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Wednesday,
April 17, 2024

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Issue 16
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PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

JUST FOR KIDS: Songwriter and children's music icon Raffi cuts a ceremonial ribbon at the Salt Spring Island Library's newly renovated Children's Space Friday, April 12, surrounded by children and families – and flanked by assistant library director Julia Wagner, left, and Raffi Foundation executive director Ocean Kneeland. Funding for the project came from the Victoria Foundation, the Raffi Foundation for Child Honouring and from the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Municipal Affairs Enhancement Grant – and from library supporters. A community sing-along was followed by a magic show, courtesy Salt-Spring born magician Joel Eddington.

BC PARKS FOUNDATION

Lumley deal inked, funding needed

Conservation project would protect 'gold' wetland

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A purchase price has been negotiated for the BC Parks Foundation to acquire a remarkable 31-acre parcel on the south end of Salt Spring Island, according to project organizers, who hope to close the deal quickly – and are

urgently seeking additional funding.

The property flanks both sides of undeveloped Lumley Road, which connects Isabella Point Road and Mountain Road, explained Lumley Conservation Project co-coordinator Charles Kahn, adding that the land's proximity to an 800-acre ecological reserve and a covenanted 76-acre forest reserve provides an opportunity to conserve an almost untouched natural area in the Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) zone contiguous to currently protected areas – minimizing the fragmentation of forested land in the area.

Kahn and co-coordinator Elissa Poole have been working for several years to protect the property, he said, most of which comprises mature second growth forest.

But there are also about three acres of exceptional wetland – and wetland biologist Robin Annschild said the swamp on the far side of Mountain Road in the ecological reserve, which has been identified as painted turtle habitat, could be extended to include it.

LUMLEY ROAD continued on 6

HOUSING

LTC ends proactive policy on rentals

'Confusing' bylaws cited


BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Officials on Salt Spring have dropped proactive enforcement against short-term vacation rentals (STVRs), ending a prioritizing policy in place by standing resolution, in one form or another, since 2007.


As the island's Local Trust Committee (LTC) rescinded its most recent standing resolution on STVRs Thursday, April 11, trustees lamented "confusing" bylaw regulations surrounding them – and the Islands Trust declined comment on whether future policies will be influenced by a recent adjudicator's order exonerating a long-time bed-and-breakfast operation.

According to bylaw compliance and enforcement manager Warren Dingman, staff will default to responding to written complaints on STVRs only – which are infrequent, a report says, as STVRs generate little concern from their neighbours.

STVRs continued on 2



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ISLANDS TRUST

Yurts land 2-year permit

Luxury camping units planned at former Vesuvius Inn property

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Vesuvius property with a storied history may return to the tourist accommodation game despite residential zoning — although potential offerings may look different than the hotel and pub long-time islanders might remember.

Salt Spring Island's Local Trust Committee (LTC) approved a two-year temporary use permit for the operation of five commercial guest units — specifically, individual geodesic dome/yurt structures elevated on wooden platforms — on the same property as the former Vesuvius Inn, itself now a private residence. Owner Travis Heide told trustees Thursday, April 11 the plan was to test the market with five units, although there have been conceptual drawings submitted showing as many as 15 temporary camping domes.

"Our bigger vision is a bit of a boutique hotel and Nordic spa," said Heide.

"It exemplifies the beauty of the island, and we think it's got all kinds of opportunities; people can keep their vehicles on the other side, and they can walk on [the ferry]."

Heide asked trustees to approve a temporary use permit as the parcel is no longer zoned for commercial accommodations; according to a staff report, an "illegal short-term vacation rental (STVR) within a yurt structure" was being operated on the property, and an active bylaw enforcement was underway.

But bylaw compliance and enforcement manager Warren Dingman said if the applicant signed a compliance agreement, indicating they were pursuing a development variance permit (DVP) to bring the property into zoning compliance, the violation notices would be cancelled.

"As long as they're going to pursue that DVP process, they're going to be offered a compliance agreement," said Dingman. "That would give them a deadline to complete that application process, and that would put on hold any enforcement until the application is dealt with."

Original construction at the property was done by Estalon Jose Bittancourt in the 1870s; after a fire in the 1970s, the new Vesuvius Inn was constructed, opening in 1979 and welcoming visitors and locals until 2004.

Changing hands, the property was re-zoned to residential in 2016 and the inn later remodeled into a luxury single-family dwelling.

"I know you've got some issues with water and sewer and all those things that will be on you to overcome," said Trustee Laura Patrick.

"This, of all locations on Salt Spring, is probably the most appropriate for commercial accommodation, because you are right at the doorstep of a ferry that runs the most frequently to this island."

BRUSH FIRES BEWARE



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue's new "Brush 2" wildland fire vehicle arrived on-island Wednesday night, April 10. The three-ton chassis vehicle will be in service at Fulford's Fire Hall 2 starting this month, replacing a 30-year-old truck Fire Chief Jamie Holmes said had been "showing its age."

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Fewer than 100 'unlawful' STVRs found

STVRs
continued from 1

Dingman suggested limited staff resources should be expended on operations that do.

"The recommendation right now is to rescind the original standing resolution, and basically let us get on to other work," said Dingman.

"I believe we've done all the work that we can through a proactive campaign for short term vacation rentals."

Dingman said his records currently showed 83 open enforcement files, with 229 closed since 2007 following an extensive review of online Airbnb and VRBO listings. Moreover, he said, the maximum number of total ads has never exceeded 250, and accord-

ing to his report the number of confirmed unlawful operations has always been less than 100.

"We'd be down to a 'core group' where a lot of them don't have owner-operators on the property," said Dingman. "The ones that are of the most concern, I believe, to the Local Trust Committee and the local community, those files would still be pursued. But any new STVR files would be pursued by a complaint only."

In late 2023, according to Dingman's report, more than 50 STVR files were closed and the remaining operations identified as unlawful were issued bylaw violation notices; in the first three months of 2024, seven compliance agreements have been signed by STVR operators.

"This indicates that the great majority of operators are willing to comply with the regulations in the Land Use Bylaw," Dingman wrote, "when the evidence is provided that they are unlawful."

Current land use regulations prohibit STVRs, but conditionally allow bed-and-breakfast operations in some island zones, subject to several conditions which local operators and the Salt Spring Accommodation Group have said are interpreted unevenly.

On April 3, an adjudicator upheld a challenge from owners of Salt Spring's Blue Ewe B&B — disputing their third bylaw violation notice since 2022 — finding the contravention of bylaw had not occurred as alleged by the Islands Trust, and ordering the latest notice be cancelled.

Blue Ewe had been issued, and had disputed, two similar notices previously, with one ultimately cancelled by a different adjudicator and the second withdrawn prior to the hearing.

During discussions April 11, Salt Spring Trustee Laura Patrick said she didn't know if rescinding proactive enforcement "100 per cent" was the solution, or indeed sent the right message, although she ultimately voted in favour of doing so.

