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PHOTO BY ALAN BIBBY

ALL AGLOW: Aurora borealis seen in the sky over Vesuvius Bay and the north end of Salt Spring Island in a photo taken late in the evening on Friday, May 10 from the summit of Mount Erskine. The historic category G5 geomagnetic storm came courtesy a coronal mass ejection from the 200,000-km-wide sunspot AR3664. The light is energy released after electron-excited atoms and molecules in the Earth's upper atmosphere relax to lower energy states.

ISLANDS TRUST

Policy Statement draft released

Document trims mandate interpretations, tree-cutting language

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The islands' land use authority has given notice and offered a first look at possible changes to its core guidance document, 30 years after the last time the Islands Trust's Policy Statement was meaningfully revised.

The Trust's Executive Committee last month directed staff to arrange the first-ever Islands Trust Council "Committee of the Whole" (COW) meeting, 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, after which the EC will hold a special meeting "for consideration of next steps."

A special electronic meeting of Trust Council's COW is set for Thursday, May 30, from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The posting of that meeting's agenda on May 7 marked

the first time trustees have seen the proposed changes to the Policy Statement, right alongside members of the public.

It's a novel bit of public policy tradecraft hoped to help avoid re-igniting public rancor; in 2021, Trust Council hit pause on the revision process after a posted agenda included a proposed draft amendment bylaw — and that prompted backlash and a petition over worries trustees were moving forward without sufficient public input.


Trust Council reacted then by sending staff back to the drawing board, to incorporate what became a significant amount of feedback — hammered out into 32 resolutions — into a new document. That work has been done and a document was produced, which before May 7 had been shared only with nine First Nations representatives

and staff at the Agricultural Land Commission, the Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Bowen Island Municipality and the Island Trust Conservancy for their feedback.

The proposed changes are unsurprisingly plentiful and would likely have mixed consequences.

The structure and readability of the Policy Statement is improved, staff believe, and they noted several significant changes from the 2021 draft, including the deletion of "preamble language" about interpretations of the Trust's Object — also called the "preserve and protect" mandate — and the removal of advocacy policies, including one about desalination plants and another about the Trust seeking tree-cutting authority for local trust committees.


POLICY STATEMENT continued on 2



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ENVIRONMENT

LCC, community weigh in on moth spraying

Commission members concerned about misinformation; citizens feel inadequately warned

BY ROBB MAGLEY & GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring officials are fielding community concerns about recent aerial spraying for the invasive spongy moth — worries fueled, they said, by misinformation online.

Messages spread via the internet include allegations the spraying violated conditions of the permit issued by the Ministry of Environment for application of the bacteria-based insecticide Foray 48B, which took place May 6 over a 48-hectare area centred on Elizabeth Drive.

While islanders seem to agree a spongy moth infestation would endanger local trees, at the last meeting of Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) Thursday, May 9, commissioners lamented that because of the online discourse, much of what they had heard directly from their constituents seemed misinformed.

"My concern about it is that there's a lot of inaccurate information that's spreading in the community," said commission member Brian Webster, characterizing what he'd seen online as "about three parts inaccurate information to one part accurate."

In online posts, some islanders alleged the product causes a wide range of health effects — and that the BC Ministry of For-

ests-contracted aircraft sprayed during a period of excessive wind, endangering Salt Spring waterways. In a communique sent to the Driftwood and multiple government offices via email, Salt Spring resident Oona McQuat said she witnessed high winds from her vantage point on the north end of Mary Lake — an assertion she supported with weather data from a privately owned monitoring station seven kilometres away from the spray area — and that the plane "sprayed directly over Duck Creek" downstream of St. Mary Lake, and the spray drifted back over the lake itself.

McQuat provided, and posted online, photos of the aircraft and a video showing swaying branches and waves on the lake, which she said proved May 6 was not a safe day to spray due to wind levels.

Driftwood coverage — from beside an open field inside the target zone — reported practically windless conditions throughout the May 6 early-morning spraying, including about a half-hour before the aircraft arrived and just after it left the area.

A group of about 15 islanders gathered in Centennial Park on Saturday to share information and encourage a demand for government to halt the next planned spray session — tentatively set for the early hours of Thursday, May 16, weather permitting — and to consider alternate spongy moth eradication methods instead. They expressed concerns about the potential impacts of Foray 48B on human, animal and lepidoptera health, and said they felt the notice given to residents was inadequate. A number of attendees living in the affected area said they did not receive

advisory postcards sent in the mail, see pesticide use permit ads or stories in the Driftwood and on its website, or signs erected on roadsides. Some people were caught off-guard not walking their dogs as the spray event occurred, they said, and other vulnerable people were likely affected.

Foray 48B — like related products 48F and 76B — is a water-based suspension of the *Bacillus thuringiensis* variety "kurstaki" (Btk) bacteria, designed specifically for forestry applications, according to manufacturer Valent Bioscience. Available products that contain Btk are certified for use on produce labelled "organic" by the Organic Materials Review Institute; the bacteria itself is often found in soil, according to B.C. government officials.

"I'm confident Health Canada and the provincial Ministry of Health know what they're talking about when they say what's being sprayed is not a health risk."

BRIAN WEBSTER
Local Community Commissioner

During a specific period in a moth's life cycle, the insect will die if caterpillars ingest live Btk bacteria; once the product is sprayed, according to provincial officials, those bacteria only survive for about a week, making the use of Btk attractive for targeted spraying without endangering other insects that develop at other times of year or under different conditions.

A list of Foray 48B's non-bacterial inert ingredients have been made available to multiple governments, including Canada's; after analyzing them for health considerations, each agreed to keep the specific formulation in confidence to protect those "trade secrets" from competitors.

When asked if the North Salt Spring Waterworks District was concerned about the spraying's impact on water supply, NSSWD CAO Mark Boysen said, "Our primary concern was that the NSSWD was not engaged or formally notified before the spraying. We reached out to the Province prior to the spraying to confirm if the St. Mary Lake community water supply was considered in their planning. The ministry shared that it was considered and

addressed through the buffer zone."

Capital Regional District director Gary Holman told fellow LCC members he spoke with Dr. Murray Fyfe, Island Health's medical health officer for the region, who told him while he did advise people as a precautionary measure to stay indoors during spraying, that was "about it."

"He assured me that there's a long history of using Btk," said Holman, "and that there have been no documented health effects."

While Btk products have been used for decades, there have been reports of health effects. A 2003 article published in the New Zealand Medical Journal studied hundreds of residents in one neighbourhood — through symptom checklists and questionnaires measuring health perceptions — before and after an aerial spraying there of Foray 48B. That study found the spraying to be associated with increased reporting of upper airway, gastrointestinal and neuropsychiatric symptoms, as well as "a reduction in overall perception of health in the exposed population."

In a 2005 article published in the peer-reviewed journal *Psychosomatic Medicine*, researchers studied the same questionnaires and discovered that residents' worries about "the effects of modern life on health" strongly influenced the attribution of symptoms and beliefs about health effects from the spray. That study concluded the number of symptoms reported after the spray "was most closely related to the number of symptoms reported at baseline."

"I'm relatively familiar with what's being sprayed," said Webster, an apple orchardist, "and I'm confident Health Canada and the provincial Ministry of Health know what they're talking about when they say what's being sprayed is not a health risk to anyone — or any mammal, or any bird, or any fish, or any flying insect."

