

inside:



Page: 12



2 Child-sized PFDs ready for summer season



9 Island businesses reduce waste with refillables

Arts and Entertainment.....	7
Classifieds.....	10
Editorial.....	4
Island Life.....	9
Letters.....	5
Sports.....	11
What's On.....	8

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Wednesday,  
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Issue 17  
**\$1.50**

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## COMMUNITY ARTS

# Students sneak 'Enchanted' preview



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

StageCoach Theatre School student performers brought scenes from their year-end show *The Enchanted Bookshop* to the ArtSpring stage as part of the venue's 25th anniversary celebrations Friday, April 19. The show runs Friday and Saturday nights this weekend with a matinee on Sunday. For more ArtSpring anniversary photos, see page 6.

## Year-end performance major fundraiser for school

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's been a busy time for Christina Penhale. While simultaneously producing ArtSpring's 25th anniversary celebration and teaching island youth, the StageCoach Theatre School's artistic director has also man-

aged to co-direct the school's vital year-end show — *The Enchanted Bookshop*, ready to hit the stage at ArtSpring this weekend.

It's an effort that has been shepherded by a "dream team" of talent, Penhale said, including instructors Adina Hildebrandt, Maggie O'Scalleigh and a troupe of promising young thespians — and it's those island youth that have made it the effort worthwhile.

"Our students learn so much," said Pen-

hale. "While preparing for the show they build skills and explore topics surrounding empathy, teamwork, leadership and compassion. It's incredible to watch their confidence grow as they embrace the creative process."

Actors from three different classes will bring *The Enchanted Bookshop* to life for one of their grandest performances yet.

STAGECOACH continued on 7

## ISLANDS TRUST

# Policy change draft going public

First meeting of 'Committee of the Whole' will receive Policy Statement updates

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust has signalled it will soon be discussing its first meaningful update to its Policy Statement in 30 years — using an informal meeting structure it authorized for itself only last month.

The Trust's Executive Committee (EC) have directed staff to arrange the first-ever Islands Trust Council "Committee of the Whole" (COW) meeting in May, where they plan

to receive the new draft of the Policy Statement — and "discuss the process by which it will be considered," according to a resolution passed Wednesday, April 17, after which the EC will hold a special meeting "for consideration of next steps."

And if it sounds a little like they won't be deciding anything, that's by design, according to trustees; the new COW meeting structure was approved by Trust Council in

March in part to avoid an expectation of action.

As the name suggests, the COW includes all trustees in its membership; it's designed to allow a less formal structure for discussing complex issues — think budgets, policy development or advocacy — without being constrained by rigid meeting procedures.

Decision-making is strictly off-limits at COW meetings, according to staff and trustees, who believe

rolling out the first discussions of the Policy Statement in such a meeting will help alleviate any concerns that the proposed changes to that document will be approved without public feedback.

And observers shouldn't expect trustees to stake out positions quickly either, according to EC chair and Thetis Island trustee Peter Luckham.

ISLANDS TRUST continued on 3

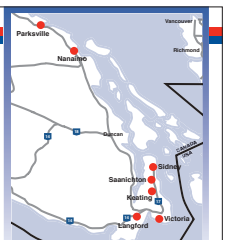
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## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

# Freedom of Information requests top record

CRD sees rising costs as more audio-video files reviewed

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Capital Regional District (CRD) is fielding more requests under the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (FOIPPA) than ever, according to staff — a trend they say will continue as an unprecedented number of audio-video recordings become part of the process.

The total number of FOIPPA requests in 2023 increased 13 per cent, up from 248 in 2022, according to a report to the CRD's Governance Committee Wednesday, April 3. But that increase in requests, according to CRD corporate services general manager Kristen Morley, doesn't accurately reflect the large increase in work for the Privacy and Information Services (PIS) Division, as the requests have become increasingly complex.

"The total number of pages that were reviewed and released is probably the best indicator of the staff effort that's required to manage the requests," said Morley.

According to the report, there was a marked increase in the number of pages reviewed — more than 14,000 in 2023, compared to roughly 8,700 in 2022. Last year also marked the first period where the privacy and information systems department consistently managed and released audio-video records, amounting to 348 additional records, according to Morley.

"This is a positive improvement, because it increases

our transparency," said Morley. "But it does also increase the workload and processing time that is required to produce those records."

That workload meant the average number of days needed for each request to be reviewed had increased — 50, up from 35 in 2022 — but Morley said the division was taking steps to get in front of requests by ultimately having more information available to the public in the first place.

"Our goal is to provide more information that's accessible," said Morley. "More open data is definitely the direction we want to go in."

That means some up-front costs; Morley said there were a substantial number of archived property records that needed to be digitized to make them available and building that system would represent a lot of work.

"But you know it is 'self-help,'" said Morley. "Once we have that established, it would certainly make the process a lot more streamlined."

Morley said requests for property files — including building and property inspection records, as well as bylaw enforcement complaint files and permit records — comprised 242 of the 284 requests received in 2023. Alternate Esquimalt

director Ken Armour noted the majority of the requests seemed to come from individuals — with less than a dozen from other governmental bodies, seven from police, and a single media request.

"Some requests you see at some levels of government are often 'fishing expeditions,'" said Armour. "As opposed to individuals who have, let's say, more legitimate concerns. I'm wondering how you would characterize the requests."

Staff said they used fees to "narrow the scope" of FOIPPA inquiries, particularly for overly broad requests that would take a lot of staff time to fulfill. But most were for building inspections records — and, according to the

report, the overwhelming majority of those were from individuals — or professionals representing individuals, such as legal counsel — which meant there was no charge for the service.

Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman noted there were just seven requests in 2023 that generated the issuance of fees — just over \$2,000 billed, with less than \$400 collected, the rest showing "Abandoned (not paid)." Last year, there were only eight requests eligible for fees, with only slightly over \$1,100 collected from more than \$3,000 billed. But Kelsey

Dupuis, who manages FOIPPA requests for the CRD, explained the process is a "public service" first and foremost, not a revenue generator, with most requests exempt and the rest largely facing relatively low fees to begin with.

"Legislation requires that when an applicant is asking for their own personal information, there are no fees," said Dupuis. "And then [for the rest] we're only allowed to charge for requests that exceed a three-hour limit."

Dupuis said the department does charge the higher commercial rates when they can, but what qualifies as a personal information exemption does live in a "little bit of a grey zone"; for example, requests from realtors — 81 in 2023 — are generally not billed, and are treated as if they had come from an individual.

"Usually, a realtor is working on behalf of a client," said Dupuis, saying local governments consistently compare that to a lawyer representing an individual. "Typically, we don't charge for those requests. That is an area that I think needs to be looked at, but there's no case precedents in place to establish that's not appropriate."

The privacy and information systems division is also responsible for reporting on breaches; without going into specifics on privacy breach incidents, Morley confirmed there were no major breaches in 2023, and none of the six incidents that year resulted in any significant harm to the affected individuals, and all were "quickly remedied."

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## ISLAND HARBOURS

## 'Kids Don't Float' ensures safety

Child PFD loaner stations stocked for season

SUBMITTED BY RCMSAR25

With the arrival of warmer weather and the anticipation of summer activities, the local Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR25) announced the annual preparation of the Personal Flotation Device (PFD) Loaner Stations for the "Kids Don't Float" Program.

This essential service, aimed at protecting our community's youngest members, is now operational and welcoming families and visiting guests across Salt Spring and Galiano islands — designed to mitigate drowning risks by offering complimentary access to life-saving PFDs for infants, children and youth aged six months to 16 years.

