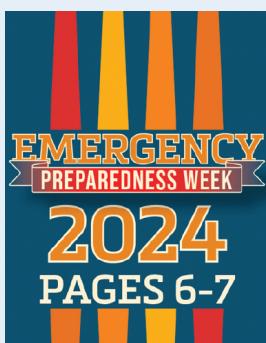


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7 Ian Thomas exhibition includes poetry evening

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May 8, 2024

64th year  
Issue 19  
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## PARKS

# Maxwell park consultation underway

Road access part of considerations

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Public engagement on one park's management plan will ramp up on Salt Spring next week, and stakeholders are sharpening their focus on roads accessing both the island's newest park, and its oldest.

Sharing a border with the 570-acre Mount Maxwell Provincial Park, the recently acquired 75-acre Mount Maxwell Community Park was purchased in 2023 for \$850,000 — a discount from market value, Capital Regional District (CRD) officials have said, with just \$250,000 of that coming from the CRD's park land acquisition funds.

An anonymous foundation's \$250,000 donation, along with another \$100,000 from the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Susan Bloom Fund, got the ball rolling; the remaining \$350,000 was raised last year through a community fundraising effort involving a wide range of islanders — a sold-out dinner event at Foxglove Farm in September, for example, brought more than \$150,000 in a single night.

And with First Nations consultation underway since January, according to a newly implemented project tracker for Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC), the CRD is now reaching out to neighbours, organizations, community groups and the broader community, sending a public invitation for an information session on May 15.

It's the first establishment of a multi-use park on Salt Spring Island in 20 years, since Burgoynes Bay Provincial Park in 2004; Mount Maxwell Community Park organizers have long envisioned non-motorized trails for hiking, mountain biking, disc golf and horseback riding. And recognizing every new park's popularity — and with concerns the newly opened trails might connect with unauthorized "social" mountain bike trails often accessed through the provincial park, where bikes are prohibited on trails — plans are for community park access via the seldom-used Seymour Heights Road from the east, instead of the rough, difficult-to-maintain Mount Maxwell Road to the west.

But correspondence from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) indicates that with the CRD and BC Parks considering improvements at Seymour Heights, there is an open question as to whether upper Mount Maxwell Road should remain open to vehicles at all.

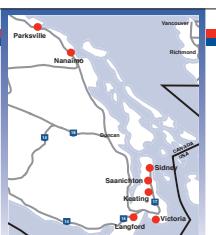
Highways in B.C. are classified A through F, and are maintained in that order, according to MoTI, and the last 200 or so metres at the top of Mount Maxwell Rd has a maintenance class of 8F. Roads classified under "F" might be maintained for summer traffic but have no need for winter access, or may not be maintained at all outside of periodic inspections. According to a MoTI response to inquiries from MLA Adam Olsen's office — made responding to a constituent concern, according to staff — there has been some discussion on building a new parking lot prior to the steepest-slope "F" section of the rough Mount Maxwell Road, converting the remainder to a trail.

That may be a consideration, largely due to costs.

**MOUNT MAXWELL** continued on 2

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# Closing road an option

**MAXWELL** continued from 1

Repair work on Mount Maxwell Road is needed often, according to that MoTi correspondence, due to the steep grade and lack of drainage ditches. Establishing proper ditch works — in a steep, heavily treed area, with a narrow right-of-way and a lot of bedrock — would be expensive. A “fix” last year, using large, jagged aggregate hoped to lock into the grade more securely, involved \$30,000 in spending — and lasted less than six months, MoTi said, before potholes and ruts returned.

MoTi told MLA Olsen’s office the idea of closing the upper section to vehicle traffic would be supported by some stakeholders in the area, including BC Parks — who MoTi said had not yet been involved in discussions — and the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD), which maintains significant water supply in nearby Maxwell Lake that is often in jeopardy of being fouled by road runoff.

NSSWD has partnered with Transition Salt Spring in extensive efforts to improve the Maxwell Lake watershed’s health over the last several years, and officials confirmed the district’s position that closing the upper section would likely support that work. Apart from roadway runoff, NSSWD has struggled with trespassers both contaminating the water and starting dangerous fires near the fragile watershed during hot weather.

“Every summer there seems to be more and more tourists, and that’s more and more traffic through the watershed illegally,” said NSSWD’s Tammy Lannan. “We put up fencing, but they’re just going right around it.”

But essentially closing the viewpoint to everyone but hikers may not be universally supported. Much of the current popularity of Mount Maxwell Provincial Park lies in its hikers-only trail system; but back in 1938, the park was “originally established for its distinctive landmark viewing point” at the summit

of Baynes Peak, according to BC Parks.

And there are public safety concerns; in a recent letter to MoTi, Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue (SSISR) asked the ministry to look at solutions to improve Mount Maxwell Road to the top, as its deterioration over the past several years has led to a “detrimental effect in emergency response.”

Just last month, SSISR responded to a park visitor injured near the viewpoint, and road conditions forced an ambulance staging area to be established — roughly where MoTi correspondence indicated an interest in building a parking lot, should the uphill roadway be closed to vehicle traffic — to support an extended stretcher transport, delaying both response and evacuation time.

Salt Spring’s CRD director Gary Holman said while the public safety argument to improve Mount Maxwell Road was compelling, there could be consequences either way.

“Human access tends to increase the risk of fire, so there might be an argument in that direction,” said Holman. “But we need to get all the stakeholders in the same room and talk through the issue, because that’s how you move things forward.”

Meanwhile, as engagement for management plans for the Mount Maxwell Community Park continues, the CRD has said it would review all feedback and present findings back to engaged Indigenous communities for review prior to crafting a preliminary plan. Under the Local Community Commission, Salt Spring’s Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture department is responsible for providing and maintaining community parks and trails.

The LCC next meets at 5 p.m. Thursday, May 9; the CRD’s public information session for the community park is at 6:30 p.m. Wednesday, May 15. Both meetings will be held at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS).

Visit [getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/mount-maxwell](http://getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/mount-maxwell).

### ELECTIONS

## Mail-in ballot turnout impact clear

Analysis of recent elections

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Pandemic considerations notwithstanding, voters on Salt Spring Island seem to favour mail-in ballots over voting in-person when electing their improvement district board trustees — and offering the option for both has boosted turnout the most.

That effect was seen when the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) and the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) each decided to add mail-in ballots to elect their trustees.

For NSSWD, which first offered mail-in options in 2020, the switch came out of consideration for the pandemic. The change turned out to be dramatic; the district previously counted 115 returned ballots in 2019, which represented 3.7 per cent of the estimated eligible voters. With mail-in ballots in 2020, that number became 706.

For the larger fire district, who mailed out more than 8,400 ballots to eligible voters for the first time this year, the difference was less pronounced — but the change was independent of health and safety concerns, specifically intended to increase participation.

And it worked; despite an election cycle no one could call particularly contentious, this year’s fire board trustee election saw a record 1,815 ballots cast, through a combination of in-person and mail-in ballots — mostly the latter, according to officials. But even discounting the 45 rejected ballots, the 1,770 counted represents the largest number of ballots returned in the district’s history. That’s a nearly 60 per cent increase over the previous

record number of ballots for a trustee election — set in 2013 — and a 519 per cent increase over the last trustee election in 2017.

