

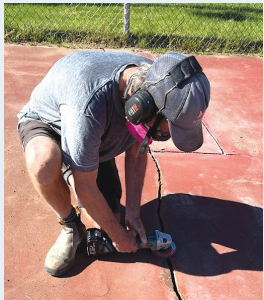
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• Country Grocer • The Local Liquor St.
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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
June 19, 2024

64th year
Issue 25
\$1.50

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PHOTO BY BILLIE WOODS PHOTOGRAPHY

CELEBRATING: Jaqueline Wightman, left, and Inara Wallace share their joy during Saturday's Class of 2024 graduation ceremony at Gulf Islands Secondary School. See page 6 for more photos from both the June 15 ceremony and June 8 safe grad party.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Ganges Hill roadwork detailed

Beddis intersection to change

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Plans for road construction this summer on Salt Spring Island are becoming clearer, and a submission for tenders expiring Friday, June 21 reveals some detail surrounding likely improvements to "Ganges Hill" — Fulford-Ganges Road between Seaview Avenue and Cranberry Road.

Island residents have been repeatedly warned to prepare for traffic disruptions this summer, as significant surface improvements will be accompanied by the installation of a closed storm-sewer drainage system and new culverts.

The project envisions resurfacing and widening of 1.6 kilometres of the two-lane rural road, highlighted by the construction of paved shoulders for pedestrians and cyclists — a 1.2-metre-wide shoulder heading north (or downhill into Ganges) and 1.8 metres in the southbound direction, according to Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI) tender documents.

Undated technical drawings included in MoTI tender packages also specify a pedestrian crossing marked below a paint-delineated "narrowing" of Fulford-Ganges Road below Seaview, with a thermoplastic zebra crossing flanked by new median markings. Another crossing, but without accompanying traffic calming, will be marked just uphill (south) of the Fulford-Ganges intersection with Beddis and Charlesworth roads.

A notable change also envisioned at the Beddis/Charlesworth intersection calls for relocating a notorious utility pole there, and removing the island that sits in the middle of the first few metres of Beddis Road. Fresh white lines to indicate to cross traffic where to stop, combined with a narrowing of Beddis Road at the turn, should clear up long-time disagreements about whether southbound traffic turning left onto Beddis should turn before or after drivers turning right off Beddis onto Fulford-Ganges — with "after" prevailing, as the former path will no longer be present.

A significant geotechnical investigation and environmental assessment took place, and reports on both were completed late last year, according to the ministry. Assuming a successful bidding process, MoTI has said construction is expected to begin this summer.



Zen Master Wolfgang says:

"One who does not understand your silence is not likely to understand your words."

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PROPOSED AMALGAMATION of UCLUELET CO-OP and MID ISLAND CO-OP

The Board of Directors of both Ucluelet Co-op and Mid Island Co-op are excited to announce to our members our proposed plans for the amalgamation of our Co-ops.

NOTICE

Notice is hereby given of a Special Meeting of the members of
Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative to be held at the
Beban Park Social Centre in Nanaimo, BC on July 11, 2024 at 7:00pm.
Address is 2300 Bowen Road.

The purpose of the meeting is to consider the proposed amalgamation of both Co-ops and vote on a special resolution as follows:

SPECIAL RESOLUTION OF Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

1. Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative does amalgamate with Ucluelet Consumers Co-operative Association to form Pacific Coast Consumer Services Co-operative effective the 1st day of February, 2025, and continue as one association under The Cooperative Association Act of the Province of British Columbia.
2. The directors and officers of Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative are hereby authorized and directed to such acts as things and execute such documents as may be necessary or desirable to implement the said amalgamation in accordance with the amalgamation agreement.

The Chief Executive Officer and Board of Directors of Mid Island Consumer Services Co-operative will present information and answer any questions that Members may have regarding the benefits of a proposed amalgamation with Ucluelet Consumers Co-operative Association.

For further information, please take a brochure available at any Mid Island Co-op convenience store or Mid Island Liquor store. Member input is vital to this process. Please feel free to email Mid Island Co-op CEO, Ian Anderson, at ian.anderson@midisland.crs with any questions.

To attend the Special Meeting on July 11, please scan the QR Code below and fill out the online registration form. Or visit our website at www.midislandco-op.crs to fill out the online registration form. Members can also register in person at the door.

FOR MORE SALT SPRING
ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT HAPPENINGS,
SEE OUR WHAT'S ON CALENDAR ON PAGE 8.

TOUR DES ÎLES FUN



PHOTO ABOVE BY DARYL MARTIN; PHOTO AT LEFT BY GAIL SAUBERG
Above, passengers board an AquaLink service water taxi at Kanaka Dock for transport to Galiano, Mayne and Saturna islands on Saturday, June 15 as part of the 10th annual Tour des Îles (TDI) festival, while drummer Paul Alexander and singer/guitarist Caoimhe Merrick were just two of many musicians performing in Centennial Park on Saturday and Sunday. Transportation and special cultural activities were organized for each of the five Gulf Islands on both days. TDI is put on by the volunteer Salish Sea Inter-island Transportation Society. People can still explore Pender, Salt Spring, Mayne and Galiano islands via AquaLink on Saturdays this summer. See aqualink.ca for information and bookings.

Introducing Dr. Steve Michaluk

DMD: Continuing a Legacy of Exceptional Denture Care

With 15 years of invaluable experience taking care of his patient's denture prosthetic needs, Dr. Michaluk (Dentist), who prefers to be called "Steve," is poised to continue the legacy of compassionate and meticulous denture provision established by the local retiring dentist on Salt Spring Island. Steve's dedication to his craft ensures that patients can anticipate the same level of commitment and personalized care they have come to expect.

If SSI residents are not able to have their denture concerns addressed locally in town, Osborne Bay Dental Health Centre is a short ferry ride over to Crofton and a small climb up the hill from the ferry terminal. It's close enough that most people can walk on the ferry and walk up the street to see us.

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- 3) Repairing teeth on existing partial dentures and complete dentures.
- 4) Maintaining natural teeth involved with a partial denture.
- 5) Removing existing natural teeth and placing a complete upper or lower denture immediately on the same day.
- 6) Making new complete dentures to replace existing or distressed complete dentures.
- 7) Making new partial dentures to replace existing or distressed partial dentures.
- 8) Dental implant options to secure a complete or partial denture more firmly in the mouth.

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PUBLIC HEALTH

CRD: Churchill Beach unsafe for swimming

Bacteria levels spike; lakes still safe

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

For the first time since saltwater testing began one year ago, regional health officials have warned against swimming at a Salt Spring Island beach due to high levels of bacteria associated with the presence of fecal matter.