"As we welcome the summer season, we're reminded of the importance of water safety," said Andrew Ross-Collins, RCMSAR25's station leader. "Our annual setup of the PFD Loaner Stations reaffirms our commitment to the wellbeing of our children."

The PFDs are strategically situated for boaters, kayakers, paddlers and swimmers at five busy locations around the islands: on Salt Spring Island at Centennial Dock, Kanaka Dock, Salt Spring Marina, Fulford Dock and Fernwood Dock, and on Galiano at the Montague Harbour Marine Park Dock. Thanks to the efforts of RCMSAR25 volunteers, a variety of PFD sizes are available and well-maintained, ensuring families have safe aquatic adventures during the spring and summer months.

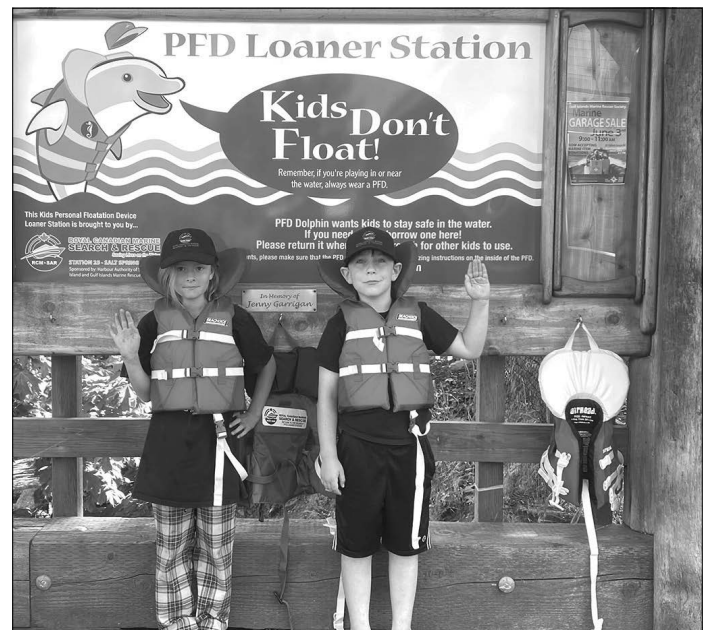


PHOTO BY JOSH LACY

Bonnie Rode and Caleb Lacy show off some of the fresh stock of child Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) available from loaner stations. PFDs are free to borrow for the day.

Upon the day's end, PFDs can be returned to any loaner station, maintaining a cycle of safety for the community's next water-bound adventure.

"These stations are a resource for all families, ensuring that a day at the water is both enjoyable and safe," said Ross-

Collins. "We encourage anyone who finds themselves in need to take advantage of this lifesaving service."

For more details on the "Kids Don't Float" Program or to locate the nearest PFD loaner station, visit [www.rcmsar25.com](http://www.rcmsar25.com).

## TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

APRIL / MAY 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
24	4:53	9.6	2.93	28	3:19	9.3	2.83
	12:00	2.6	0.79		5:58	9.6	2.93
	19:40	10.1	3.08		14:27	1.4	0.43
	0:28	8.2	2.5		23:13	10.9	3.32
25	5:03	9.6	2.93	29	4:52	9.4	2.87
	12:30	2	0.61		6:18	9.4	2.87
	20:28	10.4	3.17		15:17	1.6	0.49
	1:15	8.7	2.65		23:30	10.9	3.32
26	5:18	9.6	2.93	30	0:11	11	3.35
	13:04	1.6	0.49		6:13	1.9	0.58
	21:18	10.6	3.23		1:04	11.1	3.38
	2:10	9.1	2.77		17:14	2.5	0.76
27	5:37	9.6	2.93	1 MAY			
	13:43	1.4	0.43				
	22:14	10.8	3.29				

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## IN BRIEF

## Local lands fire hall work

The first and largest contract for work on Salt Spring's new fire hall has been awarded, according to Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) CAO Rodney Dieleman — and the work, valued at over \$1.2 million, will be done by a local contractor.

Charlie's Excavating was the successful bidder for the civil works contract on the site, Dieleman said, including leveling, drainage, water and sewer, electrical conduits and the parking lots.

"It's good for [Salt Spring's] economy, and it was competitive," Dieleman told the SSIFPD board Monday, April 15. "They will not have to haul heavy equipment across on the ferries, they're familiar with the island, and they have local labour, local transportation and local dump sites."

Dieleman told the board the new fire hall's road access permit application was sent to the Ministry of Transportation on March 21, a Capital Regional District (CRD) sewer connection has been applied for and was granted — with designs reviewed and approved by CRD engineers — and final drawings for the fire hall project itself were submitted to the CRD building inspector on April 3.

The CRD's building permit process is expected to take six to eight weeks, according to Dieleman.

## Library hosts MLA

About 20 islanders gathered to visit with Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen Monday, April 15 at an evening circle at the Salt Spring library, as he kicked off a week of community meetings across the Southern Gulf Islands.

Discussion ranged from harbour issues and affordable housing to local improvement districts and the B.C. government's approach to them. Olsen said the province's policies toward improvement districts are intentionally designed for them to "give up" — i.e. seek municipal or regional government administration — by withholding access to grants, putting the onus on ratepayers to fund every improvement or maintenance project.

"I've been advocating [for a change] for the last seven years," said Olsen.

Olsen said he believed the provincial government might have had legitimate organizational concerns surrounding improvement districts "because they don't like tons of small governance bodies," but noted Salt Spring was home to the two largest in B.C.: the North Salt Spring Waterworks District and the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District.

"I'm increasingly concerned about the way the provincial government views rural communities," he said, pointing to budget formulas that rely on per capita funding favouring large municipalities. "Why is it that a citizen in B.C. is not treated the same because of where they live?"

Olsen continued to Pender, Mayne, Galiano and Saturna Islands for community meetings through April 20.



PHOTO BY DON BODGER

**GOLD STANDARD:** Driftwood publisher Nancy Johnson accepts one of two first-place awards received at the British Columbia and Yukon Community NewsMedia Association's annual Ma Murray Awards event held in North Vancouver on April 20. The Driftwood earned gold awards for General Excellence in its circulation category for 2023 papers submitted, and Community Service for its Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring! campaign in 2023.

## FAC face-to-face soon

Salt Spring's Ferry Advisory Committee (FAC) could be back to meeting in person by this summer, according to BC Ferries officials, who said they had nearly completed safety and security reviews following "aggressive comments made, and behaviours exhibited" at a Southern Sunshine Coast FAC meeting last fall.

The company had cancelled in-person meetings after the event, but said it would be implementing several recommendations from the safety review, including establishing new processes for public events that may require participants to RSVP ahead of time, as well as new sign-in requirements and a new code of conduct that will apply to all public events.

Virtual FAC meetings will still take place in May, but in-person community meetings will be held in June and July, according to BC Ferries.

## Trustees to see new draft in May

## ISLANDS TRUST

continued from 1

"There are some trustees that are not going to want to formulate an opinion before they've heard from their community," said Luckham. "They may love [the revisions], but they are going to want to hear from their communities before they weigh in too much."

Luckham said he felt perhaps the goal should be for trustees to leave the COW meeting with enough understanding of the amendments to be able to represent and discuss them back in their Local Trust Areas.

"So that indeed, when trustees do go out to their communities, they're able to have that conversation in a good way," said Luckham.

An update to the Policy Statement — to revise the guiding document to address issues such as the climate crisis, growing housing needs and the Trust's commitment to reconciliation with local First Nations — has been in planning since at least 2019. In 2021, trustees hit pause on the process after an agenda posted in advance of a meeting included a proposed draft — prompting backlash and a petition over concerns the Islands

Trust was moving forward without sufficient public input.