According to records kept by the Driftwood and the fire district, more trustee seats in the last 20 years have been filled by acclamation rather than by election — and when there has been a need to vote, the turnout has generally been low. The previous record for ballots in a fire trustee election was set back in 2013, when 1,100 ballots were cast in what could charitably have been called a “spirited” election season. The year before that, the number was just 174.

But 2024’s fire board numbers invite comparisons to previous elections that didn’t include a mail-in option. For example, Jenny McClean’s third-place finish (with 529 votes) wasn’t enough to earn a seat in this year’s cycle — but she received more votes than both winners in the last fire board election (all in-person, and back in 2017) combined.

Voters certainly turned out in greater numbers for the two referenda on construction of a new fire hall — 2,622 in-person ballots were counted in 2013, for example, from roughly the same pool of potentially eligible district voters. In 2022, which also marked the introduction of mail-in balloting for fire referenda, there were 3,472 — a modest increase which could be explained by the high level of public discourse.

And relying exclusively on mail-in ballots may not be the best answer; NSSWD switched to offer both mail-in and in-person voting in 2023, resulting in the highest voter participation ever at 965 ballots received. But this year — again with hybrid options — just 548 ballots returned, although that number remains well above any pre-pandemic levels.

## ELECTIONS

# Pyper, Courtney win seats

NSSWD previews moratorium plans and catchment rebates at AGM

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With all votes cast, David Courtney and Brian Pyper have been elected to serve three-year terms on the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) board of trustees.

The results were announced by CAO Mark Boysen to about a dozen attendees at NSSWD's annual general meeting held Thursday, May 2 at Community Gospel Chapel. The meeting was the last for outgoing trustee Chris Dixon, who had announced earlier in the year he would not be running for a third term. Pyper praised Dixon's service over six years, calling him a "champion of the district's autonomy, and of its ratepayers."

Pyper, an incumbent and current board chair, received 464 votes; Courtney, who also currently serves on the board of trustees at the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District, received 311. Candidate Bryce Chapman received 229 votes. Among 3,140 eligible voters, Boysen said, 548 returned ballots — and all but 10 of them were mailed in.

In addition to announcing election results, the AGM was an opportunity for the water district to review the year's accomplishments and tease a

little upcoming news. Pyper's report noted "great strides" in NSSWD's leak detection and repair programs, and that the district was nearing completion of the detailed design for the Maxwell Lake treatment plant mandated by the province, adding that they planned to seek ratepayer support for the project through a funding referendum later this year.

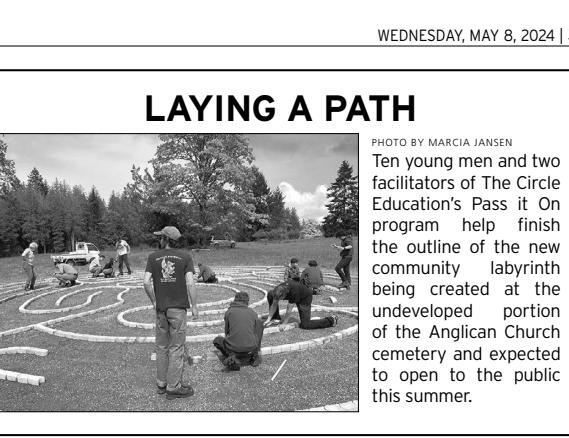
Pyper announced a proposed rainwater catchment rebate program would be presented to trustees at their next board meeting — a first for the district, as previous rebate programs have been made available to homes on well water.

"And thanks to Darcy [Repent, NSSWD's safety officer], the district received core safety certification in 2023," said Pyper, "providing a new level of safety for our staff — and a reduction in our WorkSafe BC premiums."

Pyper briefly addressed the district's ongoing moratorium on new connections, noting that the "roadmap" established by the board and staff to review the policy would ensure a "science-based and transparent" approach to any changes.

"Ideally, we'll be moving away from the moratorium policy," said Pyper, "and toward a sustainable connection policy that recognizes the limits of our water supply — and future uncertainty given climate change."

On a motion from the floor, attendees also voted to raise the current remuneration for trustees — \$400 per month for the chair and \$350 for other trustees — by \$25.



## LAYING A PATH

PHOTO BY MARCIA JANSEN

Ten young men and two facilitators of The Circle Education's Pass It On program help finish the outline of the new community labyrinth being created at the undeveloped portion of the Anglican Church cemetery and expected to open to the public this summer.

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## COURT CASE

# Pot shop claim dismissed

Justice says trustees' decision and process within jurisdiction

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A B.C. Supreme Court justice has dismissed a lawsuit brought against Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC), finding it did not act unreasonably in denying a new cannabis retailer its application.

Canna Northwest Enterprise Inc., who sought the LTC's approval for its application to the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch (LCRB), had hoped to open a retail store at 109 McPhillips Ave. in Ganges. The LTC denied that application in June, and Canna petitioned the court in November to declare the LTC's denial as unreasonable and a breach of "procedural fairness and natural justice."

Canna had alleged trustees made their decision to refuse its application based upon concerns about "competition and market saturation" after receiving public comment and correspondence from representatives and supporters of local cannabis shop Harvest Moon — rather than, as the official resolution states, "due to proximity to schools, the library and a public park."

The lawsuit had noted, among other concerns, the large number of resident signatures Canna had collected on a petition in favour of their appli-

cation, compared to a smaller amount of correspondence against, calling it "coordinated."

But Justice Anthony Saunders wrote in his April 29 decision that while trustees made what he agreed was a "political decision," there was no excess of jurisdiction. Trustees, he wrote, were free to exercise their discretion in a matter of political concern, and did so within the framework of existing legislation.

"They appear to have done what would have been expected of them as elected officials: they heard their constituents' concerns, and acted on them as they saw fit," wrote Saunders. "That decision is deserving of the highest level of deference."

In addition, Saunders noted while there were more signatures on the petition in favour of the application than emails opposed, there was no legal requirement for trustees to follow the wishes of the majority.

"If there are to be consequences to the LTC having given effect to what may have been a minority view, that will have to be expressed through the ballot box," wrote Saunders, "not through this court second-guessing their decision."

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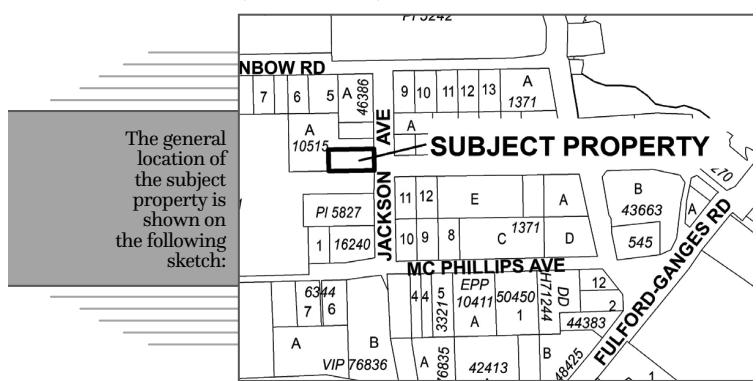
## NOTICE SS-TUP-2024.1 SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE



Islands Trust

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the Local Government Act that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would permit commercial uses including one (1) food truck and up to two (2) retail/office units on the residential zoned property as part of a commercial operation.