B.C.'s Environmental Appeal Board recently dismissed an attempt to halt spraying in B.C. brought by Communities United for Clean Air, a committee of Freedom Rising-affiliated political activism group BC Rising. In a decision released May 3, the board found, in part, that the appellant's "evidence [did] not support a conclusion that any of the human health effects they describe are likely to occur."

Rain or high winds could postpone any treatments until the following suitable morning. For up-to-date information visit gov.bc.ca/spongy moth-news.

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SSIFR

RV, shed destroyed in fire

Second call to same property in less than three years

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) personnel responded to reports of an outbuilding on fire in the 300 block of West Eagle Drive on Saturday afternoon.

"An RV and a nearby storage shed were consumed with flames that extended into the surrounding trees and ground cover," reported SSIFR Capt. Warren Nuyens in a media release. "Crews were able to knock down and control the spread of the fire with headline attacks from two apparatus.

Water was supplied to the scene using a tender shuttle operation that fire department members train on regularly. Fifteen firefighters were on scene with no reported injuries."

The fire was called in by nearby Sun Eagle Drive resident John Cade, who heard bangs and other strange noises coming from the property and went to investigate. He said he could see flames coming from a shed.

Cade said neighbourhood residents are especially concerned about fire as the area is very rocky and dry, contains a lot of broom, has no fire hydrants and only one exit.

Nuyens said the cause of the fire had not been immediately determined.

SSIFR were called to the same property in November of 2021 when a cabin was destroyed by fire there.

SOME WALKING-AROUND MONEY



PHOTO BY MARY KASTYLE

The Capital Regional District (CRD) received an additional \$100,000 from the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Land Protection fund Thursday, May 9. The funding is intended to provide capacity for environmental assessments to inform access trail planning, surveying, signage and development at the newly acquired Mount Maxwell (Hwmet'utsum) Community Park. From left are Salt Spring Island Foundation board chair Walter Stewart, Salt Spring Island parks and recreation manager Dan Ovington, Local Community Commission members Gayle Baker and Brian Webster, and Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman.

BC FERRIES

New webcams include Crofton site

30 minor route terminal webcams added online

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

BC Ferries announced several new webcams have come online with near-live images of vehicle staging areas at terminals serving Salt Spring Island.

Starting Thursday, May 9, among the

30 new cameras offering real-time views were those facing the Fulford Harbour, Long Harbour and Vesuvius Bay vehicle staging areas — and notably, there's also one in Crofton, so islanders can finally see the line-up on Chaplin Street.

"Our customers have told us that reliability is something they value in their ferry service," said customer experience VP Melanie Lucia. "They have places to be and want to be able to plan their travel and plan their day."

New cameras are also in operation on Pender, Galiano, Mayne and Gabriola Island terminals.

In addition to the new minor route cameras, visitors to the website can now directly access current conditions information, as well as the most recent service notices issued and BC Ferries' map-based vessel tracker.

Visit bcferries.com/current-conditions/ to access the newly available information.

Online public meeting set for May 30

POLICY STATEMENT

continued from 1

That last reflects a Trust Council motion from March 2023, when a majority of trustees voted to "promptly inform the province that it no longer wishes to proceed" with efforts that sought provincial authority to let individual islands enact tree-cutting bylaws.

And on the object/mandate interpretation, staff suggested it simply might not belong there.

"There is no requirement to include a specific breakdown of the Object, [nor] to include a definition of unique amenities" in the Policy Statement, according to an accompanying staff report. "Indeed, the document has never had these definitions, but rather goals/objectives and policies."

Instead, according to staff, the Policy Statement read "as a whole" will offer Trust Council's vision for the "future of the Trust Area, its understanding of the unique amenities it wishes preserved and protected, [and an] expression of how it wishes to balance the elements (unique amenities and environment)" included in the mandate.

"For this reason, staff reflected on the challenges that the Islands Trust Object interpretation section presented in relation to the value offered, and comments received from First Nations," read the report, "[and] are recommending this section not be included."

This would not, staff noted, preclude any LTCs from opening their own official community plans with a "context statement" on interpreting the mandate.

Among the 34 Trust Council resolutions that guided these draft revisions, Resolution 4 — which instructed staff remove

"commitments of Trust Council" from each subsection and replace them with more general guiding principles — is cited most often as the rationale for specific changes.

And while those are essentially simple rewordings, the result may seem jarring. For example, a sentence that previously read "... the rate and scale of growth and development in the Trust Area must be carefully managed and requires limitation" now begins in the assertive: "Limit the Rate and Scale of Development: to define and maintain appropriate limits for the rate and scale of development in order to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment."

The COW will include all trustees and was designed to allow a less formal structure for discussing complex issues — such as budgets, policy development or advocacy — without being constrained by rigid meeting procedures. And decision-making is off the table 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 the proposed changes might be approved without public feedback.

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.

The proposed changes to the Policy Statement can be found within the agenda for the COW meeting at islandstrust.bc.ca/event/trust-council-committee-of-the-whole/.

Those interested in the issue can also join the May 30 meeting electronically at the same URL.

"There is no requirement to include a specific breakdown of the Object, [nor] to include a definition of unique amenities . . ."

**ISLANDS TRUST STAFF
REPORT ON POLICY
STATEMENT DRAFT**

CONSERVATION

Effort hits \$1.2M goal

Lumley Road parcel will preserve wetland, habitat

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After less than a month of active fundraising, local organizers and the BC Parks Foundation announced they had put together the full \$1.2 million needed to buy and preserve 31.2 acres of mature Coastal Douglas Fir (CDF) habitat on Salt Spring's south end.

Foundation CEO Andy Day called the successful effort for what most islanders know as the Lumley Road Conservation Project a "shining example" of people coming together to make a lasting positive impact. And Salt Spring organizer Elissa Poole, who alongside fellow islander Charles Kahn originally launched plans to conserve the parcel, said she was delighted.

"I couldn't be happier," said Poole, "knowing that this special forest and wetland will at last be protected."

Along with "generous" contributions from

local donors, organizers said the funding goal was reached with the help of a \$100,000 grant from the Salt Spring Island Foundation's Land Protection Fund and a significant gift from Wilson 5 Foundation.

"The Salt Spring community has been wonderfully supportive," said Poole, "whether maintaining pledges made years earlier, or jumping in with significant donations as soon as they'd learned about the project."

The property flanks both sides of undeveloped Lumley Road, which connects Isabella Point Road to Mountain Road; the land's proximity to an 800-acre ecological reserve — as well as a covenanted 76-acre forest reserve — provided a rare opportunity, organizers said, to conserve an almost untouched stretch of natural area in the CDF zone contiguous to currently protected areas — minimizing the fragmentation of forested land in the area.

"Today is a big win for this vital ecosystem and for everyone involved," said Day.

For details visit bcparksfoundation.ca/projects/parks-bank/salt-spring-island/.

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OPINION

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Silver - Best Local Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Silver - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)

2023 BCYCN Awards
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)
Gold - Community Service Award



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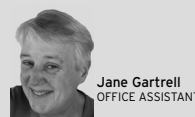
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EDITORIAL

Adverse effects

Since a Ministry of Forests-contracted airplane sprayed Foray 48B on a small part of Salt Spring May 6, fear and anger has been a measurable byproduct.

Some people concerned about the aerial spraying of the long-used pesticide to help eradicate a small spongy moth infestation centred on the Elizabeth Drive area feel residents were not given adequate notice about the plan.

