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PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER ROY / CHRISTOPHERROY.COM

CELEBRATION: Quw'utsun Tzinquaw dancer Lawrence Joe leads people attending the June 22 Community-Wide Potluck Feast held at Xwaaqw'um in a dance in the field. The event was just one of several forming the first Indigenous Peoples Weekend on Salt Spring Island, which saw participation from numerous elders and community members. National Indigenous Peoples Day was on June 21. For more weekend photos, see page 16.

ISLANDS TRUST

ITC responds to mandate pressure

Council puts contentious issue on next meeting agenda

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As protesters gathered outside a meeting held on the most populous island within their jurisdiction, elected officials serving on Islands Trust Council (ITC) struggled with what one trustee called its status as a "structurally unsound organization."

And for a topic not technically on the agenda, Section 3 of the Islands Trust Act — commonly called the "preserve and protect" mandate in the Trust's foundational authority — used up an outsized amount of the parliamentary oxygen in the room during ITC's June 18-20 meeting on Salt Spring Island.

From opening "roundtable" trustee remarks to delegations, public comments and written correspondence, it was clear islanders' concerns over that mandate — and uncertainty about how trustee consensus on its interpretation may have been reached during a closed session in September 2023 — have survived both Executive and Governance Committee efforts to class the matter as settled.

That closed session, from which trustees

emerged to eventually release multiple versions of a "consensus statement" on interpreting the mandate, has rankled open government advocates ever since — and "blowback" from islanders has led to public disagreements among trustees, disputing not only the substance of that interpretation but even whether it qualified as an interpretation at all.

"This is a hurdle we have to get over," said ITC chair Peter Luckham. "We can't ignore it. We need to get over it so that the public can have their answers and we can move on with the important work that we need to do — particularly around the Policy Statement."

In October the Islands Trust released a draft "consensus statement" disclosing trustees had — reportedly through an examination of specific legal opinions — reached consensus on interpreting Section 3, notably in that the definition of "unique amenities" targeted for preservation and protection may include "housing, livelihoods, infrastructure and tourism."

That seeming shift away from what some considered a foundational focus on protecting the natural environment and limiting growth

sparked lively public comment, which in turn prompted the Trust to release a second statement in January on the "scope and meaning" of the mandate clause, "to make public the results of our discussions and share with our constituents how the current Trust Council intends to interpret our mandate, which in turn will help inform our strategic planning."

And at trustees' first Committee of the Whole meeting at the beginning of June, disagreements arose about whether the in-camera session produced a consensus at all — and whether there was any new direction as a result of those discussions.

Luckham told trustees last week he believed the best way forward was to have another, similar meeting — this time fully in public session.

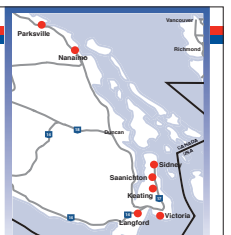
"The only way we're going to be able to provide this answer is to re-do that conversation," said Luckham. "Maybe we'll come up with a different conclusion, because we've certainly heard a lot of concerns from around the Trust Area."

TRUST COUNCIL continued on 3

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ISLANDS TRUST

Trust Council gets input on derelict vessels

Transport Canada rep emphasizes limits of federal role

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islands Trust Council (ITC) was again returned to the issue of “problem” vessels as it met on Salt Spring Island last week, remaining in a listening mode to hear from leaders of a resident-led harbour management initiative and a representative from Transport Canada.

A delegation from Clean and Safe Harbours Initiative (CASHI) spokesperson Glenn Stevens on the first day of ITC proceedings Tuesday, June 18 chided trustees for not regulating liveaboard vessels and mooring buoys to protect the “unique amenity” of harbours and adjacent shorelines. Stevens said CASHI continues to envision a scheme where placing a buoy would require a permit from the Islands Trust — and getting a permit would require certification the vessel was insured and had proper safety and septage equipment.

“In the last few days, the Capital Regional District (CRD) has effectively closed Churchill Beach at Ganges because of the high count of E. coli,” said Stevens, likely referring to enterococci bacteria recently detected by Island Health. Enterococci are indicator bacteria used to identify the presence of fecal contamination in salt water, and the CRD issued a water quality advisory June 11 advising people to avoid swimming at the beach, which is not a popular swimming spot.

“I mean, that’s just a symptom,” Stevens continued. “That’s an example of what’s going on here.”

Stevens’ CASHI delegation was followed two days later by a presentation from Transport Canada (TC) navigable waters protection manager Ryan Greville, largely centred on the limitations TC and the Canadian Coast Guard operate under with respect to enforcement of the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Derelict vessel is removed from Fulford Harbour back in 2021. A Transport Canada representative gave Islands Trust Council a primer on what the federal authorities can and cannot do when it comes to vessels moored in Gulf Islands waters.

(WAHVA).

WAHVA is undergoing a review process at its five-year mark since passing in 2019, Greville said, noting the Islands Trust’s “instrumental” role in emphasizing the importance of developing federal legislation to help address the issue of problem vessels.

Greville described the national strategy as multi-tiered, having developed several prohibitions and rules to hold vessel owners accountable for the follow-on effects when their boats deteriorate — but there are a few catches.

“Where some of the challenges are is in identifying owners,” said Greville. “We may ‘know’ who the owners are, but we need proof from a legal perspective to be able to apply enforcement and punishment.”

Also, and despite removing what Greville said was more than 300 vessels in the local region since 2019 — and 120 just within the last year — both TC and the Canadian Coast Guard can only act within authority prescribed by the legislation.

“If we get a report of a vessel that is making noise, that doesn’t fit,” said Greville. “We can’t do anything for vessels that are not navigational hazards, that are not ‘dilapidated’ or not ‘abandoned’ in the act’s definitions.”

For example, Greville said,

WAHVA defines a dilapidated vessel as “significantly degraded or dismantled” or “incapable of being used for safe navigation.”

“And that’s a fairly high threshold,” he said. “It’s not that a boat doesn’t look nice, or has a tarp over it or garbage on it.”

The underpinnings of the legislation focus on not allowing boat owners to let their vessels become hazards to navigation, said Greville — and there are significant penalties for doing so, including going after owners for cost recovery after a vessel is removed. Transport Canada’s position is to issue written warnings even when direct action is not taken immediately, Greville said, to form a compliance record on what he called “repeat customers” so they could be held accountable should the situation deteriorate.

But, he said, it’s not meant to address vessels that are being lived on.

“This legislation is not an eviction legislation; it doesn’t address any negative side effects of a person living on a vessel not related to the legislation — noise, petty crime, or that kind of stuff,” said Greville. “It’s very clear where we can and cannot act; I’m sure none of you would like a government that can just go around and take your stuff because they don’t like the look of it.”

The legislation does prohibit leaving a vessel in poor condition in the same area for more than 60 days, Greville told trustees — meaning it must move at least three nautical miles to another area.

“So if you just move it around Ganges Harbour, and you don’t have permission [to be there] and your vessel is dilapidated, that’s not good enough,” said Greville. “You’re still in violation of the prohibition, and we could exercise our authority.”

Greville pointed out there are opportunities for boat owners who want to plan for their vessel’s “retirement” that include more than just giving it away in the hopes the next person might fix it up.

“You’re really just passing the buck,” said Greville. “Taxpayer dollars are your dollars; if your vessel is truly at its end of life, you should be managing that yourself, and it should be disposed of legally and responsibly.”

“If the Islands Trust has an issue with docks, and they have the authority to develop a bylaw, or already have existing bylaws, it’s a matter of following through with the enforcement of that.”

RYAN GREVILLE
Navigable waters protection manager, Transport Canada

Greville added that while currently funding for boat removals is 100 per cent taxpayer-funded, one of the future tools that will be part of a federal strategy will be related to the creation of a vessel remediation fund, likely through a small surcharge on pleasure craft licence fees that will be specifically

allocated for removal of abandoned or hazardous vessels.

In response to a question from Lasqueti trustee and Salt Spring Local Trust Committee chair Tim Peterson, Greville explained that the federal government’s absence from a recent CRD-led workshop on mooring buoy issues came out of scheduling, rather than a lack of interest — although he reiterated as a manager for the Navigation Protection Program, his work surrounds both administering the prohibitions under WAHVA and protecting the rights enumerated in the Canadian Navigable Waters Act.

“So that regulates the placement of ‘works,’ things such as docks, but it’s all looked at through the lens of navigation,” said Greville. “If you space your buoy properly it’s not interfering with the right of navigation.”

Whether the local government wants to have docks in a particular harbour isn’t for federal authorities to determine, he said.

“If the Islands Trust has an issue with docks, and they have the authority to develop a bylaw, or already have existing bylaws, it’s a matter of following through with the enforcement of that.”

“Aren’t these dock segments ‘works’ under the transportation rules?” asked Salt Spring trustee Laura Patrick. Greville said they were.

“And if they applied [for a licence] we would likely approve them, because we can only deny them if they are an impediment to navigation,” he said. “That’s why we don’t go around and tell people, ‘Hey, you need to apply,’ because if they apply, we may issue an approval — and then if the Islands Trust says, ‘We don’t want you to have a dock here,’ they’ve got this paper from Transport Canada that says it’s approved.”

Greville’s presentation was accepted for information, and trustees took no immediate action at the meeting — apart from instructing staff to write a letter to CASHI thanking them for their input and directing them to contact their Local Trust Committee.

Windsor Plywood

LCC

Blackburn bridge work postponed

Wider shoulder plan surprises

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Local Community Commission (LCC) members said they have been left out of the loop on specifics for some infrastructure improvements planned by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MoTI), even as they broke the news that one critical piece of the work has been put off to at least 2025.

