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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

PEDAL TO THE METAL: Dave Kushneriuk, aka Beach Dave, who is passionate about removing garbage and debris from beaches and other areas of Salt Spring, shows the effectiveness of his new clean-up tool, a "Beast" metal magnet that scooped up a handful of nails in no time at all during a special clean-up event organized by local members of RAVEN Trust on the beach behind Beachside in Ganges on Saturday.

HOUSING

Reprieve granted for 'illegal' dwellings

Trustees cite workforce housing shortage as enforcement files closed

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring officials have further reduced the island's bylaw enforcement footprint, with local trustees setting the trigger for staff action on non-permitted dwellings at the literal dumping of septic waste on the land.

The latest move by the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) directed staff to close bylaw enforcement files currently open for those properties "where there is no evidence of disposal of waste on land."

Islands Trust compliance and enforcement manager Warren Dingman had presented a recommendation the land use authority step back from enforcement on those homes during the LTC's regular meeting Thursday, June 6, alongside an overview of the current number of open enforcement files on all bylaw matters, which before the meeting numbered 236.

With the new resolution, that number will likely fall to under 200; Dingman estimated 40 of the 45 relevant enforcement files would be closed.

The resolution would not mean amnesty for those believed to have committed other offences to the land use bylaw, Dingman noted, such as having built without approval in an environmentally sensitive area; nor, he said, would it mean property owners were exempt from the regulations of other agencies, like Island Health or the Capital Regional District.

But for residences currently subject to enforcement from the Islands Trust strictly because of being non-permitted under the land use bylaw, those owners — and, possibly, their tenants — could be made immediately aware they were no longer being monitored by Trust bylaw staff.

LTC continued on 2

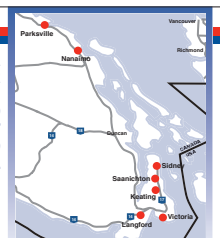
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INTERNATIONAL AID

Island's excess Covid PPE shared with Ukraine

Community effort from 2020 keeps on giving

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Personal protective equipment made but not used on Salt Spring Island during the early days of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 has found a new home in Ukraine.

Last week, Bruce Brown and Bob Beckett of the Van-

couver Island Supports Ukraine (VISU) group came to the island to pick up several containers of isolation gowns and protective face shields made by community members.

According to Martha Taylor of the Salt Spring Community Health Society (SSCHS) board, the Community-Made Personal Protective Equipment Initiative was a partnership between local physicians and the SSCHS, which secured grants from the Salt Spring Island Foundation and Lady Minto Hospital Foundation to purchase materials to quickly manufacture the much-needed items for health care workers as a world-wide shortage suddenly existed with unprecedented demand. Volunteer sewers and people who knew how to use laser cutters and 3D printers were quickly mobilized to make the gear.

"As a result of over 1,100 volunteer hours, 129 isolation gowns and 119 protective face shields were distributed to health care workers outside the hospital and recognized health and social service organizations, including fire departments and search and rescue on Salt Spring Island, as well as Pender and Galiano islands," said Taylor. "Any organization that needed more supplies was restocked in October 2020, amounting to another 20 isolation gowns and 42 face shields."

VISU describes itself as "a local group of humanitarians, working closely with various municipalities on South Vancouver Island and organizations such as GlobalMedic, Victoria Hand Project and WUNDERfund to continue to support the people of Ukraine."

"We're very pleased this equipment is going to Ukraine where we're sure it's sorely needed," said Taylor.

VISU's first Ukraine-related project was to raise some \$400,000 and partner with GlobalMedic Canada to provide food and meals for more than 81,000 internally displaced Ukrainians. Then in February of 2023, the aid focus shifted to getting medical equipment to area hospitals, educational school supplies and fire rescue equipment. The current fundraising project is to create a breast-milk bank for a children's hospital in Ukraine, for which donations will be gratefully received. See the project description and GoFundMe page link at vancouverislandssupportsukraine.ca, or contact Brown at 250-888-7062 or bmbis@shaw.ca, or Beckett at 250-818-2791 or bob.g.beckett@outlook.com.



PHOTO BY BOB BECKETT
Bruce Brown of the Vancouver Island Supports Ukraine group loads up a vehicle with personal protective equipment made by Salt Spring volunteers in 2020 and donated by the Salt Spring Community Health Society.

Windsor Plywood

Waste management key to exemptions

LTC

continued from 1

"People are having to resort to illegal forms of housing, because that's all there is on this island," said trustee Laura Patrick, who said she believed the number of Salt Spring workers living in unpermitted or otherwise illegal rentals probably numbered in the "thousands."

"And we know if we were to get rid of [that housing], the grocery stores would close, the hospital would be closed, schools would be closed," said Patrick. "This isn't a minor issue."

Trustee Jamie Harris agreed — "At this point, you hate to enforce against anyone," he said — but expressed concerns on septic discharge, joining Patrick in rejecting an early suggestion the LTC could simply close all enforcement files. Dingman said staff's biggest concerns were not with properties where people had effected non-standard waste management systems, but rather

those with no management of human waste at all.

"There's a big difference between having an outhouse, or a compost system, or 'here's this system I engineered and built myself to dispose of my waste,'" said Dingman, "and when we see people who just run some pipes. They're literally dumping their waste — grey and black — out onto the land on some part of their property."

Dingman said bylaw staff had seen properties dumping septic waste into low-lying areas, or purpose-built open pits — or "just letting it flow downhill somewhere," he said.

"The LTC has been clear that housing is the priority," said Dingman. "The offence in the local land use bylaw is 'the disposal of waste on land.' So if there's no disposal of waste on land — if someone's getting it pumped out, they have receipts — that's adequate."

Trustees were unanimous in the motion to close all but those "most

egregious" files; LTC chair Tim Peterson suggested staff bring additional reporting back to the committee on specifics for the remaining properties, to see if enforcement "needed to go further, or be more permissive" at that point.

With the closure of non-permitted dwelling files, the largest remaining number of open files in a single category relate to short-term vacation rentals (STVRs) — 77, according to the report — followed by 37 surrounding a lack of development permits for work underway in designated development permit areas. While fewer, according to Dingman, other significant concerns include non-permitted land uses such as the operation of campgrounds and storage of derelict vehicles or travel trailers.

Salt Spring's LTC voted to cease proactive enforcement against STVRs two months ago, citing both "confusing" bylaw regulations surrounding them and limited staff resources.

TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

JUNE 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
12	15:40	3.3	1.01	16	1:00	10.3	3.14
	23:56	11	3.35		8:36	4.5	1.37
	7:08	7.4	2.26		16:17	8.2	2.5
13	9:16	7.5	2.29	17	19:03	8	2.44
	16:23	4.5	1.37		1:11	10.1	3.08
	0:23	10.8	3.29		9:03	3.5	1.07
14	7:38	6.5	1.98	18	17:28	9.1	2.78
	11:44	7.1	2.16		20:20	8.8	2.68
	17:07	5.7	1.74		1:16	10	3.05
15	0:44	10.5	3.2	19	9:30	2.6	0.79
	8:07	5.5	1.68		18:12	9.8	2.99
	14:11	7.4	2.26		21:31	9.4	2.87
	17:58	6.9	2.1		1:21	10	3.05
					9:59	1.7	0.52
					18:46	10.4	3.17
					22:34	9.7	2.96

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Day in the Life shoot day set for June 22

All photos welcomed

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

It's time for the Driftwood's annual Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island photo shoot, and everyone is invited to contribute.

This year marks the 21st consecutive event that sees photographs taken over a 24-hour period and published in a special pull-out section later in July. The 2024 date and time is Saturday, June 22 at 6 a.m. to Sunday, June 23 at 6 a.m., which falls on the island's first Indigenous Peoples Weekend.

People are welcome to submit one, two or up to

20 photos of friends, family, pets, coworkers or things and people seen out and about on the island during that time period. Photos should be at least one megabyte in size and include caption information plus the time of day the photo was taken.

Submissions deadline is Wednesday, July 10. Photos can be emailed to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com, sent by other transfer services, or brought into the Driftwood office on a thumb drive.

While registration is not required, having an idea of how many people plan to participate is appreciated. Driftwood editor Gail Sjuberg is the contact person at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com or 250-537-9933 and can answer any questions people may have.