The property is located on Jackson Avenue, Salt Spring Island and is legally described as LOT 2, SECTION 1, RANGE 3 EAST, NORTH SALT SPRING ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN EPP9513 (PID: 031-451-977).



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2N8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday, excluding statutory holidays, and on the Islands Trust website <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/salt-spring/current-applications/>, commencing May 6, 2024 and continuing up to and including May 15, 2024.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Chris Buchan, A/Island Planner at (250) 537-9144, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: [ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca) before 4:30 pm, May 15, 2024.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the business meeting on May 16, 2024 starting at 9:30 a.m. at the Salt Spring Legion, Meaden Hall, 120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island. Typically, applications are considered in the afternoon portion of the meeting, which begins at 12 noon.

Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Rob Pingle,  
Deputy Secretary

# OPINION

## Driftwood

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## EDITORIAL

### Empowered to decide

A recent Supreme Court decision that upheld the right of a local government to refuse approval of a cannabis shop is worth paying attention to.

The case involved Canna Northwest Enterprise Inc. petitioning the court because the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee (LTC) did not provide approval needed for the Liquor and Cannabis Regulation Branch to issue a licence for a retail store in the complex at 109 McPhillips Ave. at a June 22, 2023 meeting. Canna had alleged that the LTC made its decision because some community members expressed concerns about the impact of competition on the existing Harvest Moon shop. Concerns about oversaturation of the market were expressed by people affiliated with the competition, and others, both in writing and at the public meeting in June of 2023. But opposition was also expressed based on location by other community members, including a quite pointed statement from a Salt Spring Public Library representative about "vandalism, partying, littering and noise" experienced when a previous cannabis retailer existed in the same spot. The LTC resolution denied

**THE ISSUE:**  
LTC-Canna court case

**WE SAY:**  
Decision good for democracy

the application based on its location, which is said was "not appropriate due to the proximity to schools, the library and a public park."

The Canna group submitted a 90-signature petition supporting their application and in the court case suggested that should be given more weight than the smaller number of people opposed. But Justice Anthony Saunders concluded the LTC was not bound by the views of a majority, that its decision was justifiable and met the case law standards of "reasonableness." He went further in bolstering the rights of elected officials to account for public opinion but not be beholden to it.

These days there is a misunderstanding that democracy works when vociferous complaints — or a court petition — results in a change of policy or decision. But as Justice Saunders points out in his recent judgement, the ultimate accountability arises at election times, when people can express their displeasure with an elected official's conduct and decision-making in the previous term. Trustees and their counterparts should obviously consider public opinion in between elections, but should not be paralyzed by it when it comes to doing the job they were tasked to do.

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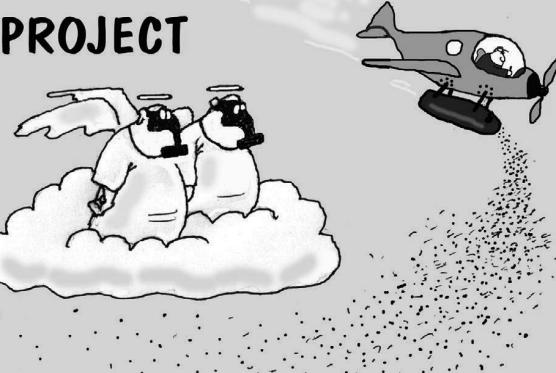
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## SPONGY MOTH ERADICATION PROJECT



PARKER

## Rowing club aid needed

BY ELISABETH INNES

As a member of the Salt Spring Island Youth Rowing program, I've experienced firsthand the transformative power of sport. Over the past year and a half, rowing has not only shaped me into the athlete I am today but has also instilled in me invaluable lessons of discipline, teamwork, and resilience.

Despite our passion and dedication, our club faces challenges that threaten to affect our progress. Salt Spring may be a small community, but our ambitions are anything but small. As we strive to compete at the highest levels, we find ourselves at a disadvantage due to limited resources. Our equipment, some of which is outdated, pales in comparison to that of larger rowing clubs with greater funding and access to the latest rowing technology.

Although much of our equipment is outdated, we try our very best with what we have. Some training days it's tough to get all of our team out on the water as we don't have enough oars for everyone. And let me tell you, you don't get far with rowing with just one oar. We don't have enough boats and/or equipment if everyone is at practice for everyone to row a fully functional boat, which negatively impacts our development.

Recognizing the need for change, I'm on a mission to secure funds for our team. Our goal is simple yet crucial: to ensure that the Salt Spring Island Youth Rowing program can continue to thrive and positively impact the lives of future rowers.

One of our upcoming milestones is the Canadian Secondary School Rowing Championships, taking place in St.

## VIEWPOINT

Catharines, Ont. this June. It's a huge opportunity for our athletes, myself included, to showcase our talent on a national stage. However, to make this journey possible, we seek the support of our community.

We understand that times may be tough for many, but any contribution, big or small, can make a world of difference. Whether a monetary donation, an item for our raffle — or the most amazing contribution would be becoming a sponsor for the team — every bit of support is deeply appreciated.

The best thing you could do for us is become a team sponsor. Wouldn't it be awesome to see your company's logo on our boats or have a boat named after you? We seek the community's support in any way possible.

### How to Donate:

- To become a sponsor, contact youth rowing coach Stacy Mitchell at smitchell@sd64.org.
- Drop off a raffle item to the Gulf Islands Secondary school office.
- E-transfer a donation to our coach: smitchell@sd64.org.

To all the community members of Salt Spring Island and beyond, I extend my heartfelt gratitude. Your generosity will not only enable us to compete at nationals but also help us support our home club for generations to come. Together, we can ensure that the program continues to support aspiring athletes towards their dreams.

Thank you for believing in us and for being a part of our journey.

*The writer is a Grade 11 GISS student and youth rowing athlete.*

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Do you support use of Foray48 to combat spongy moths?**

Yes  No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Do you have Scotch broom growing in your neighbourhood?**



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

# ISLAND VOICES

## LETTERS to the editor

### Recycling depot staff appreciated

With a husband recovering from a knee surgery setback, I've been flying solo on the usual household chores.

At the Salt Spring Recycling Depot I noticed several women in my age group — old — struggling with their bins and bags. But not for long. The guys there just show up and do the heavy lifting, no big deal. Special shout out to Dan, who somehow always manages to be cheerful and passes it on to me.

Thanks, guys!  
**CONNIE GIBBS,**  
SALT SPRING

### Rough road to park an asset

It was with a lot of emotion and sizable trepidation that I read the cover story of last week's Driftwood, headlined "Rough road slows down responders."

The road up to Mount Maxwell Provincial Park is such a gem on this island. Yes, it's a rough road but at least the park has a road going right to the top. That is so rare and unique in this part of the world.

It is true that the road condition limits the quantity of vehicles, increases the need for quality and experienced drivers and thus reduces the volume of traffic putting pressure on the park's infrastructure.

I am not the only one that thinks it has a positive impact overall. We often take sunset picnic dinners up to the viewpoint with folks that could never walk up there. In fact, it was the last thing I did with my mother before she passed.