Capital Regional District (CRD) director Gary Holman shared with fellow LCC members Thursday, June 20 an email from MoTI, indicating work on a bridge on Fulford-Ganges Road near the intersection with Blackburn Road has been delayed for a year.

“Which may not be a bad thing,” said Holman, “given the disruption that we can expect.”

And while substantial improvements to Fulford-Ganges Road between Seaview Avenue and Cranberry Road still appear to be on for the summer, details outlined in recent tender submission

documents posted to MoTI’s website seem to have shown more than what commissioners were led to expect. Those documents show a planned 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. Holman noted Salt Spring’s now-disbanded transportation commission had lobbied for 1.8-metre shoulder bicycle lanes, widely considered the standard for bike rider safety.

At that time, according to Holman, MoTI had said the best they could do was 2.4 metres “distributed to whichever side,” resulting in a recommendation for 1.2 metres in each direction.

He added that, again at the time, MoTI had also expressed they were not willing to cover the ditches flanking Fulford-Ganges Road along that stretch.

“That’s a bit surprising,” added Holman. “I’m a little disappointed they didn’t let us know that was happening. But one must be grateful for small mercies.”

Trustees commit to increased transparency



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Some of approximately 50 people who gathered outside the Harbour House Hotel on Tuesday, June 18 as Islands Trust Council began the first of its three days of meetings. See the gulfislandsdriftwood.com website for a story posted on June 18 about the event.

TRUST COUNCIL

continued from 1

Bowen Island trustee Judith Gedye, who chairs the Trust's Governance Committee, said the "blowback" from those public releases had often become personal — and she worried a broad repeat of the discussion among the entire Trust Council might not yield better results without some guidance.

"We haven't had a chance [in the Governance Committee] to talk about where the mis-

takes were, and how we would improve," said Gedye. "How do we analyze it? How do we make sure that we don't do the same thing again?"

Gambier Island Local Trust Area trustee Joe Bernardo characterized the in-camera discussion not as a change in direction for the Trust, but rather a clarification of its current direction.

"The purpose of that whole thing was to reach an accurate understanding of what Section 3 has always meant," said Bernardo, adding that trustees have

always had "tremendous" discretion in how they interpret it.

"With respect to the general discussion about the Section 3 issue that's come up, the communication over this — let's face it, we've got to be honest with ourselves — we failed," said Bernardo. "There's quite a bit of suspicion that we're up to something; I don't think we can do much about a conspiratorial mindset, but we can be more transparent."

To that end, Bernardo suggested any future public discussion

should centre not on revisiting that interpretation, but rather whether and how trustees might simply release the legal opinions that guided trustees into that interpretation — a move which, he added, would likely require additional legal counsel on the merits and risks involved.

"The public may not agree with our conclusion," he said, "but at least it will address the question in good faith."

Saturna Island trustee Mairead Boland pointed to the mandate interpretation kerfuffle as emblematic of a governance structure that may have outlived its purpose.

"In 2024, [the Islands Trust] is a structurally unsound organization that cannot find its way," said Boland. "How many local governments repeatedly seek legal opinions on the meaning of the mandate they have been given?"

Boland said it could be argued the work of the Islands Trust Act was complete by the 1990s, by which time each island had an Official Community Plan which could be used to manage growth — instead of the Trust itself having grown to where "a budget of \$10 million, 65 staff and 26 trustees are required to do what is described at its core as 'land use management' — for a population of 30,000."

She and other trustees echoed the sentiment of previous coun-

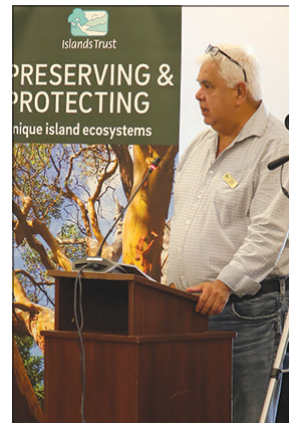


PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Joe Elliott, the Islands Trust's senior Indigenous relations advisor, gives the land acknowledgement to open Islands Trust Council's quarterly meeting at the Harbour House Hotel's Crofton Room.

cils' appeals to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for a provincial review of the structure and governance of the Islands Trust.

"We are too wounded to heal ourselves," said Boland. "We are propping up, repairing and limping on with a governance structure whose time has passed."

Trustees ultimately voted to add a discussion on the Section 3 mandate to September's ITC meeting, set for Sept. 24-26 in Nanaimo.

GOVERNMENT BUDGETS

Trust Council finds ways to compensate for overspending

Trust legal fees tick up

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A modest amount of over-spending for Islands Trust Council (ITC) services was offset, according to a report by staff, by spending less — on committees and the Trust's Reconciliation Action Plan.

Indeed, ITC service expenses this year came in under budget by some \$83,000 or five per cent, according to a report from Trust Council Services presented at the ITC meeting held at the Harbour House Hotel Wednesday, June 19. The budget typically includes everything from meeting accommodations to planning and legal fees, according to staff — the latter of which comprised increased spending "against a too-small legal opinions/advice budget, due to TC legal requests" on several topics.

ITC's legal questions surrounded housing rights and "potential liability associated with informa-

tion on the ITC website," according to the report, each requested by ITC in response to a delegation (\$3,000 and \$6,000 each); open meeting rules for Trust Council Committees, requested and directed by the Governance Committee (\$4,000); ITC's borrowing authority, "in response to direction received by staff to explore purchasing office space on Salt Spring Island" (\$5,000); and a Financial Disclosure Act interpretation regarding specific employees, requested by staff (\$500).

That breakdown is uncommon in its specificity; there is no delineation indicating the costs for remaining actions related to requests by or for ITC, spending for which sits against a backdrop of \$378,713 for all legal expenses for the fiscal year ended March 31, according to financial statements.

Other areas of overspending were the result of ITC meetings, where costs of accommodation and catering were higher than anticipated — specifically for the September 2023 meeting on North Pender Island and for the March 2024 meeting in

Nanaimo (\$17,000). There were also higher-than-planned expenditures on training and conference fees, as well as travel for training, "primarily due to the high cost of new Chair training and travel" in June 2023 (\$11,000).

The staff report noted these areas of overspending came alongside savings seen in council committees costs (\$11,000) and the Reconciliation Action Plan program (\$12,000).

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Island Wildlife Rescue would like to remind everyone to use extra caution on the roads, as we have already admitted several fawns hit by vehicles during the past weeks. Fawns are now big enough to follow their mother. If you see a deer crossing the road, and if it is safe to do so, please slow down as she could be followed by one or two fawns. They are still very young and totally unaware of the danger. They might cross the road slowly or might run after their mother. If you see one fawn crossing, expect a second one behind as twins are a frequent occurrence.

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Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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EDITORIAL

Spark a review

When it comes to the world of local governance, what a difference half a century can make.

Last week saw the observance of two "milestones" on Salt Spring Island: the one-year anniversary since the first meeting of the Local Community Commission (LCC) — a creation of the Capital Regional District (CRD) — and the 50th anniversary of the Islands Trust, whose trustees and senior staff met on Salt Spring for the Trust Council's quarterly meeting. For the former, a sense of optimism and potential to make a tangible difference to citizens' lives pervaded. For the latter, it's hard not to feel that few people are happy with the Islands Trust these days. Underscoring that point was a sign-filled demonstration outside the council's meeting spot pressing trustees to uphold the environmental-protection mandate of the Islands Trust, and two critical delegations on the topic. Further emphasis came from some trustees themselves, who decry the current Trust body as outliving its usefulness as its budget continues to rise.

THE ISSUE: Trust Area governance

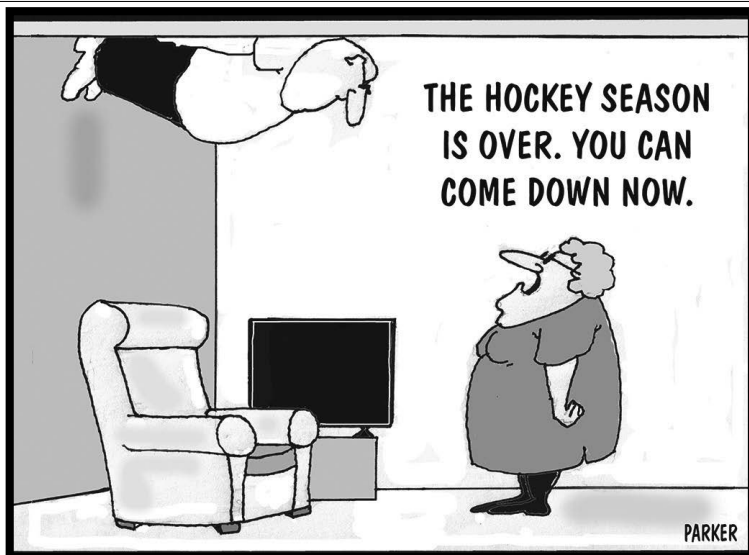
WE SAY: Provincial intervention needed

Some of the organization's governance issues were outlined in an Islands Trust Governance Review report released by consultants Great Northern Management Consultants in 2021. While some of the report's recommendations were pursued — such as looking at Trust Council's committee structure and adding a governance committee to the roster — others of merit are still on the back burner. One of those is about representation from bodies beyond Local Trust Areas, so that the Islands Trust's oft-touted provincial and First Nations interests can be acknowledged.

One of the Trust's perennial contradictions is that constituents are free to elect individuals from their island who fall anywhere on the scale of supporting (or not) the environmental-protection mandate of the Islands Trust, leaving the local democratic process and province-wide directives to duke it out at times.