PHOTOS BY NANCY JOHNSON

AWARDS NIGHT: Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) Class of 2024 graduates, plus School District 64 personnel, family and community members gather for an event emceed by GISS principal Ryan Massey, at left, to award 86 scholarships and bursaries to graduating students. In a break from tradition, financial award announcements were made at a separate event rather than at the graduation ceremony, which takes place this Saturday, June 15. See the Driftwood's salute to the Class of 2024 with photos of grads, scholarship and bursary winners, congratulatory ads and more inside this issue of the paper.

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ISLANDS TRUST

Salt Spring to host Trust Council meeting

June 18 to 20 at Harbour House Hotel

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Islands Trust marked 50 years since the proclamation of the Islands Trust Act on June 5 and will celebrate in person when trustees and staff meet on Salt Spring Island for their quarterly business meeting.

Proceedings will take place at the Harbour House Hotel from Tuesday, June 18 to Thursday, June 20, with most sessions open to the public.

The agenda gets underway at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, with highlights including a trustee roundtable with reports from all islands in the federation, and the delegations and public comment session from 2 to 3 p.m.

Registered delegations are Ted Olynik with a BC Hydro operations update; Peter Pare from The Gulf Islands Sue Big Oil Group; Glenn Stevens of the Clean and Safe Harbours Initiative; Ronald Wright of Keep Salt Spring Sustainable; and Jennifer Margison of Friends of the Gulf Islands.

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen will give a presentation on Inclusive Governance at 5:45 p.m., with the meeting adjourning at approximately 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, June 19 is devoted primarily to strategic planning, from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m., followed by business from the administrative and planning services arms of the Trust until about 5:30 p.m.

Trustees will begin Friday morning in a closed session, and are expected to convene publicly for new business items such as trustee-initiated requests for decisions at 10 a.m.

At 12:15 p.m., the meeting will hear a presentation and a question-and-answer session from Ryan Greville, manager of the Navigable Waters Protection department of Transport Canada on actions to address

wrecked, abandoned or hazardous vessels on the coast, including use of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act.

According to a news release issued by the Trust last week and marking the 50th anniversary, "the Province of British Columbia created Islands Trust in 1974 in response to rates of development in the Gulf Islands and the need to protect the unique amenities and environment of the region. Today, Islands Trust preserves and protects the islands in the context of many complex challenges, including climate change, lack of affordable housing, freshwater limitations, hundreds of species of risk, and development and tourism pressures.

"Over the past five decades, Islands Trust has evolved to meet new challenges and opportunities. The organization is deeply committed to reconciliation with Indigenous Peoples. It is also working to address housing equity and climate change-related challenges."

"For 50 years, Islands Trust has been working to preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment of these islands. Our commitment to protecting these islands for future generations remains as strong as ever. We are proud of our history and excited about our future as we continue to adapt and innovate in response to a changing world," said Islands Trust chair Peter Luckham.

Minister of Municipal Affairs Anne Kang commented: "For half a century, the residents of the Gulf Islands have come together to preserve and protect the special context of their community. That's why today we are not only celebrating this anniversary by looking back at its legacy but also by looking forward to future challenges that will be taken up by those dedicated to serving their communities, working toward further reconciliation with local First Nations and tackling contemporary challenges head on."

Mayne Island Local Trust Committee NOTICE OF FIRST READING Draft Bylaw No. 193



at 1:30 p.m. on Monday, June 24, 2024, to be held at the Mayne Island Agricultural Hall, 430 Fernhill Road, Mayne Island.

What is Draft Bylaw No. 193 about?

Draft Bylaw No. 193 will, if adopted, amend the Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw No. 146 (LUB) in a number of ways. The bylaw includes: setback changes, minor changes to site-specific zoning, site-specific zoning for properties with existing temporary use permits, and expansion of permissions for contractor yards.

The Local Trust Committee is not holding a public hearing for this bylaw under the authority granted in Section 464(2) of the Local Government Act, that states that a local government may decide not to hold a public hearing on a draft bylaw if an Official Community Plan is in effect for the area that is subject to a draft zoning bylaw, and the draft bylaw is consistent with the plan. Draft Bylaw No. 193 is consistent with the Mayne Island Official Community Plan Bylaw No. 144.

How Do I Get More Information?

A copy of the draft bylaw may be viewed at the **Islands Trust Office, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC**, or on the Islands Trust website commencing Monday, June 10, 2024, and ending Friday, June 21, 2024, during regular business hours (8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.).

Enquiries or written comments may be directed to **Narissa Chadwick**, Island Planner, by email at nchadwick@islandstrust.bc.ca, or by phone at 250-405-5189. For toll-free access, request a transfer to the above telephone number via Service BC: in Vancouver at 604-660-2421 and elsewhere in BC at 1-800-663-7867. Written submissions must be received at the Islands Trust Victoria Office via email at vicphsub@islandstrust.bc.ca or by mail or drop-off at Islands Trust, 200-1627 Fort Street, Victoria, BC, V8R 1H8, no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, June 21, 2024.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

OPINION

2022 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Outstanding Community Service | Silver - Best Front Page
Silver - Best Local Editorial (Gail Sjuberg) | Silver - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)

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



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EDITORIAL

Time to celebrate

Relationships between Canada's First Nations and settlers have been hugely impacted by the work of Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

But relationship-building with the First Nations of the Gulf Islands has begun even earlier, developing slowly as essential trust was established. We recall the powerful connections created between the Penelakut people and some Salt Spring settlers more than 20 years ago when the disposal field for a sablefish hatchery was proposed for a known Penelakut gravesite. Similarly, the Penelakut and others worked hard to stop a house from being built on Grace Islet gravesites in Ganges Harbour in 2012 after the project was already underway. Collaboration in that case resulted in the province stepping in to buy the islet.

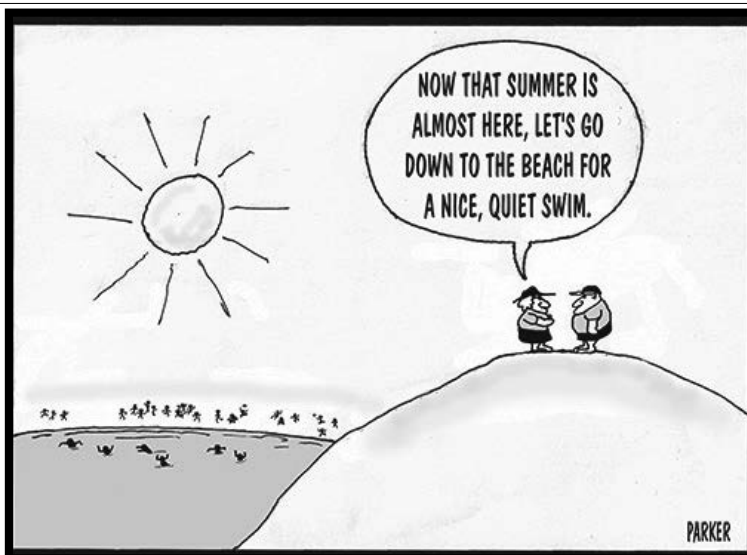
Since those earlier days the number and strength of connections have continued to surge. Among several examples is an Indigenous Interpretive Panels project completed last year through First Nations and settler collaboration that has seen beautiful signs installed at Fernwood dock and at Ganges Alley. School District 64 has engaged in cultural and relationship-building activities. The Salt Spring library now has an Indigenous coordinator and

an art- and book-filled Indigenous learning area (TOTELNEW HÁUTW / Tatul' utew't-hw) was opened this year. For these and other efforts the library was honoured with a British Columbia Library Association award for its truth and reconciliation work. The Stqeey' Learning Society and its Xwaaq'w'um land purchase have also had a major impact.

The historical society and archives group also launched its amazing First Nations website and interactive Indigenous Placenames maps in time for National Indigenous Peoples History Month, inspiring everyone to learn the Hul'q'umi'num' or SENCŌTEN names for many spots on Salt Spring Island and their significance to those peoples.

Next weekend — Friday, June 21 to Sunday, June 23 — the fruit of the relationship-building and cultural resurgence will be fully ripe with the first Indigenous Peoples Weekend festival running on Salt Spring. Tours of special sites, artist demos and an Indigenous arts market, plus music, feasts, fundraisers and all kinds of community-building activities are taking place.

Continued work on and celebration of reconciliation and moving forward together is at the heart of the festival. Everyone is invited and encouraged to participate.



Patrick criticisms frustrate

By MAIRI WELMAN

I gave up trying to engage in reasonable fact-based dialogue on the editorial pages of the Driftwood some time ago and have since focused my energy on moving forward with work to solve our island's challenges, particularly the housing crisis.