In messaging coordinated with Island Health, the Capital Regional District (CRD) issued a water quality advisory for Churchill Beach on Tuesday, June 11 — after a water sample taken there on June 4 showed a high level of enterococci bacteria — 85 per 100 mL, up from less than five per 100 mL found there May 22.

Beachgoers are advised to not only avoid swimming at Churchill Beach but to “keep animals on a leash to prevent them from ingesting or swimming in the water” until the advisory is lifted, accord-

ing to a CRD release.

The June 4 reading at Churchill Beach is the highest reading in the short history of testing at that location, with the peak last year at 20 per 100 mL in August. It also comes just after water off the nearby Centennial Park bulkhead tested nearly at levels that might have triggered a similar advisory on May 22. The Centennial Park bulkhead site showed 70 bacteria per 100 mL then — just under the threshold for issuing warnings — but shows a reduced number now, with the June 11 reading indicating 55 per 100 mL.

Enterococci are indicator bacteria Island Health uses to identify the presence of fecal contamination and determine potential risk associated with swimming. Testing at both saltwater sites last summer had produced no concerning results, according to Island Health data, showing well inside the “safe for swimming” levels of indicator bacteria. The “worst” summertime tests at Ganges Harbour last year showed five or fewer of the

bacteria found per 100 mL sample in the water off Centennial Park, and 20 per 100 mL off the end of Churchill Road.

Saltwater beaches are generally deemed “acceptable” when single sample enterococci results are less than or equal to 70 per 100 mL, where there is considered a “significant risk of illness” from entering the water, according to Island Health, or if the average of the most recent five tests finds fewer than 35 of the bacteria per 100 mL sample. Last summer, just three samples were taken at each Salt Spring Island beach.

Meanwhile, testing at popular swimming lakes on the island — for E. coli, the indicator bacteria used for fresh water — at St. Mary, Cusheon, Weston, Blackburn and Stowel (aka Stowe) lakes all came back satisfactory May 22, at or below five per 100 mL, although there has not been additional testing since.

While previous summers had seen Island Health testing samples only from popular freshwater


swimming spots on Salt Spring from mid-May to September, the health authority regularly tests samples from saltwater beaches elsewhere within its region. Samples are collected by municipalities and regional districts — in this case the CRD — and are then sent for testing and the results analyzed by Island Health.

The addition of testing at Ganges Harbour was requested last year by a group supporting the Clean and Safe Harbours Initiative, which advocates regulating live-aboards in Ganges Harbour partly over concerns human waste was being discharged there by people living afloat.

Indicators of fecal material in waterways come from numerous sources, according to Health Canada, commonly from insufficiently treated wastewater effluent. The Ganges Harbour Wastewater Treatment Plant releases treated and disinfected water from the sewer into the harbour — but through a nearly five-kilometre outfall that discharges well past

Second Sister Island, at a depth of some 16 metres below sea level.

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Rainbow Road and Jackson Avenue

SCHOOL DISTRICT

Livestreamed meetings planned

Strategic plan input also wanted

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A draft meeting schedule for the coming year has been laid out for Gulf Islands School District (SD64) Board of Education members — and starting in September, for the first time, the regular meetings will be streamed live online to members of the public.

Board meetings have always been open for the public to attend in-person, and trustees and school officials have — from time to time — “zoomed in” for meetings when they could not be there. But while technology costs and privacy considerations had made board members reluctant to provide live video in the past, the news will be welcome for many Gulf Islanders — particularly since the current draft schedule puts all meetings for the coming academic year at the district’s board room facility on Salt Spring Island.

“It’s all here at the school board office,” said SD64 board president Tisha Boulter at the June 12 board meeting. “Our connections to the outer islands will be during our committee meetings.”

Those committee meetings will continue to be held on other islands — including Saturna, Galiano, Pender and Mayne islands — as well as online. The regular board meetings will be held the second Wednesday of each month September through June, excluding October, December and March.

While the public may not spontaneously participate in trustees’

regular meetings — they are “open to the public for observation” while board members conduct business — they will include a question period at the end of the meeting. Boulter said that during live streams, the current plan was not to record “the back of the room, and all the guests,” focusing on just keeping the stream aimed at board members “for privacy reasons.”

“We don’t want to implicate a person who [simply] comes to a board meeting being seen live streamed,” said Boulter.

The first meeting after the summer break will be Wednesday, Sept. 11.

Strategic plan input

Also at the meeting, trustees and staff noted that Sunday, June 23 is the final day for people to provide input on the district’s strategic plan.

Four plan focus areas are proposed: Truths, Reparation and Restoration; Integrity and Responsibility; Relationships and Belonging; An Ethic of Learning.

The feedback form can be found on the district’s sd64.bc.ca website.



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



Islands Trust

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to s.467 of the Local Government Act that the Mayne Island Local Trust Committee will consider the first reading of Draft Bylaw No. 193, cited as “Mayne Island Land Use Bylaw No. 146, 2008, Amendment No. 1, 2023” at its Regular Business Meeting scheduled

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



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EDITORIAL

Streaming sense

The Gulf Islands Board of Education will join the 21st century this fall when school trustees' business meetings will be livestreamed for viewing online.

School District 64 is late to the party when it comes to making its discussions and decisions easily accessible for those who don't have the time or ability to attend a meeting in person. School board meetings have traditionally taken place at least once per year on the four "outer islands," as they are still referred to by the district, and the rest of the time on Salt Spring. Starting in September, all regular business meetings will take place in the school board office on Salt Spring where internet transmission can be reliably done. Trustees and administrators will still visit Saturna, Mayne, Pender and Galiano, but for committee meeting and information-sharing purposes only.

THE ISSUE: Livestreaming public meetings

WE SAY: Boon for democracy

The change of process is a positive one and we applaud SD64 for taking the steps required to make it happen. Watching public officials and staff from any form of government crawl through a lengthy agenda (and when the audio quality is sometimes sub-par) may not be many people's idea of a worthwhile way to spend their time. But outside of attending such meetings live in the flesh — which a few Salt Spring residents do quite religiously — it's the only way to get a sense of what the people we elect are really doing and saying as they fulfill their duties to their constituents. It's easy to look at the posted agendas online and see if anything of interest is listed and check in to watch those items alone.

This week Salt Spring Islanders have the opportunity to see Islands Trust Council in person, when 26 trustees from 13 islands in the federation plus senior Trust staff meet at the Harbour House until early Thursday afternoon. With the sheer number of voices needing to be heard, council proceedings may be unwieldy at times, but also offer a fascinating look at how elected officials communicate and make decisions.

Democracy may not offer riveting entertainment most days, but the more people paying attention at any level the better the system works. We encourage fellow islanders to tune in either online or, when possible, with their bum in an actual meeting-room seat.