Noting the importance of vacation rental businesses that "help someone stay

in their home," Patrick said she was sympathetic, adding she felt the "confusing" rules were largely to blame for the frustration bylaw enforcement was facing.

"It's actually part of our affordable housing approach, where someone needs that income to afford their mortgage," said Patrick. "The cost of living on the island is really huge, so [these are] really the people that I'm willing to turn a blind eye to right now, while we work out fixing our approach to vacation rentals."

Patrick successfully added language to the motion to rescind — over the objections of trustee Jamie Harris — specifically asking staff to report back on "further consideration on proactive management" of STVRs in March 2025.

While that timing would likely coincide with the LTC's annual March 31 opportunity to opt into B.C.'s Bill 35 — which would, if taken, establish a provincial role in STVR regulation on Salt Spring Island — Harris said it was "muddying" an otherwise straightforward decision.

"In a year, if we want to revisit, we can just do that," said Harris. "The public understands that the LTC can revisit this whenever the heck we want."

"There's a lot of conversation about vacation rentals on this island," said Patrick. "By putting this deadline in here, this doesn't commit us to anything, it just helps the optics by saying, 'we're paying attention to this too.'"

Over the years, Salt Spring's LTC has passed multiple resolutions to guide staff in prioritizing bylaw enforcement when it comes to STVRs "given finite resources available" — although those instructions have evolved, notably in 2017 when the word "proactive" was added to emphasize less reliance on complaints, and in 2019 when "not managed by a person available 24/7 on Salt Spring Island" was removed from the list of characteristics that might trigger a bylaw enforcement action.

The rescindment April 11, unlike those previous, was not immediately accompanied by a replacement resolution.

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POLICE

RCMP reports busy new year

25 impaired drivers taken off the road in first three months of 2024

BY SALT SPRING ISLAND RCMP
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

In the first three months of 2024, Salt Spring Island RCMP responded to 563 calls for service, an average of over six calls per day ranging from traffic-related reports, bylaw infractions, liquor-related complaints, marine enforcement and Criminal Code investigations.

Four firearms offences, nine sexual assaults and 42 mental health-related incidents were also reported to police during this quarter.

In addition to the six calls per day, Salt Spring RCMP also conducted 423 foot patrols in downtown Ganges and various parks (averaging 4+ per day), 162 licensed premises checks (bar walks) and issued approximately 200 warnings and violation tickets to drivers & registered owners for Motor Vehicle Act violations; 25 impaired drivers were taken off the road during this period.

In the first quarter of 2024, foot patrols, bar checks, and traffic enforcement had all increased in number when compared with the same period in 2023.

Salt Spring RCMP also conducted various public speaking events including Ask Salt Spring and presentations at local schools.

In February, SSI RCMP assisted Transport Canada with patrols in Ganges Harbour where marine enforcement took place, resulting in multiple boats being removed from the Harbour due to their abandoned and derelict state. Additional patrols and enforcement with Transport Canada are expected to continue throughout the spring and summer of 2024.

We would like to remind business owners and employees to be safe when dealing with a person who is stealing merchandise. The police do not encourage staff to apprehend the person by themselves, but rather to take a picture/video of the suspect (if safe to do so) and call the police at the time of the theft.

Some of the calls for the 1st quarter are detailed below:

January

A person who had been taken to a health care facility for a mental health assessment subsequently ran away, requiring police to conduct a search for the person. After hours of searching by multiple officers, the person was located and returned to the hospital.

An erratic driver was caught by police after leaving a local bar and driving unsafely. The driver was found to be impaired and after being arrested, tried to resist police; the driver was subsequently arrested for Impaired Driving and Obstructing a Peace Officer. Their driver's licence was seized by police, their driving privileges suspended, their vehicle towed and one Criminal Code offence of Obstruct Peace Officer has been recommended to Crown Counsel.

Two checkpoints (for impaired drivers) were conducted in a single evening, resulting in two drivers found impaired, their licences seized, and vehicles towed.

A report was made to police of a person trespassing at a local business; the person was located by police and escorted off the property.

A driver was found to be driving without a valid licence; their expired out-of-province licence was seized and their vehicle was impounded.

An elderly resident of Salt Spring was found walking in the rain without awareness of their surroundings or the location of their home; police re-united the person with friends and ensured their safe return home.

A report of fraud was received where the person had been told by someone alleging to be "Microsoft Support" to pay \$1,500.00 in gift cards because of alleged malware on the victim's computer. Fortunately, no money was lost through this fraudulent attempt.

A search warrant was executed at a residence on Salt Spring as a result of a child pornography investigation. Electronic devices and evidence of firearms trafficking were seized. The complex investigation is ongoing and is expected to take several months.

Police responded to a report of two persons fighting in downtown Ganges, one armed with a knife and one with a steel baton. Both were arrested and charges have been recommended to Crown Counsel. Since this incident both have been subsequently arrested on new charges with one suspect held in custody.

Attending a traffic complaint, police assessed the driver and deemed the driver to need an assessment to maintain their licence; a recommendation was made to Motor Vehicles for the driver to be examined for fitness for driving, and if not fit, for their licence to be revoked.

Police investigated a robbery that took place at a business on Salt Spring; the suspect was arrested and held for court. The suspect was later released by a judge with another court date pending.

February

A traffic stop was initiated after a vehicle was found to be driving without operable taillights; the driver was found to be impaired by alcohol. Their driver's licence was seized, violation tickets issued and their vehicle impounded for 30 days.

Police responded to a reported assault where dog feces was thrown at a person; an arrest was made and charges were recommended to Crown Counsel.

A traffic stop took place to check on a driver's sobriety after they had previously received an Immediate Roadside Prohibition (IRP) for impaired driving four months ago. The driver was again found to be driving while impaired and was subsequently arrested for Criminal Code charges of Impaired Operation of a Motor Vehicle and Operate a Motor Vehicle Over 80mg%. Their vehicle was impounded again. A court date is pending.

SSI RCMP responded to a person who had threatened to shoot themselves; police attended and de-escalated the situation without incident.

Police responded to a person who had threatened to hang themselves; they were apprehended under the Mental Health Act and transported to Lady Minto Hospital for assessment.

A driver was caught speeding 130km/hr in an 80km/hr zone. The driver was assessed and deemed to be driving impaired; violation tickets were issued, their licence seized, and their vehicle impounded.

SSI RCMP conducted a marine stop and checked a boat and operator; the boater was found to not be carrying their Pleasure Craft Operator's Licence (PCOC) card on them and a written warning was issued.

Police conducted a traffic stop and the driver was found to be impaired by alcohol. The passenger confronted and assaulted Police, and then fled the scene. The passenger was arrested minutes later for Obstruction and Assault Peace Officer and taken to jail. The driver was served an IRP, had their licence seized, and their vehicle impounded.

A male who had been previously arrested for violence and released on several conditions including not to be on Salt Spring Island was found walking in Ganges. The male was arrested and held for court. As of April 2, 2024, the male remains in custody pending his next court date.