But the more I watch the drama unfold, in the pages of the Driftwood, on social media channels, and in person at meetings, the more I remember a lesson I learned a decade ago when I worked for Dr. Penny Ballam. Always ask yourself, who benefits from the conflict that is being created?

Frants Atorp and the "Positively Forward" group take almost weekly aim in these pages at trustee Laura Patrick's performance as an elected official, promulgating misinformation and, at times, outright lies about her motivations and actions. The nefarious schemes they accuse her of would be almost laughable if it weren't so calculated on their part.

On the other extreme of the ideology scale we have Eric Booth and trustee Jamie Harris. Eric's missives against Laura on social media are toxically mean-spirited and frankly surprising, if only for the fact that, as a former trustee, he knows all too well just how dysfunctional our governance system is and would therefore, one would think, have some empathy for the woman who is trying to find a third way.

Jamie Harris seems to have decided that near constant belligerent opposition is his singular contribution to local governance. As a first-term elected representative, he is still learning that

governing well is about being able to sit across the table from someone you fundamentally disagree

with and have a respectful, open-minded conversation to find the nugget, no matter how small, of shared value from which to take a step forward together.

I have witnessed that Laura Patrick is the only local government official on Salt Spring Island who is actually doing the hard grind work of reading all the material, going to ancillary meetings, talking at length respectfully with staff, deeply understanding policy implications, and trying to find a middle way that will satisfy some needs for all sides.

It is no small wonder that so few women are interested in public office, and I'm amazed at Laura's willingness to tough it out. The two sides currently firing into the middle directly at the one person they have a chance of working with had better hope she doesn't decide "life is too short for this crap," and step out. They would then have to face each other and reckon with their complicity and lack of substance.

"Democracy is a long, slow, hard business. It requires sacrifice and virtue. It requires listening to the views of others and it demands an acceptance of the necessity of difficult choices. It requires, above all, commitment to forging a common good out of the disparate and varied material of our social and economic lives, a good that recognizes the worth of everyone whatever their differences. If we don't do this, we don't do democracy." Marc Stears

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Is the Islands Trust 50th anniversary something to celebrate?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you familiar with any local Indigenous placenames?

37 YES 57 NO

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at 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

A Trojan Horse

For those who think local politics are too complicated, keep your eye on growth limits.

Despite claims of “yet to be decided,” everything is pointing to demise of a crucial restrictive policy in our official community plan (B.2.1.2.1). If it is removed or made discretionary, get set for a suburban, tourist-centred future — all in the name of “healthy communities.”

Implementation of the Housing Action Program Task Force’s many recommendations, of which blanket upzoning is but one, would be the first disastrous step before money and lack of regulations finish the job.

Tragically, the community has yet to be consulted about this Trojan Horse. While there have been two elections showing valid concerns about housing, this should not produce a new official community plan (OCP) encouraging development far into the future.

The Islands Trust Act intends zoning as a conservation tool, not a blunt housing instrument. Housing should be mostly the

responsibility of the Capital Regional District and other agencies.

In examining the entire OCP amendment process, starting in 2020 when a comprehensive OCP review was derailed by an unappointed housing group, onward to the OCP-busting Housing Action Program, the attempts to upzone thousands of lots through Bylaw 530, and now the “focused” OCP update, it is apparent a massive, open-ended housing agenda is unfolding without public airing of key, underlying issues: growth, build-out and sustainability.

The current push for deregulation is helping ensure the Trust Policy Statement, the umbrella document for all the islands, is weakened sufficiently to permit such sweeping changes.

So what is the alternative? CRD director Gary Holman weighed in at ASK Salt Spring last month. After defending our OCP’s growth limits and condemning Bylaw 530 as “completely contradicting the climate action recommendations around settlement patterns,” he suggested a better way is to focus on non-market housing in or near settlements, and encourage existing suites and cottages to be rented long term.

Wow! I urge our trustees to step aside so the wise director Holman can bring his common-sense housing solutions to this beleaguered island.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

Don’t gut Trust Act

When Justin Trudeau’s father Pierre was Canada’s prime minister, he recognized the spectacular environmental and recreational value of our southern Gulf Islands and the growing need for conservation generated by the large urban populations of Vancouver, Victoria, Seattle, etc.

He had a vision of an international park, including the San Juan Islands. This would have provided strong and lasting protection for the islands of the Salish Sea for the enjoyment of people of both countries. Sadly, this did not occur. There was not enough positive support at the time. Increasing development pressures caused an urgent need for control and so the irreplaceable part of this vision became our Islands Trust Act. The Trust is “limited to

regulating land use in order to preserve and protect the natural environment and rural character of the Trust Area for all residents of B.C.,” a duty specific to its intended purpose and function as a trust.

We expect our trustees to be trustworthy, but recent actions, without public input, without transparency, are not trustworthy. The change of meaning of “unique amenities” to include common, not unique, details such as housing, infrastructure, livelihoods and tourism removes all the former protection and opens the way for unlimited exploitation. Our need for affordable housing for working people doesn’t justify gutting the Trust Act.

If any zoning is to change, I suggest going up instead of out, increasing height and density of buildings in a defined area of Ganges village, where everything is within a 10-minute walk of the centre. This would reduce the need for vehicles, parking and more infrastructure. It would be more convenient, less expensive and better protect the environment.

NANCY WIGEN,
SALT SPRING

MORE OPINION continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“We know that if we were to get rid of [that housing], the grocery stores would close, the hospital would be closed, schools would be closed. This isn’t a minor issue.”

LAURA PATRICK, SALT SPRING TRUSTEE, ON DECISION TO NOT ENFORCE AGAINST UNPERMITTED DWELLINGS

Tourism minister’s visit helps put focus on cycling infrastructure

BY SIMON ROMPRE

On Tuesday, June 4, island Pathways hosted a ride, round table and presentation with Minister of Tourism Lana Popham.

The event was well attended and representatives from the Local Community Commission, Islands Trust, MLA Adam Olsen and Ministry of Tourism offices, the Capital Regional District (CRD) as well as Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership and BC Ferries were present for a round table at the library where everyone discussed how we can make bicycle touring better on Salt Spring.

Today, the Southern Gulf Islands see more than 800,000 visitors annually, the majority of which come between June and August, more than doubling BC Ferries’ passenger volumes on the routes that serve our islands. This seasonal influx of visitors leads to congestion, increased vehicle traffic, strains on existing infrastructure and safety issues.

To ensure a sustainable economy and to preserve the quality of life for residents, there’s a pressing need for infrastructure that promotes alternative, low-carbon transportation options, like cycling. Data shows that cyclists tend to spend more on accommodations, food and local experiences. They foster a culture of fitness and community engagement.

The event’s host, Island Pathways, has been around for 35 years and is now shifting focus to cycling. Many members of Island Pathways and in the audience have been gathering with MLA Adam Olsen for three years as part of the Salish Sea Trail Network Working Group (SST-NWG). The group meets monthly with various partners, including Elizabeth May, Islands Trust, CRD, the ferry advisory committee, transportation ministry and CRD Regional Parks. The Salish Sea Trail loop, once completed, will connect the Lochside Trail to the Galloping Goose through the Sooke Wilderness Trail into Shawnigan Lake and the Cowichan Valley trail up to Lake Cowichan and back to Crofton. The only missing link in this world-class cycle tour is the section going through Salt Spring.

Many pointed out that we need dedicated separated bike lanes. Bike operators come to Salt Spring, try it for one year and then leave because of the lack of infrastructure. Other international travellers rent bikes and do the loop (Salish Sea Trail). Unfortunately, because we don’t have the infrastructure on Salt Spring, they don’t stay long. Salt Spring could be more than just a Saturday market destination and be a multi-day tour experience. Another well-travelled partici-

pant was just in New Zealand and mentioned that if we do what New Zealand did, we will have a billion-dollar industry.

In spite of its lack of safety on the busiest roads, Salt Spring island, with over 270 kilometres of rural roads, has a lot to offer to cycling tourists, and islands in general make great cycling destinations because you can fit many more bikes than cars on ferries.

CRD director Gary Holman reminded us that the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has committed to repaving the Ganges Hill, which will be underway over the summer, with 1.2-metre bike lanes. He said the CRD will be advocating to keep doing bike lanes as the road gets repaved.

Participants from Minister Popham’s office, some of them strong cycling advocates, agreed that infrastructure is important. They said we need to define different types of infrastructure, and some will appeal to different markets. For example, they mentioned looking into having proper signage, like the blue signs along highways telling people where they can find attractions, services and anything linked to cycle-touring experiences.