To lose public road access up to that viewpoint would be a tragedy for locals and visitors.

The bluffs and rock walls that surround Baynes Peak (aka Mount Maxwell) have been used as a respected rock climbing area for decades. A group of hardworking, skilled and dedicated climbers has done a brilliant job of creating an impressive array of sport climbing routes for all skill levels. It's a real

asset to our island. As far as adventure sports go, sport rock climbing is one of the safest, statistically.

It has been so incredible to share this activity with my two teenage sons. It has completely changed their attitude and those of their friends about Salt Spring Island as a place that has "nothing for the youth to do." Now they are engaged and passionate about aspects of the island.

There likely isn't a parent alive that doesn't wish their children to be more connected to place and nature. Putting down their technology devices (even temporarily) and using their physical bodies also has profound and positive long-lasting effects. Sport climbing builds strength of mind and skill. It is celebrated by the young and the old, males and females alike. This should be promoted, not prohibited. It's an amazing way to connect with yourself.

I know about this subject as I was the one injured and needing to be rescued by Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue members on April 7. Thank you to each and every person that was involved. I am healing well and have a profound new

appreciation for my mobility. The professionalism, skill and teamwork demonstrated by the paramedics and SAR team was outstanding.

I can appreciate your desire to streamline systems, increase efficiencies and strive for perfection. But from my point of view, as a patient, everything about the rescue went perfectly. No system was deficient; nothing needed to be better. Heck, I broke myself deep in the woods. I was very impressed by the rescue. It was an extremely rare event that led to my accident in the park.

However, if the public road access to Mount Maxwell Provincial Park is terminated or the mysterious new prohibition on rock climbing in the park is enforced due to this rescue or the continued dialogue that surrounds this issue, I would be absolutely devastated. Gosh, could I live with that stigma or would I be "voted off the island"?"

I certainly hope not. I have so many sunsets picnics to enjoy and climbing routes to explore in the most amazing spot on the island.

**CHARLES GROOMS,**  
SALT SPRING

### QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

**"If there are to be consequences to the LTC having given effect to what may have been a minority view, that will have to be expressed through the ballot box, not through this court second-guessing their decision."**

BC SUPREME COURT JUSTICE ANTHONY SAUNDERS ON CANNA LAWSUIT AGAINST SALT SPRING'S LTC

## Business as usual no longer an option for B.C. forest management

*The following is a letter sent by Alix Hodson Deggan to Premier David Eby and to the Driftwood for publication.*

Dear Premier,

At a union-organized summit meeting in Victoria on March 12, your address skirted around the whole issue of old-growth logging by presenting a false dichotomy: either maintain the status quo or add even more greenhouse gas emissions to the atmosphere.

You are quoted as saying: "The same people who are anxious about old growth also want us to use wood instead of concrete or steel in construction to drive down the carbon footprint of buildings."

These words do not reflect an in-depth understanding of the issues; they are all simplistic, polarizing and highly politicized. What you failed to mention is all the other services — including CO<sub>2</sub> absorption — a healthy forest provides to humans and other life forms.

Some of the "anxious" people you refer to are experts in their fields: authors of studies and research your government regularly ignores. Such studies would provide all the necessary information and guidance needed to build a stronger and

healthier forest ecosystem that would, among other things, resupply our freshwater aquifers.

Fire ecologist Robert Gray has stated that your government has shown no political will to adapt forest management practices to climate change (The Guardian, Layland Cecco, June 2023). He has repeatedly argued for new wood-harvesting techniques to reduce the risk of wildfires, which the province currently spends hundreds of millions battling each year.

Others have similar concerns. In a 2021 forest management report for the Sierra Club, Dr. Peter Wood provided clear evidence that industrial logging threatens community safety. He emphasized that clear-cutting rain forests eliminates resiliency, generates large volumes of flammable debris and makes landscapes vulnerable to landslides and flooding.

Improper logging practices are the result of weak, corporate-centric and environmentally destructive legislation, specifically, the Forestry Act (FA) and Private Managed Forest Land Act (PMFLA). These two acts are toothless and support environmentally damaging forest management prac-

### INDEPTH

tices that are directly responsible for recent disasters and for diminishing groundwater supplies in B.C.

Contrary to what you say, Premier Eby, forest industry jobs have not been lost by environmental actions; they are being attrited by automation and by forest degradation resulting from mismanagement. No amount of political posturing will change the outcome for the forest industry.

It is abundantly clear that both the FA and the PFMLA need to be strengthened and rewritten with policies that address today's pressing issues. New policies must not reflect the old practices that created the crisis in the first place.

If your government were truly seeking viable, long-term solutions that protect the forests and the communities in their proximity, and that support a sustainable forest industry, then policies allowing destructive forest practices, such as clear-cut logging and the spraying of toxic substances on the forest floor, would be forever banned. Forest ecologists have long insisted that, for FA and

PFMLA policies to be effective in protecting our forests, they must allow mature forests to thrive.

Tragically, the current FA and PFMLA ignore forest diversity. For forests to be healthy they need to regenerate naturally in rich uncontaminated soils. Old growth and mature second growth trees propagate the forests naturally and generate seedlings that are healthier because of the nutrients they receive from the complex forest network.

Herb Hammond, retired professional forester, teaches us that the maintenance of a healthy, natural forest canopy is fundamental to groundwater recovery and supply, and contributes to fire prevention because shade and transpiration reduces soil temperature.

Clear-cutting our natural forests or dramatically thinning their canopy, and replacing them with plantation forests creates a very unhealthy forest environment that contributes to floods, fires, slides and drought. All of these phenomena stem partly or wholly from failed policy.

Climate change is in the driver's seat as natural disasters become the new norm. Business as usual is no longer an

option. Does your government have the wisdom and the will to enforce environmental protection policies and amend the FA and PFMLA according to the latest scientific research?

To ensure FA and PFMLA policies are effective, a policy team composed of independent, reputable scientists representing the fields of forestry, biology, ecology, hydrology and climate change should be appointed. This team would not only be responsible for the drafting of all policies and regulations, but also, for their oversight and enforcement.

According to Einstein, the definition of insanity is repeating something over and over again and expecting a different outcome. Premier Eby, I encourage you to listen to science, practise the precautionary principle, and factor in climate change when making resource-management decisions. Please, be the leader that gives us hope for the future.

*The writer holds a Masters in Educational Leadership and is currently a member and avid supporter of the Friends of the Gulf Islands Society and Vancouver Island Water Watch Coalition and lives on Gabriola Island.*



# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



## EXHIBITIONS

# Local poets give voice to Ian Thomas artwork

May 15 event at ArtSpring

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON

FOR ARTSPRING  
More than 100 art enthusiasts and well-wishers came out for the opening reception and welcome

### SALT SPRING FIREFIGHTERS ASSOCIATION



Raising funds for the Salt Spring Food Bank (100% of donations) Multiple ways to donate!

Donate food items at the fire trucks located at the Country Grocer and Thrifty's parking lots

(A recommended list of food item donations will be on hand)

Food donations also accepted at the main Fire Hall

Cash donations accepted  
Online donations can be made at <https://ssiffa.org/donations>

"Fill the Fire Truck"  
Charitable Boot Drive

**Saturday, May 18**

9:30am to 12:30pm

Red boots and food items.



address by long-time Salt Spring artist Ian Thomas for his month-long exhibition at ArtSpring, entitled Ian Thomas: Past and Present. Approaching his 90th birthday, Thomas says this will be his last public statement on his life and work as an artist.