While some may have been aware that spraying was in the works at some point, many did not know that May 6 had been chosen as the first date. Postcards may have been mailed advising generally of the intention to spray, but the specific date and time was available on short notice via a few roadside signs and the spongy moth website. Even Driftwood readers only heard of a likely "late April/early May" timeframe in a March 27 story. So it is understandable how many people were not aware of the May 6 event.

THE ISSUE: Spray notice

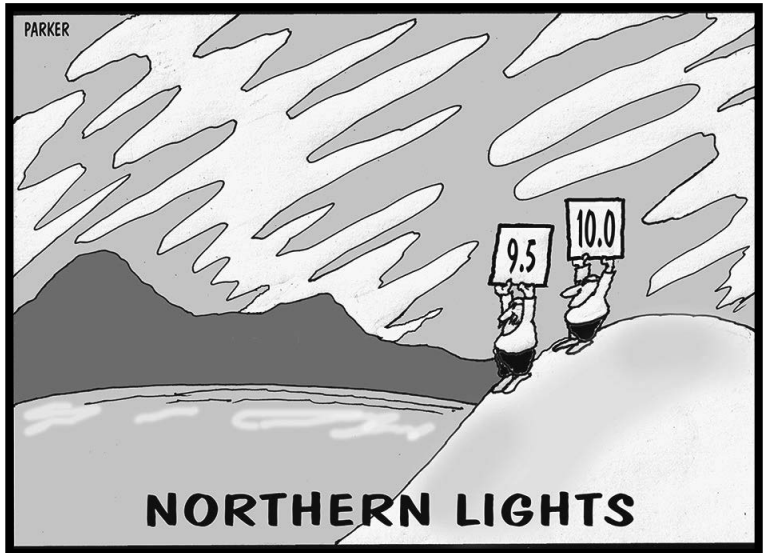
WE SAY: Ministry must do better

Last-minute weather plans notwithstanding, the Ministry of Forests needs to look at its methods of giving notice and do better to ensure affected residents are informed when a day is picked. The ministry's advice is for those concerned to stay indoors while spraying occurs and for up to an hour afterwards; in the May 6 case the spraying was from just after dawn until about 6:15 a.m.

It's easy to create fear with words like "pesticides" and "spraying." No one wants to or should be sprayed with a pesticide. But while this stuff might be icky, cause irritation and discomfort to some people, it is not poisonous and meets credible standards of safety when used properly. And just because the manufacturer advises it should not be spilled into waterways, that does not mean any water it comes in contact with — in any amount — is then contaminated.

With respect to those advocating for an alternate way to stop the establishment of spongy moth populations — and certainly people's concerns should be heard by relevant authorities — this is a case where heeding the advice and long experience of those in the field is warranted.

A May 3 B.C. Environmental Appeal Board decision to dismiss an application for halting spraying thoughtfully analyzes arguments for and against use of aerial spraying of Foray 48B. It can be found on the Canlii.org site by searching Communities United for Clean Air. It's a welcome antidote to fear-based emotional responses that are so easy to find and spread online these days.



Protect farming heritage

BY DONNA SAFFEL

I am writing to express my deep concern over the recent actions taken by the Capital Regional District (CRD)

regarding agricultural activity on ruraly zoned properties on Salt Spring Island.

As a resident who cherishes the unique character and heritage of our island, I believe it is essential to uphold the rights of property owners and respect the historical agricultural culture that has defined Salt Spring for generations.

Salt Spring Island has a rich tradition of agriculture, with small-scale farming playing a pivotal role in shaping our community's identity. From lush vineyards to organic produce farms, our island's agricultural landscape is not only a source of sustenance but also a reflection of our values and way of life. However, recent crackdowns by the CRD threaten to undermine this heritage and disrupt the livelihoods of property owners who depend on agricultural activities for their income.

One particularly contentious issue is the regulation of chickens on rural properties. For many residents, keeping chickens and roosters is not only a practical means of producing fresh eggs but also a cherished aspect of rural living. These small-scale flocks not only provide valuable nutrition but also foster a deeper connection to the land and a sense of self-sufficiency. However, the CRD's crackdown on agricultural activities is threatening to curtail the rights of property owners to keep chickens, further eroding the traditional practices that have long defined life on Salt Spring Island.

VIEWPOINT

It is crucial to recognize that agriculture is not just an economic activity but an integral part of our cultural heritage.

By imposing stringent regulations and restrictions on agricultural practices in rural zones, the CRD is not only limiting the rights of property owners but also stifling the vitality of our agricultural sector. Small-scale farmers and landowners should have the autonomy to cultivate their land in a manner that aligns with the island's agricultural traditions and their own livelihood needs. Instead of heavy-handed enforcement, we need policies that support and encourage sustainable farming practices while preserving the rural character of Salt Spring Island.

Furthermore, it is crucial to recognize that agriculture is not just an economic activity but an integral part of our cultural heritage. For centuries, farming has been woven into the fabric of our island's identity, shaping our traditions, festivals, markets and sense of community.

By neglecting the historical significance of agriculture on Salt Spring, the CRD risks eroding the very essence of what makes our island special. As stewards of this land, it is our responsibility to protect and nurture Salt Spring Island's agricultural legacy for future generations. I urge the CRD to reconsider its approach and work collaboratively with property owners and stakeholders to develop policies that uphold the rights of landowners while safeguarding our island's rich agricultural heritage, including the freedom to keep chickens on rural properties.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you care enough to follow the Trust Policy Statement process?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you support use of Foray 48B to combat spongy moths?

80 YES 113 NO

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at noon or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at noon.

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Support local food production

Home vegetable gardens and backyard chicken-keeping are essential to food resilience and health here on Salt Spring, in addition to small-scale farming. Our small flock of a dozen hens produce ample eggs for the family, and more to share in the high season.

Because I believe that home egg production, where feasible, is key to sustainable food security on Salt Spring Island, I volunteer at the schools to help classes hatch poultry in incubators. They learn about embryology and how to raise poultry in a caring manner, and perhaps most importantly, where their food comes from.

After tending the newborn chicks for a few weeks in class, parents may sign-up to take chicks home. (Some call me "the poultry pusher.") Through this program, the Salt Spring Island Poultry Club has supported many families in setting up small egg-production coops.

We hatch heritage breeds at the schools so that the students who take birds home can enter them in the fall fair competitions to continue with their agricultural learning. These opportunities wouldn't be possible without the small-scale heritage breeders here who donate fertile eggs and keep many rare breeds alive. The family under fire from the CRD bylaw enforcement department has been contributing to these school programs for years. Some school families have also been forced by the

complaint-driven CRD noise bylaw to give up their birds, which can be hard on a child.

As we navigate the challenges of the 21st century, it is essential to recognize the importance of supporting and expanding local food production. By supporting small-scale farming and accepting the sound of a well-kept rooster in our neighbourhoods, we can reduce our reliance on imported goods and strengthen our local economy. Villages around the world wake to rooster calls each morning, let's not remain silent on Salt Spring.

ROBIN JENKINSON,
SALT SPRING

Aerial spraying a nightmare

I am writing in response to the front page "Spray Day" image and caption featured in last week's Driftwood.

While it may have been "calm" where reporter Robb Magley was on the morning of May 6 when the first "dose" of Foray 48B was sprayed over my neighbourhood, wind was estimated by an observer to be 19 to 28 km/hr across St. Mary Lake, with spray seen blowing back over the lake, which provides drinking water to 1,400 households.