The new COW meetings aren't exempt from open meetings requirements, so public notices are still expected — and that means the draft revisions to the Policy Statement will again be published, likely several days before the meeting takes place. But trustees said they felt this time, islanders will feel heard before the process advances.

"Committee of the Whole is where the ideas and thoughts are articulated," said Luckham. "The role of the Executive Committee is to 'have its ears on,' and listen really closely."

SALT SPRING ISLAND  
FIRE PROTECTION  
DISTRICTNOTICE 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
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](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

# 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 BCYCNA Awards  
Silver - Best All Round (for circulation Category C) | Silver - Community Service Award



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### EDITORIAL

## What a party!

The next time a major milestone needs to be celebrated, we know where to look for inspiration.

The ArtSpring 25th Anniversary Festival was a wildly successful five-day extravaganza highlighting the past, present and future of arts and culture on Salt Spring Island, attracting an estimated 2,000 people and 100 volunteers.

Events largely featured local artisans and performers from a total of 290, with an intentional community focus to the multi-faceted program. Participation by the Jim Cuddy Band for two sold-out concerts, with a second show added after tickets to the first were swallowed within an hour, had extra poignancy. Not only were the concerts stellar in themselves, and fundraisers for ArtSpring, but Cuddy's former band, Blue Rodeo, had played on Salt Spring as part of the Festival of the Arts way back in 1994, at another sold-out endeavour that raised funds for the original ArtSpring dream.

### THE ISSUE: ArtSpring celebration

### WE SAY: Arts & culture importance recognized

Another visitor was renowned arts commentator Max Wyman, the guest in a Salt Spring Forum talked called Why, for Whom, and How Much Do the Arts Matter? Wyman shared the central theme of his new book — The Compassionate Imagination: How the Arts are Central to a Functioning Democracy — describing with passion how support for and participation in the arts was fundamental to healing the polarization and hatred flourishing in our world at present. He argued that the arts "make us more considerate, more thoughtful, more receptive, more open, more generous, more compassionate. I think that's the way that we would get a better world."

Wyman was in the audience for the ArtSpring festival's opening night performance on April 17 and couldn't have been more delighted and moved by the whole event, noting the multiple choirs' mass singing of the Beatles' All You Need Is Love among several highlights. He said he would like to take Salt Spring Island with him wherever he goes, because it is "the ideal example of how the arts are integrated into the community... If you could take this little nugget and explode it into society and have it everywhere, you'd have a transformed world."

It can be easy to take Salt Spring's artistic and cultural richness for granted, but hopefully the ArtSpring celebration gave us a rekindled appreciation for our arts centre, the community it has served for the past 25 years, and arts' positive impact in the world.



## 'On board' marine economy

BY ADAM OLSEN

MLA, SAANICH NORTH AND THE ISLANDS

In February 2021, I published a blog post celebrating the British Columbia

coastline. It was a response to former Premier John Horgan's editorial proclaiming that a "made-in-B.C. shipbuilding strategy" was on its way.

There was nobody in a better position to make it happen. I wrote, "if this is the plan, let me know how I can help." Four years later, there is no made-in-BC shipbuilding plan to celebrate.

Recently, my constituency inbox filled up with British Columbians responding to a call from Build Ferries BC for seven new BC Ferries vessels to be required to have Canadian content in their construction.

British Columbia already has a world-class shipbuilding industry, generating billions of local investments, wages, and tax revenue. Imagine where we can go with a little attention (and intention) from the provincial government like Horgan promised.

When British Columbians spend billions on building new ships that are critical for a healthy coastal B.C. economy, it's better to spend that money here, creating a more resilient shipbuilding industry, while rippling out through adjacent local businesses as well.

I'm on board. I envision a competitive marine industry as an increasingly critical contributor to the British Columbia economy. It starts with ensuring the money BC Ferries is about to spend benefits British Columbia's workers, families and communities.

There is an impending decision in June, so if this issue matters to you, contact your local MLA and let them know! Send minister Rob Fleming (Minister.MOTI@

gov.bc.ca) and minister Brenda Bailey (JEDI.Minister@gov.bc.ca) a message, to let them know we need to invest locally!

A strong marine industry has a positive impact on B.C. business. It inspires innovation and creativity, and builds more than just ships, it builds community.

As I toured Saanich North and the Islands for my spring community meetings recently, I heard from hundreds of constituents of the instability they are feeling provincially, nationally and internationally.

We discussed at length how housing, health and education systems we once relied on to deliver on-demand services are struggling. We discussed the mental health and addictions crisis, increased isolation, the real and perceived deterioration of public safety.

As an MLA, my role is to connect people and ideas, advocate for individuals and groups, and bring provincial level resources to support community-driven initiatives.

I believe in the power of community. As we work to stabilize the big systems that are failing to deliver the promise of previous decades, we can look to our communities, like Central Saanich, Sidney and North Saanich, which are recognized across the province for their resilience.

So, whether it is the positive economic impact that a stronger shipbuilding industry will have on our coastal communities, or the local initiatives that produce local solutions to local challenges, I am actively connecting, supporting, and fiercely advocating for the people and communities in Saanich North and the Islands.

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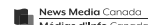
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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is the SSILTC decision to not proactively enforce against STVRs a good idea?

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you planting a food crop for yourself this year?

46 70  
NO YES

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# ISLAND VOICES

## LETTERS to the editor

### It's not your job?

I recently went looking for news of when the annual Scotch broom disposal dates were scheduled for 2024.

I first found some information on the Transition Salt Spring website. Unfortunately, the dates listed were not for 2024! I then checked the Islands Trust website. I found the quote "Scottish broom was first introduced to Southern Vancouver Island in the 1850s. Check with your regional district for information on how residents can dispose of invasive species."

It then says, "composting broom is risky; seeds might not break down and may contaminate your compost. Pulled plants left on-site may kill any vegetation underneath, and become a fire hazard."

I believe Salt Spring is in the Capital Regional District (CRD).

Their website says, "Carefully dispose of invasive plants in the appropriate way at the appropriate location. This is critical to help reduce the further spread of invasive species." The only location listed to dump Scotch broom or other invasive species is at the Hartland Landfill, which is located

on the Saanich Peninsula. For Salt Springers, it is safe to say that it's not really appropriate for us to individually dump our broom there.

In past, it was somehow the responsibility of a volunteer agency to pay for, and organize the disposal of this municipal and environmental problem. I have been told the organizations are out of energy and money and there is no date and no place to dispose of the 2024 broom.

Since broom arrived in the 1850s, one can conclude that this is an inherited problem for us all. I am reaching out and asking the representatives of Islands Trust and CRD to set up an appropriate broom disposal location on Salt Spring.

It is still a great deal for the CRD and Islands Trust to have citizens remove broom from their property plus from the adjacent ditches and right of ways. Residents volunteer to cut and transport the broom at no charge, to an appropriate area. Is this not enough to ask of us? I am in shock to hear that the Islands Trust and CRD have left this large environmental risk to volunteers and have not organized nor announced a 2024 broom disposal.

With the arid climate we have had over the past few summers, the wildfire risk is high. We cannot afford to let the broom get further out of control.

So I urge Islands Trust and CRD to work together within this next month, and create an appropriate disposal area for us.

**PETER PARKER,**  
SALT SPRING

### No mention of OCP

I found it difficult to read through Jason Mogus' Viewpoint in the last Driftwood. I have been following Trust issues for some time and have noticed none of the "gas-lighting" or "vicious attacks on affordable housing" he refers to. On the contrary, I feel very important information has been presented in a factual and non-threatening manner.