Curated by Margaret Day and Stefanie Denz, the "Past" is a retrospective

### Ian Thomas: Past & Present

ArtSpring  
Presents  
25TH ANNIVERSARY

Opening Reception:  
May 4 | 2pm  
Poetry Reading Event:  
May 15 | 7pm  
Walkabouts with Ian:  
May 12 & 19 | 2pm

May 4-26  
Exhibition

[artspring.ca](http://artspring.ca)  
[tickets.artspring.ca](http://tickets.artspring.ca)  
250.537.2102



PHOTO BY KIRSTEN BOLTON

Ian Thomas' Poets and Their Poetry series attracts viewers at an ArtSpring exhibition of works created through more than 40 years of artistic endeavour and passion.

spective 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 "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, with intimate watercolour works that combine textual fragments with portraiture.

To bring these works to life, a special Evening of Poetry event is being hosted Wednesday, May 15 at ArtSpring from 7 to 9 p.m., emceed by award-winning poet Murray Reiss. Six local poets will read selections from eight of Thomas' favourite writers and reflect on how that poet may have lived, the text itself, and how it connects to the one of 36 framed portraits in the gallery.

From presenting the works of world-famous poets Osip Mandelstam, Pablo Neruda, Dylan Thomas, Anne Carson, Gerard Manley Hopkins and Federico Garcia Lorca to Salt Spring's own Phyllis Webb and Brian Brett, the evening promises to be a rich literary and art fusion experience.

Thomas traces the genesis of this project back to his early adolescence in the British seaside town of Brighton where he'd take

the bus to the promenade and wander down narrow lanes lined with tiny shops. As he remembers, on shelves outside the second-hand bookstores sat damaged books priced just right for his pocket money.

"What struck me more than anything were the battered volumes of poetry and the golden letters of the poets' names," Thomas said. "That was the beginning of my love for poetry."

Once retired from a long art and teaching career, Thomas began reading Salt Spring poets. "As I read them, I began to love what they had to say and how they said it — the direct, straightforward emotional truth of their lives," he explains. "As I read more, I realized they all touched on truths that enriched my own life. They play such a large part in my heart."

Six well-known Salt Spring poets — Diana Hayes, Sandi Johnson, Shirley Graham, Brian Day, Mona Fertig and Murray Reiss — will read the selections.

The exhibition runs through May 26 daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Thomas will host Sunday walkabouts on May 12 and May 19 at 2 p.m. A portion of the sales from this work will go to the Island Fund for Ukraine, an initiative spearheaded by Victoria Olchowecski, which to date has raised over \$100,000.

## ARTS & CRAFTS

# Guilds Show returns to Mahon

Feast Your Eyes showcase part of events

BY DONNA COCHRAN  
FOR THE GUILDS SHOW

The eagerly anticipated annual Guilds Show opens Tuesday, May 14 at Mahon Hall, where six island arts guilds will be showing their members' art.

The hall will be packed with pottery, weavings, baskets, woodworks, paintings and prints. For the first time a special exhibit on the stage, titled Feast Your Eyes, will showcase works related to what nourishes us food- and soul-wise. More than 90 artists will be showing and selling their work.

Salt Spring's guilds have had a major impact on the arts community over the decades. The potters formed a guild as early as 1950, the weavers and spinners started in 1972 and the basketmakers in 1997. The painters also have a long history on the island. The printmakers

are the newest guild, starting in 2022, and they, like the weavers and spinners, have a workspace at SIMS for their members. The woodworkers are active again, having shown new work with metalworkers at a 2023 ArtCraft Showcase exhibition.

Guild activities include workshops, speakers, tours and exhibitions. There is also a long history of involvement with children in the classroom, after-school activities and spring break/summer workshops. Giving back to the community has always been a priority. Members donate items for countless fundraisers and have made generous donations to the food bank. Many of the guilds have donated books and magazine subscriptions to the library.

Don't miss the chance to see how the guilds today are continuing to contribute to Salt Spring's lively arts scene, and meet some of the artists. The opening reception is Tuesday, May 14, 4 to 7 p.m., Mahon Hall, and the show runs daily May 14 to May 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Good Company Entertainment Group presents  
**The Venus Conundrum**  
*a fustercluck of Love*  
written and directed by Suzanne Rouger

**ARTSPRING**  
**MAY**  
**9, 10, 11,**  
**16, 17 18**  
**2024**  
**7:30 pm**

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

A Romp  
Through  
The Oldies

## LIVE MUSIC

# Bands zoom around the world

Swing Shift and  
Bandemonium Sunday

BY ROBB MAGLEY  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two of Salt Spring's community band powerhouses will fill Fulford Hall with music on Sunday, May 12, through a globetrotting two-set program sure to get islanders on their feet.

The double bill event called Around the World in 80 Minutes features the Bandemonium concert band and the Swing Shift jazz band, directed and led by Ben McConchie and Brandon Bronson respectively. Bronson, Fernwood Elementary's band teacher extraordinaire, has stepped

in while music director Michelle Footz has been absent — and McConchie continues juggling time on South Pender and Salt Spring directing what has become a 40- to 50-piece concert band.

"It depends on who's doing the snowbird thing," laughed McConchie. "Right now we have several new members under 30 — which is huge — we've got band members bringing in new players who were hiding out in the woods with their instruments."

Around the World in 80 Minutes features musical pieces to represent places in every corner of the world — and, like every concert, it's something of a recruitment effort, McConchie said. Both Bandemonium and Swing Shift are true community bands, made up of music teachers,

professional musicians and enthusiastic amateurs.

"We've got a carpenter with three kids, shows up every Sunday and is getting better on that trumpet every single time," said McConchie. "He's just sounding awesome."

Both bands are regularly praised for the quality of musicianship — and this Fulford show will be no exception.

"So we're going to start the first half, then Swing Shift has got a great set after," said McConchie. "There is so much good music happening on Salt Spring, and Fulford Hall has a great community vibe. It's gonna be a good time."

Sunday's show begins at 2 p.m., with tickets available in advance at Mondo & Co. or cash-only at the door.



REGISTER TODAY

Register online to create your account for bidding. All registrants invited to preview event Wednesday July 10. Donations open.