March

Police responded to a call for a driver possibly impaired by drugs. Police located the vehicle and confirmed the driver was operating the vehicle while smoking drugs. An unsecured shotgun and shells were seized, along with other drug paraphernalia; the driver was arrested for Unsafe Storage of a Firearm and charges are pending.

A request from Surrey RCMP to SSI RCMP was made to check on the well-being of children in a home on Salt Spring. Police conducted a check on the children and residence, noting no concerns for the children's safety.

Police were called by a person reporting "poor parenting" in regard to their ex-spouse and how their children were being parented. No criminal acts had occurred. Police encouraged respectful dialogue and counselling options; no charges were laid.

Police were advised of two people openly drinking liquor in public; upon police arrival, both persons had already departed the scene.

SSI RCMP responded to a reported stabbing; one person was taken into custody while the victim was transported to hospital for their injuries. Charges are being recommended to Crown Counsel.

Police received a report of a large dismembered domestic animal being found in a wooded area; nothing nefarious or criminal is suspected at this time.

An intoxicated person was located in downtown Ganges; the person was arrested and placed in cells until their release when sober.



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:

<u>Surname</u>	<u>Given Name</u>	<u>Residential Address</u>
Lucarelli	Dennis Michael	402 Isabella Point Road, SSI, V8K 1V4
McClellan	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.

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

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OPINION

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



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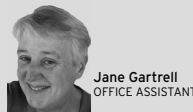
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EDITORIAL

Nothing doing

There are times when reading just a headline isn't enough.

If you look across the water at what's happening elsewhere with short-term vacation rentals (STVRs) — tagged as a cause of the affordable housing crisis, a pending provincial ban on most of them has sparked lawsuits in Victoria — it might be surprising to read that on Salt Spring, where the lack of affordable housing is felt so acutely, the land use authority here has decided to step back from a policy of chasing them down.

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) has rescinded a 2019 standing resolution that tasked staff with proactively enforcing against those unlawful rentals, taking the recommendation of Islands Trust staff and letting them, as bylaw compliance and enforcement manager Warren Dingman put it, "get on to other work."

THE ISSUE: STVR enforcement

WE SAY: Trust plays to strengths

Explicitly, rescinding the policy is meant to conserve staff resources; amusingly, the same argument was part of the justification for enacting it in the first place. But we feel that in ending a policy of proactive enforcement against these STVRs,

trustees are leaning into one of local government's biggest strengths: doing nothing.

That is not meant uncharitably. The altruistic turning of a blind eye has long been central to the local government playbook on and around Salt Spring. From LTC decisions not to target unpermitted long-term rentals to the Capital Regional District's specificity on keeping an RV's porch detached to help avoid an unlawful permanent dwelling citation — it's clear that when public policy doesn't yet align with a community's need, there are well-meaning people in local government ready to look the other way.

At the traditionally — and perhaps necessarily — glacial pace of island governance, a quick-fix solution is always in peril of a longer tour of duty than intended. Staff resources creaked under the weight of chasing down Salt Spring's STVRs, to say nothing of the occasional need to bring their owners to court — or, as we have also seen, of being handed a legal loss.

In the meantime, trustees decided many of the STVR owners were themselves among those struggling against the rising cost of living.

The policy was rescinded, not because all the story's villains were brought to justice, but because there weren't enough villains to go around.

PARKER

BANK LOANS AVAILABLE



The wrong sort of change

BY JASON MOGUS

It makes me angry and frankly sad to open the paper and see week after week the vicious attacks on affordable housing. During an unprecedented cost of living crisis, when so many are hurting, how is this the issue that attracts so much zeal?

Whether it's anti-housing contributed essays, or a recent letter questioning whether there even is a housing crisis, gaslighting half the island who've been living in it for years. Talk like this makes it clear who is touched by the extreme inequality that marks our times, and who is well and surely insulated from it.

What if instead of a secret conspiracy to pave the island, those who are working on housing are here to support people — our fellow islanders who care as much about living sustainably as anyone else — and their right to be able to live here too, even if they weren't lucky enough to buy their house for \$200,000 in decades past.

What if the small scale, ecologically minded solutions being explored weren't a stalking horse for development, but actually a better solution for respecting ecological limits than the unchecked mansion expansion we have now?

Look, I know change is scary, but the world around us has changed a lot since the '70s. Why shouldn't the Trust try to adapt? Institutions that fail to respond to the real-world needs of their constituents become viewed as failed. Look around and see where that dynamic is getting us today. Does having even more people check out and lose faith in the Trust because it's frozen in amber even help us protect the environment?

The last two elections — especially

the most recent one — were run on and ultimately won by trustees who said affordable housing mattered. You might not like what they propose to

do about it, and in a democracy you can fight laws you see as unjust. But you can't say they are anti-democratic when they do what they told us they were going to do, to solve the problems the citizenry put them there to address.

When I moved here, the activism this island was known for was legendary. Counterculture alternatives, keeping chain stores out, protecting Burgoyne Bay from clearcut logging. There are still good things happening today, but just as often the most organized people on Salt Spring seem to be fighting kids sports fields or going all in to defeat housing proposals like they're an oil pipeline. Hiring lawyers, threatening and harassing politicians, organizing letter writing campaigns, phoning Trust staff weekly, penning endless articles, all to try and stop...granny suites?

It saddens me to see so many local conservationists — people whom I otherwise admire and have spent my entire career working alongside — lock on to affordable housing as their cause. At this point in history when the issues of inequality, climate, biodiversity loss, Indigenous rights, and racial justice are all clearly converging, shouldn't we be working together to fight the root causes of these crises — extractivist capitalism — instead of dividing and conquering each other while the world burns around us?

Opposing social justice in the name of conservation is not the kind of social change I want Salt Spring to be known for. I hope others stand up and say enough.

VIEWPOINT

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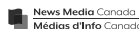
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you planting a food crop for yourself this year?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you prefer mail-in ballots to in-person election voting?

63 56

YES NO

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Dragonfly ending housing efforts

Dragonfly Commons Housing Society has been working for the past eight years to produce 30 individually owned units of affordable workforce housing. During that time, we have experienced many highs and lows and unparalleled community support.

Our timing for this project was not optimal, as it coincided with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) moratorium on new construction, as well as with the provincial government's new water legislation, the Water Sustainability Act of 2016. Even though both of these factors significantly complicated the process, we are proud of the fact that after years of perseverance, we were able to license the two artesian wells that we drilled on site, easily sufficient for the 30 homes. We were unable to complete the final step which required us to partner with one of the two entities on the island that have a water utility equivalency.

We first attempted to partner with NSSWD which led to two years of frustration. Three years ago, with the encouragement of Gary Holman, we pivoted to partner with the Capital Regional District (CRD). This initially looked very promising but due to a number of factors including staff turnover, Covid but primarily due to a tragic disconnect between our elected representative's enthusiasm for the project and inability to direct local staff, has caused numerous delays over the past three years, which continue to this day. It is sad that we have little or no local control over CRD senior staff on this island and have to rely on people in Victoria who are well-intentioned but do not have our best interests top of mind.

