for many months, ostensibly because of the pandemic.

But that doesn't explain why members were not officially appointed, terms of reference not provided, meetings not advertised and minutes not taken. Could it be because the idea of a pressure group taking over an OCP planning process would have proven explosive?

A key recommendation of the group was the establishment of a Housing Action Program Task Force, and therein lies the problem, because, once officially created,

it went beyond set boundaries and made many recommendations that violate our OCP. One was to allow accessory dwelling units in all zones, even though Trust lawyers had already said that would require a major OCP amendment.

When OCP violations became an issue during the Bylaw 530 debate, the Task Force, trustees and their supporters turned to diversion: focus on short-term "uptake" rather than long-term build-out as required by our OCP.

So why shouldn't a housing task force propose "solutions" that require a major OCP amendment? It has to do with process and the absence of a vision. The Task Force recommendations were developed with a narrow housing focus, rather than a discussion of broader issues such as sustainability, settlement patterns, and unrelenting development pressures. If those recommendations now form a non-negotiable part of the upcoming OCP review, growth restrictions—the island's main protective mechanism—will be deleted without the consequences ever having been discussed by the community.

And what of the report's promise of "integrated solutions" along with "a high level of preservation and protection of

the island's biodiversity and freshwater, marine, and forest resources"? It hasn't materialized according to a recent Bylaw 530 staff report which indicates "no data" regarding impact on servicing, infrastructure (especially water supply), and the natural environment.

The Islands Trust is being spun out of existence. Where are the 62 per cent of Salt Spring voters who rejected incorporation in 2017? Please voice your concerns.

FRANTS ATTORP,

SALT SPRING

### No straight answer

Laura Patrick has been known for artfully eschewing any questioning about her actions as a Trustee.

She succeeded again in her letter ("Summary report speaks for itself," Driftwood, April 3, 2024) responding to Frants Attorps Viewpoint ("Words are not harmless," Driftwood, March 27, 2024).

Instead of addressing Attorps pointed critique in appropriate detail, she resorts to quoting at length the motherhood statements contained in the summary of the 2022 Housing Working Group's report

about how the housing plan proposed therein seeks to "maximize the benefits and minimize the harms of housing on Salt Spring, including its ecological, climatic, and socioeconomic dimensions."

That all sounds well and good—but it doesn't. Housing is not a part of the Trust's mandate, nor has it been a priority in our OCP—so much so that our LTC is now planning a narrowly focused OCP review, with limited public input, to make housing the #1 priority it was never meant to be.

And how exactly the supposed golden balance of socioeconomic and ecological goals is to be achieved, so that development can have free rein on the island without definitively overwhelming our fragile ecosystems, Patrick doesn't say or even hint at. Perhaps she has a secret recipe for it, but if so, she's keeping it close to her chest. That's too bad, as I'm sure lots of us on the island would love to know the answer.

Laura, if you're holding a magical solution in your back pocket, let us hear it!

LUISA MAFFI,  
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS [continued on 6](#)

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"Maybe an important ingredient in the process has been forgotten. The island can't just change you; you have to LET it change you."**

BILL HENDERSON, SALT SPRING ISLAND RESIDENT

## Some interesting times at South Edmonton CP Rail switch yard

Most people don't know about one of the largest armed forces in the country's private sector.

We know about local and national police forces. That isn't news. When I went to work for the Canadian Pacific Railroad, or as it is now known, CP Rail, many years ago, I was startled to meet the local CP policeman. He was a nice, quiet older gentleman with an easy manner.

It was from him that I first learned of the sizable armed force that was a part of this private corporation. Every CP train station across the country had at least one-armed cop. Sort of a private army, you might say.

His job was to protect company property. He had an unmarked car and a Smith and Wesson .38 revolver. A real six-shooter. He carried it in a holster on his hip. It looked to me like it had never been used.

After getting to know him better, especially when we both worked a midnight, it became clear to me that he was not much of a policeman. Like many of the railway workers, he just wanted a quiet shift and to go home early.

It didn't seem to me like the yard needed to be policed, but it was a huge switching yard with many switches and 20 sepa-

rate tracks. Switches could easily be tampered with, sending a 30-ton propane car hurtling into Edmonton and into who knew what kind of deadly trouble. Or a tank car full of oil or diesel fuel. Shades of Lac-Mégantic, although that was far in the future. And none of the switches were locked: anyone with even minimal strength could throw one.

But these were gentler times, and nowhere truer and gentler than in a cold northern Canadian city. But private police were still considered necessary. There was, after all, a considerable amount of valuable freight passing through on its way to Vancouver, and south to ports in the U.S., and east to the rail-head at Winnipeg and the ports at Thunder Bay. And every yard had to be policed.

I don't know if it's true of all yards, but my South Edmonton yard was dominated by the engineers, or "hoggers," as they were called—not to their faces. These were the kings of the steel rail and they knew it.

When I worked there it was all diesel, but the veteran hoggers told stories about the glory days of steam. You could, one of them told me, walk into any bar wearing the striped cap of an



**Chris Rideout  
AND THAT  
WAS  
WHEN**

engineer and never ever pay for a drink. Steam drivers were the true knights of the steel rail and everybody knew it. If you have ever stood beside a steam locomotive, even one that is standing still, you will understand.

The engineers had their own room where they gathered to read the day's orders. The orders came mainly from the yardmaster and were as important as anything you could get in a train station. Not quite holy, but close.

Each new shift the engineers read the orders. Things like "slow to 30mph at Mile 17," "light out at Mile 107," and essential notes like that. Remember Casey Jones, who "mounted to the cab with his orders in his hand?" There was an uproar when the engineers one day read, "wild dogs in the yard." What? Wild dogs?