Auction Runs: July 10-13th

[treasurefair.artspring.ca](http://treasurefair.artspring.ca)

HAVE AN EVENT FOR  
THE EVENTS CALENDAR?

send an email to:

[news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

# what's on this week

Wed.	May 8	Fri.	May 10	Sun.	May 12	Wed.	May 15
		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>Around the World in 80 Minutes.</b> Musical double bill from Bandemonium Concert Band and Swing Shift Jazz Band. Fulford Hall. 2 p.m.		<b>Poetry Reading Night.</b> Part of Ian Thomas exhibition events at ArtSpring. 7 p.m.	
Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.		ASK Salt Spring. LCC commissioners Gayle Baker and Brian Webster are this week's guests in the TSS space at SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.		Jazz Jam. With open mic at the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.		Dan Smith. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>Story Time.</b> In the children's area at the library. 11 to 11:30 a.m.		Intimate Singer Songwriter Night. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>	
Tsunami Circus Presents Rainbow Kaleidoscope. SIMS gym. 6 p.m.		Youth Games & Chess Club. Ages 9-13. Library children's area. 1-4 p.m.		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		Mount Maxwell Community Park Info Session. SIMS. 6:30 p.m.	
<b>An Evening of Romantic Chamber Music.</b> Tracie Whitelaw, bassoon, Paula Kiffner, cello and Jean-Sébastien Lévesque, piano perform in a Bach on the Rock wine & cheese fundraiser. Salt Spring Island United Church. 7 p.m.		Friday Games Night. For ages 13 and up in the library program room. 7 p.m.		Ian Thomas Exhibition Walkabout. Join the artist on a guided tour of his exhibition at ArtSpring. 2 p.m.		Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.	
<b>The Venus Conundrum: A Fustercluck of Love.</b> Original comedy with live music from the late 1950s and early 1960s. A Good Company Entertainment Group production. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.		In Praise of Mothers: A Poetry Reading to Celebrate our Deep Family Bonds. With Mary Ann Moore, Lorraine Gane, Sandi Johnson and Diana Hayes. 7 to 8 p.m. on Zoom. Send email to <a href="mailto:Rainbowpublishers@shaw.ca">Rainbowpublishers@shaw.ca</a> to request link.		Workshop: Climate Resilient Livestock Production. Led by Tristan Banwell and Julia Smith. Ruckle Heritage Farm barn. Preregistration required by May 10 at <a href="mailto:ssiabattoir@gmail.com">ssiabattoir@gmail.com</a> .		<b>CINEMA</b>	
Open Mic. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.		Sat.	May 11	Mon.	May 13	<b>Wicked Little Letters</b> runs Friday, May 10 to Tuesday, May 14 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. Sunday matinee. See <a href="http://thefritz.ca">thefritz.ca</a> for more movie info.	
<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>ART EXHIBITIONS</b>	
Mother Goose. Free group experience for babies, young children (0-4 years) and their parents/caregivers. At the library. 10 to 11 a.m.		Tsunami Circus Presents Rainbow Kaleidoscope. SIMS gym. Shows at 2 p.m. and 6 p.m.		Open Mic. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.		<b>Ian Thomas: Past and Present</b> is in the ArtSpring gallery daily to May 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. With an artist's walkabout on May 12 and poetry night on May 15 (see listings above).	
<b>Salt Spring Local Community Commission Regular Business Meeting.</b> SIMS. 5 p.m.		Community Contradance and Potluck. Beaver Point Hall. 6:30 p.m.		<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		<b>The Guilds Show</b> features work by members of six island guilds and opens at Mahon Hall on Tuesday, May 14, running daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. until May 20, with an opening reception on May 14 from 4 to 7 p.m.	
Book Launch: Chidakash Jordan. Local author presents Dance On! Love Beyond Grief. Library program room. 7 p.m.		Ladies of Jazz. Legion. 7:30 p.m.		Country Jam. With open mic. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.		<b>Symbolically 8 15th Anniversary Exhibition.</b> Work by all gallery artists at Gallery 8 through May 17.	
<b>Fri.</b>	<b>May 10</b>	<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>ACTIVITIES</b>		<b>Tossed &amp; Found 7</b> runs at Salt Spring Gallery until May 22.	
<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b>		Saturday Market. In Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.		Spiritual Conversation: Spirituality and Aging. With Brian Day. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at <a href="http://staroftheseassi.ca">staroftheseassi.ca</a> for Zoom link.		<b>Contemplative Threads</b> , an exhibition of textile art by Medwyn McConchy runs in the library program room until May 28.	
Tsunami Circus Presents Rainbow Kaleidoscope. SIMS gym. 4 p.m.		Six Dimensions of Purpose Workshop. At the Purpose Pyramid. 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. Info/register at: <a href="http://SixDimensionsofPurpose.com/saltspring">SixDimensionsofPurpose.com/saltspring</a>		Six Dimensions of Purpose Workshop. See Saturday listing, except the time is 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.		<b>Photographer Hannah Spray</b> exhibits in the ArtSpring lobby in May.	
<b>The Venus Conundrum: A Fustercluck of Love.</b> See Thursday's listing.				Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.		<b>Howard Fry</b> shows photographs in the Country Grocer cafe through May.	
Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.							
<b>C.R. Avery &amp; Marin Patenaude.</b> Musician poets at Mateada. Show at 9 p.m. Doors at 6 p.m.							
DJ Boomtown. Moby's Pub. 9:30 p.m.							

## Community Contradance

And potluck!  
Beaver Point Hall  
Sat., May 11, 6:30 p.m.

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

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## Obituaries

## Obituaries



*Hildy Elaine Barnett*  
(HB)  
October 9, 1949 –  
April 25th, 2024

It is with deep sorrow that we announce the passing of Hildy Elaine Barnett, a beloved wife, sister, mother, grandmother, and dedicated community member. Hildy passed away on April 25th, 2024. She is survived by her loving husband of 47 years, Jeffrey, their children Joel (Angel), Mira (Brendan) and four cherished grandchildren: Julian, Maisie, Blake, and Mikayla Elaine.

Hildy grew up in Vancouver and attended Talmud Torah and Magee Secondary before earning her degree from the University of British Columbia, where she specialized in education for special needs children. She went on to work with the school board for 30 years, during which she also earned a master's degree in school psychology. Her passion for education and her commitment to her students were undeniable.

Throughout her career, Hildy was known for her selflessness and dedication to the community. Even after her retirement, she continued to make a significant impact. She volunteered at Canuck Place, served on the board of directors for the Jewish Community Center (JCC), and was instrumental in producing a monthly newsletter and organizing the JCC Annual Sports Dinner. She also created the Teen Awards Program to recognize outstanding young people.

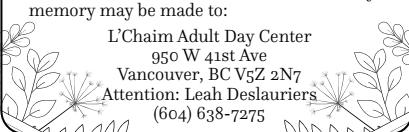
Hildy, along with two friends, started the Innovators Luncheon, a successful fundraising initiative now in its 18th year. She also played a key role in establishing the Reuben Feuerstein Center in partnership with the Vancouver School Board, which trains teachers to work with children who have learning difficulties.

Shortly before her passing, Hildy made the generous decision to fund the Hildy Barnett Wellness Suites at Talmud Torah, to support children with unique educational needs.

She will be missed by many, but her legacy of compassion and service will continue to inspire all who knew her.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Hildy's memory may be made to:

L'Chaim Adult Day Center  
950 W 41st Ave  
Vancouver, BC V5Z 2N7  
Attention: Leah Deslauriers  
(604) 638-7275

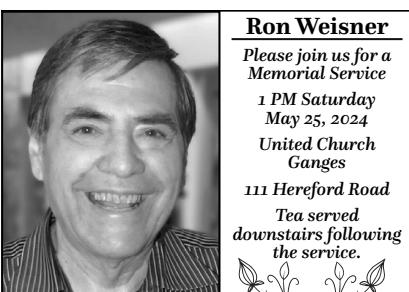


## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam



**Ron Weisner**  
Please join us for a  
Memorial Service  
1 PM Saturday  
May 25, 2024  
United Church  
Ganges  
111 Hereford Road  
Tea served  
downstairs following  
the service.