HAPPY FATHER'S DAY



PARKER

Build ferries closer to home

BY PHIL VENOIT

BC Ferries' engagement report called Charting the Course affirmed the public's top three priorities are reliability (33 per cent), affordability (30 per cent), and better integration with transit and active transportation (17 per cent).

These are improvements to the service, and we can usually count on needing more funds to implement improvements. So, if keeping shipbuilding local can address all these priorities and bring in money, then why has there been such a pushback?

The main argument (or myth) against building the new ferries here in B.C. is that it will cost millions of dollars more than building them in Romania or Poland due to skilled trades workers' higher wages. However, this argument is too simplistic and untrue as it lacks consideration of many other elements. When we send manufacturing overseas, we leave our supply chain vulnerable to international and external factors, one of them being quality control. It's old news that BC Ferries constantly cancels sailings due to mechanical issues, which then results in vessels being out of service for days, or even weeks. British Columbians told us your time is valuable, and that cancelled sailings also means lost revenue for BC Ferries. By keeping shipbuilding in B.C., we will have control over quality, knowledge and expertise; meaning, skilled Canadians will perform the work properly, and materials and equipment can be sourced in Canada. This will streamline repairs, shielding shipbuilding from global shocks, and will put the ferry back in the water faster. That is how you build reliability.

When we fixate on fair ferry construction wages as being the reason why fares go up, we ignore the real contributors, which are fuel and shipping and other corporate

VIEWPOINT

overhead costs. The fluctuation in oil and diesel prices are major contributors to fare increases, and then there are all the

expenses associated with international building, such as carrier rates, transportation of parts, packing costs, warehousing/storage, and customs/duties/tariffs. Moreover, there's the opportunity cost, which is the amount of potential benefits we give up by outsourcing: potentially \$2.5 billion in municipal and provincial government taxes, \$4.3 billion in contributions to B.C.'s GDP, and \$3.1 billion in labour income over the years. The higher cost of building at home doesn't factor shipyard workers' income taxes, corporate taxes the government would receive back, or the spin-off jobs created by sourcing the materials and equipment here at home. If BC Ferries used the current procurement model brought in by David Hahn in the early 2000s, we could actually be opting for the more expensive version of the same vessel. These are taxes that would historically be used to keep ferry fares affordable.

And thirdly, priority number three — better integration. Revitalizing and strengthening shipbuilding in B.C. would bring more density to coastal communities and this would spur innovation, green technology, investments in real estate and spin-off benefits to education, retail and beyond. It would result in more apprenticeship opportunities for our youth, and good mortgage-paying, family-raising jobs in B.C. communities.

When BC Ferries fixates on the price tag of a new ferry, they ignore the true costs, and benefits to all British Columbians.

The writer is the business manager and financial secretary of the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers Local 230, Vancouver Island.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Have you ever watched
a government meeting
online?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Is the Islands Trust
50th anniversary
something to
celebrate?

33 109
YES NO

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com
before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Policy, not personality

If Mairi Welman wants to accuse me and others of spreading "misinformation and lies," it is incumbent on her to provide the evidence.

Without such detail, her Viewpoint in last week's Driftwood, in which she conveniently failed to identify herself as co-chair of the pressure group Salt Spring Solutions (from their website), amounts to nothing more than an ad hominem attack.

I can only assume she is upset about my recent disclosure that Salt Spring Solutions was deeply involved in an unofficial housing group, led by trustee Laura Patrick, that worked behind the scenes in 2020 to change the focus of our OCP review from environment to housing — a reversal of priorities that is arguably resulting in the slow collapse of the entire Islands Trust.

Significantly, key members in that group, including the chair of the Housing Action Program Task Force, have written articles indirectly criticizing OCP Policy B.2.1.2.1, which limits growth on Salt Spring. They are acutely aware of this elephant in the room, so why isn't that policy, which was designed to protect ecosystems and implement the Islands Trust Act, first and foremost in all OCP discussions?

The fact that, after four years of dancing around the OCP mulberry bush, our community has yet to be properly consulted about this kingpin policy, suggests the amendment process has been severely manipulated. As the kitchen heats up, let's focus on policy, not personality.

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

Cycle; recycle - a cautionary tale

Cyclists! Ride single file, at least 30 metres apart: period.

In a perfect world, please spread out a hundred metres apart. Cycling Salt Spring is not a social occasion, not a picnic. It's your job as a cyclist, one who wishes to arrive safely, and then possibly engage in conversation.

Talking on a cell while cycling is fine, with in-ear receivers, whereas Zooming to share the joy may be hazardous. If I see you, you're bright enough to be seen, via stripes, reflectors, maybe blinking lights fore and aft, which is a good thing, because you may not hear my Tesla overtaking you.

Single file, well-spaced apart, and brightly visible: everyone please have a safe day enjoying our island.

And a shout-out to the Recycling Depot up on Tin Can Alley, up on the high side of Rain-

bow Road at the fairgrounds, for their trusted conveyance of excess things that plague us, and for their forbearance with those of us who are learning, or who get sloppy.

They educate rather than scold; cyclists, please take note.

PAUL-VALDEMAR HORSDAL,
SALT SPRING

Natural world benefits

I join many other grateful islanders in thanking everyone involved in saving 31 forested acres on Isabella Point from development.

The property, located on Lumley Road, consists of wetland and mature Coastal Douglas-fir, and connects with other protected parcels in the area, including the almost 900-acre Mount Tuam Ecological Reserve.

Organizer Elissa Poole deserves special accolades for never giving up, even after an initial attempt to secure the land faltered. Heartfelt thanks also go out to many others who helped make the project a success: Salt Spring Island Foundation for their 100,000 grant; Andrew Day and Tim Ennis of BC Parks Foundation for trusting we could do this, and making it all possible with matching funds and negotiating skills; Charles Kahn

for his seasoned expertise in conservation; Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club and Dennis Lucarelli for expanding our fundraising connections; numerous local biologists who walked the property and advocated for the importance of saving it; and, of course, the many, many donors.

The natural world is a little better today due to this wonderful example of community cooperation. May it serve as an inspiration for other similar projects.

MICHELLE DAVIDSON,
SALT SPRING

Overwhelmed

Before his May show in the ArtSpring galleries, Salt Spring artist Ian Thomas committed 30 per cent of his sales to Ukraine.

I was overwhelmed last week to receive a cheque for \$1,965.00. With e-transfer, money was immediately sent. Three days later, Igor Darmokhid received a short video from a soldier at the front, thanking us for the surveillance drone, which was already in operation, delivering medical supplies to the trenches and surveying enemy lines.

Thank you, Ian, and everyone who has supported the Help Ukraine Fund at Island Savings Credit Union.