Promotion is also important,

with events like GoByBike, and partnering with regional tourism groups and tour operators. Everything contributes to building on what we have here and even though there are a lot of distinct aspects, we need to look at the big picture. However, we need to build it like Lego, one block at a time. Because there is so much competition for funding, it is much easier for the tourism ministry to go forward when the community comes together with a coherent plan and the whole community is behind it. It is important to keep doing what we are doing so the ministry can help, Popham said.

She mentioned that they had not started working on this file yet because all the levers are in other ministries. However, they are asking communities to come together to get routes established, identify pinch points, plus low-, medium- and high-hanging fruit.

Steve New, on behalf of Island Pathways, brought Minister Popham a few recommendations from the organization. One of these is that the minister support the completion of the Salish Sea Trail, to which she responded with an enthusiastic “Let’s do it!” She also agreed to work with cabinet colleagues on funding and talked about developing a strategy around cycling. She reminded us that much of it is

in the making and it will take a while to develop a province-wide strategy for cycling and hiking, but said she is working on it.

Holman said he would like to see an inter-agency group on the Salish Sea Trail formed so there is continuation to the file, and Popham summed up the meeting with a few recommendations on how to go forward:

“Break things down into smaller items, it allows us to do planning. The larger items have to be figured out with other ministries and that takes time. We are meeting with BC Ferries and are talking about many of the things that were brought up at the meeting. For example, as we approached Ganges today, I noticed that it is a pretty sketchy entrance and it was nerve-wracking. The pavement is uneven and there are holes. There is no welcoming sign and no indication of where you can go.

“How can we make cyclists feel welcome? We could have signs that provide QR codes for where accommodations are and where ebikes can be charged, like at the library. As a community what can you do to move things? Maybe it is cool-looking signs or artwork with bicycles that will welcome visitors.”

The writer is an Island Pathways board member and dedicated cyclist.

INDEPTH

Naysayers strike again

BY TOM NAVRATIL

I suppose I shouldn't be surprised. I don't think there has been an event in human history that has not had its share of naysayers. Even such seemingly obvious propositions, such as stopping the slaughter of innocent children, has a bunch of naysayers who'd rather kill than talk.

But I must admit to being somewhat surprised by those degrading the new park at the top of Seymour Heights.

The addition of any parkland would seem to be a cause for celebration. This particular acquisition is a modest 75 acres adjacent to Mount Maxwell Provincial Park, and is proposed to accommodate hikers, bikers and equestrians. The problem seems to be that the naysayers don't like the strip of land which was also acquired and which joins the end of Wright Road with the park. The idea is that vehicles, including horse trailers, can park in the large turnaround at the end of the road and head up the access trail to the new park.

Local equestrians ride in that park, and currently the only place to park a horse trailer is at the junction of Seymour Heights Road and Armand Way. We then ride up to the top of Seymour Heights and thus into the park. Not that there's much riding once we get there, as the new park is surrounded by private land on one side and Mount Maxwell Park on the other. Maxwell Park is steep and suited to mountain goats and enthusiastic, fit hikers, not so much for horses, so in actual fact the ride to and from the park along the quiet and undeveloped top end of Seymour Heights Road is a major part of the ride. The new access from the end of Wright Road will be a lovely ride in itself, even if we only go up there, have a nice cup of tea in the park and ride back down. What's not to like about this proposition? Plenty, if the letters to the paper are anything to go by. Increased traffic up Wright Road, and restricted access for emergency vehicles seem to be the major objections.

First of all, in terms of horse trailers, I can count on one hand the number of people who actually have trailers and use them to transport horses around the island. When we go riding, usually it's only with one trailer, and very occasionally with two. Parking beside

IN RESPONSE

Seymour Heights Road is not ideal, as there is a surprising amount of traffic up and down that road, and if the horses are tied to the side of the trailer, we have to move them every time a car goes by. Parking at the end of Wright Road will be much safer. Secondly, I've been to the end of Wright Road and currently there are no driveways going off where the parking would be, and therefore there would be no reason for emergency vehicles to be there.

Perhaps us horsey folk would not be so excited about this new park if we had other places to ride. Which brings me to the recent snafu at Burgoyne Bay. When land for that provincial park was acquired in the early 2000s (partly by a large local fundraising effort), several trails in the park were designated "multi-use," which included horses. It says so in the park use description and shows clearly on the trail maps. We had a lovely circuit that took us down to the beach, up and along the back of the park on an old logging road and over a metal bridge.

Then one day, the trail was closed off, and when it reopened we were in for a shock. In the interests of restoring the wetlands below, shallow ditches had been dug across the trail, which when they settled resulted in giant grooves — a tripping hazard for walkers, and not ideal for horses. One of them, which is now called The Canyon, washed out, resulting in a deep gorge currently impassable to horses and hikers who are unable to climb down and across.

And that wasn't all. The perfectly serviceable old bridge was removed and replaced by a fancy wooden affair with steps going down, a narrow plank centre bit, and steps going up. Totally impassable to horses, and thus rendering one of the only "official" horse trails on the island unusable to us and our four-footed friends. It would seem that some bureaucrats in the parks branch either neglected to read the park use plan or deliberately turned a blind eye and commissioned a bridge (no doubt at great expense) that takes away one of our only places to ride.

So the new park at Seymour Heights is cause for celebration. I beg all of the naysayers to put their nimbyism aside and get on board with this project.

Rants

+ ROSES



Roses

We are sending an endless stream of roses to Christina and Kechura of Savoury Sirens Catering for their exemplary service, great food and amazing attention to detail at our recent birthday gathering. We have attended any number of "at home" catered events over the decades but no other caterers have ever matched this team both in what they provided and how well they provided it. Bouquets as well to Auntie Pesto's for again serving, at the "night before" dinner, the high quality and exceptionally well served meals we on Salt Spring now take for granted but one of our off-island guests described as "frigging awesome." Finally, and since they obviously don't need any flowers from us, our sincerest thanks to Bullock Lake Farm for the beautiful ones decorating the site of the party. *Sylvia & Stan*

• Thanks to the incredible team, headed by chef Lou and Michelle, who made the Beaver Point Hall Bean Supper such a beautiful success. The food was so tasty, centred around the historic Ruckle bean; the event was a great history lesson, everyone loved the camaraderie, plus the hall gained funds to help pay for the new dishwasher. *Harry Burton*

• Tsunami Circus sends a Rainbow Kaleidoscope full of roses to everyone

who provided support and volunteered their time to make our annual show a massive success! We are so grateful to all the island businesses who very generously donated to our auction, who provided food to keep our team fuelled and who provided services and support.

We have immense gratitude for all the community volunteers and the families of the Tsunami Junior and Senior troupes who enthusiastically stepped up to assist with every aspect of show logistics. Thank you to the CRD and LCC for the ongoing support and the Salt Spring Island Firefighters Association for sponsoring our Thursday show.

Extra appreciation to the board and staff of Salt Spring Circus and Gymnastics for the steady encouragement and inspiration!

And to all the islanders who came to see one of our four sold-out shows — thank you for being amazing audience members and for allowing our performers to shine! Massive gratitude to the Tsunami coaching team, volunteers all, for your tireless dedication to the troupe and the show.

Tsunami Circus is the embodiment of the word synergism. Every member of our team — troupe members, our volunteer coaches and support crew — live by the P's of circus. Positivity, passion, participation, practice, perseverance and pass it on. It's these qualities that have kept our program alive. See you next year!

Island governance confounds

BY PAUL MCELROY

With no disrespect to the fine reporting by Robb Magley of the recent Islands Trust's Committee of the Whole meeting — (COW. Really?) — and despite reading it through twice, I put the paper down with the disturbing sense that I'd just fallen into a black hole. A Committee of the Black Whole.

What in the name of God were they talking about? For hour after hour, round and round in circles, looking for a policy to define a policy to define a policy. Or rather, to "discuss the process by which it will be considered." After all these years, the Islands Trust is still trying to work out what the hell it's for, what its "object" is. To quote Deb Morrison, one of the Trust's worthy from North Pender Island: "We don't need to get into the weeds about having a consensus vision of the object because the Trust Policy Statement is our consensus vision of the object." Well said. Now, what on earth does this piece of Orwellian gibberish mean?

The rest of the meeting could have been in Klingon for all the sense it made. Bowen Island trustee Judith Gedye put her finger on it. "I think the Section 3 mandate discussion that we have to have is important ... but I don't want to hold up this process." Er, what process is that? Processing a process? Processing the process to process a process?