It is interesting that Mr. Mogus does not once mention our official community plan (OCP) even though that is what all the kerfuffle is about. Why?

Mr. Mogus claims the last Trust election justifies just about anything, but that is

not true. While the election showed support for action on housing, it did not give trustees the right to do as they please with our OCP. I, too, would like to see the island's supply of affordable housing increased, but I do not want growth restraints removed and the island left vulnerable to open-ended development.

I do not agree with Mr. Mogus's contention that the Islands Trust Act is no longer valid. Given the rapid decline of the environment due to human activity, it has become more important than ever in protecting the Gulf Islands. Yes, saving Burgoyne Bay from clearcut logging is one example of a past victory, but that has little to do with rezoning proposals that have recently been presented to the community. The more humans there are, the more trees that fall.

We need more clarity and less politicking when it comes to Islands Trust issues. It would help if Mr. Mogus addressed the concerns that have been raised rather than trying to evoke a blind emotional response.

**J. HIGHESTED,**  
SALT SPRING

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"His was not work to go over your sofa; a lot of it was installation art, and most of it was demanding."

MARGARET DAY, ON SALT SPRING ARTIST IAN THOMAS

## Zen and the growing art of franchising mindfulness

Mindfulness. It's everywhere these days. Not so much the art. Nor the practice. Just the word. Mindfulness.

You will find it printed on colourful posters tacked onto bulletin boards outside Barb's Buns or Country Grocer. It is all over social network message boards. It is ubiquitous and is being used to flog everything from weight loss to better sex. Life coaching ads have a particular affinity for the mindfulness buzzword and lean heavily on its use as a panacea or magic bullet solution for all that ails your psyche. Although mindfulness has varied and assorted interpretations, most would agree that it is a type of meditation that focuses on awareness and presence in the moment without interpretation or analysis. In other words, mindfulness is everything you're not doing normally.

There. Caught you not being mindful. You were just trying to judge your own level of mindfulness, weren't you? And while you were analyzing your level of presence in the moment, the "Now" bus passed you by. It's that insidious and tricky.

In my younger years, I strived hard to attain enlightenment. I chanted and Om'd with the best of them. I twisted my body into impossible poses that still wreak havoc on my bones to this very

day. I realize now that I may have been on the wrong track to self-realization all along. In my various flirtations with yoga, meditation, and Zen, I was always under the impression that I needed to empty my mind to achieve enlightenment. I must admit that I did a mighty fine job as my skull could easily now be a stunt double for the Grand Canyon. I had created so much empty space within, that my brain could now provide enough suction to power a dozen vacuum cleaners.

Little did I realize that I was heading in the wrong direction. To me, being mindful meant to not go over my budget. To be mindful, was to look both ways before venturing out into traffic. It meant being sensible as opposed to acting in a frivolous manner.

Just because, let's take a sharp turn here and veer off in a completely different direction. Let's discuss the ultimate example of mindfulness, who is present not only in this moment but every single moment of the entirety of both past and future. We're talking about the greatest life coach of all time. God.

Before we get much deeper into the subject, we need to navigate around a rather touchy subject. What is God's preferred pronoun? I suppose that "they/them" would be appropriate, considering that God is likely



**Shilo Zylbergold**  
**NOBODY ASKED ME BUT**

to identify as a non-binary, and 3-spirited (at least) being. For the sake of historical convention, however, we'll default to "he" for the purpose of this discussion.

A quick perusal of God's profile shows a confusingly complex persona. Scrolling through the ten commandments, we find right away, at the very top of the list, that he wants his believers to have no other gods but him. Might this be interpreted as a case of low self-esteem? Insecurity? Perhaps signs that point to uncontrolled jealousy, arrogance, and narcissism?

And what's with all the "thou shalt not" decrees? Let's face it; no is so negative. Surely there must be more positive and affirmative ways to get the same message across. If God were to avail himself of any of hundreds of self-help books, he would know that calmly pointing out that the sinning activity is unacceptable is a much more politically correct way of modifying the inap-

propriate behaviour. An affirming hug would certainly seal the deal. Borrowing a few pointers from the Faber/Mazlich social manual, How to Talk So Kids Will Listen & Listen So Kids Will Talk, would have gone a long way to help God tend to his flock.

Farther down the list of commandments is the one about God not allowing idols or unsanctioned images of himself. You can tell right away that he would have severe issues with the paparazzi press chasing him around. And forget about any chance of him ever appearing on American Idol. With all his esteem and low confidence issues, the only way he would agree to being on the show would be if he was decreed the sole judge and the only performer. Doesn't make for exciting prime time entertainment, does it?

For someone who is supposed to be all-powerful, omniscient, and omnipresent, God has sure allowed this planet to get messed up a bit. Maybe he has been too permissive when he should have been tight-fisted, or the other way around, but his mindfulness could have used more "here-ness" and less "there, there-ness".

Who knows? Perhaps God's universal account was hacked and his home page is chock-a-block full of malware and mali-

cious spyware. Maybe he has hung on to his old password for too long. My theory is that he handed out religious franchises to too many untested and inexperienced entrepreneurs, and his intent became diluted as a result. He should have known that with the likes of Buddha, Muhammad, Moses, Jesus, Krishna, McDonald's, and Tim Horton, there's no way they would be able to achieve harmony and accord without getting in each other's way and causing strife.

Nobody asked me, but it must be evident that God has some Godsplaining to do, but he hasn't sent down any more written instructions since Moses deciphered those rocks in the Sinai desert. Dear God, turning water into wine may be well and good, but you have to be mindful that you don't overdo it and turn the wine into vinegar. Walking on water is an amazing feat, but it doesn't take long before someone modifies it into barefoot waterskiing and lobbies to make it an Olympic sport.

Nevertheless, regardless of whether your mindfulness is full to the brim or running on empty, you can count on that great life coach in the sky to point you in the right direction. Just give him a bit of time to rework his commandments so they come across as more palatable to us average sinners.



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

Performing at one of two sold-out concerts headlined by the Jim Cuddy Band on April 19 are, from left, Anne Lindsay, Jim Cuddy, Salome Cullen (Salt Spring musician and opening act lead) and Colin Cripps.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Longtime arts and entertainment journalist, author and officer of the Order of Canada Max Wyman, left, with moderator Peter Haase at a Salt Spring Forum co-sponsored talk titled Why, for Whom, and How Much Do the Arts Matter? on April 18.



*Images from  
the 25th  
Anniversary  
Festival —  
Wednesday,  
April 17 to  
Sunday, April 21*



PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

ArtSpring executive and artistic director Howard Jang and 25th anniversary festival coordinator Christina Penhale with faces painted by Annie Delorme at just one part of the whole community celebration featuring 30 different events.



PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

Caroni Young leads the Makana Youth Choir along with accompanist Jennifer Howard as part of the opening night celebration performance on April 17, which featured several island choirs and other performers.

## Good day -

My name is **Bryce Chapman**. I have put forth my name for a Trustee position with the North Salt Spring Waterworks District.

I have 40+ years of experience both in management and also as a Board Member of condominium corporations across Canada. Working with multi-million-dollar budgets and multi-million-dollar property values.

These years of experience have taught me that Board of Trustee Positions are:

- Serious undertakings that require a team player attitude.
- A commitment to serve the ratepayers first and foremost.
- Requires a curious, creative mindset to search for better options and solutions to the challenges both short term and long term.
- Humility to listen and learn from the rate payers, staff, and fellow Trustees.
- Never wasteful spending – only wise investing.

## WATER

Safe, secure, and clean water is the first and most important need of any community.