But more major changes — requiring amendments to the Islands Trust Act — need provincial government buy-in. Back in 2021, the provincial government showed little interest in participating in any Islands Trust renewal or review process. We hope with an election on the horizon the issue may be raised again with a more favourable response from all parties.

It's quite likely that optimism reigned only a year after the Islands Trust was first formed in 1974, as it does with Salt Spring's LCC today. It would be better for all of us if some of that feeling could be rekindled.



PARKER

LCC: just getting started

BY EARL ROOK
LCC CHAIR

VIEWPOINT

In the 2022 general election, Salt Spring approved a new government entity, the Local Community Commission (LCC). Just over a year ago, four new local commissioners were sworn in, joining the local Capital Regional District (CRD) director on the first Salt Spring LCC.

Our first year was spent setting up and making the new LCC operational, diving deeply into the details of the CRD services delegated to the LCC, and confronting the most significant issues facing our community. One's view on the success of our first year may depend upon your perspective, but from my perspective as chair, a good start has been made. Some highlights include:

The LCC instituted a regular, predictable, public meeting schedule for the second and third Thursdays of each month, the former at 5 p.m. to make it easier for working residents to attend. Holding regular evening business meetings was a priority for the LCC from the beginning. Making it happen took several months of negotiations and planning, an object lesson in the challenges of making even seemingly simple changes.

One of the first major tasks for the new LCC was the review and approval of the 2024 budget for LCC delegated services. The initial budget came in at over 200 pages with a year over year increase of 20.5 per cent. After delving into the details over many meetings, we approved a final budget in February that maintained current service levels with an increase limited to 10.5 per cent. A crash course in the arcane world of CRD budgeting, the process called for difficult choices, while exposing long-term fiscal

concerns (maintaining adequate reserves, funding capital projects) that will need ongoing attention. The LCC is already at work on the 2025

budget.

At one of its first meetings, the LCC declared that housing for working people and their families is Salt Spring Island's most pressing economic sustainability issue. We moved that the CRD Board endorse adding Salt Spring to the provincial Speculation and Vacancy Tax program, and formally requested revision of the economic sustainability bylaw to maximize our allowable scope of activity. We held a housing summit with stakeholders to clarify the role of the LCC in housing and are working the housing crisis on multiple fronts.

As the new player in our fragmented local government, the LCC has made a priority of collaboration with other government bodies and non-profits. In addition to the housing summit, we have begun regular joint meetings with the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee, to coordinate work on issues of common interest, including revision of the official community plan, housing, water, Ganges revitalization and harbour management.

Our strategic plan for the remainder of the term will be published soon. Among top priorities are housing (particularly for workers and the unhoused), liquid waste and Ganges village revitalization, including the long delayed harbour walk project. We also plan a review of local bylaws and operating procedures, development of a more sustainable and transparent budgeting process, and expansion of the initial LCC mandate to more island CRD services. Stay tuned — we're just getting started.

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SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:

Print Edition: \$65 | Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00
Foreign: \$260.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST

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Canada Publication Mail No. 0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782
Member of News Media Canada + National NewsMedia Council, and BC & Yukon Community NewsMedia Association

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☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

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watched a govern-
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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Housing project update - the real story

Many people were confused by the positive message on housing projects put out by the Capital Regional District (CRD) at their recent housing forum, and even more so with the notes from a recent CRD/Local Community Commission meeting shared as news to a popular local website.

The CRD said "up to 335 units could be developed on 10 properties already designated or zoned for affordable or market housing," and went on to list nine projects.

A casual reader would have been impressed by the CRD's list. These are the types of non-profit-led and government-funded projects that even the most ardent opponents of housing action here say they support.

Unfortunately, the list is quite misleading. Very few of the projects on it either still exist, or have much hope of moving forward. Here is a more realistic update.

Two of the best projects on the CRD's list have been outright cancelled in 2024. The most heartbreaking housing story of

the year was when Dragonfly Commons pulled its project, moved to dissolve its non-profit society and sell the property. This was a beautiful project, brought forward by a mission-driven, experienced team who invested years of their lives. The developers shared a surprisingly honest letter as to why it collapsed in this newspaper. It wasn't possible for them to continue jumping through the endless hoops — permits, water, roads, funding or appropriate support from the CRD, Islands Trust and Province. Who is going to take another run at this when such an experienced, committed, and well-resourced team couldn't make it happen after nearly a decade of effort?

The second phantom project on the list is Norton Road, where the non-profit developer also walked away, saying they lack the staff capacity to go through the extensive rezoning marathon that is Salt Spring. Both these projects were withdrawn before the CRD's list was published online.

The proposed Brinkworthy project, a neat farm, food and non-market housing mix planned for under the power lines next to the new fire hall is also receiving bad news. Far from rolling up their sleeves and asking how they can help, rigid and non-collaborative local agencies instead present barrier

after barrier to Island Community Services. This project might now also be at risk.

What about Brackett Springs, the abandoned homes on Rainbow Road that have been rotting for the past decade? Multiple banks, non-profits and private investors explored reviving it, but they all walked away because the cost of rescuing it was too high for the possible rent return on 11 affordable units which is what is allowed under the zoning. And even if a mission-driven developer showed up to run a multi-year re-zoning process to increase the density, where would the water for the additional units come from? Remove one barrier and another is revealed. This is the story of non-market housing projects on Salt Spring.

The CRD's own Drake Road project, promised as an emergency modular supportive housing to be built rapidly during the pandemic two years ago, is still an empty field, although excavator work has begun there, and the Seabreeze Inn also appears to remain abandoned, though in fairness for different reasons.

The sad truth is, many of the projects the CRD director regularly touts as "housing wins" for our hurting community are either not happening or not likely to hap-

pen any time soon. Each one will take years and years of effort by as-yet-unidentified non-profits or good-willed individuals. Even then, they are just as likely to fail given our community's lack of leadership and poor inter-agency collaboration between the Trust, CRD and North Salt Spring Waterworks District.

Most of us working on affordable housing are disillusioned and tired from working so hard to make progress in a system that seems only designed to slow things down, with no inter-agency plan for solving housing, and a passionate local conservation movement organizing in opposition to most solutions proposed by local governments, the most impacted people and housing experts.

I'd like to hear what housing opponents have to say about so many of these projects failing to advance, after working so hard to kill the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's accessory dwelling unit bylaw. I would also like the CRD director to be more frank with the community about the real state of affairs. It does us no good to be fed false hope, or information that veers on misinformation.

JASON MOGUS,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It's very clear where we can and cannot act. I'm sure none of you would like a government that can just go around and take your stuff because they don't like the look of it."

RYAN GREVILLE, NAVIGABLE WATERS PROTECTION MANAGER, TRANSPORT CANADA, ON LIVEABOARD ENFORCEMENT

Look in the mirror to see who's the most invasive species of them all

Lock your doors! Shutter the windows! They are on their way and they're coming to get us.

No, this is not the imminent zombie apocalypse that the social networks have been warning us about for ages. Neither is it an alien invasion from outer space that will steal our planet and replace us with mindless pods.

We are not dealing with science fiction here. The danger, it seems, stems from invasive species which have escaped into our forests, wetlands, rivers, oceans and even the skies above our heads. Whether they have been imported accidentally or intentionally, they pose a threat to the biodiversity of our country, province and even this island we call home.

These alien invasive species may come in the form of plants, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, birds, invertebrates, and even micro-organisms. Instead of bearing ominous monikers like Vlad the Undead or Gork from Klingon, they may carry innocuous names such as Lilly of the Valley, zebra mussel or house finch. Make no mistake, though; once they get a foot, root or fin in the door, they are almost impossible to control.

According to the Salt Spring Island Conservancy, approximately 175 different exotic plants have infiltrated our woods and forests. They may look pretty and may even

have some beneficial effects, but they are bullishly aggressive and it's almost a guarantee that they will not play "nice" when push comes to shove. If left to their own devices, they are sure to choke out the native plant species that have spent eons adapting to our climate and geography. The conservancy advises that these intruders should be removed whenever and wherever they are encountered.

You can draw a comparison between these noxious weeds and your obnoxious, good-for-nothing, freeloading brother-in-law who lands on your doorstep with yet another sad-sack story about how his landlord has evicted him for absolutely no reason and he just needs a place to crash for a few days, max, and you know that months later he will still be couch-surfing in your basement while eating you out of house and home.

Okay, maybe I'm exaggerating. Your invasive plants are much worse than that. Once you let even one in, it will spread like a cancerous growth, sucking up all the nourishment and moisture from the soil while at the same time blocking any light from reaching those native organisms that depend on the sun's energy to survive. Come to think of it, I have a cousin who is just like that.

Never mind that, though. Let's take a look instead at how the



Shilo Zylbergold
NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

introduction of an invasive animal can spell disaster for an ecosystem. In the mid-19th century, Hawaii was a major global producer of sugar cane. Unfortunately, rats, themselves invasive aliens who had come ashore from the holds and bilges of sailing vessels over the previous centuries, had multiplied to the point where they were destroying entire cane crops on the plantations. As a result, somebody came up with the brilliant idea to import the mongoose, a small furry mammal native to Africa, Asia and parts of Europe. The plan was for the mongoose to eradicate the rat population and thereby save the sugar cane economy. The Hawaiian brain trust brought in 72 mongooses, bred and raised them, and eventually let them loose to feed on the island rats.

There was one problem, though. Rats are nocturnal creatures who sleep during the day. Mongooses, on the other hand, are active only during the day. Consequently, the two never had the pleasure of

making each other's acquaintance. Instead, the mongoose practically demolished much of the local native species of fauna, including seabirds and nests of turtle eggs. You might say Hawaii was mon-"goosed" by an invasive species.