I meant to tell you about our new CP policeman. The older guy had retired and a new young man was his replacement. The

new cop had a neatly pressed uniform, shined shoes and a spanking new shiny sidearm, of which he was very proud. He took the job very seriously, as well he should. It was a serious job guarding millions of dollars of rolling stock and the safety of a hundred employees. He took the job very seriously, perhaps too seriously. It was, after all, just a switch yard.

When the engineers read "wild dogs" in the orders, they all sat down and refused to go to work. The yard shut down completely. Nothing moved. The engines sat there, idling. The railroad union was one of the strongest in the country and the engineers knew their rights. If there was any danger, including wild dogs, nothing would move. Period.

The yardmaster was frantic. The shut-down of South Edmonton, even for a few hours, would have significant repercussions in Western Canada. No one knew where the warning in the orders had come from. And it could not be removed until the individual who had put it in there took it out. And even then the engineers might not return to work.

Finally it came to light that it was the new cop who had written it. Under questioning, he said he had seen a dog in the yard

running without a leash and had thought perhaps it was dangerous. And because he took his job seriously, he wanted to warn the trainmen of its presence. The engineers were not amused.

They demanded that the railroad find the dog and control it and maybe they would go back to work. All this time, nothing moved in the yard. No trains were being made up, no trains came across the High Level bridge from North Edmonton. Silence, except for the rumble of the idling switch engines. The engineers had a solution.

I will never forget the sight of the armed young CP cop perched on the front step of the #6710 switch engine with his pistol drawn while the engine went about performing its job of building trains. If you know trains at all, imagine being three feet from the drawbar end, moving rail cars, banging and shunting back and forth in front of you. The engineers had demanded that he ride shotgun for the entire eight-hour shift, looking out for wild dogs.

Needless to say, they never saw any and finally the yard returned to its quiet state. I'm not sure what the moral is here. Maybe, like the boy in the story, never cry wild dogs.



**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.

### MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

## Bravo to Fernwood

Like many, I hold different roles depending on the day of the week. In early April, I found myself presenting to students at Fernwood Elementary School as a volunteer at Ground Search and Rescue. I was welcomed into their library to teach about staying safe outdoors, and what students can do if they get lost in the woods.

During my time in the library, I noticed the diverse array of reading materials available to students aged Kindergarten through Grade 7.

Specifically, I observed many books (perhaps 1 in 3?), representing the experiences of, and stories told from the perspective of: student bodies of culture (BIPOC); diverse sexual orientations and gender identities; various family constellations; and neurodiverse students and students with various physical disabilities.

As a parent, registered child psychologist, and anti-racist volunteer it was a treat to witness this spectacular library! This letter is a simple shout out to Janice Parker, Marie Mullen and all those staff and teachers at Fernwood Elementary School and other individuals at School District 64 who work to uplift diverse voices in literature and thereby improve the lives of youth everywhere.

**KATE MARTINEZ,**  
SALT SPRING

The original saying came from the laid-back island of Molokai, Hawaii's Salt Spring. It appeared when developers wanted to put in a cruise ship terminal on Molokai. The locals, especially the native Hawaiians, were opposed to it and someone came up with a bumper sticker saying, "Don't change Molokai, let Molokai change you." Paul's addition of "...if it ever gets around to it" seems to say that as far as he's concerned it may be a nice idea, but it isn't working. He's probably not the only one with that perspective.

But if it isn't working, maybe an important ingredient in the process has been forgotten. The island can't just change you; you have to LET it change you.

**BILL HENDERSON,**  
SALT SPRING

## Missed opportunity

With all due respect, when I read Adam Olson's editorial in last week's Driftwood about protecting bear's dens and firefighters, I anticipated a punchline — something about April Fool's Day, or Smokey the Bear.

But alas, I remain at a loss.

**ROGER BRUNT,**

SALT SPRING



### Roses

... To the person or persons that arranged with Golden Island restaurant to treat our family to a delicious dinner Thursday night. You have no idea how uplifting it was to be thought of at this time. Karen Preddy & Family

## Missing ingredient

Paul McElroy makes an important point in his Driftwood column last week saying he might get a tattoo that would read "Don't change Salt Spring let Salt Spring change you if it ever gets around to it."

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ARTIST PANEL — SUN. APRIL 14 | 6–8PM  
CURATOR CONVERSATION — TUES. APRIL 16 | 6–8PM

Event details & exhibition info at [saltspringarts.com](http://saltspringarts.com)

We gratefully acknowledge financial support from the British Columbia Arts Council, Canadian Heritage and the Province of British Columbia.



# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

## LIVE MUSIC

# Two-day fest to highlight baroque summer

Accord Baroque Ensemble kicks off new season

BY KERRY GRAHAM  
SALT SPRING BAROQUE

Salt Spring Baroque is excited to announce our fourth season of baroque music for Salt Spring Islanders.

The season will begin on Friday, April 19 with Accord Baroque Ensemble. Pat Unruh (viola da

gamba) and Monica Kim (harpsichord) will perform exhilarating sonatas for viol and obbligato harpsichord, arranged by Johann Sebastian Bach from works he had written for other combinations of instruments. These sonatas reveal Bach's use of both Italianate and French styles, and we will hear the viol singing out between the higher and lower registers of the harpsichord in intricate interplays of melodies.

On Saturday, June 22 we present Henry Purcell (almost!) in Love - a

satirical opera. This work is a new opera written by countertenors Nicholas Burns and Shane Hanson featuring songs of Henry Purcell. The songs are arranged in dialogue with each other such that they follow the story of fictional rivals (played by Burns and Hanson), college dorm-mates both attempting to woo the same girl. The songs serve as 'arias' on the unfolding drama. Harpsichordist Christophe Gauthier will accompany and narrate this evening of debauchery, longing, loss, and of course, love.