### Don't you agree?

Let's move forward to secure our water resources in a safe, sustainable manner.

And let our Island breathe again.

Please take time to vote – It's important your voice is heard.

I promise to work hard to support an already good team at North Salt Spring Waterworks.

**Please vote for Bryce Chapman, NSSWD Trustee.**

PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

Salt Spring Basketry Guild members show community members how to make cordage during an April 18 workshop. The five-day festival featured several workshops, mini performances, live bands, demos and much more. An estimated 2,000 people participated in the mostly free offerings, made possible by 290 artists and performers and 96 volunteers, along with ArtSpring staff and board members.



PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

Crowd enjoys music by Everyday People at a Thursday night community party at ArtSpring.





# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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## LIVE MUSIC

# Trio sets 'Mozart to Shostakovich' program



PHOTO COURTESY KIERAN DENNY

Violinist Kieran Denny will perform with Don Conley and Carolyn Hatch at All-Saints May 1.

Program draws from four major periods

SUBMITTED BY TEA À TEMPO

Tea à Tempo is delighted to feature violinist Kieran Denny at the upcoming concert on May 1.

Together with pianist Don Conley and violinist Carolyn Hatch, the concert presents an eclectic program drawing from all four major periods of classical music: the baroque, classical, romantic and 20th century eras. With a loose focus on Central and Eastern European styles and composers from Mozart to Shostakovich, these accomplished musicians will provide a diverse sampling of solo violin repertoire.

Denny has always loved music and began asking for a violin of his own when he was two years old. He has been studying the violin with Hatch since 2010. He has played at many community events, including Tsunami

Circus, Beaver Point Hall Christmas Market, Duncan Light Up, Bach on the Rock Chamber Orchestra and weddings, and he has often been seen busking at the Salt Spring Saturday Market. This will be Denny's third Tea à Tempo concert and second as the featured performer.

He has held the position of concertmaster of the Queen Margaret's School String Orchestra since 2019 and placed first in multiple classes at the 2023 and 2022 Cowichan Music Festivals, also winning the Duta Family Award for Technical and Musical Challenge, The Ross Wristen Memorial Award and two MacFarlane Family Awards. Denny looks forward to continuing his studies and adding more music to his repertoire, especially music by his favourite composer J.S. Bach.

Conley also began his musical career at an early age when, at 12, he was asked by his pastor to play the organ for Sunday Liturgy at the local Roman Catholic Church. When Conley moved to Salt Spring in 2009, he brought with him an extensive repertoire and

knowledge of music that he shared through teaching, conducting and performing. He established a studio, became the director of Salt Spring Singers, after the retirement of the late Mitch Howard, and in 2010, began playing at Simply Organic, the former organ recital series in All Saints by-the-Sea.

Hatch, violinist and 20-year resident of Salt Spring Island, is best known for her 50-year career in violin teaching. Hatch has toured with students worldwide, including taking a group of Salt Spring students to New York City. She has played in the Bach on the Rock Chamber Orchestra for many years. Prior to moving to Salt Spring, Hatch taught in Calgary, Idaho and Creston, B.C. Now that she is mostly retired from teaching, she has taken up playing Baroque music with anyone who will join her.

Music by donation begins in All Saints at 2:10 p.m. followed by tea and treats at a cost of \$5. Donations provide the honorarium for performers and contribute to the running of the music series.

# Enchanted Bookshop ends year

## STAGECOACH

continued from 1

The show celebrates the joy of reading and is full of characters the audience will find familiar — Snow White, Robin Hood and Captain Hook all long to help Margie save her struggling bookstore from a pair of bungling thieves.

Add a toe-tapping score from Stephen Murray and this charming musical is guaranteed to enchant audiences young and old — and is exactly the sort of family-friendly fare StageCoach shows are known for, according to school administrator Jen MacLellan. She said that many of the more than 1,000 Salt Spring students who have performed with the school over the years "self-recruited" right after seeing a performance.

"One of my favourite things is listening to families chatting as they leave the show," said MacLellan. "Children giggling about the characters they liked best, talking about the actors and wishing they could be on stage."

MacLellan said they're often cornered in the lobby by children and parents, asking when registration starts for the next show so they don't miss out.

"It's validating," she said. "It means the show has been enjoyed and the performers have motivated their peers."

It's a testament to the time spent on every detail — from the set to props to costume design, every performance is colourful and engaging. And for Penhale, it's hopefully just as inspiring to patrons.

"Our goal has always been to offer quality education in the performing arts, while keeping tuition affordable for island families," said Penhale. "The year-end show is the school's main fundraiser and com-

munity involvement is essential in helping achieve these goals."

StageCoach is hopeful a full house at The Enchanted Bookshop will show once again that the community values the non-profit's mission — nurturing Salt Spring children through local instructors, supported by a dedicated board of directors and numerous vital volunteers — and maybe inspire another

generation of "theatre kids" on the island.

"Show up for your family," said MacLellan. "For your friends, and for our island kids this weekend by coming to the play — or buying tickets for someone who would enjoy it. We look forward to entertaining you!"

The Enchanted Bookshop takes the stage at 7 p.m. Friday, April 26 and Saturday, April 27, with a 2 p.m. matinee Sunday, April 28.



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## SAILING WITH PASSION

From international regattas to casual excursions with Jenny Price, New Zealand Visiting Sailor seminar

**SATURDAY, MAY 4**  
Evening Seminar

7:00pm - 9:00pm  
Salt Spring Island  
Sailing Club House



Internationally, Jenny Price is involved with promoting women in sailing, often participating in local and international events as the only all-female team. Jenny jumped at the chance to visit Salt Spring Island to share what she has learned over her short lifetime on the water. Her team has twice won the NZ Women's Keelboat Nationals and for the first time this year made it onto the podium in the Flying Fifteen Nationals. Jenny is one passionate sailor; she especially loves the camaraderie, adventure, and the non-stop learning. You are invited to meet Jenny, learn more about her sailing journey, and ask questions. A few questions submitted to date include:

How do Jenny and her colleagues ship their boats to international regattas? What does it cost?  
What is it like to sail in unfamiliar waters? Tips?  
Why? How does Jenny juggle work, family and regattas?  
What are Jenny's sailing tips and winning strategies?  
What equipment or rigging specs does Jenny find most useful?

You are invited to bring your own questions, swap stories, and exchange insights with Jenny as she shares her insights.

Register by emailing: [courses@saltspringsailing.ca](mailto:courses@saltspringsailing.ca)

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**7:30 pm**

**May 9 Only \$10 tickets for those born in the 50s or before**

*A Ramp Through The Oldies*



## ISLAND ARTISTS

# Thomas artwork celebrated

May exhibition showcases artist  
Ian Thomas

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON  
FOR ARTSPRING

As its final offering of the 2023/24 season, ArtSpring is proud to present the work of well-known local artist Ian Thomas with a month-long two-part exhibition entitled "Ian Thomas: Past and Present" — a celebration of his 46 years as an active member of Salt Spring's arts community. An opening reception is planned for Saturday, May 4 from 2 to 5 p.m.

Curated by Margaret Day of The Point Gallery, and Stefanie Denz, the "Past" is a retrospective of key moments drawn from a lifetime of art-making on a grand scale through the mediums of painting, sculptural collage, and installations that capture a deep exploration of the human condition. The work exhibited is an opportunity for the public to see a collection of extraordinary works that have been in storage since 2019.

"For nearly 20 years I exhibited the work of island artists that did not fit the criteria of the commercial galleries on the island," said Day.

"His was not work to go over your sofa; a lot of it was installation art and most of it was demanding. Ian's work came as a fully developed series with a strong narrative arc and always generated a deep and genuine response, especially from the artists of the island."