You may ask why we revere our native species so much while we discriminate against the invasive outsiders. Shouldn't it be equal opportunity for all and let the best organism win? Why not let Darwinian natural selection decide who sits at the top of the food chain for species?

To answer this conundrum, let's take a closer look at an insect that has had great difficulty gaining entry to our Canadian land of plenty. This insect, the Asian red-necked longhorn beetle, is a wood-borer that breeds in flowering hardwoods, particularly Asian orchard crops such as plum, peach and apricot trees, themselves non-natives but not on the no-go list. Seeking refuge from the uncertain political turmoil in their home countries, these beetles have been stymied in their attempts to gain entry to our otherwise welcoming land. This unsuccessful beetle invasion has been turned back by border officials declaring that we don't need foreign tree-killing insect pests when we have more than enough of our own. Plus, we really enjoy our stone fruits! So we pick and choose our

enemies. Is it any wonder that, due to our border discriminatory policies, these beetles have developed red necks?

Nobody asked me, but there exists one invasive species that makes all the rest of the unwelcome others come across as specially invited guests of honour who are being hosted at the environmentally friendly VIP lounge wet bar. Can you guess the name of this species? Of course, we refer here to the human being. We are the ones who can take a sublimely unique and fragile ecosystem and transform it, willy-nilly, into a sterile wasteland, just because we can. We have the knowledge and power to drain precious wetlands and flood ecologically diverse grasslands. We pollute the oceans with micro-plastics at the same time as we foul our rivers and freshwater catchment basins with excrement and industrial wastes. In short, we are our own brothers-in-law. We are the ones just looking for a place to crash until our situation takes a turn for the better.

So, if you're making a list of all the invasive species we should be vigilant and suspicious of, here are a few you should consider:

Marsh plum thistle, knotweed, purple loosestrife, Atlantic salmon, bullfrog and European starling. And at the top of the list: Homo sapiens.



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TRANSPORTATION

LCC looks toward future bus service expansion

Electric fleet a 'when' not 'if' proposition, says BC Transit

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Despite an unclear timeline, the future of bus service on Salt Spring is both to grow and to "go electric," according to BC Transit officials — but how soon those things happen lies in establishing funding schemes and infrastructure.

That message came in broad comments delivered by senior government relations manager Seth Wright Thursday, June 20, as Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) received a presentation on the past, present and future for the provincial transit authority's presence here, on a modest system Wright described as performing "exceptionally" above its peers.

"This is something that, historically, Salt Spring has always been able to take some pride in," said Wright. "And that continues to be the case."

Salt Spring's bus system still punches above its weight for a "small community transit system," he said, in part because of rider habits but also due to historically low operating costs. Wright presented several recommendations for transit expansion in coming years, notably including a plan for additional service on Route 2 — the Fulford-to-Ganges service that represents roughly half of all rider numbers on Salt Spring.

Any potential expansion comes at a cost into six figures, according to presentation documents. Capital Regional District (CRD) director and LCC member Gary Holman joined other commissioners in expressing concerns over the price tag, even as all agreed the system was over-

subscribed by an amount that may be greater than calculated — from potential riders who don't even consider riding the bus due to that under-servicing.

Back in March, Wright had brought the LCC startling data surrounding increasing numbers of "pass-ups" on Route 2, as drivers tallied a rise in the number of people who were waiting along the road hoping to catch the bus but were thwarted by it being fully occupied.

And even as Wright on Thursday reported the happy news that Salt Spring ridership has returned to 100 per cent of its pre-pandemic numbers, Holman warned of what he saw as the "other shoe" dropping on the island come 2025: a likely need for increasing the tax requisition.

"We haven't had, really, a sustainable requisition," Holman said. "We basically exhausted our operating reserve, in part because of Covid and all of that ridership going down."

"So we'll be facing a cost increase from BC Transit — to be confirmed," he continued, noting plans had not been finalized. "And we already need an increase just to get our current requisition sustainable. And then added on to that would be the cost of improved service."

Any decision to expand service — on the Fulford route, or on any others under consideration by the LCC, such as the Beddis Road or Ruckle Park routes — would need to be received by Sept. 20, Wright said, in order to be included in BC Transit's proposals to the province.

"Salt Spring has been one of the most affordable transit systems, when you look at operating dollars for service," said Wright. "But as we face the affordability crisis, our operating company on Salt Spring has identified there are some significant 'pinch points' and they need to allocate more resources —



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Salt Spring Transit bus on popular Fulford-to-Ganges run.

for supporting the administration of the transit system, supervision of the service and being able to respond to emerging issues."

Such costs have been on the increase across B.C. and indeed North America, Wright said, within the transportation industry. But, he said, increasing funding would also ensure future reliability and being able to pay drivers a living wage. And all that, he suggested, should start on the Fulford-Ganges route, where scheduling is currently driven by the BC Ferries schedule.

"There is a bus for every ferry," said Wright. "This additional service would add extra trips that would not be aligned to the ferries — and that would guarantee greater access to service for local residents."

That bus fills up at peak in both directions, according to ridership data — "And no one wants to plan to get on a crowded bus," said Wright.

And while his analysis suggested those ferry-aligned trips would continue to represent the highest ridership numbers, over time people who used the system regularly would adjust.

"If you know there's a bus after the ferry bus, you're going to plan to take that one," said Wright.

"Behaviour changes, and after some time it balances out a little bit. I think it will benefit the community."

Ultimately, according to Wright, the better solution would be bigger buses serving the route — but without suitable space for them to turn around in Fulford, BC Transit can't make plans in that direction.

"BC Ferries does have a capital vision and a detailed plan to move that forward, but there's a number of steps," said Wright. "Their capital budget is combined with their operating budget; that means that they don't have any certainty until they have extra operating money they can use on capital projects."

Wright also said when BC Ferries moves to additional ferries not only on the Vesuvius Bay route but also at Fulford, that will help with bus scheduling.

"Right now we have to build our schedule very tightly around the ferry," said Wright. "But if eventually they run often enough that we can just put a bus down there every hour and make it so people never have to wait more than half an hour for that connection, that will enable us to build more flexible schedules."

Asked about a timeline for the

local fleet's electrification — particularly relevant as commissioners consider significant plans for a new bus depot and maintenance yard at CRD-owned land on Kanaka Road — Wright was vague, if optimistic.

"I have passionately and vigorously waved my arms every time there are conversations about this," chuckled Wright, "and said that Salt Spring is very interested in the introduction of battery-electric buses and would be keen to do that."

But the current bus storage area on the island — an unfenced gravel yard behind the Community Gospel Chapel on Vesuvius Bay Road — is "very suboptimal."

"We'd like a proper paved and fenced facility for safety, security and maintenance reasons," said Wright. "But also that [level of infrastructure] enables battery-electric buses, and the sequence is based on the ability to install infrastructure. So proceeding with that capital project on your end will enable you to move forward with that."

Discussion of Kanaka Road plans — currently in the conceptual stage, envisioning a combined facility for bus depot and park maintenance uses — was planned for June 20 but postponed as an in-camera discussion on potential legal issues took much of the afternoon's allotted time.

While funding for a bus service expansion would likely come from a combination of user fees and local taxes, a staff report prepared for the meeting noted the Kanaka Road project would likely be completed through a combination of grants, capital reserves and Community Works funding — what used to be called "gas tax" monies, as that fund was originally built from federal gasoline excise taxes, allocated to local governments based on a jurisdiction's population.

FOOD SECURITY

Mid Island Co-op grant aids community garden project

Island Community Services' Brinkworthy ag parcel benefits

SUBMITTED BY ISLAND
COMMUNITY SERVICES

The new Harvest Community Gardens being developed by Island Community Services (ICS) at their Brinkworthy Road property got a boost last week with the receipt of a \$75,000 grant from Mid Island Co-op's Community Spaces program.

"This is a big win for food security on Salt Spring Island," said ICS food programs manager Jamie Ferguson. "This generous grant from Mid Island Co-op is a real kick-start for the development of an important community space on the island."

The funds are for land preparation

and construction of two new greenhouses that will serve to increase the volume of food distributed through the community, including through the food bank operated by ICS.

In April of 2023, ICS announced that it had purchased the 10.85-acre parcel of land at 131 Brinkworthy Road, which fronts both Brinkworthy and Lower Ganges roads. The property is in the Agricultural Land Reserve, but was also deemed desirable for its potential as an affordable housing site.

Approximately five acres of land is being dedicated to community gardens and other food production. Gardens at the site will be available for members of the community at large to grow their own produce while other land will be producing food for distribution through ICS' many food programs and services. Completion of the greenhouses and opening of the gardens is expected by next summer.



Islands Trust

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee invites the public to attend a **Public Hearing** at the **Salt Spring Legion, Meaden Hall, 120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island** beginning at **11:00 AM, Thursday, July 11, 2024**, to hear your views regarding **Proposed Bylaw No. 536**.

What is Proposed Bylaw No. 536 about?

Proposed Bylaw No. 536 seeks to amend the Salt Spring Island Land Use Bylaw No. 355, zoning for the property legally described as "The North East 1/4 of Section 50, South Salt Spring Island, Cowichan District" from Forestry 1 - F1 to Forestry 1(b) - F1(b) to permit a total of four (4) proposed dwelling units on the subject property.

The property is located at **1172 Musgrave Road** and is legally described as THE NORTH EAST 1/4 OF SECTION 50, SOUTH SALT SPRING ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT (PID: 009-743-472). The general location of the subject property is shown in the attached sketch.

How Do I Get More Information?

The proposed bylaw, Public Hearing Binder, and other information are available from June 28, 2024, to July 10, 2024, at Islands Trust Salt Spring's website, as well as at the Islands Trust Salt Spring Office, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8, from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., excluding Wednesdays, weekends, and statutory holidays. *https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/salt-spring/current-applications/

Enquiries?