Spraying in winds over eight km/hr is a clear violation of the province's Integrated Pest Management Act, the federal Pest Control Products Act, and the conditions of the Pesticide Use Permit held by the Minis-

try of Forests.

The safety data sheet for Foray 48B warns it must not be released in waterways. Duck Creek — home to cutthroat trout and coho salmon — is directly in the spray zone.

I am the owner of Duck Creek Farm. While Btk, the active ingredient in Foray 48B, may be used by some organic farms in limited and targeted ways, I choose not to use chemical sprays, ever. Repeated doses of this pesticide, with 87 per cent undisclosed ingredients, can kill all caterpillars, moths and butterflies for two to three years.

This aerial spraying has been nightmarish for me and many of my neighbours — scrambling to protect crops, pets, elders and children. Many islanders are willing and eager to help with mass trapping and other non-invasive spongy moth control methods, as was done on Salt Spring Island in 2006. Instead, we are being forced to douse our homes and the land we love with an unknown cocktail of chemicals.

I personally do not think "Spray Day" is something to celebrate.

SUE EARLE,
DUCK CREEK FARM

Safer cycling possible

The cycling season is upon us (it never ends for many island cyclists).

Our society's transition to safer cycling is

a challenging one. For example, wider road shoulders for cyclists on the 19 km Fulford-Ganges-Vesuvius link of the regional Salish Sea Trail Network are needed. They've been talked about for decades and nothing gets done. Last June, we were promised imminent improvements to 1.3 km of the Ganges Hill, yet nothing has changed one year later. Hopefully we'll see action this year.

Emcon, the road maintenance contractor, has a role to play in safer cycling. Sweeping away dirt from the too-narrow paved road shoulders is a start (and much more needs to be done). Recent plowing back of the grass on the dirt shoulder along Lees Hill by Emcon is helpful.

The new 30 km/hr posted speed limit in Ganges is helpful too. Maybe the next step is to reduce the 80km/hr posted speed limits on the Island to 60 so vehicles pass cyclists at a slower and safer speed.

The next provincial initiative to protect vulnerable road users, like cyclists and pedestrians, is coming June 3. That's the date when safe passing distance regulations come into effect (one metre on roads with 50 km/hr or less posted speeds and 1.5 metres for higher speed roads). Failing to maintain prescribed minimum passing distances could net drivers a ticket with a \$368 fine and three driver penalty points. Let's make it safer and avoid the penalties. Get the word out to all drivers to follow the new law.

STEVE NEW,
WHIMS ROAD

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

{ QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"My concern about [the Foray 48B insecticide issue] is that there's a lot of inaccurate information that's spreading in the community . . . about three parts inaccurate information to one part accurate."

BRIAN WEBSTER, LCC COMMISSIONER, ON REACTION TO SPRAYING

The curious business of the neighbours' black and white cat

I have always liked cats. Like many of you, I grew up with a cat or two. One cat we had we never could agree what to call it so it was stuck with "Kitty," "Puss" and "Cat." The cat never seemed to mind as long as his or her cat dish was there. We were never sure of its gender either, although now that I'm older, the fact that "cat" never had kittens meant it must have been a boy cat. But never mind all that, I want to tell you about my neighbour's cat.

It wasn't one of those special cats. You know the kind I mean. It was an inside/outside cat with black and white fur. It roamed the backyards, climbed the fences, terrorized the local birds and didn't mind eating out of whatever food dish it could find. It wasn't a rescue cat. In those days there were no rescue cats that I ever heard of anyway.

My neighbours went away quite often for short periods, like long weekends, and they left the cat at home. It had a cat door and seemed quite well-fed. I saw

it a lot, walking my back fence pretending he wasn't looking at the robins. The robins never took their eyes off him, and good for them.

I came home one night and saw their black and white cat lying on the road, quite dead. This is not going to be a really sad story, but there is only one way to tell it and that's to tell it like it is. Or was. I went down after parking, and brought the black and white cat up to my backyard. I wanted to tell my neighbours, but then I remembered that they had gone away for the long weekend. I didn't know what to do. Their cat was dead and they were away.

I wondered if I should bury their cat, but where? In their yard? Not a good idea since people might see me digging a hole in their garden and call the police. Imagine what the cops would say to me, like, "Why are you digging a hole in your neighbour's yard? Sir?" "You see, I am burying their cat." "Really? How did it die?" You see my dilemma. Maybe they might think I was a cat-hater trying



Chris Rideout

AND THAT WAS WHEN

ing to bury the evidence of my crime. So in my mind there was only one thing to do.

I wanted to be able to show my neighbours what had happened to their cat while they were away. So I froze it. Yes, that's right, I wrapped that black and white cat tenderly in tight plastic and laid him carefully on top of the frozen peas and stuff and closed the door, and went upstairs and went to bed. I thought about how relieved my neighbours were going to be when they discovered that their beloved cat was not just missing. At this point you may have already guessed where this story is going. Me too.

My neighbours came home a few days later and I went over

to explain what had happened and how I had saved their cat from an anonymous grave in my yard. As I approached their door, a black and white cat came out the cat door. I now had a brand-new problem: whose cat was in my freezer lying on the frozen peas? I explained all this to my neighbours and they didn't know whose cat I had but they thanked me for my almost good deed. I now had a new and in a way, an equally odd task. I had to find out whose cat I had.

I put an ad in the little local paper. No results. I decided I either had to go door to door asking if their cat was missing or, well, there was no "or." Maybe I should wait and see. But the thing is, a frozen cat takes up a lot of freezer space, especially because it has to lie on top — you can't put him down at the bottom with last year's preserves and frozen meat loaves. And a frozen cat is big and heavy. I mean, take a look at your cat or any other cat you see walking around. Now imagine it stretched out and now

of flattened. See what I mean?

Okay, so in the end I did go door to door. Think about it: a stranger comes to your door and asks if your cat is still alive or maybe it's missing. People probably thought: who is this weirdo asking if our cat is still alive? Does he want something? Is he selling plots for pet cemeteries? Why has he picked my house, and hey, where is our cat anyway? So I had to stop my door to door stuff. And I never did find out whose cat it was.

It turned out that vets took care of situations like this. So finally, there I was at my local vet's office with a rather large bag inquiring if they had a nice way of disposing of a frozen cat. To their credit, they all kept very straight faces. For all I knew, this was a regular thing for them. For \$50 they would include my frozen kitty in their weekly run to the crematorium. I paid.

Now, when I happen to come across a dead animal in my neighbourhood, I give a silent wave and pass on by.



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WHAT A SHOW!



PHOTOS BY MOLLY MAGLEY

Tsunami Circus' youth performers dazzled audiences on opening night for their Rainbow Kaleidoscope show Thursday, May 9, kicking off four sold-out Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) gym performances over the weekend. Above left, Xzana Nesbitt on the silks; above right, Jaqueline Wightman (top) and Inara Wallace (bottom) on the stacked trapeze; and on the "cube" are Sophie Wertman, Clara Wardlaw, Emme Hannah, Arawyn Steeves, Steph Cowan and Sophie Hermann.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Stand with rooster owners

As someone who was born and raised on this rural island, I am troubled by the recent attacks on rooster noise, particularly when it disproportionately affects those who rely on farming for their livelihoods. It is disheartening to hear that despite extensive mitigation efforts and cooperation with the Capital Regional District (CRD), one of the property owners is still facing legal action for alleged nuisance noise.