VICTORIA OLCHOWECKI,
HELP UKRAINE SSI

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"There is so much joy and beauty in Indigenous cultures and this weekend is an opportunity to celebrate and share our cultures."

CAROLINE DICK, INDIGENOUS COORDINATOR, SALT SPRING PUBLIC LIBRARY, ON THE INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WEEKEND

Not all of my stories are funny, but some must be told anyway

You hardly see hitchhikers anymore. Now and then someone at a bus stop will stick out a tentative thumb, but the glory days of hitching are pretty well over and done.

I hitchhiked all over Canada a long while ago. I stood on road-sides in Ontario, New York State, northern Manitoba and all over the West. Although the big trips were usually out of necessity, there were also countless little trips in Toronto when I was a kid. The Toronto ones were in those huge old cars with no radios and back seats large enough for a small family. That's a ways back.

The roads in northern Manitoba were lonely and a bit scary. Not a lot of people up there then and not a lot of cars either. A hitchhiker had to rely on the big trucks. Huge rigs doing the long haul to the cities. In those rigs you rode high up front over the engine and watched the drivers manipulate the dozens of gears. It was hard to understand why so many gears, but a hitcher doesn't ask too many questions. Like, what are those little white pills?

I got dropped one evening in a small town about 100 miles north west of Winnipeg just as it was

getting dark. Sometimes in those days I travelled with my guitar just in case some local bar would pay for a few folk tunes to entertain the drinkers. I had heard through the hitchers' grapevine that a guy could go to the local RCMP office and get a voucher for a meal or a bed. Since I had no other option and there was no bar or pub around, I took the chance. There was no one at the police station, but there was an address for the sergeant. I knocked on his door. By this time it was dark. A guy came to the door in a housecoat and I asked him if what I had heard was true. He looked at me, turned around and handed me the key to the jail. And a voucher for breakfast at the local cafe. Lock up when you leave tomorrow, he said, with the emphasis on tomorrow. So I did.

Hardly anyone believes that story, so for a long time I simply stopped telling it. But now, since I have another story inside this one, what the heck. It was an old jail, two cells with bars made of inch and a half thick oak. Wooden bars. And no guard. It must be Canada. I tied my guitar to my leg so no one could steal it and spent a long time reading the



Chris Rideout
AND THAT WAS WHEN

messages on the cell walls, but that's another story too. Years later I tried to find that town and that little jail but I couldn't. It's been a long time.

As a rule, women don't pick up male hitchhikers. Hitchhikers like to tell tales about being picked up by women but the tales are so full of fantasy and obvious wishful thinking that they have no credibility. But there I was, on the side of the Trans Canada heading east in the late afternoon. I was in a hurry, which is totally ridiculous if you're hitchhiking, because you can't make the drivers stop for you. You can stand up straight, hold your arm up high and stretch your thumb but it won't help. I once had a driver tell me he picked me up because of my guitar. How dangerous can a guitar player be? he said.

But I was in a hurry because I

was almost a month late for my last year of high school. And I was afraid I would miss the whole year. A car stopped and I got in. It was a family: mom and dad and their daughter. The daughter was about my age. After a while the parents, after assuring themselves that I was harmless (the guitar again), invited me home to their farm with them for supper and a bed, and said they would drive me back to the highway in the morning.

Sometimes I wonder what direction my life would have taken had I accepted their offer. I think of all the possibilities. It makes you wonder about the roads not taken, doesn't it? They let me out at the turnoff to their farm and I stuck out my thumb again.

But the ride I wanted to tell you about started on the heels of that family ride. Where I had been let out was on the borders of what looked like a First Nations reservation. I was not scared, but I knew nothing about native people. I was from a big city and I was still pretty much a kid. I had my expensive guitar in a hard-shell case. On the side of the highway. At dusk.

I had my thumb out as high as I could and a car slowed down

and the passenger window rolled down. "Can you change a tire?" It was a lady's voice. I assured her that I could so I got in. At that point I would have rebuilt the engine.

There were three women in the car. We drove in silence for quite a while and the driver pulled into one of those service stations you see along the Trans-Canada Highway that are rest stop, gas station and restaurant in one. Once inside I ordered apple pie and coffee at the counter, and the ladies sat in a booth.

Outside, a guy pulled in to get gas and I could see he was going east. I ran out to his car and asked for a ride — "Going to Toronto?" He said, "Yes, but hurry."

I went back in to get my guitar and the ladies beckoned me over. They had paid for my pie and asked if I would send them a picture postcard of Toronto when I got home. They had never been there, they said. They held out their address. Sorry, I said, but I gotta go right now. And I rushed away.

When you think of all the stupid, selfish things you may have done in your life, one always stands out, doesn't it? Funny the things you remember.



All photos by Billie Woods Photography



Sóley Lapp-MacDonald sings O Canada during the June 15 graduation ceremony in the GISS gymnasium.



Above, one of two Class of 2024 group shots taken this year: at the Safe Grad Dinner and Dance at Stone Bridge Island Farm, a wedding venue donated to the grads for the June 8 event, which was held a week before the graduation ceremony – a departure from past years – and fully fundraised by graduating class parents.



Grad Steph Cowan high-fives with her dad James Cowan.



Tim Marcotte receives his graduation certificate from GISS principal Ryan Massey.

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Grads enjoy games at the safe grad night held the week before the ceremony. Also new this year was a separate evening devoted to awarding of 174 scholarships and bursaries worth more than \$275,000. Last week's Driftwood incorrectly reported a much smaller award number from the June 7 event.

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
19	1:21	10	3.05	23	1:16	9.9	3.02
	9:59	1.7	0.52		3:25	10	3.05
	18:46	10.4	3.17		12:23	0	0
	22:34	9.7	2.96		21:02	11.4	3.47
20	1:35	10.1	3.08	24	2:12	9.7	2.96
	10:30	1	0.3		4:21	9.8	2.99
	19:19	10.8	3.29		13:06	0.2	0.06
	23:30	9.9	3.02		21:37	11.5	3.5
21	2:01	10.1	3.08	25	3:10	9.2	2.8
	11:04	0.5	0.15		5:25	9.4	2.87
	19:52	11.1	3.38		13:49	0.8	0.24
	0:23	9.9	3.02		22:10	11.6	3.54
22	2:38	10.1	3.08	26	4:07	8.5	2.59
	11:42	0.1	0.03		6:40	8.8	2.68
	20:27	11.3	3.44		14:32	1.8	0.55
					22:41	11.6	3.54

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OUTDOOR MUSIC

Park music schedule released



PHOTOS COURTESY SS ARTS

Performing Aug. 1 in the Summer Outdoor Concert Series in Centennial Park are Latin music band Mazacote, left, and the Peach & Quiet duo of Heather Read and Jonny Miller, who will open for Mazacote.