## Obituaries

## Obituaries

**Eileen Margaret Twa**  
May 13, 1933 – April 14, 2024

Eileen Margaret Twa, born May 13 1933 passed away on April 14, 2024. She was predeceased by her parents, Walton and Effie Twa, her sister Lorraine and brothers-in-law James Severn and Walter McCallum. She is survived by sisters Jacque and Maureen (Ted) and brothers Les (Audrey), Robert (Caroline), Alan (Carol) and Norman (Sheila), as well as many nieces, nephews, great-nieces and great-nephews, and a long-time friend Julia who became as a daughter to her.

Eileen was born in Port Alberni, later moving to Salt Spring Island with her family as a teenager. She moved to Victoria to work as a care aid, living there until 2019 when she moved to Braehaven on Salt Spring Island then to Greenwoods long term care.

She loved working with the elderly, and even when in care herself always looked out for others who needed help. She kept in close contact with family and friends, visiting them and writing letters to those at a distance rather than making phone calls. She liked to cook, entertaining friends in her apartment, and making cookies and jams for family members every Christmas. Eileen was generous to others, donating to many charities that helped those in need.

She accepted Christ as her Saviour at a young age, was a faithful member of her church, and spent much time reading her Bible, and watching Christian programs on TV.

Eileen will be missed by the family she dearly loved, but is now at rest from the pain she suffered in her later years, and rejoicing in meeting her Lord in Heaven and the family members who preceded her.

We thank the staff at Braehaven and Greenwoods who were so generous with their care and love.

A memorial service will be held at Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius By Rd. at 2 pm on May 11, 2024.

## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam



*Verna Helen Elliott*  
September 15, 1950 –  
November 2, 2023

## Celebration of Life

Tue., May 14, 2024  
1pm – 4pm  
Legion Meaden Hall  
120 Blain Rd,  
Salt Spring Island

Wed., May 15, 2024  
Noon – 5pm  
Open House & potluck  
at our home  
131 Mereside Rd,  
Salt Spring Island

## Announcements

## Announcements

**PHARMASAVE®**

Starting **MAY 4**, Pharmasave is pleased to announce our new hours of operation! We will be open:

**Monday to Friday**

9 AM to 6 PM

**Saturdays**

9 AM to 5 PM

**Sundays & holidays**

11 AM to 5 PM

Swing by and let us take care of all your health and wellness needs with our new shopping hours!

104 Lower Ganges Rd / 250-537-5534

## Obituaries

## Obituaries



**John Steve Edge**

August 22, 1953 –  
April 28th 2024



Steve passed away on Salt Spring Island on April 28th, 2024.

He loved the island very much, and was never happier than at his house, tinkering away on his boat or truck, with Creedence Clearwater Revival blasting away.

We swam together at his house for many years in "Edge Bay," and August was always capped off with our annual swim to Idol Island.

Steve loved his winter treks to the lovely town of Cuastecomes, Mexico. Daily swims, dinners with his many friends, and watching the sunset nightly were the simple joys he truly appreciated.

He was beloved by all in the recovery community both in B.C. and Mexico and had just celebrated 14 years clean and sober. He was so grateful for the life afforded him as a sober man.

He is survived by his brother Rob Edge, (and extended family), his former wife, Gwen Edwards, his daughter Sarah Jane Lynelle Rinas, and grandson Nathaniel, and his many many friends, including the Cuastecomes community, Hall and Elaine Theunisz, Peter Oosterwegel, Gord Mayrhofer, Paul Large, Dave French, Michel Jutras, Jennifer Davidson and Maureen Phelan.

He will be missed by many, and loved by all, for years to come.

Gramma wants to be nearer her family  
I am looking for a one bedroom apartment, a room or a trailer on Salt Spring. I have no pets. Please call  
**250.746.0222**

## Music

**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

## Garage Sales

MERCHANT MEWS  
GARAGE SALE EVENT

MM is hosting multiple garage sales, open houses and food vendors on **Sat May 18**. There will be art, building supplies, antiques, household and garage items of all kinds. Arrive hungry, our neighbourhood food vendors will also be open.

**9-3 Firm,**  
315 Upper Ganges Road.

## Storage



**SALTSpring SELF STORAGE**  
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## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam

**Carol Dodd**  
*Celebration of Life*

THURS. MAY 9  
at 1:00 pm  
Salt Spring Island  
Golf Club



Our beautiful Mom, Carol Dodd passed away on the evening of November 20, 2023 in Lady Minto Hospital, 20 days after finding out she had liver cancer.

She was completely at peace and told us she had no regrets and was not scared.

Mom lived a vibrant, interesting life, retiring to Salt Spring 25 years ago. She said this was the only place she ever really felt "at home". We thank you so very much for being a part of her life and sharing a laugh, an adventure, a workshop, or a glass of wine with Mom and making her feel so loved and at home. To a life well lived... CHEERS!

## In Memoriam

## In Memoriam



**Salt Spring Island  
NATURAL  
CEMETERY**

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

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

## Lost Necklace

## Lost Necklace

**LOST:**

Silver necklace with inset blue topaz stone, by BC indigenous artist, carver, Morgan Asoyf. Very sentimental, for me!

Gramma wants to be nearer her family  
I am looking for a one bedroom apartment, a room or a trailer on Salt Spring. I have no pets. Please call  
**250.746.0222**

## Rental Wanted

I am looking for a one bedroom apartment, a room or a trailer on Salt Spring. I have no pets. Please call  
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## Music

**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

## Garage Sales

MERCHANT MEWS  
GARAGE SALE EVENT

MM is hosting multiple garage sales, open houses and food vendors on **Sat May 18**. There will be art, building supplies, antiques, household and garage items of all kinds. Arrive hungry, our neighbourhood food vendors will also be open.

**9-3 Firm,**  
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## Storage



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## Lost Necklace

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604 785 4324



# ISLAND LIFE

## WOMEN'S INSTITUTE CONTRIBUTES TO HALL



PHOTO COURTESY SSIWI

Getting together for a recent \$2,000 donation from the Salt Spring Island Women's Institute (SSIWI) to the Fulford Community Hall Association (FCHA) are, from left, FCHA board member Cathy Valentine, SSIWI member Margaret Reid, FCHA president Markus Wenzel and SSIWI member Angela Thomas. Funds will be put toward installation of the filtration and treatment system that will supply safe, potable water to Fulford Hall.

## SOCIAL JUSTICE

# OGIFA hosts Mayan presenter

Neydi Juracán speaks on May 14

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island is lucky to be included as one of 18 stops on a B.C.-wide tour of a Mayan woman with deep experience in fighting for social and environmental justice in Guatemala.

On Tuesday, May 14 at noon at Salt Spring Island United Church, Salt Spring's Ometepe Gulf Islands Friendship Association (OGIFA) will host a presentation by Neydi Juracán, national coordinator of Campesino Committee of the Highlands (known as the CCDA) on their Café Justicia fair-trade coffee program and their work for environmental justice.