The "Present" is a new series, Poets and their Poetry, in which Thomas pays tribute to 36 writers close to his heart, including six published poets from Salt Spring. These intimate water colour works combine textual fragments with portraiture.

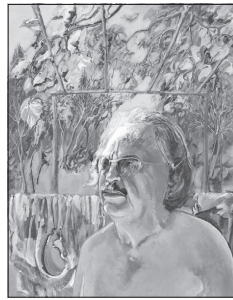


PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING  
A 1985 self-portrait by Salt Spring artist Ian Thomas.

"As always, by unflinchingly addressing his own felt experience, he reminds us of our own collective memory and common humanity," said Day.

Selected work by authors in this series will be the driving narrative of an evening event of poetry with award-winning poet Murray Reiss as MC at 7 p.m. Thursday, May 16.

To provide visitors with some guidance

and commentary, context to individual pieces, and Q&A opportunities, Thomas is also hosting two Sunday afternoon walkabouts at 2 p.m. May 12 and 19.

As he approaches his 90th birthday, Thomas is reflective.

"What the exhibition means to me," said Thomas, "is that this is my final statement about my life and my work as an artist."

Thomas is remembered for his teaching at UBC and Camosun College and for his installations such as "Swallows Meadow" which toured B.C. from 1989 to 1995. An always respected juror, he acted alongside friend Gordon Smith for the BC Arts Council and was the Salt Spring representative on the first SSNAP jury in 2015.

A portion of the sales from this work will go to the Island Fund for Ukraine, an initiative spearheaded by Victoria Olchowecki, which to date has raised over \$100,000.

## SIGNING OVER



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

One of six Scott-Froschauer-esque metal signs that made up Patrick McCallum's recent art installation "Passages," part of Salt Spring Arts' spring art show "re:location." McCallum's signs were briefly in place along island roads on April 11, within Ministry of Transportation rights-of-way; some have since found permitted locations at Mahon Hall.

## what's on this week

Wed. April 24

## ACTIVITIES

**Artist Talk with Walletmoth (Murray Siple).** Part of re:location series at Mahon Hall, 12 p.m.

**Getting to Know Our Neighbours.** SSI United Church Social Justice Committee presents former Canadian ambassador Nick Coghlan and wife Jenny on the situation in Sudan and what could be done to help. United Church Upper Hall, 6:30 p.m.

**Music Bingo.** Moby's Pub, 7:30 to 10:30 p.m.

Thur. April 25

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

**Improv Theatre.** Mateada, 9 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

**Mother Goose.** Free group experience for babies, young children (0-4 years) and their parents/caregivers. In partnership with Family Place at the Salt Spring Public Library, 10 to 11 a.m.

**Green Drinks.** Join Island Pathways to discuss your favourite cycling routes on Salt Spring and the region. Paco's on the golf course, 5 to 7 p.m.

Fri. April 26

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Enchanted Bookshop.** StageCoach Theatre family-friendly student production at ArtSpring, 7 p.m.

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

**The Real Ponchos.** 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.** Ages 9-13. Library children's area. 1-4 p.m. Game night ages 13-19, program room, 7 p.m.

**ASK Salt Spring.** Meet firefighters, staff and district board members at Salt Spring Island Multi Space, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sat. April 27

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Caoimhe Merrick Trio.** The Local, 6 p.m.

**Old Times Café.** Open stage at Fulford Hall Annex, 7-11 p.m. Info: 250-653-9856.

**The Enchanted Bookshop.** ArtSpring, 7 p.m.

**RE:FLECTION Cabaret.** Mercy Dogs and Graham Van Pelt. Mahon Hall, 7-10 p.m.

**DJ Skywater.** Mateada, 9 p.m.

Sun. April 28

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**The Enchanted Bookshop.** ArtSpring, 2 p.m.

**Jazz 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.

Mon. April 29

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Vetta Chamber Music.** Pianist Angela Cheng plays Schubert and Mozart. ArtSpring, 2:30 p.m.

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

Tues. April 30

## ACTIVITIES

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

Wed. May 1

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Tea à Tempo:** Kieran Denny, Carolyn Hatch & Don Conley. All Saints by-the-Sea, 2:10 p.m.

## CINEMA

• **National Theatre Live: FLEABAG** shows on Thursday, April 25 at 7 p.m. only.

• **Ghostbusters Frozen Empire** runs Friday, April 26 to Tuesday, April 30 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee.

## ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Symbolically 8 15th Anniversary** Exhibition at Gallery 8 through May 17.

• **"re:location," Salt Spring Arts' 2024 Spring Art Show** runs at Mahon Hall through April 28.

• **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.

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

**The Enchanted Bookshop**  
StageCoach Theatre's family-friendly student production at ArtSpring. Thursday-Friday at 7 pm Sunday matinee at 2 pm.

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



# ISLAND LIFE

## SUSTAINABLE ECONOMY

# Refillery keeps 9k containers out of landfill



PHOTO BY MARCIA JANSEN

Caitlyn Pal is jarring the "4 Rs" at SALT JAR refillery.

## SALT JAR hopes to make low-waste living accessible

BY MARCIA JANSEN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Caitlyn Pal had a corporate job with a good salary and a nice car in Vancouver, but she gave it all up when she moved back to Salt Spring Island.

In 2019 she started "localsalt," an online marketplace where you can buy directly from various local food producers and pick up at one location. SALT JAR refillery is her latest endeavour. Since she opened the plastic-free store nine months ago, first online and since November 2023 as a brick-and-mortar shop, Pal and her customers have saved 9,000 packaging containers from the landfill.

SALT JAR refillery was born from Pal's desire to reduce single-use plastic pollution and make low-waste living simple, convenient and accessible to all islanders.

"I am a scuba diver so I saw first-hand how plastic is affecting the marine environment," Pal said at her Beddis Road store — where you can also find The Root Food Hub and vegan food truck Ox Eats Grass.

The amount of plastic in our ecosystem is a growing problem, according to Pal.

"Researchers at the University of Newcastle found out that the average person consumes around 2,000 tiny pieces of plastic each week, or about five grams, which equates to the weight of the average credit card," she said. "Plastic is everywhere, and I wanted to do something about it."

When she moved back to Salt Spring — where she grew up — she noticed that an eco-minded plastic-free store was missing.

"I know there was one in the past, but maybe the time wasn't right then," said Pal. "We weren't talking as much about the environment and the impact of plastics. Times have changed and I feel that people are more aware now."

In the light and bright store on Beddis Road, big dispensers with laundry and dishwasher soap, fabric softener, body and face wash and shampoo and conditioner are lined up along the walls. She also sells, among lots of other things, deodorant in reusable packaging, wood pulp sponges and bamboo toothbrushes, floss and toilet paper.

Close to the entrance is what Pal calls the "corporate-guilt-corner," where customers can recycle their Nespresso pods,

used razor blades and Swiffer pads.

In the pantry, you can find flour and pasta, organic candy, herbs and spices (in cellulose bags), maple syrup, honey and olive oil, Salt Spring Kombucha on tap and even yogurt (by pre-ordering). Customers can bring their own containers and mason jars or buy reusable glass containers in the store.

And prices, she said, are comparable to other stores on the island.

"We try to be competitive because customers already have to remember to clean and bring their own containers," said Pal. "But we want to make it as convenient as possible and because you don't pay for packaging, you save money that way."

Pal said she is still in the start-up phase with SALT JAR refillery, and the location — just five minutes from Ganges — was intentional.

"I chose this place because it's just outside town and I wanted to have space for locals to park," she said. "Hopefully more people will find us here in the near future."