Our popular 2-day summer festival of baroque music, Summer Baroque in the Trees is back on Saturday and Sunday, July 27 and 28. This year we have a special treat – a concert in the style of those performed by Andrea Gabrieli at St. Mark's Cathedral in Venice in the late 1580s and 1590s. You will hear sackbuts, cornetti, dulcians and violins in music specifically written for two instrumental choirs on two opposing platforms, taking advantage of the various effects achieved with instruments in this formation.

It turns out that our Salt Spring trees are a good substitute for a large Venetian Cathedral!

On Saturday, Nov. 2 we present Canadian contra-alto Vicki St. Pierre with our friends from Victoria Baroque, and on Wednesday, Nov. 27 we are excited to welcome, from the UK, viol consort Fretwork with internationally acclaimed countertenor Iestyn Davies as they make a stop on Salt Spring during their North American tour.

For more information visit [saltspringbaroque.com](http://saltspringbaroque.com).

## VISUAL ARTS

# Youth exhibit comes 'Home'

GISS photography students featured at Mahon Hall show

BY PHÖENIX KELLEY  
SALT SPRING ARTS

Each year, Salt Spring Arts (SSA) highlights local young talent in their Youth Exhibit presented alongside the annual Spring Art Show. The show provides a meaningful opportunity for creative youth to present their artwork in a public setting in historic Mahon Hall's Annex Gallery. This year, Home As We Know It features work by beginner photography students at Gulf Islands Secondary School, under the direction of teacher Seb Evans, sharing their visual reflections on home, place and relocation.

The exhibit's theme reflects and responds to the 2024 Spring Art Show, re:location, curated by Annika Hagen Siemsen. This core exhibition features 18 multidisciplinary, contemporary artists that have delved into personal stories of adapting to life in the Gulf Islands. Their work reflects conceptual studies of identity, the dichotomy of isolation and community, and the impacts of displacement. Drawing inspiration from "re:location," these young artists developed their first conceptual work to explore their personal relationship to the Gulf Islands as a home, a place of belonging and a place of becoming.

Exhibit facilitator and GISS Photography teacher Seb Evans also has his own artworks featured in "re:location," and as a creative professional highlighted in this year's Spring Art Show, he brings a unique perspective to the project both as an educator and exhibiting artist.

"I am really excited to be able to include youth voices in the broader arts community on Salt Spring," said Evans. "Having access to a space where students can share their voice alongside professional artists is an important part of their development as creatives, and the Youth Exhibit provides that opportunity. It's been a pleasure to support the development of conceptual based work that digs into the significance of place in shaping identity. In a way, their perspective and vision reflects the varied voices and experiences of our community as a whole. It also helps students to connect their school based work to real world experiences in a powerful way."

The work of SSA, our island's arts council of over 55 years, bridges the gap between artists and audiences through joyful and thought-provoking creative connection. An important part of the art council's mandate is education, specifically for our Island's youth. The Youth Exhibit provides access for young artists to not only express their creativity, but also showcase their work in a professional environment.

Home As We Know It by GISS Photography is open



PHOTO BY REINE LECUYER  
Youth photographer Reine Lecuyer's A Picture Perfect Picnic is among featured works at the Home As We Know It exhibition in Mahon Hall's Annex Gallery.

daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. from April 12-28 in the Mahon Hall Annex Gallery, alongside the 2024 Spring Art Show, "re:location," a multidisciplinary art exhibition. For more information, visit [saltspringarts.com](http://saltspringarts.com).



Visit [artspring.ca](http://artspring.ca) for schedule details or drop by the ArtSpring Box Office for a festival flyer.

HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE WHAT'S ON EVENTS CALENDAR?  
send an email to: [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)



**NORTH  
SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT**

**NSSWD WATERING RESTRICTIONS HAVE CHANGED  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT  
NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT  
IS IN  
STAGE 1 WATERING RESTRICTIONS  
AS OF APRIL 1, 2024**

## STAGE 1 WATERING RESTRICTIONS:

### SPRINKLING

- Even/odd numbered addresses can sprinkle on even/odd dates before 7am and after 7pm up to a maximum of 4 hours per day.
- New lawns can be sprinkled during the hours stated above for 4 hours per day.

### MICRO OR DRIP IRRIGATION OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS

- Even/odd numbered addresses can water trees, shrubs, and gardens with micro or drip irrigation on even/odd dates before 10 am and after 5 pm up to a maximum of 6 hours per day.

### HAND WATERING OF TREES, SHRUBS & GARDENS (with a bucket or hose with spring-loaded nozzle only)

- Even/odd numbered addresses can hand water trees, shrubs, and gardens on even/odd dates anytime up to a maximum of 4 hours per day.

### WASHING OF VEHICLES & BOATS

- Vehicles and boats can be washed anytime using a hose or pressure washer with a spring-loaded nozzle.

### WASHING DRIVEWAYS, BUILDINGS, DECKS ETC.

- Driveways, buildings, decks etc. can be washed anytime using a hose or pressure washer with a spring-loaded nozzle.

### FILLING POOLS, HOT TUBS, FOUNTAINS, & GARDEN FEATURES

- Pools, hot tubs, fountains, and garden features may be filled or topped up anytime.

### WATERING OF PUBLIC PARKS & PLAYING FIELDS

- May be watered anytime.

**VISIT THE WATER SECTION FOR  
CONSERVATION TIPS OR THE DOCUMENTS  
SECTION TO VIEW THE ENTIRE BYLAW OR  
ITS OVERVIEW.**

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**Your cooperation is greatly  
appreciated. Every Drop Counts!**

## ARTSPRING 25TH ANNIVERSARY

# Idea exchange on tap

Workshops engage, enlighten and provoke

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

In the Vancouver Sun's recent review of Max Wyman's new book The Compassionate Imagination, the reviewer opened with an ominous statement often misattributed to Hermann Goering. "When I hear the word culture, I reach for my revolver."