What is particularly troubling is that these property owners are operating on rurally zoned land, where agricultural use is not only permitted but encouraged. It is evident that there is a lack of consideration for the longstanding cultural significance of farming in the CRD's enforcement actions. Instead of fostering collaboration and understanding, the CRD's approach only serves to undermine the rights of these farmers.

We must stand in solidarity with those who are being unfairly targeted and advocate for fair treatment and respect for our fundamental right to grow food. We cannot allow bureaucratic overreach to threaten the livelihoods of our neighbours and the sustainability of our rural way of life. The upcoming trial date for this local family is this Friday, May 17, at 9:30 a.m. at the

Victoria provincial court house.

Farming is a way of life on Salt Spring; that contributes to the vibrant culture of our community. Let us not forget the importance of preserving our island's farming roots and ensuring that we can continue to thrive in harmony with the land.

BROOKE SHERGOLD,
SALT SPRING

Rescue appreciated

Jill Oakes (skipper) and I (crew) would like to send a big bunch of roses to the kind couple in the lovely new powerboat who rescued us from Ganges Harbour on Sunday, May 5 as we were trying to get control of Jill's sturdy F15, Robyn Hood, for the annual sail past parade at the Salt Spring Sailing Club.

Yes, the winds were indeed blustery, and we were indeed perhaps foolish to be out there given our relative inexperience. But we learned a lot, including later how to tack in precisely such winds, and that using the mast is actually perfect for towing.

We thought you'd be pleased to know that we built on that experience to sail in the club race that afternoon from which we emerged in second place (granted, those were club handicap results, but still, we were pretty chuffed).

Thanks again for your kindness, sorry for your trouble!

KRISTI NORGET,
SALT SPRING



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EXHIBITIONS

Eclectic Visions images shared

Annual photo club show
at Gallery 8

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Salt Spring Photography Club (SSPC) will kick off its 15th annual Eclectic Visions exhibition this Friday, May 17, with a reception and performance at Gallery 8 by island musician Wilf Davies.

The club's exhibition runs from the opening reception at 5 p.m. Friday through Thursday, May 30 at Razali May's Grace Point Square space — and Davies said he was looking forward to his performance.

"I'm delighted to play for this reception in Gallery 8," said Davies. "It's a great venue, and the instrument is a nice one."

Many images at this year's show are digitally enhanced, merged, scaled or coloured, according to SSPC president Judy McPhee; some are printed on metal, art papers or canvas, she said, and technology is evident in the evolution of visions.

But the purist can also find camera direct photos that are beautiful, stirring, and artistically desirable.

"Every year we share our finest efforts with the audience at Gallery 8," said McPhee. "Every member of our club sees a unique vision and this exhibit gives each one the chance to share that vision with the community."

Eclectic Visions will showcase the variety and diversity of SSPC members' creative photographic talent, according to May — a perfect reflection of their arrayed membership, from seasoned professional photographers to new and



PHOTO BY JUDY MCPHEE

Barn Light, by Salt Spring Photography Club member and president Judy McPhee, one of the many photos on display at Eclectic Visions at Gallery 8 beginning May 17.

relatively inexperienced beginners.

"This year's exhibit is fresh and interesting," said May. "Eclectic Visions' is exactly what this exhibit presents — a wide-ranging collection of photographic subjects that often have little in common, other than being great photographs in themselves. It's a chance for our community to enjoy fine photography from local artists."

Gulf Islands Secondary School Grade 10 photographer Galveston Gill has been invited to show some of his photography with SSPC members at Gallery 8 this year. Gill has been photographing since age seven, when he began borrowing his grandmother's Canon EOS camera. He entered his photos in the fall

fair for the first time in 2015 and since then has won five different trophies in this venue — and the Salt Spring Photo High Aggregate Perpetual trophy many times, due to several "Best in Show" photo wins over the years.

Gill was also chosen student photographer for the Photosynthesis Show in 2023.

"I would like to take photos professionally," said Gill. "I like to photograph nature, animals and action."

Gallery 8 hours are 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday and 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. Sunday.

SSPC meets the second Wednesday of each month. For more information, visit ssphotog.ca.

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LIVE MUSIC

Jazz night at Mateada on May 22



PHOTO COURTESY IAIN DUNCAN

Salt Spring jazz saxophonist Iain Duncan, who has organized monthly dinner and jazz events with the folks at Mateada in Ganges.

Second in monthly series

A new monthly live jazz concert series launched last month at Mateada returns next Wednesday, May 22, featuring saxophonist Iain Duncan and guests Nick Peck on the organ and Andrew Janusson on guitar.

Duncan has teamed up with Mateada to offer jazz on a middle-of-the-month Wednesday of each month. Duncan will bring a rotating cast of some of the finest musicians from Salt Spring and Vancouver Island, performing soul, jazz, standards, blues and bossa novas.

Duncan said the premier on April 17 was "a resounding success," and featured recent Salt Spring

arrival Alex Pinto on guitar and Nanaimo upright bassist Brock Meades.

A Salt Spring local since early 2022, Duncan holds a Master of Music from the University of Victoria, where he has appeared in the Victoria Jazz Festival and numerous other venues. He is currently an interdisciplinary PhD student in Music and Computer Science at the University of Victoria.

Mateada dinner service begins at 6 p.m., with by-donation music starting at 7 p.m., and as April's concert saw all the tables fill up, reservations are recommended.

Future dates are June 19 and July 17.

To donate to the series or join the email list, contact iaincnduncan@gmail.com.

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Ian Thomas: Past & Present

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Walkabouts with Ian:
May 12 & 19 | 2pm



May 4-26
Exhibition

artspring.ca
tickets.artspring.ca
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ALL SMILES: Seen at the opening event for the Tossed & Found 7 exhibit at Salt Spring Gallery, on until May 22, are, from left standing, Braven Rayne, Gillian McConnell, Shirley Command, Peter Allan and Alicja Swiatlon; and from left, crouched are Zosia Balec and Nycki Samuels. Missing from the photo are Sabine Roodenburg and Rae-Anne Huth. The focus of Tossed & Found is artwork created from discarded or recycled items.

what's on this week

Wed. May 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Poetry Reading Night. Part of Ian Thomas exhibition events at ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

Dan Smith. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Taoist Tai Chi Arts Open House. All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church. 6 p.m.

Mount Maxwell Community Park Info Session. SIMS. 6:30 p.m.

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

Thur. May 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Venus Conundrum: A Fustercluck of Love. Original comedy with live music from the late 1950s and early 1960s. A Good Company Entertainment Group production. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Vixx. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

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

Under the Rocks. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SSI Local Community Commission Regular Meeting. SIMS board room. 9 a.m.

SSI Local Trust Committee Regular Meeting. Meaden Hall. 9:30 a.m.

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

Fundraising Rotary Club Bingo Night. Meaden Hall. Doors at 6 p.m. Games from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Must be 19+ to play.

Fri. May 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Venus Conundrum: A Fustercluck of Love. See Thursday's listing.

Synergy. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Fri. May 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Coalition Farewell Show. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Ryan McMahon. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. Is on hiatus this week.

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.

Sat. May 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

The Venus Conundrum: A Fustercluck of Love. See Thursday's listing.

Everyday People. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Woodland Jam. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Odd Luv Band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Andrew Interchill and Bassos Rancheros. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market. In Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Salt Spring Challenge Cup Soccer Tourney. See saltspringmaylong.com/ schedule for schedule and game locations.