In any ordinary small jurisdiction, local councillors meet to discuss dogs fouling the play areas, whether to appoint a school crossing attendant or to buy a new computer for the library. Not so the Islands Trust. It never seems to decide anything because it's far too busy trying to figure out why it exists in the first place.

I cut my journalistic teeth on council meetings, admittedly in the U.K., but in rural Buckinghamshire — Long Crenon, Princes Risborough, Little Missenden, Quainton, Aston Clinton, Tring — long, dull evenings in villages where the only exotic thing about them were their names, but where local

councillors dealt with local issues. Planning permissions, tree preservation orders and parties on the village green. They argued, of course, but in the end they got things done. What they didn't do was spend hours trying to establish what their mandate was.

Meanwhile, just across the page from the COW nonsense, the cockerels were having their day in front of another entirely pointless branch of Salt Spring governance, the Local Trust Committee. A bunch of chicken fanciers were up in arms about the persecution of a noisy rooster and its owners and wanted the LTC to do something. Fat chance.

Never mind that the rooster owner was claiming that his little plot was agricultural and that he was so far facing seven counts of bylaw infractions, the chicken people wanted a resolution: "That livestock noise wasn't something you could complain about ..."

Needless to say — and whatever you think of this absurd and entirely undemocratic resolution — it went nowhere because the LTC doesn't have the authority to do anything. Still, all was not lost, the LTC plans to take it up with the Capital Regional District, which should ensure it goes nowhere even faster.

And then there's the new fire hall, or to be more accurate, the large hole in the ground where the new fire hall might eventually get built once the proper permits come through. Building For Tomorrow, it says on the site notice board. Building For Today is presumably just wishful thinking since the fire trustees can't seem to even be on the same page about how big it's going to be.

As ever, local governance on Salt Spring is a hopeless case. It doesn't work for the many of us who despair at the clumsy anarchy that passes for management. If we ever get the chance again, a properly constituted municipality is the only obvious solution. An elected mayor and elected district councillors, with defined wards ... and defined jurisdictions.

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DANCE

Evolve Dance Collective hits ArtSpring stage

Members share women's experiences in emotionally rich evenings

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Creative dance activity is taking place for all ages on Salt Spring Island, as witnessed by the Community Dance Performance hosted by Gulf Islands Secondary School Dance program members at ArtSpring on Friday, May 31.

Another group of dancers will share the fruits of their love, labour and community in upcoming shows at ArtSpring when Evolve Dance Collective presents *Creation — An Odyssey of Womanhood* on Monday and Tuesday, June 17-18 at 7 p.m.

Lara Von Maydell started Evolve three years ago with Veronika McKee. Von Maydell had grown up in the dance world in Nelson, B.C., but as she reached semi-professional status she found the environment had become "toxic" and experienced some related health issues. But the desire to dance at a high level while having fun never faded, and Evolve on Salt Spring Island grew from that root.

"I really feel like there's a lack of dance spaces where it is structured and people learn really intentional techniques, and yet it's fun and supportive and empowering for women, specifically," she said.

After McKee left Salt Spring, collective member Jasmin Skye stepped up to take her teaching place.

Skye started dancing at age three and continued through her teenage years. "It was my everything: my lifeline, my joy, my place to just be myself."

But the effects of dance competitions and the constant striving for technical perfection eroded the natural joy and, like Von Maydell, prevented her from pursuing a professional career.

Skye continued moving her body through ecstatic and free-flow dance forms.

"It was really fun and I loved it, but I was craving choreography again, and a structure where other people understood the magic of choreographed dance. And I also craved it to be storytelling, I craved it to be deeper — and then I found Evolve on Instagram."

Synchronistically, she ended up moving from Victoria to Salt Spring, and it became apparent that Evolve was everything she was looking for in a dance community and practice.

The collective's 12 women who meet at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space have diverse backgrounds. A few have intense dance training histories, like Von Maydell and Skye, while others bring gifts and experiences from the island's ecstatic and/or contact dance groups, or other movement arts.

Skye said, "It's really refreshing to see all the different walks of life come into one group and be like, 'Wow, this person moves in this way or learns in this way or expresses in this way,' and how do we choreograph to highlight people's gifts, and how do we involve these different aspects of each person into the story of what we're trying to tell as well?"

They observe that it's been interesting to see members develop storytelling with choreographed dance, which is a language they speak so fluently, while others may not have that experience.

"To me, dance is like telling a story," said Von Maydell. "And every sequence is a sentence. But then within that sentence, each move is a word."

She said the most potent part of Evolve is having people who joined in the first year now choreographing their own pieces with mentorship and guidance.

"Actually, most of our main pieces in the show are not by Jasmin and me this year, which is exciting."

The June 17-18 *Creation* show focuses on the female hormonal cycle and women's relationships to their bodies throughout the month, as seen through a lens of the four seasons.



PHOTO BY LAUREN CRYDER

Ten of 12 Evolve Dance Collective women who will present their show called *Creation - an Odyssey of Womanhood* at ArtSpring's theatre on Monday-Tuesday, June 17-18 at 7 p.m.

"The dances explore themes that come up for women," explained Von Maydell, "like pre-menstrual syndrome, what it is to bleed in our culture, how we were raised to talk about our periods and taboo subjects that are still kind of taboo — though maybe not so much on Salt Spring — but in the rest of the world, they kind of still are."

"I think we use art as a way to bring these topics to life in a different way that's not just using words," added Skye. "There are words and poetry in the show, but there is something special about being able to dance this topic, which we feel really passionate and strongly about, because in some places in the world there are women who are still hiding their period and don't even get to talk about it or have to stay home. So we've just been really lucky and blessed to be able to feel safe enough to go on stage and do this."

One extra-special aspect of the show is that a birth piece was planned and then one of the dancers became pregnant and is now the "star" of that dance.

Among positive feedback collective members received about their initial public show called *Belonging* last year was that it sparked a huge range of emotions.

"That's what we're hoping for," said Skye, "is that each piece can evoke an emotion in someone, and everything is going to hit differently for each person, because that's how art works."

"Our raw storytelling is what people are affected by, and that each dance has a very specific message," continued Von Maydell, "and it really hits that emotional tone for the audience . . . so people often feel quite included when they come to our shows, and moved on a personal level."

That's in contrast to dance performances where the emphasis is on dancers' technical abilities, they note.

All ages are welcome to the Evolve Dance Collective's *Creation* show, but it does come with a parental advisory for some of the mature themes.

Tickets are on sale through the

ArtSpring website and box office.

People can learn more about the group at evolvedancecollective.com or through their @evolvedance_collective Instagram account.

WHAT A SHOT!

On Saturday, June 22 show us what you see!

A DAY IN THE LIFE SALT SPRING ISLAND 2024

We invite people to send us their photos for our 2024 Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island feature.

Photos must be taken between 6 a.m. on Saturday June 22nd & 6 a.m. on Sunday June 23rd.

Register in advance by sending an email to editor Gail Sjuberg at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com for deadlines and details about how to submit.

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BAROQUE MUSIC

Satirical opera shines light on Purcell music

Salt Spring Baroque hosts trio on June 22

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING BAROQUE

Finding true love has always been difficult, whether in 2024, or 1694!

The Salt Spring Baroque concert titled *Henry Purcell (mostly) in Love* features Montreal harpichordist Christophe Gauthier, Vancouver tenor Shane Hanson and Vancouver countertenor Nicholas Burns in a new comedic drama based on the music of Henry Purcell (1659-1695).

It takes place on Saturday, June 22 at All Saints by-the-Sea at 7 p.m.

Purcell is one of the most important British composers, and was the creator of beautifully moving operas, semi-operas and musical dramas. He is well-known for his output of songs composed as incidental music for the theatre with solemn overtures, cheerful or pathetic

airs, and delightful dances of every imaginable kind. Most of Purcell's theatre music was written between 1690 and 1695 (the year of his death), and within that relatively brief period he supplied music for more than 40 plays.

Henry Purcell (mostly) in Love takes advantage of the dramatic, and often-irreverent nature of Purcell's vocal music. Arranged into a new 21st-century love story, this show follows two young men through the trials and tribulations of attempting to court a woman.

The program capitalizes on the dramatic nature of song in Purcell's era, but in an updated, contemporary context, providing a modern way for Purcell's songs to be "re-admired." Both well-known and lesser-known works (like one of Purcell's humorous rounds) will be featured, as well as repertoire that was never intended for a countertenor to sing, such as *Dido's Lament*.