Juracán is a Kakchiquel Maya from the village of Santa Cruz Quixaya. Prior to her election as national coordinator in 2023, she was the director of the CCDA's Café Justicia program, coordinating the processing and export to Canada of coffee produced by CCDA farmers.

The CCDA is a national small farmer and rural workers' movement that defends the lands, culture and labour rights of Mayan communities in Guatemala. More than 800 communities

are active in the CCDA, and the group played a role in the five-month struggle to defend democracy in that country last fall.

Salt Spring became one of Juracán's stops due to OGIFA chair Nedjo Rogers' long friendship with Steve Stewart, coordinator of the BC CASA-Café Justicia. Stewart recently returned from taking a delegation of coffee roasters down to Guatemala, and OGIFA would similarly like to lead a trip to see the farming operations where OGIFA coffee comes from on Ometepe Island in Nicaragua.

Rogers said his group members were delighted when Jeremy Simons, grandson of two OGIFA cofounders Marg and Art Simons, came to a special OGIFA event held in February at the library. As Simons had spent some time in Nicaragua and was familiar with OGIFA through his grandparents' activities, he is interested in leading a visit to Ometepe.

"So it's super timely to have these much more seasoned kind of international partnership folks here to just pick their brains because they do regular solidarity delegations," said Rogers. "I feel like we've got a lot to learn from them and I'm looking forward to those opportunities."

Neydi's B.C. speaking tour is co-sponsored by BC CASA-Café Justicia, CoDevelopment Canada and the BC Council for International Cooperation.

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## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

**MAY 2024** PST (UTC-8h)

When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS	DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS
8	4:19	10.8	3.29	12	4:08	9.7	2.96
	11:47	0.6	0.18		5:44	9.7	2.96
	19:43	10.9	3.32		14:42	1.3	0.4
9	0:07	9.1	2.77	13	23:28	11.3	3.44
	4:41	10.7	3.26		15:31	2.1	0.64
	12:28	0.2	0.06		0:20	11.2	3.41
10	20:40	11.2	3.42	14	21:37	11.4	3.47
	1:13	9.6	2.93		2:32	9.8	2.99
	5:04	10.5	3.2		5:27	10.1	3.08
11	13:10	0.3	0.09		13:55	0.7	0.21
	21:37	11.4	3.47		22:33	11.4	3.47
	2:32	9.8	2.99	15	1:05	11	3.35
12	5:27	10.1	3.08		17:21	4	1.22
	13:55	0.7	0.21				

250-537-9933

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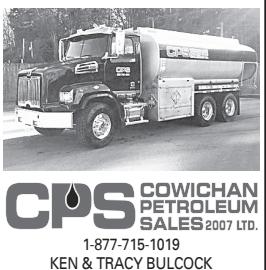
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### Dr. James Buchan Medical School Awards



A trust was created under the will of Dr. James Buchan, providing annual awards to former students of Gulf Islands Secondary School who are attending an accredited medical school on a full time basis. The trustee may review a variety of criteria including:

- Academic excellence
- Financial need or
- Leadership qualities and school/ community involvement.

This award may be renewable in subsequent years, should the student wish to re-apply. The value of the awards may vary. Final deadline for applications (letter, resume, transcripts of marks, letters of reference and income information) is June 21, 2024, to the Counselling Office at GISS.



From left, musicians Rose Birney, Marianne Grittani and Valdy entertain in plaid at Ruckle Heritage Farm Day on Sunday, May 3.



Ava gets a goat-brushing lesson from Marjorie Lane. The farm's animals were a big attraction for people of all ages.



Photos by Rob Lowrie



Duncan Jamieson plays piano inside what is called the Henry Ruckle House in the park during annual Ruckle Heritage Farm Day.



Dale Oakes, left, and Gladys Campbell, relatives of the Ruckle family who gifted their property to the province for park purposes in the early 1970s, enjoy the day despite the sometimes blustery weather.



VIRTUAL

## AGM

2024 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, May 30th, 2024 at 6:00pm

Online election to fill vacancies on the Board of Directors will occur ahead of the AGM, with results announced at the AGM. Registration is required to attend the AGM and vote on AGM business, as well as to vote in the online director election.

Registration will open on May 13th, 2024 and close on May 27th, 2024. Director election voting will close at 3:00pm PT on May 28th, 2024. During this period, a registration link will be available at [www.midislandco-op.crs](http://www.midislandco-op.crs), along with further information about the director candidates. Only members in good standing on the date of record of April 30th, 2024 will be eligible to vote.

A detailed AGM member package will be shared electronically ahead of the meeting with members who have successfully registered. This package will include the AGM Rules of Order, Agenda, Reports, Financial Statements, Resolutions, and New Business.

The following is a summary of the special resolution being brought to the 2024 annual general meeting:

Special Resolution #1 – Change to Rule 126(1)(a)(b) and (2) Borrowing Powers, changing the requirement for a special resolution of the members before granting security over the Association's assets.

To review the complete text of the proposed special resolution, please visit <https://shorturl.at/diuZx>.

Scan here to access  
registration to vote in the  
online director election and to  
attend the virtual AGM:



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# EMERGE PREPARED



You're invited to the

## EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS FAIR

Saturday June 8, 2024 from 10am-2pm

**Location:** Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue - Hall #1  
105 Lower Ganges Road  
Next to the Saturday Farmer's Market



### USING TECHNOLOGY IN EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Technology plays a part in all our lives, in one way or another, which is why this year's theme for Emergency Preparedness Week — May 5 to 11 — is "Using technology before, during and after emergencies."

Technology is used in many ways to help us mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies. Examples include:

- ❖ satellites that forecast weather
- ❖ maps showing real-time wildfire information
- ❖ infrastructure that prevents flooding
- ❖ broadcast intrusive emergency alerts

These new tools help us better prepare and respond to disasters.

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For more information, go to:

- ❖ [PrepareYourself.ca](http://PrepareYourself.ca)
- ❖ [www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-emergency](http://www.crd.bc.ca/ssi-emergency)
- ❖ [www.facebook.com/SaltSpringsIslandEmergencyProgram](http://www.facebook.com/SaltSpringsIslandEmergencyProgram)

Information for this feature provided by Salt Spring Island's Emergency Program.



**Tech tip:** Sometimes the best technology is the has been around for a while, like pens, paper, and batteries. Be sure to include these in your kit and bags!



EMAIL: [ssiepc@crd.bc.ca](mailto:ssiepc@crd.bc.ca)



### EMERGE

Put supplies in one or two bags.  
Store them in an area outside your home, like a closet, spare room or garage.

- ❖ Non-perishable food for at least one week
- ❖ Water: four litres per person for drinking and cooking
- ❖ Phone charger and extra batteries
- ❖ Battery-powered radio
- ❖ Battery-powered flashlight
- ❖ Extra batteries for your radio and flashlight
- ❖ First-aid kit with extra supplies
- ❖ Personal toiletries and extra pair of eyeglasses
- ❖ Copy of your insurance policy
- ❖ Copies of important documents and insurance policies
- ❖ Cash in small bills
- ❖ Garbage bags for personal sanitation
- ❖ Seasonal clothing for all weather emergencies
- ❖ Dust masks
- ❖ Whistle
- ❖ Help/OK Signal for use during a disaster