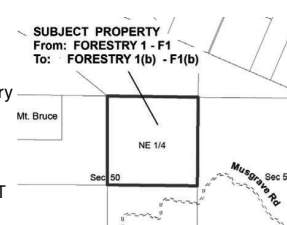
Contact Chris Buchan, Acting Island Planner, via email at ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca or by phone at 250-537-9144.

Written submissions?

Written submissions will be accepted until 4:30 p.m., July 10, 2024, and can be sent to Islands Trust, 1-500 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2N8, or via email at ssinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca.

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

NO WRITTEN OR ORAL REPRESENTATIONS WILL BE RECEIVED BY THE SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE, OR ITS MEMBERS, AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PUBLIC HEARING.





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CONCERT PREVIEW

Visitors bring jazz and innovative music forms

Dan Reynolds, Mike Bjella, Meredith Bates and Peter Knight at July 6 concert

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Salt Spring Island music lovers will be delighted by the upcoming concert at All Saints by-the-Sea on Saturday, July 6.

Sponsored by Music Makers of the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island, the concert is in two parts, featuring four accomplished musicians of international acclaim, who are bringing to the island an evening of inspirational music.

Dan Reynolds (piano) and Mike Bjella (saxophone) have a deep and longstanding musical relationship. After meeting at McGill University in 2011, they began working as a duo, and later released their premier album, *Love Songs* (2017), featuring original compositions and improvisations. While



PHOTOS COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

From left, musicians Mike Bjella, Dan Reynolds and Meredith Bates, who will be joined by Melbourne-based trumpet player Peter Knight for a special musical evening at All Saints by-the-Sea on July 6.

Bjella is based in northern New York and Reynolds in Vancouver, they regularly collaborate on both coasts of North America. Individually, Bjella and Reynolds have performed throughout Europe and South America and played concerts at the Montreal Jazz Festival, Nancy (France) Jazz Pulsations, Toronto Jazz Festival, Denver Five Points Jazz Festival,

California WorldFest, Vancouver Jazz Festival and many more. Their influences include Alice Coltrane, Wayne Shorter, Hermeto Pascoal and Charlie Haden. Their upcoming album is scheduled for release in August.

The second portion of the concert features West Coast experimental violinist Meredith Bates, and Melbourne-based trumpeter

Peter Knight, who are long-time friends and first-time collaborators. With their mutual curiosity for innovative sound and penchant for processing, their exciting new duo performs creative music that envelops listeners in ambient electronic soundscapes, transporting them to imaginary sonic worlds.

Perpetually curious, composer/trumpeter Knight's practice exists

in the spaces between categories, between genres and between cultures. His recent solo work extends the possibilities of his instrument with innovative approaches that interweave acoustic preparations, extended techniques with electro-acoustic processing via laptop, vintage delays, tape machines, amplifiers and pedals.

Recently included on Bandcamp's Best Experimental Music list in June 2023, multiple award-winning violinist Bates is known for her virtuosic genre-bending sound. Gratefully basing herself on unceded Coast Salish territory, Bates has spent the past 20-plus years recording and performing at home and around the world, in many award-winning ensembles. Bates is also the founder and leader of *Like the Mind*, a sextet of celebrated female instrumentalists from Vancouver and Stockholm, and founder of other exploratory and interdisciplinary collaborative groups.

This two-for-one concert begins at All Saints at 7 p.m. with tickets at the door at a cost of \$25.

FINE ARTS

SSNAP resident artist arrives on island



PHOTOS COURTESY LYNN KODEIH/SSNAP

From left, detail from SSNAP finalist Lynn Kodeih's *Impossible Garden*; piece in the artist's *Récits de plantes #2* series; Kodeih.

Lynn Kodeih explores notions of states and borders

SUBMITTED BY SSNAP

The Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) community is excited to welcome Lynn Kodeih to Salt Spring Island this week as she begins her residency.

Kodeih was a finalist in the SSNAP 2023/24 competition with her piece titled *Impossible Garden* and chosen by jurors from those who applied for the residency opportunity.

In her recent project — *Récits de plantes #2* (2021-2024) — the immigrant artist creates a way to transport house plants from her home country. Over the course of her first year in Canada, she collects species of house plants she owned in her country of origin, makes cuttings for propagation, covers them with liquid clay and fires them. In an attempt to circumvent the regulations of the Canada Border Services Agency, the artist transforms living matter

into objects and relocates it. Only imprints remain, crumbling to the point of disappearance. Questioning notions of states and borders, the work investigates her immigrant position in a country haunted by its colonial history.

Kodeih is an artist/researcher born in Beirut and based in Montréal (Tiohtià:ke/Mooniyanag). Focusing on the interweaving of art and politics, her practice is at the intersection of textuality and auto-theory, video and installation. She is interested in the notions of territory and borders from a decolonial perspective.

Her practice has been supported by several scholarships and grants, including from the Canada Council for the Arts. Kodeih is the recipient of the 2024 Bronfman Fellowship in Contemporary Art. Her work has been shown in numerous group exhibitions in Canada and abroad, including La Galerie de l'UQAM (Montreal), SAW gallery (Ottawa), Kunstbanken Performance Festival (Norway), Rotterdam Film Festival (Netherlands), Transart Triennale (Berlin), Home Works - Ashkal Alwan, Beirut Art Center and Beirut Art Fair (Lebanon).

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LIVE MUSIC

David Carl takes All Saints stage

Well-known local performer on July 3

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Tea à Tempo continues its weekly summer series in All Saints by-the-Sea with a concert on Wednesday, July 3, featuring Salt Spring's own David Vollrath, who performs as David Carl.

Vollrath is an authentic, heartfelt, country Canadiana songwriter who always delivers a great show. Be it in his solo, duo or trio act, or with his four-piece David Carl Band, the audience always gets 100 per cent of this artist.

Fans of Tea à Tempo will appreciate the performer's philosophy, "Entertaining an audience and making a connection with them is as important as great music and lyrics."

Music by donation begins at 2:10 p.m., followed by tea and treats at a cost of \$5. Donations provide the honoraria for performers and contribute to the running of the Tea à Tempo series.



PHOTO COURTESY MUSIC MAKERS

David Carl, who is the next guest at Tea à Tempo at All Saints by-the-Sea.

what's on this week

Wed. June 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Don Conley and Cicela Månsson. Songs of Love & Life reprised at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Beddis Water Service Special Meeting. SIMS boardroom. 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Historical Society AGM. Plus presentation by Professor Jack Little on The Reverend Robert Roberts: Kuper Island Missionary, 1880-1902. Library program room. 2 p.m.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

Thur. June 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tyger Jackson. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Improv Theatre. Mateada. 8 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Ganges Sewer Service Special Meeting. In the CRD boardroom at SIMS. 10 a.m.

Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC) Special Meeting. SIMS boardroom. 12 noon.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Fri. June 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Billie Woods. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Antidoping. 10-piece reggae etc. Mexican band. Mateada. 9 p.m.

Chloe Kat & Fawkes and Hownd. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Fri. June 28

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are directors of the Chuan Society. At SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Story Time. In the children's area at the library. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

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

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Sat. June 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vixx. Moby's patio, lower level. 5 p.m.

Daryl Chonka. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Stephanie Rhodes Band. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Old Times Cafe. Open stage at Fulford Hall Seniors Centre. All ages. 7-11 p.m.

The Selkies of Salt Spring Island. Concert at Salt Spring Centre of Yoga. 6:45 p.m.

Jungle Beats. With DJ Rave Coach & Live Painter Elisa Mystica. Mateada. 9 p.m.

Woodland Band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

The Fracas at Kanakas. Skateboarding competition at Kanaka Road Skate Park. Plus music and BBQ. 10 a.m. start.

Sun. June 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jose Sanchez. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

Mancubs Band. Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Legion Branch 92 AGM. Members vote for new executive. Meaden Hall. 1 p.m.

Sun. June 30

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Mon. July 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Canada Day Entertainment at the Legion. 11:45 a.m. Pipe Band; 12 noon Swing Shift; 1 p.m. Two Point Oh!; 2 p.m. Subdude; 3 p.m. Doug and his Buds. Plus beer garden and BBQ.

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Cruisers Show & Shine. Annual Canada Day car show at the Hydro Field put on by the Salt Spring Cruisers car club. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Tues. July 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Woodland. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Folk Jam. With open mic. Legion. 6 to 9 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. July 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: David Carl. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea and treats.

Morien Jones. Moby's patio, lower level. 5 p.m.

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

Wolfchild. Cinematic folk-rock band from Seattle. Mateada. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. See last Wednesday listing.

Wed. July 3

ACTIVITIES

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

CINEMA

• **Furiosa: A Mad Max Saga** runs Friday, June 28 to Thursday, July 4 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info. Note that The Fritz Movie Theatre is now open seven days a week for the summer.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Artcraft show and sale of work** by Gulf Islands artisans runs daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Artcraft Showcase** exhibition at Mahon Hall is **Phenomenologies – Kim Korol and Kristine Webber.** Daily 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** is exhibiting in the library program room through July 3.

• **Art Jam at GIFTS** is the show at GIFTS Gallery on McPhillips Avenue Until June 30.

• **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.

Canada Day Show & Shine

Car show at the Hydro Field
10 a.m. to 3 p.m.
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ISLAND LIFE

INVASIVE SPECIES

Extent of shiny geranium plant prompts alarm



PHOTO BY CATHY YOUNG
From left, close-up photo of an invasive shiny geranium plant, with shiny leaves that change from green to red depending on dryness of terrain, and shiny geranium growing in profusion in a Salt Spring Island trail area.