Wyman, who wrote arts and culture commentary for the Vancouver Sun and Province as well as CBC Radio for decades, will be confronting the past and current crop of wannabe dictators in presenting his contention that art is a profoundly humanizing and essential pro-democratic enterprise for Canada at ArtSpring's 25th Anniversary Festival.

The speaker series kicks off the first morning of the Festival on Thursday April 18 and is being co-presented by ArtSpring and Salt Spring Forum, followed by a free roundtable discussion in the lobby to keep the conversation buzzing over coffee.

"This idea is a part of the future of ArtSpring in the community," says Howard Jang, Executive and Artistic Director. "Art is not just an expression of creativity, but an opportunity to provoke, challenge, declare ideas, and spark transformation. We wanted to host this distinguished speaker, but then as a community be able to discuss how it may or may not apply to Salt Spring to generate workable ideas."

Wyman's speaker event is one of two available ticketed events at the festival, accessibly priced between \$10 - \$20. The second ticketed event of note is celebrated Canadian pianist Jane Coop's one hour recital of Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel, and Debussy.

As one of Canada's most prominent and distinguished artists, with an Order of Canada, Coop's original connection to ArtSpring was that she advised on the purchase and fine tuning of the grand piano. Rumour has it, rambunctious multi-time performer Michael Kaeshammer then promptly broke it with his rigour. It has been confirmed all is in working order.

Four free workshops are being led by local

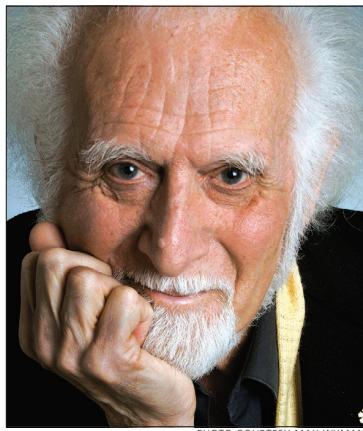


PHOTO COURTESY MAX WYMAN

Author Max Wyman, above, will be speaking to help kick off the first morning of ArtSpring's 25th Anniversary Festival Thursday, April 18.

experts that require pre-registration. Thursday April 18 hosts three of the four including Sue Newman's theatre workshop "Gotta Sing, Gotta Dance" which over the course of an hour and a half will have participants of all ages learn some Broadway tap and musical skills.

At the same time in the gallery, Salt Spring Basketry Guild members will teach how to make cordage from a wide variety of natural materials.

From New York-trained actor, director, writer and educator Angelo Rosso comes a creative writing workshop about the craft of creative writing process itself, for poets to screenwriters to novelists. The workshop dives into the writing process and engages the spark of inspiration which brings great work to life.

On Friday April 19, artist and designer Ari Lazer presents a talk and hands-on exploration of Sacred Geometry in Nature which dives into the harmonic lens of shape and number, exploring the fact that as delightfully improbable as it might seem, a handful of simple geometric shapes underpin the forms of the natural world including ourselves.

Visit artspring.ca for information, registration and tickets.



250-537-8305  
ssifoundation.ca

**WHAT'S ON**  
page 10

**Making your will?  
Make an impact.**



**Give back to Salt Spring**

"What better way is there for a Salt Springer to give back to the community than to remember the Salt Spring Island Foundation when making a will? A bequest to the Foundation benefits so many worthy causes and is a way of spreading some good throughout our community." — the late Basil Franey

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**NORTH  
SALT SPRING  
WATERWORKS  
DISTRICT**

## NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT ELECTION



### ELECTIONS

# Water district hopefuls Q&A

*The two largest improvement districts on Salt Spring Island are holding elections this month — with three candidates vying for two trustee positions at each.*

*For the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD), voting will take place by both mail-in ballot and in person; mail-in ballots were 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 North Salt Spring Waterworks*

*District (NSSWD) election, voters can participate in an advance mail-in ballot process or an in-person voting process; voting packages and instructions were 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; SSIFPD's AGM will be held at the fire hall 6:30 p.m. Monday, April 29.*

*The Driftwood reached out to offer candidates a chance to introduce (or re-introduce) themselves to voters; NSSWD candidates' responses are below.*

### David Courtney

*What do you bring to the table, and how has that motivated you to run for a trustee position?*

Throughout my career I've had the amazing opportunity to travel the globe and witness how other cultures solve their governance issues. Since I've been semi-retired, I began to advocate for the last 28 months on behalf of 2200 Petitioners on "The Fix For Route 6" (Vesuvius to Crofton) and for 550 Petitioners on "The Fix for Fulford." With the support of MLA Adam Olsen, I've engaged the B.C. Legislature in presenting our petition, engaged the CEO and the various VPs of BC Ferries, BC Ferries Commissioner, the Board of Directors, Mayor Rob Douglas of the Municipality of North Cowichan and finally Minister Fleming.

I currently sit as a Fire Board Trustee at the SSIFD. I've advocated along with a number of other volunteers in reducing the speed limit through Ganges Village to 30 km in the name of public safety.

*What is the biggest challenge facing the district, and how do you plan to face it?*

*What do you bring to the table, and how has that motivated you to run for a trustee position?*

First, as an environmental scientist for over 25 years, I want objective, defensible decision-making to guide NSSWD. Second, as a trustee and current chair, I strive for a respectful and collaborative board approach that is focussed on our mandate — to serve our ratepayers through the effective and efficient delivery of potable water. The better our board-staff relationships, the more likely we are to get important work done.