Salt Spring Firefighters Association Charitable Boot Drive. Benefitting the Salt Spring Food Bank. Bring food items to fire trucks at Country Grocer and Thrifty Foods parking lots, and Ganges Fire Hall. 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Sun. May 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Richard Garvey. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Sun. May 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Odd Luv Band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

13th Annual Blossom Picnic. Live music, martial arts demonstrations, fun activities for all ages, and delicious foods and sweets. At Heiwa Garden in Peace Park. 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Ian Thomas Exhibition Walkabout. Join the artist on a guided tour of his exhibition at ArtSpring. 2 p.m.

Salt Spring Challenge Cup Soccer Tourney. See Saturday listing.

Mon. May 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mike & Margo. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Open Mic. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Salty Passion Open Mic. Bring anything you are passionate about: music, comedy, drag, poetry, storytelling, dance, burlesque, improv and more! Every other Monday at Lions Hall from 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Challenge Cup Soccer Tourney. See Saturday listing.

Tues. May 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

David Carl. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Folk Jam. With open mic. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Rotary Club-Sponsored Shredder Day. Bring documents to Lions Hall parking lot. 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Poetry of Nature. With Brian Day via Zoom. 7 to 8:30 p.m. Register at staroftheseassi.ca for Zoom link.

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

Wed. May 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Dinner & Jazz with Iain Duncan and Friends. Mateada. 7 p.m. Dinner from 6 p.m.

Tom Hooper. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

CINEMA

• **Luca** runs Friday-Saturday, May 17-18 at 7 p.m. and Sunday, May 19 at 3 p.m.
• **Spy x Family Code: White** runs Sunday, May 19 to Tuesday, May 21 at 7 p.m. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Salt Spring Photography Club's annual Eclectic Visions** exhibition is on at Gallery 8 from May 17 to 30, with an opening reception on May 17 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **Ian Thomas: Past and Present** runs in the ArtSpring gallery daily to May 26, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. With an artist's walk-about on May 19 at 2 p.m.

• **The Guild Show** features work by members of six island guilds at Mahon Hall until May 20, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

• **Tossed & Found 7** runs at Salt Spring Gallery until May 22.

• **Contemplative Threads**, an exhibition of textile art by Medwyn McConachy, runs in the library program room until May 28.

• **Photographer Hannah Spray** exhibits in the ArtSpring lobby in May.

• **Howard Fry** shows photographs in the Country Grocer cafe through May.

Blossom Picnic

13th annual celebration of Japanese culture and community.
Sunday, May 19, 11 am-2:30 pm
Heiwa Garden in Peace Park

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ISLAND LIFE

PHILATELY

Salt Spring artist creates cancel stamp image

Allan Hancock orca design chosen

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A new cancel stamp is in use at the Ganges Post Office, attracting interest from philatelists across the globe — and designed by a local wildlife artist often known for his work being featured on gold and silver coins from the Royal Canadian Mint.

Allan Hancock said his love for nature and the outdoors was launched when he was quite young, thanks to his grandfather William — Hancock works professionally as W. Allan Hancock.

"He was a big outdoorsman," said Hancock. "When I was a kid, he'd take me out into the bush all the time. That's a big part of my love for the outdoors."

Hancock's artwork has appeared at Canada House Gallery in Banff and White Rock Gallery, as well as on Salt Spring Island at Gallery 8. It first appeared on coins thanks to an unexpected phone call from a project manager at the mint who had seen his work.

"Honestly, at first I thought it was just a joke," he said. "I didn't think that it was a seri-



Ganges postmaster Heather Adshead with Salt Spring artist Allan Hancock, who has created a new and in-demand cancel stamp for the Salt Spring Island post office.

ous phone call."

But after having returned to provide imagery for more than a dozen coins, typically selected from among artists Canada-wide who submit designs — and most recently a pure gold bullion piece featuring a pair of polar bears — Hancock said he was grateful to have been so fortunate. He and his family moved from the Comox Valley to Salt Spring nearly 13 years ago, after coming to the island for a book launch at ArtSpring,



PHOTOS BY ROBB MAGLEY

and it was another phone call, this time from Ganges postmaster Heather Adshead, that brought him in for the cancel stamp.

"It's been a fun project," said Hancock. "And it's something a little bit different."

A "cancel" is an inked stamp, imprinted over postage to indicate the value has been used to mail something — showing the date a letter or parcel was mailed and the post office where it was processed. Hancock said Adshead had warned him that some previ-

ous stamps in her experience would clog with ink, particularly around fine details.

"I always had to clean the old one, if you wanted to get all the ocean on it," said Adshead. "You'd have to clean out the letters. We'd have to wash it."

"I tried to keep that in mind," said Hancock, and he designed the new stamp from a photo he had taken from his kayak, featuring the killer whales lucky islanders see from Salt Spring's shoreline.

"Orcas are wonderful, and it's always exciting to see them, even from the ferry."

Adshead, who noted she had requested the whales, said customers have enjoyed the new cancel. Collectors have been sending return envelopes with a request for the new stamp to be carefully pressed on them to mail back — just cancelling the stamp, but not covering the picture.

"When you're doing one for collectors, you have to press very evenly and make sure all the edges go down without smearing or smudging," said Adshead. "You have to only hit the corner of the stamp."

And they're going all over the world.

"Everybody loves it so far," said Adshead. "Everybody wants one. I think there's 12 years on each stamp, so there's plenty of time."

BOOK LAUNCH

Club hosts adventurers

Coffey and Goering May 25

BY MARGRIET RUURS
FOR SSTNC

The Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club will host a free presentation by Maria Coffey and Dag Goering on Saturday, May 25 at 2 p.m., celebrating adventures in nature as well as the launch of a new book.

Many people around the Salish Sea know the writer/photographer couple.

"Salt Spring has a special place in our hearts," Coffey admitted, and the couple keeps their boat here.

Many years ago, the couple chose travelling over starting a family, a decision that has led to a lifetime of adventures. They have cycled across Vietnam, kayaked Lake Malawi in Africa and explored many unusual places around the world.

When asked which of their adventures was their favourite, Coffey smiled. "It's hard to say, because all the experiences were so different. But the one that stands out is our six-week kayak trip on India's River Ganges in 1992. That trip was life-changing. It turned us inside out, it challenged us on every level, and it became, quite unexpectedly, and especially for me, a spiritual odyssey." She wrote several popular books about each of these trips.

Even though many of her books focus on travel adventures, Coffey said, "All my books have also been very personal stories. My first book, *Fragile Edge*, was a memoir about my relationship with a high-altitude n who died on Everest. I went on to write a succession of travel narratives about my adventures with Dag, and then turned back to the subject of extreme risk in *Where the Mountain Casts its*

Shadow and *Explorers of the Infinite*. These were both more journalistic in style, but with my own story wound through them. Finally, many years after *Fragile Edge* was first published, I returned to memoir with my newest book *Instead*. The original theme was aging, something I'd been in denial about, but, at 66, suddenly could no longer ignore. I wanted to look at challenges I'd faced in my past, to see if the lessons I'd learned then could help me navigate this new and rather frightening terrain ahead. But as I started writing about these challenges, the decision to be child-free kept cropping up. A few chapters in, I realized that this was the big story I needed to examine — with aging just one part of that."