Volunteers and invasive species program reps educate public

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

While Salt Spring residents may be fully educated about the need to eradicate Scotch broom and gorse, a new destructive species has bloomed its way into the invasive species spotlight.

Shiny geranium (*Geranium lucidum*) has suddenly taken hold in a number of areas of Salt Spring — including on one part of my own property on Cranberry Road — prompting Transition Salt Spring Native Plant Stewardship Group (NPSG) and members to spend many hours of volunteer time pulling it from the ground and finding the best way to deal with it to prevent the seeds from travelling and sprouting elsewhere.

Jemma Green is the Islands Trust Conservancy (ITC) rep in the CRD-led Capital Region Invasive Species Partnership (CRISP) program. As an ITC protected areas manager, she works with private landowners to manage their conservation covenant lands. Green said she hadn't seen shiny geranium on Salt Spring Island until last May.

"While doing a routine annual survey of one of our conservation covenants in the Reginald Hill area, I noticed an infestation of shiny geranium. It was growing on an unstable, rocky, southwest-facing slope, in both sun and shade, with very shallow soil. This plant seems able to grow in most conditions."

Green said she and the landowners felt it could be an isolated incident that needed to be contained to protect the rest of the island, and spent several days last fall and this spring hand-weeding as many plants as possible, before they could go to seed.

Then just a few weeks ago she was contacted by islander Trish Cannon and

others inquiring what to do about shiny geranium, "because it was all over their neighbourhoods and other neighbourhoods on the island."

Cannon and longtime NPSG volunteer Cathy Young said there are extensive areas of the plant — which outcompetes native vegetation — in the Capital Regional District's Quarry Drive park trail and on the trail between the former Vesuvius Inn and Margaret Drive. Trail edges have been cleared there for quite a distance. Other places it has been found besides the Reginald Hill area located by Green are North Beach Road, Arbutus Drive, Morningside Drive, Cusheon Lake Road, in a Channel Ridge, on King Road south of Beaver Point Road, and along the trail in the north end of Ruckle Park.

"We've barely got a dent in it," Cannon said about volunteer efforts to remove it from Ruckle Park.

The plant's potential impact on rare Garry oak habitat is of particular concern.

I knew nothing about shiny geranium until Salt Spring Island Conservancy (SSIC) biologist Susan Hannon was visiting my property for a conservation site visit in late May. She spied it instantly in a small cleared area just off my driveway. I have since been alarmed to see how far it has spread from there and have spent a fair bit of time on removal attempts, but have much more work to do!

Fortunately, the plants have a shallow root system and are easy to pull out of the ground, and because they are annuals, it doesn't matter if the entire root is removed. It's the prolific seeds that must be kept from germinating.

Young adds that the plants are not hard to find. Their stems are bright red, and even the leaves turn red when the weather warms up or the soil is dry. Otherwise, the small five-petaled pink flowers look similar to those of other geranium species such as dove's foot and herb Robert, and a couple of others. I could describe what the plant looks like with words, but the photos on this page tell the story better.

"It is quite happy to grow in almost

all conditions of sun or soil and water, though it needs a minimum," said Young. "Unusually, seedlings germinate after the first substantial fall rains, and persist over winter, to flower in April and May, when it may have three generations before the heat of summer turns leaves red, and almost disappear. Seeds are forcibly ejected up to six metres (20 feet), and are small but thankfully not tiny: at two millimetres, they are about the size of a sesame or tomato seed. Seeds can survive in the soil for two years, and spread on hikers' boots, dogs, etc."

Young is hoping that applying concentrated vinegar when the plants are small — in the fall or early spring — could kill them. A CRD Invasive Species Alert Sheet suggests mulching an infested area as another option for smothering young plants and suppressing the seed bank. (Search for "shiny geranium weed alert" at crd.bc.ca for detailed information about the plant and ways to deal with it.)

Young said the NPSG hopes to have an eradication workshop sometime this fall.

She said disposal of the pulled plants is "problematic because it can't be composted — the seeds continue to develop — but I've been 'solarizing' them: sealing them in a clear garbage bag and leaving it in the sun. Inside the bag it heats up tremendously, quickly turning them into dead brown plant matter, hot enough to kill the seeds." Alternatively, they can be taken to the Blackburn Transfer Station and included in regular garbage, or to Hartland Road Landfill in bags labelled "Invasives."

Cannon said the biggest challenge at the moment is the lack of hands available to do the hand-picking required. She hopes a grant may be acquired to hire people next year.

Islanders can also help prevent the spread of shiny geranium by checking their own property or public lands and following the advice for eradication.

"I want to make Salt Spring 'shiny free,'" said Cannon. "If it gets out of control, we are never going to get on top of it."

Legion

Branch 92
Salt Spring Island

NOTICE OF AGM Voting for your New Executives

Sunday, June 30, 1:00pm
Meaden Hall, 120 Blain Road
(downstairs at the Legion)

All members welcome
and encouraged to attend.

www.saltspringlegion.ca

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

JUNE - JULY 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
26	4:07	8.5	2.59	30	0:00	11.5	3.5
	6:40	8.8	2.68		7:35	3.5	1.07
	14:32	1.8	0.55		15:05	8	2.44
	22:41	11.6	3.54		17:22	7.8	2.38
27	5:03	7.5	2.29	1	0:24	11.5	3.5
	8:11	8	2.44		8:20	2.2	0.67
	15:14	3.1	0.94		17:05	9.2	2.8
	23:09	11.6	3.54		18:38	9.1	2.77
28	5:57	6.3	1.92	2	0:47	11.4	3.47
	10:11	7.3	2.22		9:03	1.2	0.37
	15:55	4.6	1.4		17:58	10.2	3.11
	23:36	11.5	3.5		20:25	9.9	3.02
29	6:47	4.9	1.49	3	1:12	11.2	3.41
	12:29	7.2	2.2		9:45	0.5	0.15
	16:36	6.2	1.89		18:36	10.8	3.29
					21:55	10.3	3.14

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INTERNATIONAL PROJECTS

Fundraising for Tanzania boys' dorm underway

Salt Spring Islander visits successful school project

BY CAROLYN MCASKIE
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In January of this year I accompanied my family to the town of Katesh in central Tanzania.

My sister and brother-in-law, Catriona and Chris Harker of North Saanich, who lived in Tanzania many years ago (while I was on posting next door in Kenya), have for many years been members of a Canadian NGO, the Canadian Harambee Education Society (CHES), which supports the education and welfare of girls in both Tanzania and Kenya.

I have been a donor for many years and on our recent visit I was able to visit the girls my partner and I have been supporting. Some 567 girls are currently being supported through secondary school and thousands have graduated over the life of the project.

While there we visited Mwahu Secondary School, where CHES successfully built a new dorm for 150 school girls over the period from 2019 to 2022. Twenty-six Grade 12 students from Stelly's Secondary School in Central Saanich initiated construction, and although there was a (Covid) time lag, donors in B.C. and Tanzania completed the task by April 2022.



PHOTO COURTESY CAROLYN MCASKIE

Students and staff of Stelly's Hostel, the girls' dormitory for the Mwahu Secondary School in Katesh, Tanzania, visited by Salt Spring Island resident Carolyn McAskie earlier this year. Fundraising for a new dormitory for the school's boys is now underway.

The girls had been living in appalling conditions. Each new dorm room is equipped with three double bunks and new mattresses. Needless to say, the girls are very happy. The provision of decent sleeping and study quarters for the girls has been such a boon to their lives, their health and their studies.

However, we then visited the dorm where the boys sleep. Stench, rot, decay, vermin and just plain awfulness are words that come to mind. We won't forget that this was what the old girls' dorm looked like too.

Although CHES is designed to support girls in school we can't leave their friends and brothers in such appalling conditions. Chris and Catriona Harker have spoken with local officials in Tanzania and have launched a funding campaign. The local community has therefore committed to constructing the foundation and supplying the metal sheeting for the roof.

Significant contributions have brought the total amount needed to build and furnish (with beds) the dorm down to around \$90,000 CAD (or about \$600 per student). Donations are coming in and close to \$70,000 has been raised. But there will remain an additional requirement for 75 double bunk beds for 150 students. The cost of this will be \$185 per double bunk or \$93 per bed.

We all know that there are many claims for our charitable dollars, but we invite any of you reading this article to participate in helping CHES provide a decent and healthy place for the boys to sleep and study.

If you are interested in supporting this project, please note that receipts (for tax purposes in Canada) will be issued when you direct your contribution to the Royal

Commonwealth Society, Vancouver Island (RCS VI). We cannot collect through CHES as its mandate limits us to the support of girls. However, RCS VI is a registered Canadian charity that has generously offered to "handle the finances" and be responsible for transferring funds, as and when needed, to Tanzania where trusted agents will disburse them as required. Please indicate "Mwahu Project" with your gift and ensure there is a return address.

The fundraising campaign is going well and we expect that the boys will be sleeping in the dorm six months after construction starts. My family members — Catriona and Chris Harker — will provide donors with progress reports and send a photo of "move-in" day.

How to donate:

1. Send an e-transfer to: metaviva@gmail.com.

2. Mail a cheque to: RCS VI, #1110 – 6880 Wallace Drive, Brentwood Bay, V8M 1N8, B.C.

3. Canada Helps: canadahelps.org/en/charities/the-vancouver-island-branch-of-the-royal-commonwealth-society/

"Asante sana" (thank you very much) for reading this story. If you want more information, please call me at my Salt Spring phone number of 250-221-0775, and I will put you in touch with the Harker family.

People are invited to visit canadian-harambee.ca for more information.