*What is the biggest challenge facing the district, and how do you plan to face it?*

I can't pick just one. We've recently faced several challenges and each is most pressing at the time.

First, recruiting and keeping excellent staff, which allows us to advance key initiatives (how: offer competitive salaries, a supportive workplace, and temporary housing). Second, building the provincially-mandated Maxwell Treatment Plant, which will require ratepayer support via a funding referendum (how: clear communication regarding the benefits for water quality and supply). And third, moving beyond our Moratorium policy toward a sustainable connection policy that is guided by transparent, science-based management of our limited water supply in the face of climate change, affordable housing concerns, and Channel Ridge litigation (how: integrating our supply and infrastructure studies, and working with other agencies and ratepayers to prioritize, where legally possible, any additional connection capacity).

*What are the advantages/disadvantages of operating as an improvement district?*

The main disadvantage: current provincial policy denies improvement districts access to infrastructure grants. Without incorporation on SSI, the only option for NSSWD to access grant funding is to convert to a CRD service, which means handing over roughly \$90 million in assets and the elected autonomy of our ratepayers.

While I appreciate many CRD services on SSI, their track record with respect to conversion of water districts has been discouraging overall. So, the advantages of maintaining NSSWD as an improvement district: keeping our elected autonomy as ratepayers, having local control over decision-making, and long-term (as evidence on SSI suggests), a more effective and affordable system.

*What are the advantages/disadvantages of operating as an improvement district?*

There are advantages in having the community looking after its own affairs and the current NSSWD team over the past year have done that job very well.

The disadvantage is the lack of funding for infrastructure projects. I will do my best to be a voice in advocating for more government funding for the NSSWD ratepayers.

*Candidate Bryce Chapman did not respond to the Q&A.*

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## SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### NOTICE OF THE 2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & NOTICE OF ELECTION BY VOTING OF TWO TRUSTEES

Public Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) that the Annual General Meeting will be held on Monday, April 29, 2024 at 6:30 p.m. at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC and virtually through Microsoft Teams (the link will be available on the website).

Public Notice is hereby given to the electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that an Election by Voting will be held to elect two Trustees, each for terms of three years, commencing at the Annual General Meeting to be held on Monday, April 29, 2024 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in 2027. The Trustees will fill offices on the Board of the SSIFPD. The persons nominated as candidates are:

Surname	Given Name	Residential Address
Lucarelli	Dennis Michael	402 Isabella Point Road, SSI, V8K 1V4
McClean	Jennifer Joan	214 Grantville Street, SSI, V8K 1P1
Oliver	Robert John	291 Churchill Road, SSI, V8K 2R3

Qualified Electors on the voters list will be sent a package to enable **VOTING BY MAIL**. Qualified electors have the option to vote either by mail, or in-person on the days given below (Voting more than once in an election contravenes the BC Elections Act and is subject to one or more of the penalties in section 255 (7) of the Act.) The list of Qualified Electors normally contains errors and omissions. All Qualified Electors, whether on the voters list or not, can opt to vote in person. With appropriate identification, those not on the voters list can be registered and enabled to vote.

**VOTING DAY** for the election of Trustees shall be open to QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT on **Saturday the twenty-seventh (27th) day of April 2024**.

**ADVANCE VOTING** shall be open to QUALIFIED ELECTORS OF THE SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT on **Wednesday, the twenty-fourth (24th) day of April 2024**.

On both days, the voting place shall be the **main meeting room of the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road**.

Voting hours on both days voting hours shall be between the hours of **Nine (9:00) A.M. and Five (5:00) P.M.**

**ELECTOR QUALIFICATIONS** - You are qualified as an Elector if you are:

- A Canadian Citizen
- Eighteen years or older on Voting Day
- A resident in the Province British Columbia for at least six months before Voting Day
- An owner of land within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
- An Authorized agent, designated in writing as the said agent, of a Board or Corporation that owns land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
- If more than one person is registered on title as owner of land, each owner is entitled to vote, providing the qualifications set out above are met. No persons may vote more than once, with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis. Eligible voters not found on the List of Registered Electors may register on Voting Day and Advance Voting Day by providing two pieces of identification, one of which has a signature, preferably with an identification photo, e.g. driver's license; and documentation proving ownership of the land for which a vote is to be cast, e.g. tax notice, assessment notice, or duplicate certificate of title

**Corporate votes** – Written proof must be provided by a Corporation or Board that owns land within the SSIFPD and wishes to authorize an agent to vote on its behalf. For detailed requirements, please e-mail the Returning Officer at [anthonykennedy10@shaw.ca](mailto:anthonykennedy10@shaw.ca).

Dated at Salt Spring Island, B.C. this 15th day of March 2024.

Anthony A. Kennedy, Returning Officer

295 Mountain Park Drive, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 1G3  
250-537-8815 1-647-284-2900

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## Windsor Plywood SALT SPRING



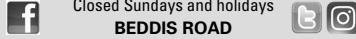
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## AGRICULTURE

# Haskap 'super berry' makes debut

'Berry with benefits'  
growing on Salt Spring

BY MARCIA JANSEN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Have you heard of the haskap berry? No? You're not alone. The 'berry with benefits' is brand new to British Columbia. Alex Ruurs from Hillfield Haskap Farm introduced the haskap berry on Salt Spring Island eight years ago and just started selling his haskap cordial in retail stores on the island.