Summer Outdoor Concert Series

INFO SUBMITTED BY SS ARTS

With the return of the Summer Outdoor Concert Series (SOCS), community members and island visitors will gather in Centennial Park every Thursday at 6 p.m. from July 18 to Aug. 22 to enjoy exceptional live music for free.

Salt Spring Arts, which organizes the series with support from marquee presenters Salt Spring Country Grocer and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union, and other groups, promises a vibrant lineup of performers, featuring acts local to the Southern Gulf Islands and quality touring musicians.

The series launches on July 18, headlined by renowned Australian-based singer-songwriter Steph Strings, bringing her compelling, percussive fingerstyle guitar to the island. New local act The Selkies of Salt Spring Island, an enchanting vocal harmony trio, will perform an opening set to warm up the stage.

The following week, July 25, will see the Jocelyn Pettit Trio's "New-Trad Celtic" music fronted by vibrant

fiddle player, singer and stepdancer Jocelyn Pettit. The five-time Canadian Folk Music Award nominee will be joined by Erik Musseau and Adam Dobres. Emerging young Pender Island singer-songwriter Sóley Ella May will open the evening with her unique voice and compelling songs.

Juno-nominated, hard-hitting Latin band Mazacote headlines SOCS' third concert on Aug. 1, bringing energy deeply in the music of Colombia, Mozambique and Venezuela. Their Afro-Caribbean percussion and tropical party sounds will make you move. An opening set will be performed by Pender Island folk duo Peach & Quiet with songs inspired by 1970s Laurel Canyon.

On Aug. 8, acclaimed duo Blue Moon Marquee will showcase their genre-bending original music influenced by anything that swings, jumps or grooves. Opening act Chico Eh, created by local talents Billie Woods and 'eljose,' will share their eclectic music featuring lyrics in Spanish, Portuguese and English.

Aug. 15 sees a co-headlining lineup of two Salt Spring local bands: Daryl Chonka and Caraluna, and the series ends on Aug. 22 headlined by vibrant collective Kára-Kátá

Afrobeat Band and local Indigenous fiddle player Wesley Hardisty opening the evening with his original compositions.

More information about the series is at saltspringarts.com/socs.

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WHATA 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 Sjoberg at news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com for deadlines and details about how to submit.

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TEA À TEMPO

Songs of Love and Life reprised at All Saints

Cicela Månsson and
Don Conley perform

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Everyone has stories to tell. Stories are incredibly important but not everyone has

the opportunity to tell theirs.

On Wednesday, June 26, coloratura soprano Cicela Månsson and pianist Don Conley will reprise their October 2023 concert *Songs of Love and Life* at All Saints by-the-Sea, as part of the Music Makers' Tea à Tempo series. These life

journeys, recounted in a story, a scene, or a vignette, offer a view into the composers' life-experiences. The music will lead audience members through peaceful bliss, exclamations of good cheer, murmurs of loneliness, roars of rage and calls for love. You will be invited to gently hold

the thought of someone you love while the songs unfold through works by Copland, Barber, Debussy, Fauré, Finzi and R. Strauss.

Music by donation begins at 2:10 p.m., followed by tea and treats available at a cost of \$5.

what's on this week

Wed. June 19	Fri. June 21	Sat. June 22	Tues. June 25
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Tea à Tempo: Pianist and songwriter Frank Allen Huether. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Before Night Falls. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m. Dinner Jazz With Iain Duncan & Friends. Mateada. 7 to 9 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Indigenous Art Market. Library program room. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Salt Spring Public Library Indigenous coordinator Caroline Dick gives mini-tours of the Indigenous learning area at the library. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Good Medicine - Meet the Artists. Sheena Gering gives beading and wool tufting demonstration at ArtSpring. With live jazz by Wilf Davies. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is HomeSharing Program coordinator Max Baron-Veale. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Indigenous Story Time. In the children's area at the library. 11 to 11:30 a.m. Indigenous Artist Demo. Tsawout carver Howard Lafortune at Mahon Hall, hosted by SS Arts. 1 p.m. Youth Games & Chess Club. For ages 9-13. Library children's area. 1 to 4 p.m. Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.	ACTIVITIES Community-wide Potluck Feast. To celebrate Stqeeeye' Learning Society successes. At Xwaaqvw'um. Shuttle bus from Farmers' Institute parking lot starts at 2:30 p.m. Our Ancestors' Prayers: a Cacao and Breathwork Journey. 5 p.m. Registration through https://gulfislandevents.com/indigenous-peoples-weekend/ Sun. June 23 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Indigenous People Weekend Live & Livestream Music Event. Featuring Logan Staats, Tia Wood, Saltwater Hank, Daryl Chonka and more. Mateada Yerba Lounge. Doors at 5 p.m., event starts at 6 p.m. DJ for the Decolonial Dance Party will be Djama. Synergy. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m. Jazz Jam. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m. Sunday Sessions With Guest Artists. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.	ACTIVITIES Tuesday Farmers Market. Every Tuesday at Centennial Park. 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Wed. June 26 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Tea à Tempo: Don Conley and Cicela Månsson. Songs of Love & Life at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Tom Hooper. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m. ACTIVITIES Bittancourt Museum. See last Wed.. Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m. Music Bingo. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.
Thur. June 20	Sat. June 22	Mon. June 24	Tues. June 25
LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Kathy Stack Trio. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m. The Latin Lovers. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. Hilltop Pranksters & Special Headliner. Mateada. 9 p.m. ACTIVITIES Islands Trust Council Quarterly Meeting. Harbour House Hotel. 10 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Healthy Watersheds, Healthy Waters. Leading expert on watersheds and water resources Peter Ross, Ph.D., speaks in the library program room. 7:30 p.m. Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Duke & Goldie. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m. Henry Purcell (mostly) in Love. A Salt Spring Baroque event at All Saints. 7 p.m. Apollo Suns. Mateada. 9 p.m. Everyday People. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m. ACTIVITIES Day in the Life of Salt Spring Island Photo Shoot. Take photos from 6 a.m. June 22 through 6 a.m. June 23 for the Driftwood newspaper's annual publication. Send them to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com . Saturday Market. In Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Legion Golf Tournament. Fundraising event at SS Golf Club. 10 a.m. start.	ACTIVITIES Indigenous Speaker. Christine Hunt, Kwakwaka'wakw Noblewoman and member of the Raven Clan, speaks at SSI United Church service. 10 a.m. Honouring the Ancestors of Grace Islet: 10 Year Anniversary Event & Lunch Feast. Centennial Park. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Henry Ruckle House Open House. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Indigenous Artist Demo. Tsartlip/Nez Perce artist Virgil Samson at Mahon Hall. 1 p.m. Hosted by Salt Spring Arts. From Turtle Island to Palestine: Settler Colonialism and Decolonization. Readings, presentation, discussion. Centennial Park. 3 p.m. Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing. Mon. June 24 LIVE ENTERTAINMENT TBA. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.	CINEMA • The Great Escaper runs Friday, June 21 to Tuesday, June 25 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info. ART EXHIBITIONS • Artcraft Showcase is Phenomenologies – Kim Korol and Kristine Webber. At Mahon Hall until July 8. • Both Sides Now – Paintings by Julia Lucich runs at Salt Spring Gallery until July 3. Gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays. • Art Jam at the Library: Joseph Reville (aka CJ) and Sherman Sherwood. In the library program room through July 3. • Art Jam at GIFTS shows at GIFTS Gallery on McPhillips Ave. from June 15 to 30. • Quentin Harris exhibits in the Jankura Lounge at ArtSpring until June 28. • Sherry Leigh Williams and Patricia Rose Williams show their artwork in the ArtSpring lobby until June 28. • Artcraft show and sale of work by Gulf Islands artisans runs daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. • Rolando Lampitoc exhibits artwork at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe & Kitchen. • Sheri Standen shows watercolour paintings at the Country Grocer deli wall display for the month of June.
Fri. June 21	Sat. June 22	Mon. June 24	Tues. June 25
ACTIVITIES Fulford Bay Sea Garden Monitoring with Parks Canada. Meet at Drummond Park at 8:15 a.m. for shuttle to site. Continues to 1:30 p.m. Fulford Bay Sea Garden Tour. Meet at Drummond Park at 9:45 a.m. for shuttle to site. Continues to noon.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Indigenous Artist Demo. Quw'utsun Beader Katie Phillips at Mahon Hall, put on by Salt Spring Arts. 1 p.m. Salt Spring Island Amateur Radio Society Field Day. Public welcome at Rod & Gun Club. 2 to 4 p.m.	LIVE ENTERTAINMENT Country Jam. With open mic. Legion. 6 to 9 p.m.	Indigenous Peoples Weekend Friday-Sunday, June 21-23 So many events! THRIFTY FOODS Ganges, Mouat's Centre 7:30am to 9pm Customer Service 250-537-1522