Additionally, during the eight years that we have worked on this project we have seen the cost of construction skyrocket to the point where it is more than double what it was at the time we started. As a

result of the significant increase in costs, what started off as a project targeting low-income earners had mutated into a project that would only be accessible to medium-income earners, which was not what incented us to initiate this project.

The frustrations that we have experienced over the years have made us want to quit on a number of occasions, but we have persevered and have made every effort to make this work, in large part due to the incredible support of our board, elected representatives, and numerous members of the community. We would like to especially thank our board members Kisa Petersen, Robin Williams, Ron Cooke and Rhonan Heitzmann.

Sadly, we do not feel that we are close to completing this project and no longer have the enthusiasm and energy necessary to continue. It is our intention over the next few months to wind down the Society and to sell the property. If anyone feels they have the means and interest to pursue this project we would be happy to discuss it with you to see if there is a fit, in which case we will provide whatever assistance we can.

FERNANDO AND TAMMY DOS SANTOS,
SALT SPRING

Sustainability must guide OCP

This February, Salt Spring Trustees requested \$246,000 in public funds for what they call a "major amendment" to our Official Community Plan (OCP) and Land Use Bylaw (LUB). All these funds are for hiring "third party contractors." Since Salt Spring's OCP had its last public review in 2008, one might expect that changes costing Trust taxpayers a quarter million dollars would indeed be for a full official review.

But rather than a comprehensive "review," the words being used by our

Trustees and staff are "update," "amendment," even "focused" and "targeted" amendment. The distinction is an important one. OCPs undergoing reviews must follow a set of key principles, foremost of which is the vision for the community's future. This is the big picture exercise that guides changes to planning and land use decisions.

The vision is reached through extensive community engagement and dialogue. A good example is Sooke's soon-to-be-completed OCP review. Sooke followed a standard planning model with four stages, the first two focusing on visioning and growth scenarios, the third on implementation of the vision, and the fourth on revisions and approvals.

We have to question why this important and logical process of community engagement is being ignored by our trustees. The answer seems to lie in the narrow focus the LTC has chosen. Housing development has become the key driver, specifically through the trustees' Housing Action Program — which has so far given us the long fiasco of Bylaw 530. That failed because it was clearly unlawful under our existing OCP and relied wholly on the whims of private landowners.

While we welcome housing initiatives that are properly planned and regulated, we are also acutely aware that changes to our OCP must focus, above all, on the sustainability of human activities, which all depend on ecosystem health. Salt Springers have not only local issues to consider, but also our responsibilities under the Islands Trust Act. The need for the Trust to fulfill its conservation mandate has never had greater urgency, given the huge challenges posed by drought and climate change.

Sustainability means that build-out numbers are of key importance to the OCP's long-term strategy for wise land use. Salt Spring is already growing at twice the national average, clearly too much for a protected rural area. A key principle in amending the plan must be to

foresee and manage development potential, whether it is realized today, tomorrow, or 50 years from now. How will the island reduce the carbon emissions and other environmental harms of our current population, let alone a larger one? All options, proposals or changes should be carefully analyzed through this lens.

If policies limiting growth are to be removed or weakened, islanders have the right to know the long-term consequences beforehand. This is our Plan. It will shape the community we live in and affect many aspects of our lives. Does the plan even need reviewing at all? If it does, it must be done right. All islanders must have an open process and a voice freely heard.

PATRICIA LOCKIE,
POSITIVELY FORWARD
RONALD WRIGHT,
KEEP SALT SPRING SUSTAINABLE



Roses

... To the honest person who found my purse in Country Grocer's parking lot and took it into the store. *Marjorie Radford*

... For Clio. I was marooned at the end of Menhinick with a dead 12V battery, when along came Clio, who happened to have jumper cables and a car to which to attach them. In five minutes, my electric car was up and running again. Thanks so much for the help, Clio. It was much better than waiting four hours for BCAA! I wish I'd gotten your last name so I could reward you with a bottle of wine, cookies or something else that you might enjoy. *Charles Kahn*

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It's like speed dating for community organizations and volunteers."

BEN CORNO, LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSIONER, ON THE INAUGURAL SALT SPRING VOLUNTEER FAIR

Community peer support outreach program looks to grow

BY WILLIAM MACPHERSON

Hello Salt Spring Community, my name is William MacPherson, but people call me Willie, or Willie B.

I have been working in social services on our frontlines as a harm reduction peer support worker, and a housing outreach worker with Island Community Services (ICS) for the past 3 years. As of April 1st, my contract is over with ICS and I am in a new role with the Salt Spring Mental Wellness Initiative (MWI). I've been involved in the MWI since its inception in March 2020 and I've recently been hired as the coordinator for our new community peer support outreach program.

The Mental Wellness Initiative is a project of our community health network: the Salt Spring Health Advancement Net-

work (SSHAN) in partnership with the Salt Springs Community Health Society (SSCHS). We work hard to have lived experience voices (context experts) collaborating as equal partners (as opposed to token members) within our working groups, with professionals in the space (content experts), as well as other caring community members. The empirical evidence strongly suggests better outcomes when content and context experts work together.

The Initiative is currently funded for 30 contractor hours for community peer support outreach per week, over the next year. We will be hiring two individuals for 10 hours a week and I'll be working 10 hours as a frontline worker myself.

GUEST COLUMN

Our hope is that once established, our community peer support outreach program will expand. Salt Spring is served by an amazing group

of non-profit organizations, as well as caring citizens. However, because the need often outweighs the resources available, and because these organizations are often competing for the same grant funding, an environment of competition, separation, and siloing can be created.

This is where the Mental Wellness Initiative comes in. With our goal of cooperating and collaborating with as many of the players as possible, both our paid peer support outreach workers, and our volunteer Goodwill Ambassadors provide much needed connective tissue in the

community. The capacity we are building is available to all our partners. Flexible frontline capacity aligns all our incentives, as everyone benefits from the program's success.

My email is willieonsaltspring@gmail.com. I invite you to reach out if you'd like to apply to be a community peer support outreach worker, or if you're interested in learning more about our Initiative. You are also welcome to reach out if you are interested in volunteering with our Initiative. I love making community content on my iPhone, so you may see my face online. I do my best to be approachable in real life, so if you see me in our village centre, and you feel the inclination, please say hi!

Wishing you care as we work to create a community of belonging.



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

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

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Thursday, May 2, 2024, virtually through Microsoft Teams, and in person at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. The link to the meeting can be found in the top right-hand corner of our website.

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

Brian Pyper
Bryce Chapman
David Courtney

Candidates Forum – Hosted by Gayle Baker of Ask Salt Spring

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

AGM Voter Eligibility and Process

The Trustee election will use an advance mail-in ballot process and an in-person voting process. Voting packages and instructions will be mailed to all eligible voters on March 22, 2024, and ballots must be received at the district office by April 30, 2024, at 4:30 p.m. In person voting on the day of the AGM will begin at 2:00 p.m. and end at 6:00 p.m. The results of the election will be announced at the AGM as soon as they are available.