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

Take notice that the British Columbia Hydro and Power Authority (BC Hydro) of Vancouver, B.C., have applied to the Ministry of Water, Land & Resource Stewardship (WLRS), for a Statutory Right of Way for an electric powerline situated on Provincial Crown land located over unsurveyed Crown Land, being the bed of Captain Passage and Swanson Channel, between Welbury Bay, Salt Spring Island and Grimmer Bay, Pender Island.

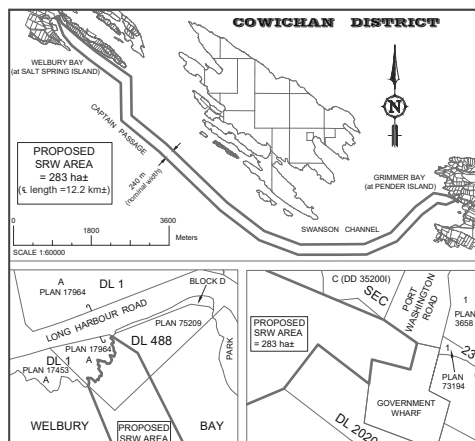
The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is Crown Land File #1415252.

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 & Resource Stewardship at 142—2080 Labieux Rd., Nanaimo, BC, V9T 6J9.

Comments will be received by WLRS up to July 4, 2024. WLRS may not be able to consider comments received after this date.

Please visit our website: 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 & Resource Stewardship office in Nanaimo.



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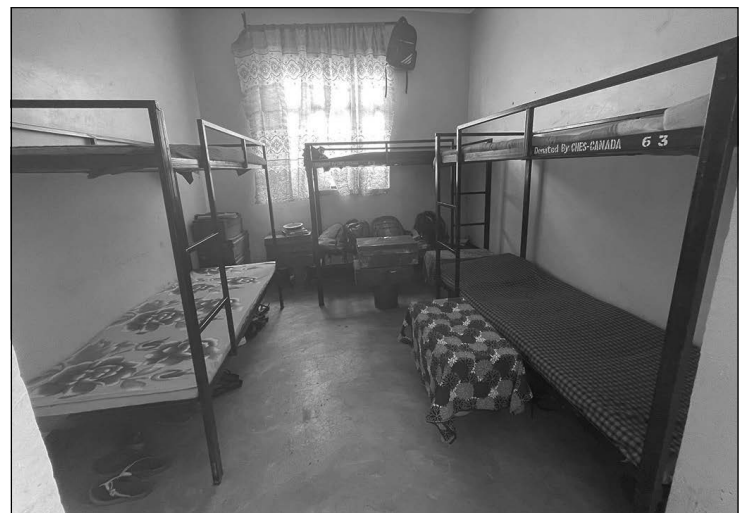


PHOTO COURTESY CAROLYN MCASKIE

Inside view of new girls' dormitory room at Stelly's Hostel, funded by the Canadian Harambee Education Society, a charitable non-governmental organization supported locally by people in North Saanich and on Salt Spring Island.

LEGACIES

Judy Nurse bursaries awarded



PHOTO COURTESY SSI PUBLIC LIBRARY

Salt Spring library volunteers and recent high school graduates Jo Hughes, left, and Maia Cassie receive certificates from library director Karen Hudson for being chosen as the inaugural winners of the Judy Nurse Bursary, a memorial honour sponsored by the longtime library volunteer and board member's family.

Inaugural awards for high school graduates disbursed

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY

Judy Nurse was a dedicated Salt Spring library volunteer for over a decade, serving on the board of directors for six years, from 2017 to 2023.

As library board chair for her last two

and a half years of library service, she gave countless hours of her time, skill, intelligence, insight and goodwill. As the chair of the library's long-term planning committee in 2021, Nurse was a champion of the library's current strategic plan. Her vision and leadership led to broad community engagement, and new library priorities on diversity, equity and inclusion, reconciliation and climate change. Working together we moved quickly forward

on new initiatives including the FabLab and Indigenous Learning Area. Above all, Nurse valued the library as a place for everyone, and it was her idea to put the new library guiding principle "You Belong Here" above the library's front entrance.

Now the next generation of library volunteer and working students can benefit from Nurse's love of our library. Her husband, Murray Nurse, and three children — Laura Morris, Michael Nurse and Heather Connolly — are sponsoring the new Judy Nurse Bursary in her memory.

This year's recipients, Maia Cassie and Jo Hughes, have been wonderful volunteers and working students with the library for many years. They both worked in different positions, from summer camp leader to social media expert. Cassie and Hughes are not only highly valued library team members but also exceptional high school students.

Hughes graduates from Gulf Islands Secondary School and will follow her passion for archaeology, having been accepted into the archaeology program at Simon Fraser University.

Cassie graduates from Queen Margaret's School in Duncan. Her next step will be to study social sciences at the University of Toronto.

The library congratulates them and wishes them the best of luck in their future endeavours.

ANIMAL CARE

Local outdoor kitten advice offered

Salt Spring organization available to assist, if needed

BY KAREN TOTTMAN
FOR SALT SPRING CAT ORPHANAGE

When you stumble upon kittens outdoors, you naturally feel the urge to scoop them up and bring them indoors. However, it's important to remember that even if you see kittens alone, their mother is more than likely nearby.

Determining if the kittens' mother abandoned them requires careful observation and consideration. Watch the kittens from a distance for several hours to see if the mother has returned to care for them. Check the kittens' condition. Are they warm, bellies full, healthy and clean-looking? What is the kittens' behaviour? Are they vocalizing constantly and loudly? Do they appear weak or lethargic?

Consider the kittens' environment. Is it safe, or are they in an exposed and potentially dangerous area? If the kittens are in immediate danger from predators, weather, or other hazards, it is necessary to intervene, regardless of the potential for the mother to return.

It is important to emphasize that a kitten's best chance of survival is with its mother, so wait and watch for as long as you can. Neonatal kittens have folded ears, can't walk, and may still have closed eyes. Without a mother, these kittens require round-the-clock care, including bottle feeding. If you determine neonatal kittens have been abandoned, provide a heat source immediately with a warm water bottle, a heated sock filled with rice, or hold the kitten against your body.

At five to six weeks of age, kittens can be safely removed from their mother. Kittens at this age play with



PHOTO COURTESY SS CAT ORPHANAGE

One-day-old kittens in care of Salt Spring Cat Orphanage.

each other, start eating wet food and look like small cats. It is important to trap the mother to ensure she gets spayed and returns to her colony when possible.

At Salt Spring Cat Orphanage, our mission is to save and improve the lives of the most vulnerable felines: neonatal, orphaned and abandoned kittens. Through our dedicated rescue efforts and compassionate foster care, we provide these kittens with a safe haven and the opportunity to thrive.

Working with the BC SPCA and Rest.Q Animal Sanctuary, we can help assess the need for intervention, provide immediate care for found kittens and assist in trapping. For more information, please check out our website at Saltspringcat.com.

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EDUCATION

Local economy benefits from trades program

Registration in GISS Youth Work in Trades program doubles over past two years

SUBMITTED BY GISS APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM

We frequently hear the complaint that there is not enough skilled labour on the Gulf Islands to meet the demand of industry. At Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS), the trades programs are in demand.

At last weekend's graduation ceremony, 20 dedicated students from the class of 2024 took the stage as registered apprentices with Skilled Trades BC, already working for one of our local businesses and earning extra high school credits while learning their trade.



PHOTO COURTESY GISS

Ten of 20 Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) students who graduated as registered apprentices with the Skilled Trades BC program this year are, from left, Baki Yildizalp, Emma McClean, Shore Winston, Tejas Grooms, Luke Kaye, Ona Nelson, Chase Akerman, Oscar Scott, Riley Nicol and Jackson MacRae, with teacher Shari Hambrook third from the right. Missing are Ever Binkley, Donovan Grimmer, Harlan Harris, Finn Hughes, Liam Huth, Noah Labelle-Holding, Tim Marcotte, Jack Martinez, Roman Wellington, Claire Whitelaw and Grey Williamson.

Registration in this program has doubled over the past two years, reflecting the growing interest in skilled trades, investment in the GISS shop classes, the TASK program and a keen uptake from all students in practical, hands-on learning. Graduating as an apprentice is a milestone that not only marks a significant personal achievement for these young individuals but also underscores the strength and vitality of the local workforce.

The Youth Work In Trades program at GISS offers students a unique opportunity to gain technical training in various trades while still completing their high school education. Through this program, students work part-time with local tradespeople, applying their skills and knowledge to real-world settings and earning credit towards their high school diplomas and their Red Seal Trades Certification. Each level of Red Seal Trades Certification requires nine months of full-time training on the job and two to three months of college classes.

This year's graduates have excelled in trades, including carpentry, welding, heavy equipment operating, electrical, plumbing, roofing, machining, automotive repair, marine engine repair and culinary arts. Their dedication and hard work have paid off, as they are now well-equipped to enter the workforce with valuable industry certifications.

"We are incredibly proud of our apprentices and the growth of the program," said GISS apprenticeship teacher Shari Hambrook. "They are not only building their own futures but also contributing significantly to our community's economic health and vitality. These apprentices are already laying the foundation of their careers and have become part of the local labour force in the Gulf Islands."

The success of the Youth Work In Trades program would not be possible without the support of local employers who serve as mentors and sponsors with the Skilled Trades BC Red Seal Program. These businesses and their

staff have provided invaluable training to the apprentices, ensuring that they receive a comprehensive education that goes well beyond textbook learning.

Since September of 2022, our community has benefitted from more than \$200,000 received through the Canada Apprenticeship Service Grant program, which helped construction industry employers who hired first-year apprentices. The grant provided support for more tools, equipment, safety gear and extra time for the sponsors to spend training the apprentices.