ISLAND LIFE

RACIAL EQUITY

Workshop empowers students



PHOTOS BY JULIKA SCHMID

From left, Angela Ma Brown leads students in an anti-racism workshop at Gulf Islands Secondary School, and students play the Active Witnessing scenario game during a day organized by the Students for Racial Equity group.

Anti-racism session completes active year for Students for Racial Equity

BY JAQUELINE WIGHTMAN AND INARA WALLACE

GISS STUDENTS

The Active Witnessing presentation and workshop concluded a gratifying year for the anti-racism group, Students for Racial Equity (SFRE), at Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS).

Angela Ma Brown returned for a third year to educate students on micro-aggressions and how to "pause hurt." The past positive student response to her workshops prompted the Students for Racial Equity to bring her back for a full day of workshops to strengthen equity and inclusivity throughout the school.

After attending the workshop, students reflected through a survey that

they felt more empowered to act and "stand up for what is right," as articulated by one Grade 10 student. Participants learned ways to react to racism and other forms of discrimination using the Active Witnessing Triangle, consisting of the victim, offender, co-witnesses and external support members. One Grade 11 student reflected, "I will rely more on basic [phrases] such as 'What did you mean by that?' to pause the hurt."

Another Grade 11 student shared, "I hope to have more courage to speak up in the moment, as well as focus on calming the situation down."

The day also included a presentation to the Grade 7 classes at Salt Spring Elementary, introducing them to Active Witnessing to stop discrimination by speaking up and asking for help.

It is incredibly uplifting to look back and see that the SFRE group really did encourage learning, upstanding and inclusion at GISS this year. In addition to the Active Witnessing workshop, the group hosted a musical three-day

event during Black History Month with the Marcus Mosely Trio, which touched hundreds of students and community members. The trio then donated funds, which allowed us to bring Angela Ma Brown back to the school.

Also, during Black History Month, the SFRE group hosted a school-wide, live, online presentation called "P is for Privilege" which every class watched synchronously. This year, more than ever, GISS students showed up for the marginalized communities in many ways: volunteering for bake sales, appreciating and sharing culture through posters, speaking for the IBPOC veterans of the past, and standing with our Indigenous companions during Red Dress Day and Orange Shirt Day.

Many SFRE group members are 2024 graduates, and we hope the SFRE can continue in the following years. We hope that we have caught the attention of the next brave students to advocate for racial equity at GISS in the future.

PHILANTHROPY

Crash cart focus of hospital fundraiser

Registration opens for annual golf tournament and auction

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

More than 30 businesses and dozens of volunteers have stepped up to meet a "big, ambitious target" for the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation's annual golf tournament this year: raising enough cash to purchase an iconic piece of life-saving equipment for the hospital's new emergency department.

The goal for the July 6 event, now in its 33rd year, according to LMHF executive director Eric Jacobsen, is to raise \$30,000 for a defibrillator crash cart.

"You know, when you think of the emergency department, and someone says 'clear?'" laughed Jacobsen. "That's the one!"

Slots for the tournament's three tee times would likely be filling fast, according to Jacobsen, as the annual event is popular with the community; this year's maximum will be 156 players, or 52 per tee time. In addition, Jacobsen said, the day this year would be marked by food, prizes, guest speakers and

both a silent and live auction.

"It's a format we haven't really done before," said Jacobsen. "This year we're going to have a funding thermometer as we have a goal for a specific piece of equipment."

And, he said, in addition to a Hole 6 hole-in-one prize of a brand-new Subaru, there would be auction items at a "new level" — including some that couldn't be announced yet.

"It's going to be a pretty exciting auction," said Jacobsen. "I can say there will be a signed Robert Bateman print, and a luxury Hastings House package. A whole lot of community businesses are coming together to provide prizes."

The event is called "Swing from the Heart," and participants are invited to dress up with a heart theme, or simply wear red. A buffet dinner will start the post-play events, which will include trophies, speakers and the live auction, as well as updates on the new emergency department.

"We're asking the community to bring a spirit of generosity to help make this ambitious goal happen," said Jacobsen. "Together, we will save lives — and have an amazing time in the process."

Tee times Saturday, July 6 will be at 8 a.m., 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The deadline for registration is Saturday, June 29. For more information, visit ladymintofoundation.com.