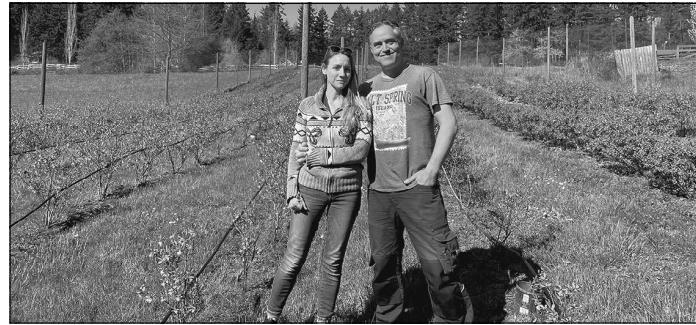
The haskap berry grows in the wild in every province in Canada, except for BC.

"We are the last ones to be let in on the secret," says Ruurs who started with thirty seedlings in 2016 and now has a thousand plants on his property at his farm at Sharp Road.

Ruurs moved from Abbotsford to Salt Spring Island sixteen years ago.

"I had access to all this land and was looking for a way to use it. I wanted to grow something healthy and local, with a potential for a side business," Ruurs, who works as a sea captain as well, continues. "It had to be something that wasn't too labour intensive, because I can be away for months at a time, and doesn't need too much water."

When Ruurs read about the cold-hardy haskap berry variety bred by the fruit program at the University of Saskatchewan, he knew he'd found what he was looking for. Haskap berries, also called honey berries, come from varieties common to



Alex Ruurs and partner Emily Sheridan in front of their haskap berry plants.

a circumpolar species native to northern boreal forests in Asia, Europe, and North America. "This particular variety stems from species in Siberia and Japan. Haskap means 'little gift at the end of the branch' in Japanese and is known as the fruit of longevity."

The haskap berry is a so-called super fruit. It is believed that haskap berries have been used in folk medicine to reduce the risk of hypertension, glaucoma, heart attack, anemia, osteoporosis, and gastrointestinal disease.

"Studies show that haskap berries are rich in vitamin C and they contain substantially more antioxidants than any other berry. But they're not only healthy, they are extremely tasty as well. Haskap berries are juicy and sweet with a zing of vitamin C. They taste like a mix of black-

berries, raspberries and black currents."

Haskap berries produce one of the earliest crops, compared to other berry varieties.

"Even earlier than strawberries," Ruurs explains. "We had our first full harvest last summer, experienced farmers probably need half of the time to establish an orchard, and we are looking forward to the next one in June."

Ruurs turns his haskap berries into a sweet and tangy cordial, which is now available on the island.

"You can drink haskap cordial with sparkling water or mix it with alcoholic beverages like martini or gin and tonic. Because of the intense purple colour of the berry, not only the skin but the inside as well, you can use the cordial to make beautiful cocktails and mocktails."

# what's on this week

Wed.

April 10

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Michaela Slinger, Lucy Clearwater & Zoe Sky Jordan. Mateada, 8 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

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

Thur.

April 11

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Surf Hat. Mateada, 8 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

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

Local Community Commission (LCC) regular meeting. Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) boardroom, 5-7 p.m.

Fri.

April 12

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Matriarchs Rising: Indigi-Dance films screening. ArtSpring, 7:30 p.m.

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

Dunks (on 45s). Mateada, 9 p.m.

Fri.

April 12

### ACTIVITIES

Story Time. In the children's area at the library. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

Youth Games & Chess Club. For ages 9 to 13. Library children's area. 1 to 4 p.m. Youth game night for ages 13 to 19, library program room. 7 p.m.

ASK Salt Spring. Welcomes Local Community Commissioners 11 a.m.-1 p.m., SIMS classroom by the Boardroom.

Sat.

April 13

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Damonde Tschirriter. Live stand-up comedy at the Legion. Doors 7 p.m., show 8 p.m.

Los Duendes. Mateada, 9 p.m.

Matriarchs Rising: Contemporary dance performance. ArtSpring, 7:30 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

Volunteer Fair Membership Drive. Featuring 30+ local non-profit organizations at Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

Sun.

April 14

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Sun.

April 14

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Nedjo Rogers poetry performance of "Byron in Lust." Romp through the lives of Romantic poets. Library community program room. Three-part performance, starting at 2, 3 and 4 p.m.

### ACTIVITIES

Indigenous Friendship Circle for Indigenous People to socialize, connect, and share culture. Library community program room, 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Eid al-Fitr alcohol-free celebration with SSI Community BBQ's wood-fired spit, bouncy castle and music at Drummond Park, 2 p.m.

Mon.

April 15

### ACTIVITIES

MLA Adam Olsen spring community meeting. Library program room 6:30-8 p.m.

Tues.

April 16

### LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Tues.

April 16

### ACTIVITIES

Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

### CINEMA

• **Mean Girls** shows 7 p.m. Friday-Saturday, April 12-13, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday April 14. **Dune Part 2's** final 3 shows 7 p.m. Sunday-Tuesday, April 13-16. See [thefritz.ca](http://thefritz.ca) for more movie info.

### ART EXHIBITIONS

• **ArtSpring's 25th Anniversary:** April's exhibition features interpretive visual history panels by Seth Berkowitz celebrating 25 years of community art and performance.

• **A Sampler: Recent Paintings by Charles Breth** is the exhibition in the library program room in April.

• **"re:location" Salt Spring Arts 2024 Spring Art Show**, at Mahon Hall. Multidisciplinary group exhibition featuring 18 artists from the Southern Gulf Islands runs April 12-28.

### "Imaginarium Botanica"

Melanie Thompson exhibition opening reception Friday April 12 5-7 p.m. at Salt Spring Gallery

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## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

**Keith Lavender**

January 20, 1931-April 3, 2024

Major Keith Donovan Lavender, a decorated military officer and a beloved member of the Salt Spring Island community, passed away peacefully on April 3, 2024, at the age of 93 at the Veterans Memorial Lodge in Saanich.