Tickets are available at saltspringbaroque.com or through the ArtSpring box office.



PHOTO COURTESY SS BAROQUE

Performers in the Henry Purcell (mostly) in Love show set for All Saints by-the-Sea on Saturday, June 22 are, from left, Shane Hanson, tenor, Christophe Gauthier, harpichordist, and Nicholas Burns, countertenor.

what's on this week

Wed. June 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Connie Holmes, Anke Smeele and David Storm. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

GreyVine Duo. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

GISS Theatre Presents: Treasure Island. Adaptation of Robert Louis Stevenson's classic tale. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. Open on the Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Conservancy AGM. Annual general meeting at the conservancy office. 7 p.m.

Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.

Thur. June 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

GISS Theatre Presents: Treasure Island. See Wednesday listing.

Terry Warbey. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

Richard Garvey & Friends. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Fernwood-Highland Water Special Meeting. SIMS boardroom (and virtually through Microsoft Teams link in the agenda online). 11 a.m.

Salt Spring Local Community Commission Regular Meeting. SIMS boardroom (and virtually through Microsoft Teams link in the agenda online). 5 p.m.

Reconciliation Workshop: Land Acknowledgement Circle. Library program room. 5:30 to 8 p.m. Register through info@rjssi.org.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Fri. June 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Bert's Blues Band. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Woodland Band. Mateada. 9 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are Local Community Commissioners. At SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Youth Games & Chess Club. For ages 9-13. Library children's area. 1 to 4 p.m.

Friday Games Night. For ages 13 to 19. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Sat. June 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live Music. In Centennial Park for Tour des Iles weekend. 11:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Auntie Kate. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Jean-Sebastien Lévesque & Victor Fournelle-Blain. Piano and violin wine & cheese fundraising concert for Bach on the Rock. All Saints. 7 p.m.

Daniel Trump + Friends and Subroot Music House Takeover. Mateada. 9 p.m.

Somethin' Else DJs. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Tour des Iles. Inter-island festival. See tourdesiles.ca.

Teen Pizza Party. Brainstorm events at the library for teens. 5 to 7 p.m.

Sun. June 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Singing Service. SS United Church. 10 a.m.

Blues Jam. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

Sun. June 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Live Music. In Centennial Park for Tour des Iles weekend. 11:30 a.m. to 3:15 p.m.

Chamigos. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Sunday Sessions With Guest Artists. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Tour des Iles. See tourdesiles.ca.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Mon. June 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vixx. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Evolve Dance Collective Presents Creation — An Odyssey of Womanhood. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

Tues. June 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Evolve Dance Collective. See Monday listing.

Vargo. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Folk Jam. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting. Harbour House Hotel. 12:30 to 6:30 p.m.

Tuesday Farmers Market. Every Tuesday at Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

Webinar: Climate, Culture, Land: Cultivating Community Resilience Through Indigenous Approaches. 7 to 9 p.m. revenue-can.keela.co/stqeeye-learning-society-webinar

Wed. June 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Frank Allen Huether. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

Before Night Falls. Tree House. 6 p.m.

Wed. June 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Dinner Jazz With Iain Duncan & Friends. Mateada. 7 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Islands Trust Council Meeting. Harbour House Hotel. 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m.

CINEMA

• **The Fall Guy** runs Friday, June 14 to Tuesday, June 18 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- **ArtCraft 2024** opens for the summer at Mahon Hall on Friday, June 14 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Opening reception from 6 to 8 p.m. The Showcase exhibition is **Phenomenologies – Kim Korol and Kristine Webber.** ArtCraft runs daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Both Sides Now – Paintings by Julia Lucich** runs at Salt Spring Gallery from June 14 to July 3. Opening reception on Friday, June 14 from 5 to 7 p.m.
- **Art Jam at the Library: Joseph Reville (aka CJ) and Sherman Sherwood** exhibit in the library program room through July 3. Opening reception on Thursday, June 13 from 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Art Jam at GIFTS** at GIFTS Gallery on McPhillips Ave. from June 15 to 30. An opening reception is on Saturday, June 15 from 2 to 4 p.m.
- **Quentin Harris** exhibits in the Jankura Lounge at ArtSpring from June 4 to 28.
- **Sherry Leigh Williams and Patricia Rose Williams** exhibit in the ArtSpring lobby until June 28.
- **Rolando Lampitoc** shows at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe & Kitchen.
- **Sheri Standen** shows at Country Grocer deli for the month of June.

Live Music in Centennial Park

Sat.-Sun., June 15-16

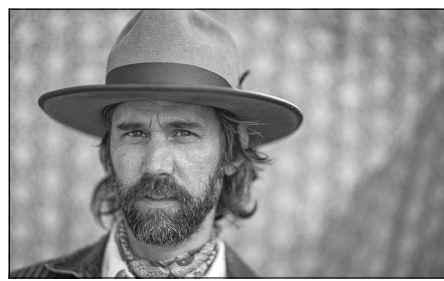
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AMERICANA MUSIC

Pitchfork Social concert series set to thrill



PHOTOS COURTESY PERFORMERS' WEBSITES

costs for musicians; venue owner Stephen Mulherin; sound man extraordinaire Pauker; area property owners that allow parking on concert nights; and the events' food and drink providers. In addition to Woodshed Provisions offering pre-show dinners on seven nights, South End Sausage will be the main food provider one night, and Hen and Hound on another. South End Sausage charcuterie boards will also be available before all concerts, said Youngson, and Salt Spring Kitchen Co. will also participate.

Salt Spring's "music- and arts-loving population" is also a crucial part of the Pitchfork formula, he said. The series wouldn't be viable if all the shows didn't sell out, "so I'm super grateful to the audience for filling those seats."

Two mid-July shows by Canadian alt-country/rock legends Cowboy Junkies sold out soon after tickets were released earlier this spring. Quick action is also likely required to get some of the last few tickets for the series-opener on June 29 with Harry Manx and special guests Genevieve Jodoin on keyboards, and Mark Ferris on violin.

Youngson stressed what a treasure Manx is as a Salt Spring resident and world-renowned musician and collaborator.

"People don't realize who he is out there in the world. Some do, of course, but many certainly don't, unless you're a real fan." The rest of the season looks like this:

- July 10: Dylan LeBlanc with the Yaletown Strings — another exciting collaboration, said Youngson;
- July 17-18: Cowboy Junkies (sold out);
- July 22: Chris Smither, with BettySoo;
- Aug. 15: Eilen Jewell Band;
- Aug. 22: Willie Watson Trio;
- Aug. 26: Mike Farris & the Fortunate Few;
- Sept. 1: Kelly Hunt Trio.

Youngson said some performers are more well-known than others, but he has heard them all, and often multiple times, and knows audiences will be as thrilled as he is to have them on the island. The fact that some 30 to 40 per cent of concert patrons are from off-island hints at the drawing power of Pitchfork acts.

Youngson also expressed huge gratitude to the musicians themselves, who are willing to take the extra time required to get to and from the island, which can be a risky thing to do if ferries don't co-operate and they end up arriving or leaving late and jeopardizing their next gig as a result.

Dinner sales for all Pitchfork shows begin at 6 p.m., with music at 7:30 p.m.

More information about the acts and tickets are available through pitchforksocial.com.

Three of many performers at the 2024 Pitchfork Social Americana music series are, from left, blues icon Chris Smither, who performs July 22 with BettySoo; rising star Kelly Hunt of Virginia, who plays with her trio on Sept. 1; and Willie Watson of Old Crow Medicine Show fame, who brings his trio to the stage on Aug. 22.

Community support vital, says founder

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Pitchfork Social — the unique Salt Spring music series of world-class roots and Americana performers — is about to open its first full season at The Jam Factory venue, and Pitchfork founder David Youngson couldn't be more grateful.

Youngson is a devoted fan of Americana music — encompassing roots-rock, blues, country, bluegrass and folk genres — who brings together all the elements needed for an intimate concert and social experience on a non-profit basis.

"If somebody was doing this to make a profit or make a living at it, that couldn't happen. It's not at all possible," he told the Driftwood. "Especially because of the kind of acts that we bring to the island. Quite honestly, they are often playing 2,000- and 3,000-seat places."

"Everything we do is for the sake of the song," he said.

The Jam Factory site, behind the popular food-business building at 319 Upper Ganges Rd., can seat 350 people. Last summer saw concerts by Frazey Ford, Ruth Moody and Tony Furtado held there, and changes have been made for this first full season. They include a bigger, higher stage with a different orientation, new stage and mood lighting, and an upgraded sound system through Greg Pauker.