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

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

Parcel an ecological buffer



PHOTO BY PIERRE MINEAU

A hiker stands near one of the large old growth cedar trees near the undeveloped Lumley Road. Organizers seek to raise remaining funds to secure purchase by the BC Parks Foundation.

LUMLEY ROAD

continued from 1

"This property is gold," said Annschild, who previously provided the ecological assessments for the Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC). Annschild said the current ponds and swamps hold water all summer, rather than seasonally — and the wetland habitat is enhanced by the presence of huge perimeter trees, mostly "immense" old growth cedar, and several very old, dead snags, a haven for nesting birds.

"This land has been virtually undisturbed for 50 years," Kahn said, "except for walkers along the undeveloped road access that bisects the property."

It's also home to over 100 bird species including species of conservation concern — including olive-sided flycatchers, common nighthawks, and a pair of great horned owls which successfully fledged two young this summer.

"We haven't been able to do fundraising until we had an agreement in place," said Kahn. "But the deal is now signed and firm,

so we can start raising the money we need."

By connecting this acreage with an extensive strip of forest on a contiguous property to the west — Kahn said that owner has agreed to covenant several acres to enhance the viability of this project — the Lumley acreage expands and buffers both the Mt. Tuam Ecological Reserve and the Mountain Meadows covenanted land. He added the owners of a property to the east have also expressed a willingness to covenant a section of their land.

The Lumley parcel landowner would like to finalize the purchase by the end of April, Kahn said; there is a grant in place from the Salt Spring Island Foundation, and there have been some pledges for funding — but more is needed.

"We need to raise about \$1.2 million," said Kahn.

Those interested in contributing can do so through the BC Parks Foundation portal, www.bcparksfoundation.ca/projects/parks-bank/salt-spring-island/ or by calling (604) 343-3975. Please indicate that you are donating to the Lumley Road acquisition.

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PERFORMING ARTS

'Miracle' multi-choir concert as fest begins

Performances dazzle at
ArtSpring 25th Anniversary

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

After months of planning, ArtSpring's 25th Anniversary Festival takes to the stage Wednesday, April 17, with its Opening Celebration of local arts and performers in a community event not to be missed.

After a special Indigenous dance of welcome, for the first time — in what may be a technical and logistical miracle — all of Salt Spring's community choirs will combine to lend their voices to one occasion, including Viva Chorale!, Salt Spring Singers, Women of Note, United Church Choir, Bach on the Rock, GISS Jazz and The Lost Chords.

The evening also includes a collection of dance pieces from Claire Whitelaw and GISS dancers, an appearance from this year's recent national bronze medal winning GISS Improv Troupe, and some big band tempo

from the always popular Swing Shift, among other acts before a reception in the gallery.

"Our festival producer Christina Penhale has done a wonderful job of capturing the tone and creating a real sense of community, both in terms of who is on stage and who is welcomed to be a part of the festivities," said executive and artistic director Howard Jang. "From children and students, to families, to seniors — the spirit is very much that everyone is invited."

With more than 30 events, activities, performances, demos, and workshops over the course of five days — most of them drop-in and free of charge — ArtSpring promises to be a vibrant hub for the community to create, connect, or even discover artists, groups, or guilds for the first time.

The Painters, Basketry, and Spinners and Weavers Guilds are all represented with workshops, glass artists will spin their magic, Japanese drummers take to the stage, and a traditional Chinese tea service will be at the stone table in the meadow next to ArtSpring.

Penhale, whose Stagecoach youth actors

will be giving a sample of their upcoming The Enchanted Bookshop production on April 19, wanted to ensure family-friendly programming for the 25th Festival.

"It was important to have lots of activities for kids and families," said Penhale. "We have a kids arts activity table and stone painting on Friday and Saturday, a Scavenger Hunt activity with Seth Berkowitz's archival lobby exhibition, fun face painting on Saturday, and opportunities to see other young people perform."

Another community-wide free event that involves food, face-painting, music and dance is Thursday's first of its kind "finger food potluck" from 6:30-8:00 p.m. followed by a dance party with cover band Everyday People from 8-10 p.m. Potluck participants can drop off dishes from 5 p.m. onwards with clear labels about possible allergens. This is a cash-bar event.

Closing Ceremonies is another opportunity to gather, celebrate, and join the community with cake and thoughts of the future. An all-

star local line-up of Oak & Bone, Makana Youth Choirs, Yael Wand, GISPA Dance students, the Jazz & Blues Society with Sue Newman, a special ArtSpring storyteller, and Billie Woods and El Jose will bring down the house with The Cuban Party.

In what has been a rather underground campaign, Salt Springers are also invited to contribute painted stones to the Art Rocks Garden to literally bring colour, voices, and creativity to the front doors of ArtSpring. If you have a statement or image about art itself, Salt Spring, nature, a loved one, your family or organization — residents are encouraged to drop off a rock to be part of a permanent collection.

Festival schedule, tickets, and registrations available online at artspring.ca or at the Box Office Tuesday-Friday 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

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PHOTOS COURTESY ARTSPRING

On Friday, April 19, artist and designer Ari Lazer, above left, will present a talk and hands-on exploration of Sacred Geometry in Nature; celebrated Canadian pianist Jane Coop, above right, will perform a one-hour recital featuring the works of Beethoven, Chopin, Ravel and Debussy.

ArtSpring
25
YEARS & COUNTING

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Visit artspring.ca for schedule details or drop by the ArtSpring Box Office for a festival flyer.

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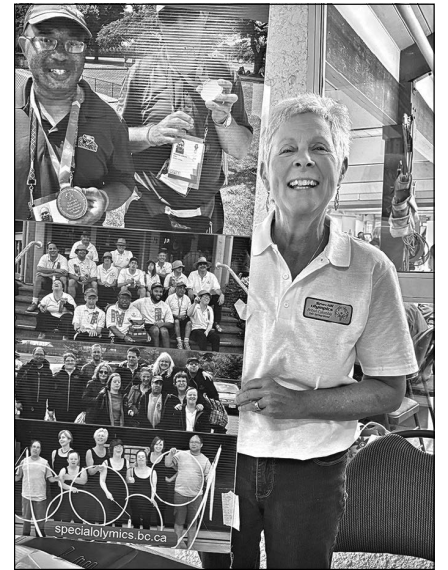
Event details & exhibition info at saltspringarts.com

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



HERE TO SERVE: Dozens of Salt Spring's volunteer groups were educating and recruiting at the SIMS building Saturday, April 13 during the Volunteer Fair, described by organizer Ben Corno as "speed dating for community organizations and volunteers." Clockwise from top left, Damian Inwood and Charley Miller, CHiR FM; Tanja Akerman and Audrey Denton, Red Cross Volunteers; Martin Hoogerdyke, Salt Spring Rotary Club; Yolande Leger, Special Olympics; Victoria Skinner, Willie MacPherson, Jai Wilson and Dave Norget, Mental Wellness Initiative; and Kelda Logan and Andrea Scanlan, Transition Salt Spring.