Born January 20, 1931, in Broderick, Saskatchewan, Keith was the second eldest of seven sons of Lucille and Donovan Lavender. He spent his formative years on the Lavender family farm near Lashburn, Saskatchewan during the Great Depression, where he cultivated a strong work ethic and a deep sense of duty.

Keith's life was marked by his unwavering dedication to his family and his country. He joined the Canadian army in 1951 and served with honour and bravery until 1977. He saw action as an artillery spotter pilot in the Korean War with the 81st Field Regiment. He later served in various postings throughout Canada, along with West Germany and England. Notably, he served as Officer Commanding 1 AirOp Troop at Camp Gagetown, New Brunswick Commanding Officer 1 Artillery Regiment Training Headquarters at Camp Shilo Manitoba, and Commanding Officer 427 Tactical Helicopter Squadron at CFB Petawawa. In 1976 he was transferred to NDHQ, Ottawa, in the Directorate of Operations and Training, with responsibility for support for civilian agencies such as Boy Scouts, Girl Guides, flood control, royal visits and other activities. In this role, he was honoured to assist Queen Elizabeth II and other members of the Royal Family on several royal tours to Canada. Following his retirement from the regular forces in 1977, he was called out for full time reserve services with Militia Area, Prairie Regional Headquarters, Winnipeg, Man.

In addition to his distinguished military career, Keith was a devoted husband and father. He nursed his first wife, Theresa, through a long illness until her passing in 1970, all while caring for their four children and fulfilling his duties as an officer in the armed forces. Later, he found love again with his beloved wife, Patricia, also a serving military officer, with whom he shared 52 happily married years, first in Petawawa, then later in Ottawa, Winnipeg and on Salt Spring Island.

Retiring to Salt Spring Island 40 years ago, Keith became an integral part of the community. He was actively involved in various organizations, including the Salt Spring Island Golf Club, the Royal Canadian Legion, and Meals on Wheels. He was generous of his time, often taking more elderly community members to medical and dental appointments both on the island and to Victoria. His warmth, generosity and sense of humour endeared him to all who knew him.

Keith Lavender had a passion for life, enjoying activities such as gardening, golfing, curling, playing bridge and poker, woodworking, reading, and cheering for the Toronto Blue Jays and the Saskatchewan Roughriders. He was proud of his accomplishments on the golf course, including two holes-in-one and victories in several tournaments for left-handed golfers.

Keith will be deeply missed by his beloved wife, Patricia, his sons, David and Terry (Sharon), and his grandsons, Michael and Daniel. He will also be missed by his brothers, Dennis (Helen) and Lyle (Mary, deceased) and his brother- and sister-in-law, Patrick and Cathy, and their daughters Heather and Erin; as well as many nieces and nephews, friends and acquaintances. He was preceded in death by his son Dennis and daughter Joanne, as well as his brothers Dean (Mary), Hugh (Helen, deceased), Ralph (Irene) and Wes (Dorothy).

Keith's memory will be cherished by all who were fortunate enough to know him. His legacy of courage, compassion, and kindness will live on in the hearts of those whose lives he touched.

There will be a private celebration of life at a later date. In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to the Heart & Stroke Foundation, the Kidney Foundation, or the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam

**CELEBRATION OF LIFE**  
for  
**Jerry Davidson**

Friday, April 19, 1 pm – 3 pm  
Royal Canadian Legion  
Salt Spring Island

In loving memory of our father and husband, the family asks that in lieu of flowers, those who wish may make a donation to the **Lady Minto Hospital Foundation**, a charity close to Jerry's heart.

"When someone you love becomes a memory, the memory becomes a treasure"

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

**Cherri Syleia Wells**

1937-2024

Cherri passed away gracefully on Thursday, March 21, 2024, at the age of 87. As per her wishes, she found her final rest in the comfort of her home, surrounded by loved ones. This would not have been possible without the support of Lady Minto Home Care. The family extends heartfelt gratitude to Dr. Wooldy for his compassionate care over the years and for all he did to make her final months as peaceful as possible.

Cherri's journey began on February 22, 1937, in Gray Creek, B.C. She was the beloved daughter of Julie and Thomas Wells. Her mother, Julia, was born in Canora, Saskatchewan, and her family had immigrated from Ukraine to start their lives in Canada. Thomas had immigrated from Norfolk, England, when he was 21 to begin his new life. He ended up in Saskatchewan (Endeavour), working on a farm where he met Julia. They moved to Gray Creek, B.C., and had three children. Sadly, Cherri's older brother drowned when they were playing in a nearby creek at the age of 6. Cherri also had another brother who died of pneumonia at 1 year old. The sorrow of losing her two brothers was imprinted in her heart. Four years after Cherri was born, she welcomed her sister, Mona, and embraced her role as the older sister.

In 1950, Julia, Thomas, Mona, and Cherri moved to Vancouver. They lived in the West End of Vancouver, and she attended King George High School. At the age of 19, she met her first husband, George Bogdanovich. Shortly after, they were married and moved into the family home in Dunbar where their three children were born, and they lived for 10 years.

Cherri moved to Salt Spring in 1968 with her three young children and started her new life with her second husband, Jerry Nestman. It was a brave and bold move for her to make at that time of her life. Nevertheless, it was a move she would never regret, and it would change her life and her children's lives forever. The island lifestyle and the friends and neighbors she would get to know over the decades were what kept her on the island for over 56 years. She loved the people, she loved her friends, and that is what made her happiest.

In those early years, the family had a Hobby Farm in the North End, as her love of animals was always at the forefront, whether it was tending to her chickens, goats, and sheep or her many dogs she loved throughout her life. She was an avid reader and was always trying new things, whether it was weaving, pottery, hiking, or her lifelong interest in painting. Gardening was another passion; she loved nature, and this was something she did up to her last days. But some of her fondest memories surrounded her foray into tennis and the weekly group in which she would play and socialize. The 'Tennis group' continued long after they were still able to play tennis and became a regular gathering of longtime island friends. In the end, it was lunch at the Golf Club with those who were still able to make it. These were lifelong friendships that remained strong to the very end.