Pitchfork Social was born in a transformed garage on Youngson's property as Southend Grooveyard in 2012, then moved to Bullock Lake Farm and community halls, endured a Covid break and then found the Jam Factory location.

Solid support from community partners makes Pitchfork Social possible, Youngson said. That includes about 20 volunteers; the Harbour House Hotel, which provides a break on accommodation

TEA À TEMPO

Huether creates musical journey

June 19 recital at All Saints

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Music Makers are excited to present Frank Allen Huether, a Salt Spring Island pianist and songwriter, to the Tea à Tempo stage on Wednesday, June 19 at All Saints by-the-Sea Anglican Church in downtown Ganges. He explores sound and the interconnections of creativity in all art forms.

Solo piano is a lifelong passion for Huether. Exploring music in a direct connection between mind, hand and sound offers the ability to create and communicate spontaneously. The music is often meditative but follows the muse into various forms as the ideas progress. Huether's performances are a musical journey into the sonority of the piano. Mixing written poetry and subtle lighting into the performance, Huether's work engages the audience through multiple senses.

Huether is well known in the Salt Spring music and arts community, performing and working behind the scenes to promote music and art. His album entitled *Colour* is available on CD and streaming sites.

The June 19 concert begins at 2:10 p.m. Donations provide the

honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series.

Tea and treats, for \$5 (note the price change), will be served immediately following the concert in the hall overlooking Ganges Harbour.

Fundraising Concert



Victor Fournelle-Blain - violin
Jean-Sébastien Lévesque - piano

Debussy - Ravel - Saint-Saëns

7:00 pm Saturday June 15

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Storage

Mary Crickmore



December 4, 1928 – May 25, 2024

Our wonderful Mum, Mary Crickmore, passed away after a very brief illness at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island at the age of 95. Predeceased by her beloved husband, Eric, and cherished sister, Nancy, Mary is lovingly remembered by her daughters, Elspeth and Jane (Ron), son, Gavin, step-granddaughter, Lauren, sisters Olive (Germany), Beryl (England), and Jean and her husband, John (Ontario), along with many adored nieces and nephews. Mary leaves behind many dear friends and a number for whom she will always be remembered as "Auntie Mary."

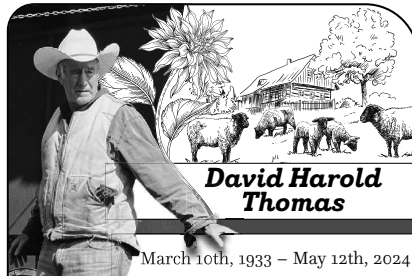
Mary was born in Kinross, Scotland, to Agnes and Oswald Clark and was the oldest of five daughters. She spent her childhood in Innerleithen and Haddington, and at the young age of 16, Mary relocated to Edinburgh. Married in 1955 to the love of her life, Eric, they moved to West Vancouver in 1957. Mary and Eric made many lifelong friends with whom they shared many joyous times together over the years—their house was always full of laughter and merriment. Their garden was always filled with flowering baskets and planters, reflecting Mary's love of propagating and growing geraniums and pelargoniums.

Mary worked for the West Vancouver School District and found great passion in working with children who needed learning assistance. Upon retirement, Mary and Eric moved to Salt Spring Island, where they again developed wonderful friendships. They taught us that deep and meaningful friendships can be established at any stage of life. They loved their time together on Salt Spring, and Mary spent a further 27 years there, after the passing of Eric, watching many a sunrise across the water from her breakfast nook.

Mary was an expert seamstress, avid gardener, keen bridge player, happy camper and hiker, a merry Scottish country dancer, and a gifted and enthusiastic cook—no dinner party was complete without two grand desserts. Above all, Mary was a most loving wife, mother, and friend. She will be dearly missed for her joyful spirit, her hardy Scot fortitude, and the wonderful sparkle in her eye.

Our grateful thanks to the physicians and staff at Lady Minto Hospital for their kind and supportive care to our Mum over the years and in her last few days.

A celebration of life will be held at a later date.

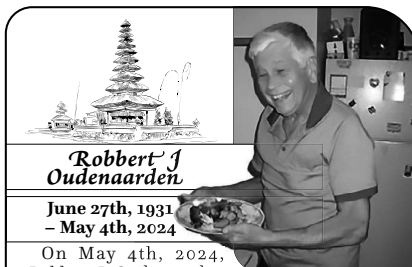


March 10th, 1933 – May 12th, 2024

David Harold Thomas was born on March 10th, 1933, and passed away on May 12th, 2024. He is survived by his loving wife of 57 years, Kathy, as well as many good friends, cousins, and extended family members. Dave enjoyed working with his hands, building and repairing boats, racing six meters, chartering, cruising, fishing, scuba diving, and living aboard. He then turned to farming; raising sheep, chickens, calves, as well as a baby raccoon, a goat, a foal, and many dogs and cats. He had a large vegetable garden and planted over a hundred rhododendrons and azaleas, which were at their most beautiful when he died. Next came a pilot's license and exploring by air, Alaska and B.C.'s West Coast. Dave loved his farm and all the young people who passed through, learning to ride or going for joy rides in his plane. He was a true Salt Springer; his kindness and generosity touched many hearts. Thank you to the manager and staff of the Lady Minto ECU. There will be a celebration of life in the fall.

Obituaries

Obituaries



Robert J. Oudenaarden

June 27th, 1931
– May 4th, 2024

On May 4th, 2024, Robert J. Oudenaarden died at home on Salt Spring Island, BC, at the age of 92, just short of his 93rd birthday.

Robbert is survived by his wife, Jane Oudenaarden-Lynch, and his daughter, Elisabet (Sandra) Ungerson-Oudenaarden.

Robbert was born on June 27th, 1931, in Surabaya, Indonesia. He visited the Netherlands for the first time in 1938 and did not return until the mid-1950s, when he caught up on schooling that he missed because he was interned during the war. He went on to study Tropical Agriculture at Wageningen University. Then he made the big decision to start the next chapter of his life in Canada.

Starting with Sweeny Cooperage, he built a life and a family. Following his strong entrepreneurial drive, he then opened his own barrel furniture manufacturing operation, prior to starting the Best Canadian Bed & Breakfast Network decades before Airbnb was on anyone's mind.

Retiring to Salt Spring Island began a new chapter of volunteering. Agencies he contributed his time and talent to include the Chamber of Commerce, Tourist Information Centre, and Food program at Sendial for Thrifty Foods. He was also a regular at the Dutch Clutch meetings. He loved people, good food, and sharing his gifts and talents with those he had the opportunity to meet.

A celebration of life event will take place at Fulford Hall, on June 27th, 2024, between 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at 2591 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island. We invite anyone who has been touched by his life or interests to join us in celebrating the life and warmth he shared with so many of us while he was here.



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Land Act: Notice of Intention to Apply for a Disposition of Crown Land

Take notice that I, **Andrew Housser** from **Woodside, California**, have applied to the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS), for a **Specific Permission for Private Moorage** situated on Provincial Crown land located at **Goat Island fronting Goat Island** (SITUATED IN GANGES HARBOUR), COWICHAN DISTRICT.

The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is **Crown Land File # 1415312**.

Comments may be submitted electronically via the provincial Applications, Comments & Reasons for Decision webpage at comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/. Alternatively, hard copy comments may be directed to the Senior Land Officer, Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship (WLRS) at 142 - 2080 Labieux Rd, Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9.

Comments will be received by WLRS up to **July 5, 2024**. FLNRORD may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Please visit the website at comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/ for more information.

Be advised that any response to this advertisement will be considered part of the public record. For information, contact the Freedom of Information Advisor at the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship office in Nanaimo.



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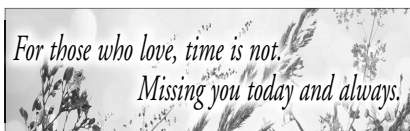
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ISLAND LIFE

COMMUNITY FESTIVALS

Indigenous fest weekend activities announced



PHOTO CREDITS, FROM LEFT, SSI PUBLIC LIBRARY; GAIL SJUBERG; SS ARTS

From left, Salt Spring Public Library Indigenous coordinator Caroline Dick, left, and library director Karen Hudson in the library's Indigenous Learning Area opened earlier this year; Mohawk singer-songwriter Logan Staats; and Tsawout carver Howard Lafortune, who will all contribute to the Indigenous Peoples Weekend, along with many others, from June 21-23.