And, as if their world travels, writing and photography aren't enough, the couple runs Hidden Places, a small travel company offering small group trips to places they love and know well. The trips can range from kayaking on the Turkish coast and living aboard a gulet, to walking across the high savannah of Kenya supported by Samburu tribesmen and their camels.

But her newest book, *Instead*, is more than a personal account of a life full of adventure without children or grandchildren. It is also a look at growing older and adapting, learning to go with the flow of life.

"How would our lives have been different," Coffey muses throughout the final chapters, "if we had opted for children?" And when her husband has a major accident, and no children are able to support them, the couple realizes that friends and family are already the support network needed.

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PUBLISHING MAY 29

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Obituaries

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Michael Overholt

February 19, 1940 –
March 27, 2024

It is with great sadness that the family of Michael Overholt announces his sudden passing on March 27, 2024, in Vancouver, B.C.

Michael John Overholt was born in Vancouver, BC, on February 19, 1940, to John (Jack) and Jean Overholt. Mike earned a degree in Commerce from the University of British Columbia and went on to become the successful business owner of Murphy's Stationery, a company founded by his maternal grandfather. He was proud to carry on his grandfather's legacy and continued to grow and modernize the business throughout his career.

Mike enjoyed teaching courses at Simon Fraser University and later sharing knowledge through mentoring. He was a generous supporter of local artists and worthy causes, one of his favourites being the Lady Minto Foundation.

An avid golfer and member of Salt Spring Island and Shaughnessy Golf & Country Clubs, Mike served as Shaughnessy's Men's Golf Captain in 1998 and Club President in 2002. He was also an enthusiastic member of the Salt Spring Eggheads.

During his time at UBC, Mike met his beloved wife and best friend, Linda. They shared 57 wonderful years of marriage together and had two sons, Christopher and Steven.

Mike and Linda divided their time between Vancouver and Salt Spring Island. The two of them had many adventures together and enjoyed travelling, skiing, playing tennis, golfing, boating in Desolation Sound, wintering in Palm Desert, and spending time with friends and family—especially their grandkids.

Mike is survived by his sons Christopher (Yvette) and Steven (Amanda), grandchildren Jacob, Olivia, Woodrow (Rachel), great-granddaughters Sophia and Claire, his sister Lynne (Ken), nephews, great-nieces and nephews, and his adoring Irish Terrier companion Madi.

He is preceded in death by his parents and his wife, Linda.

The family will be holding a private ceremony but invite you to join them afterwards, in a gathering of remembrance, at the Salt Spring Golf Course on June 8, 2024, from 1 pm to 3 pm.

Rest in peace, Mike. Your legacy of hard work, love for family and zest for life will always be cherished.

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

Wednesday
May 29th, 2024 at
7:00 pm in the lower hall
at 901 North End Road.
Public welcome.

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.
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Contact:
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Coming Events

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In Memoriam

In Memoriam

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HOROSCOPE

**WEEK OF
MAY 12 TO 18, 2024**

**THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
VIRGO, LIBRA AND SCORPIO**



ARIES

If you're planning to move, it's time to start packing your belongings and sorting out administrative matters to save time and get ahead of the game. You may also consider a few renovation projects.



TAURUS

Traffic and communication could prove difficult this week. Look for alternative routes and charge your phone battery before leaving the house to prevent unnecessary delays and hassles.



GEMINI

You'll be offered a project and training course. You'll have the necessary financial resources and tools at your disposal to secure your future. You're in the driver's seat of your success.



CANCER

Determination is the key to improving your situation. Act, and you'll succeed. Get the courage to take the first step, and you'll be on your way to success. It's like riding a bike; once you pedal, the momentum carries you forward.



LEO

Impatience may get the better of you in certain situations. You could be upset by feeling stuck in limbo. Taking a step back could help you move forward with greater clarity. A lack of sleep could also cause confusion.



VIRGO

At work, you'll be in charge of planning a meeting or event that brings many people together. You'll also expand your client base, which will boost your income. These days, abundance seems to be within reach.



LIBRA

A project requires special attention, and delays may occur in various areas. Be patient when faced with situations where you must wait, whether on the phone or in a queue.



SCORPIO

The holidays are fast approaching; plan early to ensure the activities or day camps you've thought about for your children are available. Preparation is essential. A project will put you in the spotlight.



SAGITTARIUS

A specific situation will inspire you to think deeply about your professional and personal future. You'll set exciting goals for the next chapter of your life. This is a time for celebration.



CAPRICORN

If you're in a new relationship, your partner could surprise you with a marriage proposal or declare their commitment. Your better half will spectacularly express their love, bringing you joy and happiness. You'll be successful in a negotiation.



AQUARIUS

Trust the Law of Attraction in your professional life. Visualizing your goals will help you achieve them quickly and with surprising ease. You'll close a big deal.



PISCES

You'll be involved in a situation that will highlight your talents and provide you with the means to set new goals. You'll be proud of your achievement, significantly boosting your self-esteem.

**SHOP LOCAL.
SAVE LOCAL**

Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.



FUNDRAISING

Treasure Fair spotlight donation announced

Porsche 356 Speedster replica

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

ArtSpring's best known fundraiser Treasure Fair is announcing its spotlight item, which organizers hope will entice local and off-island bidders to make this popular three-day event in July its most successful effort yet: a Porsche.

Long-time Treasure Fair community chair Catherine Griffiths was so excited by the donation she delayed her retirement from the position, after overseeing 2023's most successful Treasure Fair drive in ArtSpring's history by only \$850.

"There is something magical about this opportunity that aligns with ArtSpring's 25th Anniversary Celebration," says Griffiths. "An anonymous donor reached out after reading an article in the Driftwood about last year's Treasure Fair, and wanting to support the arts on Salt Spring, he felt compelled to put up this very generous opportunity."

A collector's item, the vehicle is a Porsche 356 Speedster replica built from the ground up based on the 1956 iconic model with a main frame chassis from a 1968 Volkswagen

Beetle custom restored by sought-after Vintage Motors in California. The rest of the components are brand new. The car has only 670 kilometres on the engine.

More details are expected to be released, including information for curious bidders seeking to see the car in person, which is planned to be hosted on-site at ArtSpring as of July 2 during opening hours.

While this may be a five-figure highlight item, donations are rushing in that will give bidders plenty to consider at all price points and interests. Already, bucket list vacations to the Yukon, vintage furniture, artworks, lifestyle experiences, art and concert experiences, sporting and gardening equipment, jewellery, sailing trips and more have been added to the auction database.

Last day for donations is June 19 and information is available about tax receipts from the Treasure Fair team. Some limited storage is available. Interested donors and online bidders are required to register at Treasure Fair's auction site, which can be found at treasurefair.artspring.ca

Donors and registrants are invited to the Preview Gala on Wednesday, July 10 from 4 to 6 p.m. to see an advance presentation of items in person. Bidding opens online at 6 p.m. and closes Saturday at 6 p.m.

The 2024 Treasure Fair fundraising goal is \$55,000.



PHOTO BY KIRSTEN BOLTON

ArtSpring executive and artistic director Howard Jang in the Porsche 356 Speedster replica based on an iconic 1956 model that will be up for bid at the 2024 Treasure Fair auction in July.

FESTIVALS

Blossom Picnic celebrates Japanese culture

Annual Heiwa Garden event brings community together

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Japanese Garden Society and Salt Spring Japanese community are ready to welcome everyone to the 13th Annual Blossom Picnic at Heiwa Garden in the Peace Park on Sunday, May 19.