PHOTOS BY ROB LOWRIE



what's on this week

Wed. April 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jazz w/Iain Duncan Trio. Mateada, 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Artist's Talk with large-scale abstract acrylic artist Charles Breth. Library program room, 1-2:30 p.m.

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

Thur. April 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC). Regular meeting, Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) Boardroom, 9 a.m.-noon.

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

Guided Movement for personal well being and connection to island resources for 2SLGBTQIA+ Seniors/Elders and their guests. Free lunch and session sponsored by SSI Community Response Network, Island Community Services and DAISII. Core Inn, 11:30 a.m.-3 p.m.

Fri. April 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Accord Baroque Ensemble. All Saints by-the-Sea, 2 p.m.

Marianne Trudel Trio All Saints by-the-Sea, 7 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Ghostly Hounds. Mateada, 9 p.m.

DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9:30 p.m.

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. MoTI Area Manager Owen Page at SIMS. 11 a.m.-1 p.m.

Sat. April 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

DJ MyKey Boom. Mateada, 9 p.m.

Big Train. Acoustic blues duo, at the Legion. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Guitar & Gear Extravaganza community instrument sale. Meaden Hall 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

Sun. April 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jack n Lefty, Waterfront Café noon-3 p.m.

Blues Jam. With open mic at the Legion. 3 to 6 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.

Earth Day Ride. See highlight box.

Mon. April 22

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Toastmasters public speaking club meeting. 7-8:30 p.m. at the library.

Tues. April 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Wed. April 24

ACTIVITIES

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

CINEMA

• **FLEABAG** shows one day only, 7 p.m. Thursday, April 25 (no matinee). See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **"Imaginarium Botanica":** Melanie Thompson exhibition, until May 1 at Salt Spring Gallery

• **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 through April 28.

Earth Day Ride

Island Pathways' fun group ride to Mayne Island Sunday, April 21. Meet to catch 7:15 a.m. Long Harbour ferry. Earth Day-themed costumes encouraged.

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ISLAND LIFE

SALT SPRING ISLAND FOUNDATION

Clam garden visits, art among grant recipients



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Indigenous Elders and Parks Canada staff will offer field trips to a 5,000-year-old "clam garden" aquaculture site near Fulford to Salt Spring Island students this summer, connecting knowledge keepers from WSANEC, Quw'utsun, and Penelakut Bands with island youth.

Indigenous Priorities Fund recipients announced

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Several Salt Spring Island community organizations are getting a boost this year from one foundation, which announced grant funding to help support Indigenous cultural sustainability and community inclusiveness would total \$42,270.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation said recipients of the 2024 Indigenous Priorities Fund grants include the Gulf Islands School District (SD64) for a new mural project at Fulford Elementary that will bring together Indigenous artists and students to revitalize an outdoor space.

There will also be improvements and Indigenous language programming in ITOTEL-NEW HÁUTW / Tatul' utew't-hw, the Indigenous Learning Area at the Salt Spring Island Library, including rugs, moccasin making,

hand drum making, cedar shelving and cedar benches.

Salt Spring Arts will receive funding to continue increasing representation and inclusion of Indigenous artists and cultural practitioners through various shows and festivals, including their Spring Art Show, Artcraft and the Summer Outdoor Concert Series.

Islanders Working Against Violence (IWAV) will see funding to undertake training and an audit to increase accessibility and deliverability of their violence prevention programs to the Indigenous community.

And SD64's Indigenous Education program, in cooperation with Indigenous Elders from Tsawout First Nation and Parks Canada, will receive funding to facilitate SD64 student learning in one of the local "clam garden" Indigenous traditional aquaculture sites in Fulford Harbour this spring.

The Indigenous Priorities Fund aims to increase community inclusiveness, and to support Indigenous cultural sustainability on Salt Spring Island; for more information visit ssifoundation.ca.

PHILANTHROPY

Quilt visits Ganges

Mouat's Clothing hosts touring 'Solidarity' work supporting Grandmothers

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A collaborative quilt featuring the work of more than 300 women will be on display in downtown Ganges, honouring the journey grandmothers in Africa have made in the face of adversity.

Exemplifying the solidarity between Canadian grandmothers and their counterparts in sub-Saharan Africa, the 20th anniversary Solidarity Quilt was stitched together by members of grandmother groups across Canada, with contributions from over 300 women in Canada and Africa.

The handmade quilt celebrates an amazing milestone for the Stephen Lewis Foundation and the Grandmothers Campaign, depicting a grandmother tree,

arms outstretched in a demonstration of her competence and leadership — with roots running deep into the heart of her community.

Beneath the tree's canopy are seedlings, symbolizing the children she has cared for during the AIDS pandemic and beyond.

Islander Sheila Dobie, who had the opportunity to see the quilt elsewhere at a previous showing, called it a "remarkable and moving" expression of the story of the Grandmothers to Grandmothers campaign across Canada to African communities.

"This quilt reflects the diversity and connection — and love — that this campaign offers to grandmothers faced with supporting their families hit hard by the Aids epidemic in Africa," said Dobie, adding that anyone who had taken part in collaborative quilting would appreciate the work, coordination and results.

"Go up close and see this quilt in its full beauty," said Dobie.

The quilt will be at Mouat's Clothing from Monday, April 22 until Thursday, April 25.

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GET INVOLVED!

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) seeks applications for its Advisory Planning Commissions

ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

Advises the LTC on community planning and development matters including Official Community Plan and Land Use Bylaw changes, development applications, and LTC projects. Commission consists of up to 11 members and appointments are for a 2-year term.

AGRICULTURAL ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

Advises the LTC on community planning and development related to farming and agriculture such as Agricultural Land Reserve (ALR) applications and current projects. Applicants should have a background in farming or agriculture. Commission consists of up to 7 members and appointments are for a 2-year term.

Submit a completed application by 12:30 PM May 10, 2024



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Obituaries

Obituaries



Barbara Mary Wild
May 30, 1929 -
February 22, 2024

Barbara Mary Wild (née Smardon) was born in Montreal on May 30, 1929, fifth child of Elizabeth (née Booth) and Frederick Smardon. Barbara grew up during World War II, losing her father and a brother before she was eleven years old. She went from high school to McGill University, earning a Bachelor of Arts in 1950.

Barbara married Robert (Bob) Wild in 1949. The couple had a daughter, Catherine, in 1951. After Cathy's birth they moved to rural Southern Ontario, where Bob was employed as an Anglican parish priest. Stephen, Nora and Anne were born while Bob and Barbara lived in Ontario. In 1959 Bob's work took the family to Saskatoon, where their youngest child, Peter, was born. Barbara used public libraries and CBC Radio FM as a lifeline during the years when the children were young, informally continuing her education as best she could, both in literature and classical music.