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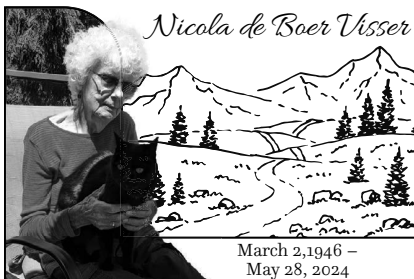
Obituaries

Obituaries

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It is with sadness that we have to announce the passing of Nieke de Boer Visser, on her own terms. She was born in Amsterdam, the Netherlands, on March 2, 1946, to Nicolaas de Boer and Johanna Piels. She had a much older brother, Ger, who predeceased her in 2012.

After her schooling at a Gymnasium (which in the Netherlands is the highest preparatory school for university admission), she went to the University of Amsterdam to do her medical degrees, which she finalized in 1973. At the Gymnasium in Amsterdam, she met her future husband, Kees. They married on October 10, 1969.

After their doctoral degrees (Kees in geology), they left for Zambia in 1974, where she worked as a medical professional for the Health and Pollution Control Department of the Zambian mining industry.

In 1982, they left Zambia for Calgary in Canada, where Kees was employed by Petro-Canada. Nieke discovered that Canada did not recognize her medical degree, which embittered her until her death.

She found employment with the AIDS Clinic, as an assistant, in Calgary until a car accident in 1992 stopped this career. In 1994, she followed Kees to Algeria, Tunisia, and France, where Kees was Exploration Manager for North Africa and the Middle East.

In 2003, Kees retired, and they moved to Salt Spring Island. Nieke volunteered energetically with the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club, where she joined the Board in various capacities and was President from 2014 to 2016. With her energy, she organized a number of camps and one of the most successful BC Nature AGMs in 2015.

She loved animals and had dogs and cats; she was also active in birding. She leaves behind her devastated husband of 54 years, Kees, and two children, Marjolein and Frank; also two grandchildren, Calum and Sebastian.

We thank Dr. Slakov and Dr. Kalf for their help with this difficult journey in the last few years. At Nieke's request, please no flowers, but a donation to the SPCA or Dying with Dignity.

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Support the local businesses that support your local newspaper.

Driftwood

NOTICE

Notice of intention to dispose of a vessel under section 39 of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act

25' SV Grey hull Sunk in Lyall Harbour Saturna Island B.C. currently considered to be abandoned: W2024-503141

20ft brown SV - located in Ganges Harbour, Salt Spring Island, B.C. currently considered to be abandoned: W2024-502988- NA-GH-005

22' SeaRay PV white/blue stripe located at entrance Ganges Harbour, Salt Spring Island, B.C. currently considered to be abandoned W2024-503136 JH-GH-010

24' S/V "Amnesia" purple located in Fulford Harbour Salt Spring Island, B.C. is currently considered to be dilapidated: W2024-502995

This notice serves as official notice of the Minister's intention to dispose of this vessel after 30 days from which this notice was given. Should you have any questions, you may contact, Transport Canada's Navigation Protection Program at NPPAC-PPNPAC@tc.gc.ca or 604-775-8867 and reference the noted file#

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

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WEEK OF
JUNE 16 TO 22, 2024

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
SAGITTARIUS, CAPRICORN AND AQUARIUS



ARIES

Having shared goals is the key to a happy and healthy relationship. Taking a step back will enable you to better appreciate what you have and what you want so you can move forward together.



TAURUS

You'll deal with some rather stressful negotiations this week. Someone will confess their feelings to you, but you won't know how to react, especially if you're in a relationship, as they won't be let down easily.



GEMINI

Sometimes, you must put your ego aside to reach your goals. It can be challenging to stand in front of a crowd of people. Learn to trust yourself.



CANCER

One of your children will achieve something significant, such as taking their first steps or getting a diploma. This will amaze you and fill you with happiness and pride. You'll stand out at work for your honesty and openness, earning praise.



LEO

You'll start a new chapter when you decide to sell your home. Your children have left the nest; it's time for new challenges and enriching experiences. You'll accept change with peace and optimism.



VIRGO

You must create a detailed budget to manage your finances. This will allow you to treat yourself to a holiday full of adventure and discovery alone, with your significant other or friends. Get ready for lots of fun ahead!



LIBRA

You tend to act quickly in any situation, which can sometimes be a quality or a flaw. Seek the advice of those close to you. Don't rush into things to avoid unnecessary expenses.



SCORPIO

If you're constantly questioning your future, a dream could guide you toward a professional solution. An unexpected discovery could positively illuminate your path.



SAGITTARIUS

You're under a lot of pressure and need to recharge your batteries. Take this opportunity to let your creativity run wild. You'll get a lot of original suggestions to decorate your home.



CAPRICORN

You'll organize an event that will bring some of your friends together, and you'll have a lot of people to welcome and entertain. You'll need to be creative and diplomatic to ensure everything goes smoothly.



AQUARIUS

Every great project starts with a dream. You'll find the inspiration you need to turn your ideas into reality. Your dream for the future is reflected in both your personal and professional lives, strengthening your determination.



PISCES

An unforeseen event will evoke intense emotions and make you question your choices. You may have the urge to go far away on a spiritual journey that will shed light on your future.

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SPORTS + RECREATION

HIGH SPIRITS



PHOTO COURTESY SS SPECIAL OLYMPICS

Showing their camaraderie are Salt Spring's Special Olympics BC bocce ball team members and coaches who competed in the "serious but fun" June 8 regional bocce ball qualifier in Campbell River, narrowly missing advancing to provincial finals. From left, standing, are Dave "Lucky" McEachern, Christopher Joynson, Mahjor Bains (captain), Stephan McHugh and Dave Curran (assistant coach), and from left, seated, Don Clifford (head coach), Chewbacca (team mascot) and Jim Halicki (assistant coach). Anyone interested in volunteering a few hours a week with the program is encouraged to contact Carol Newmeyer at allmine@telus.net.

HONOURING WALLY



PHOTOCOURTESY ISLAND PATHWAYS

Island Pathways volunteers finish installation of a bench by the Baker Road cemetery sponsored by Dennice Stambuck to honour her late husband Wally (see bench plaque image at right). From left are Mike Garside, Donald McLennan, Dennice Stambuck (sponsor), Philip Grange, Gary Lehman, Dave Depper and Zeke Blazecka. Missing from the photo but also at the work party were Peter Meyer, Jean Gelwicks and Peter Lamb).

TENNIS

Portlock courts repaired



PHOTO COURTESY SSTA

Salt Spring Tennis Association members who volunteered to repair Portlock Park courts are, from left, Babette Arnoldus Dubois, Peter Parker, Gord Speed, Rod Brindamour, Blair Carley, Dan Sturko, Mafalda Hoogerdyk, David Naphtali and Tim Dubois. Missing are Murray Coates and Wayne Wrigley. Below, Tim Dubois, who researched the method and materials needed.