Cherri was a beacon of positivity and selflessness, always smiling and willing to help where she was needed. She was a strong and independent woman. She was a great listener, and her friends would often confide in her, knowing she was a compassionate and caring person. Most of all, she loved her family. Her love and support for her children were unconditional and unwavering, and at times, that was surely tested. She was a positive voice in their lives and supportive of whatever endeavors they might take on. She will be dearly missed by all.

Cherri is survived by her daughter Cara (Mark) Rogers, sons Brian (Karen) Bogdanovich, and Gary (Carolyn) Bogdanovich, grandchildren Ben, Tara, and Hayden, as well as niece Laura and nephew Arlen. For family and close friends a Celebration of Life will be held May 25th, 2024 on Salt Spring Island. For more information please email Rogerthatcb@gmail.com

If you would like to commemorate Cherri's life, please consider making a donation to the Salt Spring Island Foundation (ssifoundation.ca), or plant some colorful flowers in her memory.

## Coming Events

THERE WILL BE A MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

Wednesday April 24th, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.

Public welcome.

## Building Materials

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## In Memoriam

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

## The Driftwood's Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring! campaign is back for 2024

### Dear readers,

What a response! And what wonderful pick-it-uppers, let's keep it going!

Islanders have been calling and stopping by all week, picking out their favourite corners of Salt Spring to rid of trash. We've had such a great reaction to our now-traditional April effort this year — and there's still plenty of time to join in.

The proposition is simple: choose a stretch of roadway you'd like to clean up, and let us know. Then, have at it — we're keeping track, and will share progress as we go.

We've had some people stake out big, long lengths of road — kudos to them, we're impressed! And for folks looking at a smaller stretch, remember: every metre counts. Even picking up garbage (or recyclables) in the area right in front of your home, or down your block, helps us fill in the puzzle.

Just look at the list! This is the fun part, getting these names in the Driftwood and getting people excited about joining in. You may notice there are some unsung Anonymous Trash Heroes in there — we told you, we can keep a secret! — so thanks to them as well for letting us know where they're working, so we don't duplicate efforts.

Contact us to sign up! Email [nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com), phone 250-537-9933, or drop in at our office, 241 Fulford-Ganges Road between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. Monday through Thursday and until noon on Friday. Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring!

See the rest of the page for all the instructions and benefits. Thank you in advance for your contributions and thank you to our campaign sponsors!



### OUR RUNNING LIST SO FAR:

- **Fiona & Brian Wolfe-Milner:** Welbury Drive & Old Scott Rd. in between Old Scott Rd. and Long Harbour ferry terminal
- **Amanda McLeod:** North Beach Rd. from the bottom of Fernwood. To the intersections at North End Rd.
- **Roger Brunt & Doug Wahsten:** Downtown
- **Neale & Niki Smith:** End of Fulford Harbour
- **Nancy Johnson:** Beddis Rd. from Fulford-Ganges to the Sailing Club
- **Gail Sjoberg:** Cranberry Rd. from Fulford-Ganges to Blackburn
- **Robert Steinbach:** Kitchen Rd. (whole street)
- **Jerry Fitzpatrick:** Booth Canal Rd. (full length of the road)
- **Anonymous Trash Hero:** Keppel to Musgrave beach
- **Tangachee Goobl:** Beaches from Yeo Point to Burgoyne Bay
- **Anonymous Trash Hero:** Drake Rd/Bonnet Ave
- **Simon & Louise Henson:** 300 & 400 blocks of Sky Valley Rd. and Lord Mike's Rd.
- **Blair Carley:** Rainbow Rd. from Windsor Plywood to the Recycling Centre by the Farmer's Institute
- **John & Anne Millerd, Tera Walsh & Neighbours:** Vesuvius Bay Rd. from Central to Tripp Rd. & also along Tripp Rd.
- **Jess Jack:** Walker's Hook Rd. from where it intersects with Ross Rd. down to Maliview
- **Hue & Kelly-Ann Haslauer:** Bader's Beach & Colins Rd.
- **Carol Penhale:** For-De-Lance Rd. & Walker's Hook Rd. from Maliview Rd. to the dock
- **Sicherman family:** Baker Beach
- **Iltyd Perkins:** Fulford-Ganges Rd. from Mereside Rd. to Garner Rd.
- **Thomas Wakefield:** Kangro Rd. and Mansell Rd.
- **Jenny Wahl:** Mountainview Drive, from there to top of Broadwell via Channel Ridge Dr.
- **Mark & Timothy Hiltz and Patricia Morphy:** Covering the 100 Hills neighborhood: Saltspring Way, Castle Cross Rd, Barkers Pl, Arnell Rd, and Fulford-Ganges Rd between Arnell and Saltspring Way.
- **Anonymous Trash Hero:** Blain Rd to Wildwood on the Lower Ganges Rd.
- **Bev Stewart:** Swanson Rd, Park Dr, Kanaka Rd, Lakeview Cres
- **Ken Jackson:** Baker and Acland Rd from the cemetery to the top of the stairs of Baker Beach.

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**Lions Club of Salt Spring Island**

The Lions Club Supports the Island Pick Up!

# Here's how it works...

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.

- 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 Pick up your Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services coupon from the Driftwood office and take your bag(s) to Laurie's, or otherwise dispose of what you've collected.

- 4 Also at our office, pick up your coupon for a free tea, coffee or hot chocolate from TJ Beans.
- 5 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 2021 + 2022 BC Media Industry Community Service Awards

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