In 1968 Barbara earned a Diploma of Education from the University of Saskatchewan, then worked teaching Grade 7 in Saskatoon. She threw herself into her work with a passion until the family moved to West Vancouver late in 1969, where Bob had accepted work.

After trying (and hating) substitute teaching, which was the only public school work available in the Vancouver area at the time, Barbara attended UBC to become a teacher of English as a Second Language. She taught English to new Canadians at Vancouver Community College, exploring and laughing at the idiosyncrasies of the English language with her students, whom she admired and respected.

In the mid 1970's Barbara once again went back to school, enrolling at Simon Fraser University to earn a Master's degree in American Literature. Barbara absolutely thrived in the academic community at SFU, writing her thesis on American author Willa Cather and publishing a paper on BC novelist Ethel Wilson. In these years Barbara began to pursue a long cherished ambition to become a writer herself.

In 1979 Barbara and Bob parted ways, after which Barbara completed her studies at SFU while also working as a support person at a women's shelter--work that drew upon both her tremendous compassion and her outstanding communication skills. She closed out her working years with Vancouver Housing Registry, an initiative of the YWCA, helping low income earners find housing. In these years Barbara met Jennifer Bradley, who became her dear friend and partner in the last three decades of her life.

Barbara struggled most of her life with self doubt and anxiety, while at the same time showing courage in the face of change, and a great appreciation for small pleasures. She preferred to live simply. She felt great empathy toward animals and developed a deep attachment to the various dogs and cats who shared her home through the chapters of her life. She knew the names and habits of many birds, and spent countless hours visiting and learning about the diversity of trees for which Vancouver is famous. She never lost her passion for music, especially classical. Always at home in a bookstore or a library, Barbara continued to write poetry into her mid 80's, frequently attending readings and participating in writers' groups.

Barbara was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease about ten years before her death. Jennifer cared for Barbara for the first five of those years, until Jennifer herself became ill, passing away in 2021, by which time Barbara was living in a care facility in Vancouver. In 2023 Barbara was moved to Greenwoods Eldercare facility on Salt Spring Island, where she spent the last year of her life, closer to her two youngest children, Anne and Peter. The staff at Greenwoods offered her a very kind and caring home, where she truly seemed to feel safe, loved and contented.

Barbara left us very quietly on February 22nd, 2024. She is survived by her children Catherine Kleinman, Stephen Wild, Nora Morgan, Anne Millard (John), Peter Wild (Tara), seven grandchildren (Frederick, Peter, Frances, Jeffrey, Kieran, Joshua and Rosa) and seven great-grandchildren (Reuben, Oria, Taika, Benjamin, Luke, Anna, and Claudia). Barbara was pre-deceased by her partner Jennifer Bradley and by grandchildren Sara Ewen and Michael Morgan.

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In Memoriam

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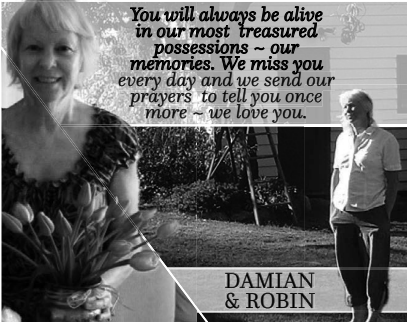
In Memoriam

In Memoriam

IN LOVING MEMORY OF

Alice Richards

You will always be alive in our most treasured possessions ~ our memories. We miss you every day and we send our prayers to tell you once more ~ we love you.



DAMIAN & ROBIN

Coming Events

Coming Events

NOTICE OF 2024 AGM
Scott Point Waterworks District
Wednesday April 24, 2024

The Trustees hereby give notice that the 2024 Annual General Meeting will be held at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, April 24, 2024 at the RVYC Pavilion, 241 Scott Point Drive.

www.scottpointwaterworks.com



Scan to get Driftwood news delivered to your email every week!

Opportunities

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.

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HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF
APRIL 14 TO 20, 2024

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO

**ARIES**

If you live with family members, there could be some tension this week. Take the time to establish and clarify the rules to restore harmony and create a warmer atmosphere.

**TAURUS**

You'll speak directly and will openly express what others are thinking. Learning how to use your new smartphone could prove difficult. This will require a period of adjustment during which you'll have to be patient.

**GEMINI**

Go through your bills to ensure there aren't any errors. If you find any, you'll be able to recover some money or get compensation. At the very least, you'll benefit from some sort of gain.

**CANCER**

Your patience could be tested in the days ahead. Financial matters will take time to resolve. Solutions will emerge with time or thanks to a gut feeling.

**LEO**

Deep fatigue will set in this week. You'll need to take a well-deserved rest. During this time, you could have an inspiring revelation that will help you clarify and create a decisive vision of your professional objectives.

**VIRGO**

You'll take the lead in a group and participate in many rewarding activities. Stress could wear you down at times. It will be important to rest before the end of the week to keep your spirits high.

**LIBRA**

You'll temporarily fill in for the boss, which will catch you off guard. The boss could be suddenly absent for a variety of reasons. Be confident in your skills and you'll demonstrate your ability to lead. You could add this position to your resume.

**SCORPIO**

If you must work with a client from abroad, worries about your language skills could arise. Rest assured; you'll exceed your own expectations. A short training course could help you feel more easeful with your boss or customers.

**SAGITTARIUS**

A career change could take you back to school. Patience and hard work could help you out of a precarious financial situation and help you find better employment prospects.

**CAPRICORN**

You don't often hesitate when faced with important decisions. However, this time, it's important to weigh the pros and cons. New information could emerge at the last minute, shedding light on the various options.

**AQUARIUS**

At work, you'll be responsible for dealing with emergencies and unsatisfied customers. Fortunately, your positive attitude will help defuse tense situations and resolve problems effectively. You'll be quite adept at selling or negotiating this week.

**PISCES**

You'll accomplish a remarkable feat in one way or another. You'll receive warm applause and recognition. You could even demonstrate your heroism by saving someone from a disaster, for example.

FOOD SECURITY

'Heart and soul' goes into Gabriel's Kitchen



PHOTO BY MARCIA JANSEN

Gabriel's Kitchen volunteers in front of the at the All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church (from left to right): Keith Delaney, Alexandra Aristera, Kajin Goh, Sarah Kaplan, Gloria McEachern, Lauren Porter, Christina Chua and Toto André.

'Relational kitchen' honours friend

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

A growing mix of Salt Springers gets together every Thursday to cook and share dinner at the All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church. Gabriel's Kitchen, named after Gabriel Bonga, is an initiative from Kajin Goh and the Chuan Society. Bonga, who died in a boating accident in 2020, fed members of the community through his Stone Soup program in Peace Park for several years. "Gabriel was a good friend of ours," said Goh. "This is a tribute to him. In the five years he served soup through his Stone Soup program in Peace Park, he didn't miss a single day."

The first dinner of Gabriel's Kitchen happened at the beginning of October 2023, with a Thanksgiving potluck. The project has been growing ever since.

"We started at the Gulf Island Family Together building with 40 people and now we're at 65," Goh said.