SSTA and PARC partnership gets the job done

SUBMITTED BY SSTA

Twelve Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) volunteers spent three hot days last weekend repairing and restoring courts 2 and 3 at Portlock Park for safe summer play.

Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture (PARC) supplied materials sourced by the SSTA, and the volunteers got down to hours of grinding and clearing out the deep, weed-choked cracks. A case of bottled water donated by Country Grocer was greatly appreciated by the thirsty workers.

After debris clear-up, cleaner and an adhering compound were applied before towelling filler into the excavations and sanding them smooth. The repaired areas were then painted with a layer of white sealant to protect them until the final colour compound PARC ordered arrives. When it does, there will be another short court closure while the volunteers return to finish the job. These dedicated people have gladly given up time, expertise and their knees to improve our park facilities, and we thank them.

Drought Assistance for B.C. farmers

The Government of B.C. has supports available for farmers during drought.

As water scarcity becomes more common, we're working with B.C. farmers to provide tools to prepare, and financial assistance to help with recovery.



Learn more and apply for supports: gov.bc.ca/AgDrought

- ✓ **AgriStability**
offers low-cost whole farm protection and financial support for when operations face large income declines.
- ✓ **Access to Feed Program**
supports farmers and ranchers experiencing drought and feed shortages by matching producers to available feed supplies.
- ✓ **Agriculture Water Infrastructure Program**
provides B.C. farmers with cost-shared funding to invest in water infrastructure.
- ✓ **Production Insurance**
helps producers manage the risk of crop losses caused by drought, hail, spring frost, excessive rain, flooding, and other risks.



BRITISH COLUMBIA

AgriServiceBC

National Indigenous Peoples Day

Weekend festival marks past, present, future



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

A Quw'utsun canoe is used to transport people to Grace Islet in Ganges Harbour to prevent construction of a house on Indigenous burial sites in August of 2014. A Grace Islet 10-year Anniversary Event takes place Sunday, June 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. as part of the Indigenous Peoples Weekend. Volunteer help is still needed, with Chris Marshall the contact person for information at chrismarshall2406@gmail.com.

Impetus for gathering shared

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Salt Spring Island is celebrating Indigenous Peoples Day with a three-day weekend of events and activities that celebrate Indigenous arts and culture, creating opportunities for discussion of reconciliation. We asked islanders, Indigenous people and settlers, what this weekend means to them.

Gizem Sozen

A conversation between islanders Jon Cooksey, Pam Tarr, Gizem Sozen and Adina Guest was foundational to the idea of the weekend.

"For me, the Indigenous Peoples Week-

end is a chance to show support and solidarity to the Indigenous Peoples whose traditional lands we are living on," said Gizem Sozen, who moved to Salt Spring Island in September 2023. "As an immigrant settler new to Salt Spring Island who runs a small pop-up bookstore focusing on social justice, I feel that it is my political responsibility to participate however I can in the efforts of Indigenous Peoples and their allies towards decolonization. So when Jon and Pam broached the idea about the Indigenous Peoples Weekend, which I think at that time was still germinating, Adina and I, enthusiastically told them that we would support the project and like to participate."

Caroline Dick

Caroline Dick (Tahltan/Irish) is the Indigenous coordinator at the Salt Spring

Island Public Library and helped form the idea of the Indigenous Peoples Weekend. She's organizing the Indigenous Art Market — on Friday, June 21 from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (note the date has changed from the original schedule) — and will be giving mini-tours of the Indigenous Learning Area in the library on Friday from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tours start in the lobby every half hour.

"With Reconciliation work, there is a focus on trauma; that tends to be what a lot of people focus on. There is so much joy and beauty in Indigenous cultures and this weekend is an opportunity to celebrate and share our cultures."

At the Indigenous Art Market visitors can browse and purchase artwork, jewellery, paintings, knitting, cedar weaving and northern-style bannock. Vendors include Indigenous folks who are residents of Salt Spring Island, as well as from various First Nations on Turtle Island.

Sherry Leigh Williams

On Friday, June 21, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Métis artist Sherry Leigh Williams is hosting a "Meet the Artist" drop-in event in the ArtSpring lobby gallery space, with Sheena Gering, to conduct walk-and-talks about their work and Métis culture. The ArtSpring lobby exhibition is also open on Saturday, June 22 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. for the festival, and continues until June 28 during ArtSpring opening hours. A segment of one of her images is shown on the cover of this issue of the Driftwood.

"For me, this weekend is about acknowledging the struggles that every Indigenous person has endured since contact," said Williams. "Despite losing our way of life, our homes, our land and even our children, we have not only survived but we continue to thrive. I feel it is important to develop relationships with both settler and Indigenous People, to have an understanding and appreciation for our cultural differences as well as the things we share, so that true reconciliation can occur."

Joe Akerman and Chris Marshall

Joe Akerman, who is of mixed Quw'utsun and European heritage, and Chris Marshall are involved with the Grace Islet 10-year Anniversary Event at Centennial Park on Sunday, June 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Akerman: "It has been 10 years since local nations and Salt Spring residents came together to protect the burial ground of our ancestors on Grace Islet. This gathering is an opportunity to talk about what happened then and since, to discuss the present and future and to pay respect to local elders, as well as a way for us as a community to support them."

Chris Marshall adds: "I think this weekend is a chance for us newcomers — that's what I'd like to call the settlers — to educate ourselves about what happened in the past and what we can do today. Do your research, there is so much material available out there, and of course, come to the anniversary event to learn about the people who lived here before us."

Volunteers are still needed for the Anniversary Event at Centennial Park. Contact Chris Marshall if you can help out: chrismarshall2406@gmail.com.

Events list updated

Indigenous Peoples Weekend events kicked off on Tuesday with a webinar presented by Transition Salt Spring featuring Quw'utsun speakers Deb George (Sulsameethl) and Maiya Modeste (Sulatiye) and called Climate, Culture, Land: Cultivating Community Resilience Through Indigenous Approaches.

Go to gulfislandevents.com/indigenous-peoples-weekend/ for details about everything that will take place. Several more events have been added since last week's article about the festival was published.

Indigenous Peoples Day

We affirm our unwavering support and commitment to honouring the history, cultures, and contributions of Indigenous peoples. This day serves as a reminder of the rich heritage and lasting strength of Indigenous communities, whose profound connections to the land and traditions have shaped our collective history and continue to enrich our present. We commit to uplifting Indigenous peoples, celebrating their enduring legacies, and working together towards a future of equity, justice, reparation and restoration.



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