And while Pal said she's working "three times as hard" as she did in Vancouver, and for less money, she wouldn't go back.

"I am much happier," she said, "because I feel I am doing something impactful."

# Ending single-use plastic through the Laundromat

## Soap Exchange open to all

BY MARCIA JANSEN  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It's a much-needed service for everyone without access to a washing machine — but Salt Spring's Laundromat is so much more.

It's a social enterprise, founded by the Wagon Wheel Housing Society, to help eliminate single-use plastic containers with its soap exchange program. And the good news is, you don't have to do your laundry at the Laundromat to benefit from this program.

The Laundromat on Fulford-Ganges Road opened its doors in the summer of 2021 after the former laundromat on Salt Spring closed five years earlier. The Wagon Wheel Housing Society has been fundraising since 2016 to be able to open this new laundry facility.

"It is an essential service for this island," said Cherie Geauvreau, chair of the Wagon Wheel Society. "Many people have no secure housing or live in tiny houses, boats and vans; tourists come to visit on boats or camp in Ruckle Park and water is scarce. We also see homeowners whose wells have dried up."

Residents and tourists can wash and dry clothes and bedding; the fees for laundry (\$5 for small, \$10 for medium and \$15 for large loads) include eco-friendly laundry detergent. There is also a wheelchair-accessible shower people can use for five, 10 or 15 minutes — for \$5, \$10 or \$15.

All the front-loading washing machines are high efficiency and water-saving. Dryer balls shorten drying time. And there is a wide range of soap products available for sale.

"The soap exchange is an idea from Adina



PHOTO BY MARCIA JANSEN

Sophia Johnson and Cherie Geauvreau show off Mason jars at the Laundromat and Salt Spring Island Soap Exchange.

Hildebrandt, who donated to start it up," Geauvreau said. "It fits perfectly the vision of the Wagon Wheel Society: promoting social and environmental welfare for all islanders."

And you don't have to do your laundry at the Laundromat to benefit from the soap exchange.

"Bring your own bottle or buy a Mason jar," said co-manager Sophia Johnson. "When you bring your container back, we take off \$1 for refills."

All products are biodegradable, animal cruelty-free, septic tank safe and made in Canada, including enzyme odour digester, hand and body soap, bathroom and all-purpose cleaner, liquid and powder laundry and dish detergents, shampoo, conditioner and lotion.

The Laundromat is open Sunday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

## STEP INTO THE Gulf Islander

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## Obituaries

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## Coming Events

## Coming Events

IT IS WITH GREAT SADNESS THAT WE ANNOUNCE THE PASSING OF GERRY.

Born in in Laurier, Manitoba, the youngest of 11 children, his early farm life was dominated by his Dad's sawmill business. At a tender young age he was charged with duties such as driving a team of horses pulling loads of lumber on sleds from the sawmill back to the farm.

The family eventually moved to Vancouver, where Gerry attended Gladstone High School and was a star football player on the Gladiator team. Gerry quit school in the 11th grade to help his family financially, but not before meeting his future wife, Barbara. They were married on September, 16 1955. A few years later, with great joy, they welcomed their daughter and son.

Always a hard worker, Gerry helped his Dad, Leonard, on the weekends building houses, during the week he began his plumbing apprenticeship and attended night school to complete his certification. Four years later, at the age of 21, Gerry became the youngest Master Plumber in BC.

In 1961 Gerry went to work in Fort St. John doing plumbing on housing for local oil patch workers. He loved the wild country and years later, together with partners, purchased a property at Pink Mountain and constructed a hunting cabin.

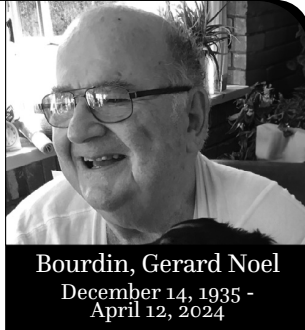
While plumbing during the day, he quickly took up construction in his spare time, founding Lancer Construction in 1965, then in 1967, Lancer Contracting Ltd. Gerry did plumbing in many downtown Vancouver high rise buildings and built many fine homes in North Vancouver.

It was plumbing that brought Gerry to Salt Spring Island when he was contracted to do the plumbing on the new (and still existing) Bank of Montreal building in Ganges.

He quickly fell in love with the island and it wasn't long before a lot was purchased on Cusheon Lake and a cabin pre-fabricated in Vancouver was brought over and erected. The family has many fond memories of the weekend ferry trips over to the island to enjoy swimming and relaxing.

When Wayne Bradley was hired to do some bulldozing at the lake property he happened to mention that his parents wanted to retire and sell their milk farm on Fulford Ganges Road. A deal was made and it was there that the family settled where Gerry enjoyed 55 years of gardening, farming, wine making, fishing local waters and sawmilling, his true passions apart from raising his family. Annual hunting trips to northern B.C. were, of course, mandatory.

The construction and plumbing business thrived on Salt Spring as it had in Vancouver. Gerry leaves a



**Bourdin, Gerard Noel**  
December 14, 1935 -  
April 12, 2024

legacy of many fine projects on the Island which includes of course, the Lancer Building.

In 1978, he and several partners built and for 13 years operated, the Fulford Inn Neighbourhood Pub. Being a people person with a passion for cooking, Gerry and his co-owners welcomed the local community and visitors to enjoy a "pint", something delicious to eat and good times by the fireplace. It was a thriving success and those fun days at the Fulford Inn still live in the heart of many islanders.

Gerry was a very generous and community minded person. He was the type that would give you the shirt off his back, happily share his knowledge and give you a hand. Gerry initiated and participated in many community projects donating his time, material and expertise to many structures that the community enjoys to this day.

Gerry was a life-long learner and loved new challenges. Whether perfecting his sourdough bread recipe, designing and building bird houses, making wine or learning to operate his iPad Mini so he could stay connected with the world, he never gave up until he had mastered his task.

Over his 88 years, Gerry had many dogs and cats. He was a fervent animal lover and was as devoted to them as they were to him. He planted a fruit tree at the farm in memory of each beloved pet.

Gerry leaves to mourn Barbara, his wife of 68 years, daughter Kellie (Perry) son Jay, grandchildren Travis (Robyn), Ferron (Ryan) & Brianna (Ron), great grandchildren Layne, Chase, Charlie, Jaxon, Sophie, Noah and many nieces and nephews.

The family would like to thank Dr. Holly Slakov, Dr. Peter Verhuel, Dr. Ian Gummeson, and the exceptional nursing staff at Lady Minto Hospital.

Additionally, a very special thank you to family friends, Pam Fetherston and Jenny Pickering, also, community nurse, Karen Hunsberger, Lynn Vanderwekken and Meghan Johnson all of whom so graciously helped care for Gerry so he could stay at home through his final years. As per Gerry's wishes there will be no service and no flowers requested.



## The Annual General Meeting OF THE

### salt spring arts council

**Tuesday, May 7, 2024, 5:30pm**  
**Mahon Hall - 114 Rainbow Road**

For details, members and Notice of Special Resolution:

[www.saltspringarts.com](http://www.saltspringarts.com)

Everyone Welcome. Members in good standing are eligible to vote, with memberships available online.  
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## Coming Events

## Music

**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.

## Music For Young Minds

Mission: "To nurture children's need for musical education while fostering their well-being."

A youth led, non-profit, founded by GISS student Jasmine Pamintuan. Seeking adult music enthusiasts with experience as board members willing to contribute their time to a meaningful cause.