Gabriel's Kitchen aims to move from food insecurity and scarcity towards food sovereignty and abundance. Through a collective model, local farmers and growers, concerned community members and others can connect through a framework which infuses the act of nourishment with social meaning and relationships.

The initiative is a welcome addition to the food program at Island Community Services, who estimate Salt Spring Island has one of the highest homeless populations per capita in B.C.

"It is significantly different from a so-called soup kitchen; I like to call this a relational kitchen," said Goh.

"The project emphasizes sociality and connection as a vital aspect of eating. Building community, fostering relationships and nurturing mental wellbeing are the extended aims of our kitchen. There is a lot of stigma attached to poverty, but when you actually talk to people and hear their stories, it changes the perception."

A mix of different people comes out to eat and cook together every week.

"This is a place of radical inclusion," said Christina Chua, another council member of the Chuan Society. "We see people that live in a shelter, live-aboard-dwellers, people who live in tiny houses and don't have access to a full kitchen but also families with young children and single people who like to eat with some company. Everyone is welcome."

Every dinner there is a rotating crew of 20 volunteers who cook, set up, serve and clean up in shifts. Often three or four courses — soup, salad, a main course and dessert — are served and once in a while theme nights are happening.

"You pay a lot of dollars for this kind of food in a restaurant," said volunteer cook Keith Delaney. "People put their heart and

soul into these dinners."

The long-term vision for Gabriel's Kitchen is to one day run as a daily operation on a permanent site.

"Until then, we run our kitchen weekly in the fall, winter and spring," said Goh. "In summer we will have change of pace with community BBQs and burgers in the park."

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

APRIL 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
17	2:59	10.7	3.26	21	4:27	9.7	2.96
	19:27	4.1	1.25		10:49	5	1.52
18	3:33	10.5	3.2	22	17:18	8.9	2.68
	10:00	7.4	2.26		22:36	6.4	1.95
	13:36	7.9	2.41		4:36	9.6	2.93
19	20:26	4.6	1.4	23	11:11	4.1	1.25
	3:58	10.2	3.11		18:08	9.3	2.83
	10:11	6.7	2.04		23:11	7.1	2.16
20	15:10	8.1	2.47	24	4:44	9.6	2.93
	21:16	5.2	1.58		11:34	3.3	1.01
	4:15	10	3.05		18:55	9.7	2.96
	10:30	5.9	1.8		23:48	7.7	2.35
	16:21	8.5	2.59		4:53	9.6	2.93
	21:58	5.8	1.77		12:00	2.6	0.79
					19:40	10.1	3.08

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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

Dear readers,

We're filling in the map! Let's hear it for our pick-it-uppers all across Salt Spring Island!

It's always such a delight to see familiar faces stopping by to pick up their bags, or drop off photos of themselves picking up trash (hint, hint). And for those who are joining this year for the first time, welcome! We're glad you're aboard; and there's still time to get in on the action!

Again, it's a simple enough project: choose a stretch of roadway you'd like to clean up, and let us know about it. We're keeping track, and are sharing progress as we grow.

Just look at that map! The red lines are "covered" by volunteers, the black lines are roads still available. The list is growing, including our unsung Anonymous Trash Heroes — thanks to all of you who have joined in, and kept us updated so we don't duplicate anyone's efforts.

Contact us to sign up!

Email 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!

Thank you in advance for your contributions and thank you to our campaign sponsors!



Areas where people promised to clean up as of April 15 are shown in red. That's a ton of red: way to go, everyone!

OUR RUNNING LIST SO FAR:

- **Fiona & Brian Wolfe-Milner:** Welbury drive & Old Scott Rd. & Long Harbour Rd. between Old Scott Rd. & 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 Sjuberg:** 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 Goebel:** Beaches from Yeo Point to Burgoyne Bay
- **Anonymous Trash Hero:** Drake Rd/Bonnet Ave
- **Simon & Louise Henson:** 300 & 400 blocks of Sky Valley Rd. & Lord Mike's Rd.
- **Blair Carley:** Rainbow Rd. from Windsor Plywood to the Recycling Centre by the Farmer's Institute
- **John & Anne Millard, 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 & Collins Rd.
- **Carol Penhale:** For-De-Lance Rd. & Walker's Hook Rd. from Maliview Rd. to the dock
- **Sicherman family:** Baker Beach
- **Illyd Perkins:** Fulford-Ganges Rd. from Mereside Rd. to Garner Rd.
- **Thomas Wakefield:** Kangro Rd. & Mansell Rd.
- **Jenny Wahl:** Mountainview Drive, from there to top of Broadwell via Channel Ridge Dr.
- **Mark & Timothy Hiltz & Patricia Morphy:** Covering the 100 Hills neighborhood: Saltspring Way, Castle Cross Rd, Barkers Pl, Arnell Rd. & Fulford-Ganges Rd between Arnell & 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 & Acland Rd from the cemetery to the top of the stairs of Baker Beach.
- **Ron Watts & Donna Hall:** All of King, Goodall, Heidi Place, Forest Ridge & Brookwood to the original Stevens Rd. & Monkswood Place
- **Karen Mouat & Doug Abernethy:** Sunset Drive on either side of Sir Echo's Way (1 km each way) as well as Sir Echo's Way
- **Anna & Leah McColm:** Lower Ganges Rd from Sharp Rd to Moby's Pub
- **Anonymous Trash Hero:** Beach below Quarry Rd & also Sunset Beach
- **Charles Kahn:** Channel Ridge Dr
- **Stqeeye' Learning Society & family members:** Fulford Ganges Rd that runs parallel to Burgoyne Bay Rd as well as Burgoyne Bay Rd (aka Xwaaq'wum)
- **Carron & Bob Carson:** Roscommon, Corbet Rd, Kings Lane, Norton Rd & Scarf Lane
- **Lynn Blanche & Gary Lehman:** Juniper Place Rd & Spring Gold Way
- **Oldguyinyellowtoque:** Wildwood Crescent to Central. North side of Baker to the second to last house before Wildwood Crescent.
- **Jean Stewart:** Juniper Place Rd
- **Monica Huser & grandchildren:** Scarlett & Blake Rice / Sunset Drive from Channel Ridge Dr to Sir Echo's Way
- **Steve Coopman & Michelle Grant:** North End Rd. from Fernwood Rd to North Beach Rd.
- **Dianna Berton & Tansley Courtney:** Hereford Ave.
- **Carolyn Hickman & the Maile family:** Maxwell Rd (starting at Cranberry Rd) to Wright Rd & all of Wright Rd. Churchill beach
- **Kristin Norget:** All of Atkins Rd
- **Brian Schack:** Ensilwood Rd.
- **Maureen Stephenson & Anne Parkinson:** The beach at Fulford Harbour from Fulford Creek to south of Drummond Park.
- **Cusheon Lake neighbours:** Cusheon Lake Rd from Stewart Rd to Fulford-Ganges Rd and all of Lautman Dr.



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