Communities, nations converge for multi-faceted relationship-building festival

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Indigenous peoples and settlers of the Gulf Islands region are invited to come together next week to enjoy food, music and other arts and cultural activities for the first Indigenous Peoples Weekend.

The concept sprung from a conversation at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe between islanders Jon Cooksey, Pam Tarr, Adina Guest and Gizem Sozen Cu Unjieng about celebrating both National Indigenous Peoples Day on June 21 and National Indigenous History Month in June. Since then, enthusiasm, support and participation have flowed from individuals, organizations and businesses.

Events actually begin Tuesday, June 18 at 7 p.m. with a webinar featuring Quw'utsun speakers Deb George (Sulsameethl) and Maiya Modeste (Sulatiye'). Presented by Transition Salt Spring, it's called Climate, Culture, Land: Cultivating Community Resilience Through Indigenous Solutions and is a fundraiser for Stqee'ye' Learning Society. The sign-up link is on the transitionalspring.com website.

On Thursday, June 20, a Clam Garden Tour and Community Training session takes place at WENÁ,NEC (Fulford Bay) at a time to be determined.

Most of the weekend's events are free. The following is a list of what had been confirmed as of June 10. Visit the gulfislands-events.com/indigenous-peoples-weekend/ site for more details and updates.

FRIDAY, JUNE 21

- 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. - Salt Spring Public Library Indigenous coordinator Caroline Dick (Tahltan/Irish two-spirit) will give mini-tours of ITOTELNEW HAUTW / Tatul' utew't-hw, which is the Indigenous learning area at the library.
- All day - Clam garden monitoring with SD64 and Parks Canada at WENÁ,NEC (Fulford Bay).
- 11 a.m. - Indigenous Story Time at the library.
- 1 p.m. - Carver Howard Lafortune (Tsayout) artist demo at Mahon Hall, hosted by Salt Spring Arts.

SATURDAY, JUNE 22

- All day - This is the Driftwood's annual Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island photo shoot day! Weekend participants are encouraged to take photos and submit them for the Day in the Life print and digital publication.
- 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. - Indigenous Art Market in the library's community program room. The market will feature artwork, jewellery and Wanda's famous northern-style bannock. Ven-

dors include Indigenous folks who are residents of Salt Spring Island, as well as from various First Nations on Turtle Island.

- 1 p.m. - Beader Katie Phillips (Quw'utsun) artist demo at Mahon Hall, put on by Salt Spring Arts.
- 3 to 7 p.m. - Community-wide Potluck Feast to celebrate the success of the Stqee'ye' Learning Society land acquisition project; hosted by Stqee'ye' with the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust in Xwaaqw'um along Burgoyne Bay Road. Transit from Farmers' Institute parking lot starts at 2:30 p.m. Supported by a grant-in-aid from the CRD.
- 5 to 9 p.m. - Our Ancestors' Prayers: a Cacao and Breathwork Journey, co-facilitated by Ariana Fortinakis (Aamjiwnaang First Nation) and Lena Del Mar (Colombian/Indigenous) at Peace Farm near Ganges. Registration and payment done through the festival ebsite.

SUNDAY, JUNE 23

- 10 a.m. - Christine Hunt, Kwakiutl noblewoman and member of the Raven Clan, will be the Indigenous speaker at the Salt Spring Island United Church morning service.
- 1 p.m. - Drum Painting demo with Virgil Sampson (Tsaltilp/Nez Perce) at Mahon Hall, put on by Salt Spring Arts.
- 3 to 5 p.m. - Discussion: From Turtle Island to Palestine: Settler Colonialism and Decolonization, put on by Stinging Nettle Books and Love's Gallettes at Bullock Lake Farm. This event will include readings from the works of the late Sto:lo writer and academic Lee Maracle, two brief presentations, followed by an open group discussion.
- 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. - Event honouring the ancestors at Grace Islet and Lunch Feast for all tribes/nations in Centennial Park.
- 5 to 9 p.m. - Evening livestream music event benefitting Stqee'ye' Learning Society at Mateada Yerba Lounge, featuring performances by Indigenous musical artists and allies, including Logan Staats, Tia Wood, Saltwater Hank and Salt Spring's own Daryl Chonka. Doors open at 5 p.m., event starts at 6 p.m. MC will be Cree teacher Rosanna Jackson and the DJ for the Decolonial Dance Party will be Djama.

As well, the ArtSpring lobby areas feature work by three Indigenous artists this month: Sherry Leigh Williams and Patricia Rose Williams (Métis) and Quentin Harris (Secwepemc).

The interactive First Nations Placenames site was also launched earlier this month through the saltspringarchives.com website, as detailed in a June 5 Driftwood story.

Organizers are extremely grateful to the numerous individuals, businesses and organizations that have stepped up to support the weekend in countless ways.

Donations to supplement grants received from the Salt Spring Island Foundation and the CRD for honoraria and travel will be gratefully accepted. Charitable tax receipts can be provided by the Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust for this purpose.

For more information beyond what is available on the website, email info@ipw24.ca.



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LIFE SAVERS



PHOTO BY GAIL SJURBERG

ALL IN THE TECHNIQUE: Firefighter Bree Sturdy shows Trish Faurot how to do CPR during Saturday's Emergency Preparedness Fair in the Ganges fire hall parking lot, which saw representatives from several island emergency services plus the BC Wildfire Service in attendance to share information, skills and swag.

NEW LEADERSHIP TEAM



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING SENIORS SERVICES SOCIETY

Salt Spring Seniors Services Society board members gather after the group's recent annual general meeting, where they celebrated a bright new sign for the Salt Spring Seniors Centre building at 379 Lower Ganges Rd. Standing, from left, are Alistair Sim, Richard Dick, Gale Neumann, Paul Roberts and Paul Wolf. Seated, from left, are Sharon Bond, Neva Hohn, Jo Ann Gainor and Kathryn McNaughton. Missing from the photo are Lynda Turner and Donna Smith.

EMERGENCY PREP

Amateur radio group holds open house

Public invited to attend
June 22 session

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island Amateur Radio Society (SSIARS) members are holding their annual field day event on Saturday, June 22, with a session for the public at the Rod and Gun Club on Long Harbour Road.

While the club will be engaged in a variety of activities during the day, members of the public are invited to drop in between 2 and 4 p.m. to see what organizers describe as "the exciting world of amateur radio" and watch the club in action.

"Come try your hand at a high-tech 'fox hunt,' play a Morse code guessing game, and get an insider's look at how radio operators rapidly deploy equipment for

emergency situations. It's equal parts competition, practice and pure fun. Whether you're a seasoned ham or have never heard a radio signal, you won't want to miss this fun event."

Amateur radio operators are key to maintaining lines of communication during natural disasters and other emergencies where traditional forms of communication, including cell phones, may not function.

According to the SSIARS website, the society's purpose is "to promote amateur radio technology, provide education in its operation and use and support local networks, emergency communications, community events and member activities. Our goal is to foster and promote amateur radio and encourage 'radio activity' and be ready to provide communications in times of need."

WATER QUALITY

Fulford fresh water info shared

Healthy Watersheds,
Healthy Waters talk on
June 20

SUBMITTED BY WATER PRESERVATION
SOCIETY

Water is life, and the availability of clean potable water is a critical issue on our island.

We at the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society (WPS) are delighted to welcome leading expert Peter S. Ross, Ph.D., to share his knowledge about caring for watersheds and water resources with the community.

Titled Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Waters, the event takes place on Thursday, June 20 at 7:30 p.m. at the Salt Spring Public Library.

Ross is the senior scientist at Raincoast Conservation Foundation, where he oversees its Healthy Waters program, a community-ori-

ented water pollution monitoring initiative. He has been working with WPS Freshwater Catalogue lead John Millson and Marine Stewardship/Transition Salt Spring lead Anne Parkinson on Salt Spring to test and analyze the health of the creeks entering Fulford Bay, and any pollutants they bring to the marine environment. In his talk he will share what they have learned and outline plans for further investigations. There will be ample time for questions and light refreshments.

Ross has a wealth of experience studying various issues related to water quality. He established the Plastics Lab at Ocean Wise and is an adjunct professor in UBC's Department of Earth, Ocean and Atmospheric Sciences, and at the UVic School for Environmental Studies. His work has been profiled in international media, including CBC's The Fifth Estate, The National and Newsworld, NBC Nightly News, BBC, the Washington Post, New York Times and the Guardian.

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