Contact:  
[pamintuanjasmine28@gmail.com](mailto:pamintuanjasmine28@gmail.com)

## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam



## Salt Spring Island NATURAL CEMETERY

2100 Fulford-Ganges Road  
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## SUPPORT LOCAL NEWS



# HOROSCOPE

**WEEK OF  
APRIL 21 TO 27, 2024**

**THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:**  
SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN AND AQUARIUS



### ARIES

Before making a decision that could influence your life and that of your loved ones, take the time to think about the long-term consequences. Your generosity will be inspiring, and you'll share your happiness with the people you love.



### TAURUS

Making a few changes to your diet will improve your well-being. Having a deep conversation with your partner will help you avoid conflict and pave the way for a more serious commitment. Thoughtful gestures will be most appreciated.



### GEMINI

You could perform a heroic act and save someone from a difficult situation. This will earn you the respect of everyone, even if you only lent a listening ear. Your presence could lighten the mood among your colleagues and your good nature will spread joy.



### CANCER

If you plan to move, you'll start to take the necessary steps more seriously. This includes finding a home that's perfectly suited to your family, so you can feel more at ease in your own space.



### LEO

You'll expertly express your feelings, demonstrating powerful strength of character. You won't hesitate to disagree in a direct manner, which will earn you respect at work. This will also increase your efficiency.



### VIRGO

You must break free of routine and communicate more openly to deepen your relationship. You could also consider living together if you haven't already to take things a step further.



### LIBRA

Your actions will make your life more exciting and fulfilling. You'll encounter new challenges at work and home. However, this will promote personal, spiritual and professional growth.



### SCORPIO

Sometimes, you must take a step back. You'll regain your financial or love balance by taking the necessary steps to move in the right direction. The artist benefits from great inspiration.



### SAGITTARIUS

Your professional life will see a significant boost, leading to a considerable increase in income. On the romantic front, your partner or someone interested in you will pleasantly surprise you with affectionate gestures.



### CAPRICORN

Be on the lookout for a sudden moment of clarity that will guide you toward the path you need to follow to achieve your personal and professional goals. You could even initiate a project close to your heart, leading to something significant.



### AQUARIUS

You'll broaden your personal and professional horizons by undertaking a transformative training course. This new step will bring a renewed passion for life, greatly enriching your prospects for the future.



### PISCES

Your emotions will be running high this week and your excitement will be palpable. If you recently got into a new relationship, expect a clear sign of commitment from your partner. Any changes that occur will only lead to happiness.





# SPORTS + RECREATION

## RUNNING

# Salt Spring Sneakers close out island series



PHOTOS BY BRUCE JOHNSTONE

Salt Spring Sneakers at the Comox Valley RV Half-Marathon included Eric Ellis and Andre Gerard, above, and Melanie van Soeren, far right.

### Strong finish for club

SUBMITTED BY SS SNEAKERS

The Salt Spring Sneakers Running Club had a steady contingent of race entries throughout the annual Vancouver Island Race Series from January to April.

The final points tally for teams and individuals concluded with the Bagan Bay 5K on Sunday, April 14, but an unfortunate fueling delay with the 9:50 a.m. ferry departure from Fulford Harbour cost all Salt Spring-based runners the opportunity to make the 11 a.m. start time. Two members made the gun, Doreen Peron and Lisa Adams.

To qualify for a series award, runners must complete a minimum of five of the eight races. Thirteen women qualified for the series competition in the F 65-69 age group. Anna Ford finished 3rd, Doreen Peron was 5th and Anne Synnes finished 7th.

Andre Gerard finished 4th in the M 70-74 age group, where 10 men qualified, and amid five qualifiers for the M 75-79 age group, Eric Ellis finished 2nd.

For the VIRA team competition, the Sneakers finished 12th of 110 registered teams, with the 11 leaders having more participants than Salt Spring.

The conclusion of the VIRA Series garners two awards from Sneakers coach Susan Gordon. The 2024 Most Valuable Person certificate goes to Team Captain Eric Ellis, and the Most Improved Runner is Anna Ford.

Honourable mentions go to Anne Synnes for completing her first half marathon; new Sneakers member Lisa Adams for completing every race in the series; and Doreen Peron for consistently reaching new personal best times. Each runner who crosses the finish line earns points for their team, with extra points for podium finishes in the top three. Other Sneakers

who raced this year include newcomer Chase Smith, Marion Young, who won the gold medal in her age group in the McLean Mill 10K, and Melanie van Soeren, who joined the team from her Vancouver base, earning third overall female in the Comox Valley RV 1/2 Marathon.

It takes extraordinary dedication and effort to get to the start line of any race. The Sneakers Running Club is welcoming and recreational with an active social component, but also rich with highly experienced former and active members willing to help newcomers wishing to begin or improve their walking and running programs. Contact the Salt Spring Sneakers via our Facebook group page to connect to members and our three weekly workouts. Coach Gordon also has a power- and race-walking group that can be found on Facebook at Walk This Way Salt Spring, or e-mail at susan.greenpony@gmail.com. All memberships and workouts are free.



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# LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!



Photo by Gary McColm

TRASH HEROES: Anna and Leah McColm picked up trash on Upper Ganges Road between Sharp Road and Moby's.

## Dear readers, What a year!

The 2024 Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring! blew past last year's numbers to be the most successful campaign ever!

More than 50 different groups, families, friends and neighbours — and some Anonymous Trash Heroes — stepped up to clean up. Once again, it's been an honour to be a part of it — and it's once more proven to be the sort of islander-powered initiative that makes us proud to call Salt Spring home.

From the roadsides to the beaches, it's been a wonderful month, and we couldn't have done it without you all.

Thanks also to our wonderful sponsors — our good friends at Laurie's Garbage & Recycling and TJ Beans, as well as at Windsor Plywood, the Lions Club, and Island Return It — for helping make so much of our island cleaner.

**We Picked It Up, Salt Spring!**  
**See you next year!**

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NEXT TO  
COUNTRY  
GROCER



Areas where people promised to clean up as of April 22 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 - AND 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: Cape 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 Malview
- Hue & Kelly-Ann Haslauer: Bader's Beach & Collins Rd.
- Carol Penhale: Fer-de-Lance Rd., Walker's Hook Rd. from Malview 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 Wagt: 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 Pleace, Forest Ridge & Brookwood to the original Stevens Rd. & Monkwood 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: Vesuvius Bay Rd from Tripp Rd to the ferry, Sunset Dr. from Sir Echo's Way to Southey Point, all of Broadwell & Channel Ridge Dr.
- Stqeeeye Learning Society & family members: Fulford Ganges Rd that runs parallel to Burgoyne Bay Rd as well as Burgoyne Bay Rd (aka Xwaa'qum)
- 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.
- Caroline 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 & all of Lautman Dr.
- Elizabeth Nolan: North End Rd. from Fernwood to Langs
- Cheryl Huseby & Ron Townsend: From the bottom of Broadwell Rd. where it meets Vesuvius Bay Rd to Channel Ridge Dr.
- The Kingfisher Crew: Fulford-Ganges Rd. from Village Terrace to Rainbow Rd.
- Liz Anderson & Suzy McEwen: The west side of Fulford-Ganges Rd from Burgoyne Bay to Lee Rd.
- Elise & Glenn: Liberty Hall Lane & Cranberry Rd. from Blackburn Rd. to the Mt. Maxwell Rd/Toynbee Rd. intersection
- Allan Brown, Julia Grace & Elizabeth Zook: 1217 - 1275 Beddis Rd.
- Lloyd & Lynn Fraser: Long Harbour Rd. from Upper Ganges to Eagle Ridge
- Ren Ferguson & Rowan Percy: Isle View Drive