The free event runs from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., weather permitting, with plans for martial arts demonstrations, live classical and popular Japanese music, a Tate samurai sword performance and a Bon Odori dance.

Kid-friendly activities include a paper airplane making and flying contest; making origami ninja stars and target shooting; go fish y-o-yo water balloons; and "pick an Omikuni slip and read your fortune" activity.

People of all ages are also encouraged to dress up in a Japan-themed costume or as an anime character for a chance to win a prize.

As always, delicious food, including homestyle Inari sushi and an Oboro sushi bento lunch, is available for purchase. To pre-order the Inari sushi, people should email heiwagarden-saltspring@gmail.com or call 250-653-0099 by May 18 at 3 p.m.

For more information, people can email info@saltspringjapanesegarden.com.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Taiko drummer Tsugio Kurushima performing at the 2023 Blossom Picnic. This year's event is on Sunday, May 19.

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
15	1:05	11	3.35	19	2:44	9.9	3.02
	17:21	4	1.22		9:49	4.5	1.37
16	14:42	10.7	3.26	20	16:55	8.6	2.62
	9:01	7.2	2.19		21:12	7.5	2.29
	11:37	7.3	2.22		25:54	9.8	2.99
17	18:22	4.9	1.49	21	10:11	3.5	1.07
	21:10	10.5	3.2		17:50	9.2	2.8
	9:09	6.3	1.92		22:00	8.2	2.5
18	13:56	7.4	2.26	22	25:59	9.7	2.96
	19:23	5.9	1.8		10:34	2.6	0.79
	2:31	10.2	3.11		18:35	9.8	2.99
	9:28	5.4	1.65		22:47	8.7	2.65
	15:41	7.9	2.41		3:04	9.8	2.99
	20:21	6.7	2.04		10:59	1.8	0.55
					19:15	10.3	3.14
					23:34	9.2	2.8

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Summer is almost here and we're ready to welcome you on board.

We're ready to welcome you on board our fleet of 37 vessels, servicing 47 terminals across 25 routes, to connect you with the people and places you love.

From June 1 – September 5, we expect to welcome over 8 million passengers and 3.2 million vehicles on board over fifty-six thousand sailings. System-wide, that's capacity for over 5 million vehicles. On our busiest routes we've added nearly 400 additional sailings compared to last year.

Preparing our fleet for summer

We've taken steps to ensure all our vessels are set to sail successfully this summer:

- More refits completed in advance of peak season
- We completed the majority of scheduled vessel maintenance by May; remaining vessels will be completed after peak season
- We completed rotor replacements on all three of our Coastal Class vessels

Hiring for peak season

Over 550 new people are joining us, to help you on your way this summer. We're offering improved rates of pay, guaranteed shifts and options to stay on after peak season to build a career on the coast. Interested in joining our crew? Visit bcferries.com/careers to explore opportunities we're hiring for and apply today.

Booking in advance recommended

The best way to avoid waits is to book in advance. If popular sailings are sold out, consider travel at less busy times. Walking on board is a good option to avoid sailing waits, you can book in advance as a foot passenger on our busiest routes.

Tsawwassen - Southern Gulf Islands is a fully reservable route. Booking in advance is strongly recommended, especially over long weekends.

More Saver fares than ever

This summer, more than 30% of all bookable fares on our most popular routes will be Saver fares. That's 500,000+ fares starting at \$49* on routes between Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island, and from \$39* on Metro Vancouver – Sunshine Coast and Powell River – Vancouver Island routes.

Saver fares are offered on sailings at off-peak times. Foot passengers and our commercial customers can take advantage of Saver fares on select routes and sailings too. Book now while Saver fares last.

Travel to and from Nanaimo

Horseshoe Bay provides service to three routes and is our busiest terminal. If sailings between Horseshoe Bay and Nanaimo (Departure Bay) are sold out or there are sailing waits on your day of travel, consider travel between Tsawwassen and Nanaimo (Duke Point) where we're adding service with a third vessel deployed to the route this summer.

More service for the Sunshine Coast

From June 1 - September 5, we've added more service between Horseshoe Bay and Langdale on the Sunshine Coast, with 2,237 sailings over the summer. That's 13% more sailings compared to last year.

Parking and Transit

Check parking capacity on bcferries.com on your day of travel, as lots fill up quickly, especially on long weekends. Public transit, ride-sharing or drop-offs are good options if they work for you.

Arrive early, arrived prepared

If you booked in advance, arrive 45 - 60 minutes before your sailing. Have your booking number ready and tap to pay for a quick check in. If you plan to drive on without a booking at peak times, arrive prepared for sailing waits. Bring snacks and water in case you have to wait to enter the terminal and for terminals with limited food and beverage options on approach.

When you drive on board, park close to the vehicle in front of you so we can board as many passengers as possible. Please consider disarming your alarm for the benefit of passengers, crew and especially pets. Check your vehicle's owner manual for instructions on how to disarm your alarm.

Drive safely between terminals

If you're driving between terminals to board a connecting sailing, please drive safely and with respect for the communities we serve, follow posted speed limits and do not block driveways outside terminals.

Shuttle mode to keep you moving

On shorter routes, when traffic builds up, vessels enter shuttle mode - the vessel won't wait for the scheduled departure time, it will load-and-go. This helps us clear traffic and get you to your destination as quickly as possible. When vessels enter shuttle mode, we'll post a service notice on our website and update digital screens at the terminal to let you know. Shuttle mode routes include:

- Denman Island West - Buckley Bay
- Denman Island East - Hornby Island
- Campbell River - Quadra Island
- Nanaimo Harbour - Gabriola Island
- Skidegate - Alliford Bay

More pet areas on outer decks

Dogs on leashes and cats in carriers have access to new outdoor, upper deck pet areas on six vessels servicing the following routes: Horseshoe Bay – Departure Bay, Horseshoe Bay – Langdale, Powell River – Comox, Earls Cove – Saltery Bay. The majority of our vessels have indoor pet areas too. Water, waste bags and waste bins are available for all four legged passengers.

Stay cool and hydrated

Travel with sun protection for you and your pets. Ferries and terminal buildings have AC and refillable water stations. The outer decks are a good place to cool down once you're underway. At our busiest terminals, tents and misting stations will be in place to provide relief from the heat.

Current Conditions expansion

We've expanded the number of terminals with Current Conditions information on our website and app. Real-time vessel tracking, live cams of terminal staging areas and service notices for 30 minor routes are now available all in one place.

On your day of travel, check Current Conditions on bcferries.com or the BC Ferries App. Sign up for route specific Service Notices to receive emails with critical updates.

We look forward to welcoming you on board.



*Fares shown are in Canadian dollars. Saver fare prices range from \$39.00 - \$59.00 for a standard under-height vehicle and driver, including a complimentary reservation for travel between Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay) – Sunshine Coast (Langdale), return. For travel between Comox (Little River) – Powell River (Westview), \$39.00 Saver fares are based on one standard under-height vehicle, including driver fare and a reservation, travelling one-way in either direction. Saver fare prices range from \$49.00 - \$79.00 for a standard under-height vehicle and driver, including a complimentary reservation on the following routes: Vancouver (Tsawwassen) - Victoria (Swartz Bay), Vancouver (Tsawwassen) - Nanaimo (Duke Point) or Vancouver (Horseshoe Bay) - Nanaimo (Departure Bay). Fuel surcharges not included. BC Reg. 48839.

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