Eight of the grads, who started their apprenticeships early, completed their Level 1 College Trades Training Program for Grade 12 credits this semester. Their success in these challenging programs is elevated by the high level of training received from their sponsors before the courses.

"We extend our deepest gratitude to the local employers who have taken

on high school apprentices," said Hambrook. "Their willingness to invest time and resources in these young people is a testament to their commitment to our community's future. They play a crucial role in shaping the next generation of skilled workers."

The apprenticeship students were also supported this year with donations of small tools and

swag from Windsor Plywood and hi-vis work clothes from BC Hydro.

The benefits of the apprenticeship program extend beyond the immediate experience of the students. By participating in the program, these young tradespeople are helping to address local workforce needs, strengthening the community, and ensuring that the Gulf Islands remain vibrant and economically robust.

For more information about the Youth Work In Trades program at GISS, people can visit the school's website or contact Apprenticeship Program teacher Shari Hambrook at shambrook@sd64.org.

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

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- ✓ **Access to Feed Program**
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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Thank You



ROBERT
"BOB" SHAAK

FEB 12/37 - JUN 1/24

Bob departed on his final adventure sooner than expected and, like many of us, I guess, leaving behind unfinished plans and projects. Although he was not ready, complications from a heart valve implant dictated otherwise.

Bob had a great sense of adventure and zest for life. He was passionate and committed to most everything he did, from building our home to baking buns! Whether it was flying, sailing, motorcycling, scuba diving, skiing, welding, working on his many vehicles, or reading a book, he enjoyed it all. He especially loved his tractor and could hardly wait for snow so he could help plow out the neighbourhood.

Other interests included music, singing (Salt Spring Singers), attempting to learn to play the five-string banjo, and practicing the trumpet. He enjoyed poetry and charmed us with his recitations. The intricacies of the sewing machine fascinated him; from hemming his own pants to sewing sail covers.

One friend described him as a "true prairie renaissance man. There seemed to be nothing that he couldn't do or learn how to do." He would have loved to have been a farmer. As a young man, while attending college in the States, he followed the harvest, custom combining from Texas to North Dakota. After graduating, he spent two and a half years in northern Thailand volunteering as a mechanic on a Presbyterian mission farm.

After meeting and marrying Dawn in Regina, we both completed Master's Degrees in Social Work from the University of Toronto. Most of our working years were spent in Saskatoon, where Bob enjoyed working with delinquent kids. Following our move to Salt Spring 30+ years ago, some will remember him as a school bus driver.

His older sister, Lorraine Bell, and nephew, Ken, will grieve his loss.

I will miss most his wonderful smile, sense of humour, keen wit, and enduring love over these past 60 years. He was a kind and generous man, loyal to his many friends. I will miss our Happy Times as well as our "Happy Hours," where we discussed the day and plans for the morrow. We, as a couple, were good together. My best friend, my partner, my soulmate.

Thank you to the many of you who have reached out to me with your support and comfort.

There will be no service or celebration of life.

**Cherish your families, your friends,
and your neighbours!**

Dawn



Alan Sydney
Coombes
Celebration of Life

Alan Sydney Coombes, a beloved husband, father, grandfather, and friend, passed away on June 14, 2024, after a short illness. A celebration of his life will be held on July 13th, 2024 from 2 to 4 pm at 210 Bridgeman Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. In lieu of flowers, the family requests donations be made to SPCA or Pacific Opera Victoria in Alan's honor. Condolences may be offered to the family at www.mccallgardens.com

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Obituaries

Obituaries



Yvonne Adalian

Dec 1938 - Jun 2024

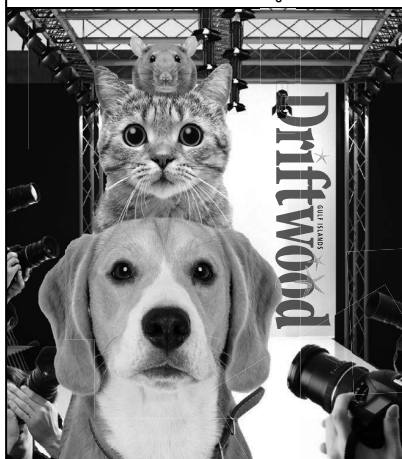
Born in Sussex, England, Yvonne emigrated to Vancouver in 1959 with her first husband. She loved the wildness of BC, and although she lived and worked across Canada, she always returned to it. She enjoyed her acting career in radio, stage, TV, and film, and on Salt Spring Island, she also enjoyed directing and producing with her own theatre company.

She loved animals, wild or tame. Her travels included a trip to Kenya, where she could experience the raw wild of that continent in person. As an activist and always the optimist, she expected the people of this planet to grow up very soon, pull themselves together, and honour the sacredness of every living thing.

She is survived by her son Eric; predeceased by her brother Barry, father John, mother Flora, and grandson Kai.

SEND US YOUR PET PHOTOS!

Send your favourite pet photo, along with their name, to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com by JULY 12th for publication in our ALL ABOUT PETS feature coming JULY 24th.



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Thank you to all the people who made our evening of Pirates very special.

Har from Michael & Helga

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NATURAL CEMETERY

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HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF
JUNE 23 TO 29, 2024

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
PISCES, ARIES AND TAURUS



ARIES

In your relationship, you must express your needs and expectations clearly and confidently, even if it causes tension. This will be an opportunity to start fresh. You'll rediscover peace and harmony.



TAURUS

A business project will keep you busy and promise good financial prospects. Despite your discretion, you'll attract the attention of the ideal person. Be indulgent with your other half, who can sometimes be tactless.



GEMINI

You must increase your self-esteem to succeed professionally, emotionally and personally. Respect yourself and recognize your value to grow.



CANCER

Time is scarce with days off and colleagues on holiday. Plan each step carefully and get organized to avoid scheduling conflicts and unforeseen events.



LEO

As the holidays approach, you'll drive your children around to meet with friends or relatives. You'll secure a loan or negotiate a reasonable price for an important purchase.



VIRGO

You'll start an open and honest conversation with your partner and express your needs and expectations while being attentive to theirs. Don't let yourself fall into a routine and get lazy.



LIBRA

You'll express your ideas and aspirations for progress to your supervisor or partner. You'll take action and be valued in all areas of your life.



SCORPIO

Get ready for an upturn in your love life! You'll hit it off with a new flame. You'll want to commit and may even consider living together or starting a family. Your creativity will be at its best.



SAGITTARIUS

It's time to treat yourself. Don't hesitate to go out with friends! Don't forget to allow yourself moments of relaxation and well-being; you need them. Enjoy these moments of joy and happiness.



CAPRICORN

Whether you're in a relationship or not, someone in your workplace will make advances at you. This situation could be unsettling. Be discerning and prudent, and don't let yourself be influenced by others.



AQUARIUS

You're looking forward to the holidays and going on vacation with your family. If you're going by car, take a map or a GPS, in case you don't have a signal. This will prevent you from getting lost or taking a detour.



PISCES

You'll be proud of your children's remarkable grades at school. You'll give them anything they want. Someone close to you could exploit your generosity by making unrealistic or excessive requests.



ATTENTION 2024 GRADS!

If any Gulf Islands Secondary School grads would like extra free copies of the Grad Book to send to their proud grandparents and friends, please drop into the Driftwood office at 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd. Our hours are Monday to Thursday 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM, and Friday 9:00 to noon.

SHARE THE JOY! Driftwood



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA MARSHALL
Pon Tiki, piloted by Ian Mott, takes Joe Akerman, left, and 19 other individuals from area First Nations to Grace Islet. Elders were consulted on how to continue to protect burial sites on the islet, the subject of action to stop a house from being constructed there 10 years ago.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WEEKEND ON SALT SPRING ISLAND 2024



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER ROY
JJ Allen and Teri Allen (Quw'utsun) at the Community-Wide Potluck Feast held at Xwaaqw'um on Saturday evening, described as an extremely moving and joyous event.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
Tsawout carver Howard Lafortune gives a demonstration at Artcraft at Mahon Hall on Friday, one of three Indigenous artist events organized by Salt Spring Arts.



PHOTO BY CHRISTINA MARSHALL
Lorne Underwood (Tsawout) speaks, with Vern Jacks (Tseycum), left, and Joe Norris (Halalt) at the Honouring the Ancestors of Grace Islet: 10-Year Anniversary Event & Lunch Feast in Centennial Park on Sunday.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER ROY
Attendees enjoy a feast at the June 23 event in Centennial Park, marking 10 years since successful Grace Island protection action.



PHOTO BY CHRISTOPHER ROY
Maiya Modeste (Quw'utsun), P'hwulhp Restoration Project Coordinator for the Stqeeye' Learning Society, at the June 22 Xwaaqw'um gathering.

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A few words about the Indigenous Peoples Weekend . . . and gratitude

BY JON COOKSEY
FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES WEEKEND ORGANIZERS

The Indigenous Peoples Weekend was born out of conversations with community members who had ideas for how to observe Indigenous Peoples Day; in fact, so many ideas that it was obvious we'd need to extend it to the whole weekend to fit them all in.

Two themes came out of those early conversations: a celebration of Indigenous arts and culture, and furthering reconciliation. As settlers ourselves, we might have focused it more exclusively on reconciliation, since that's the internal work we need to do, but Caroline Dick, Indigenous coordinator at the Salt Spring Island Library and one of the founders of the event, told us: "We are more than our grief." And so we arrived at the dual focus, which manifested itself in so many beautiful and surprising ways.

We're going to write a report about the event that has more detail, but we have to mention two things. First, the group put-

ting on the event could never have done it without our key supporters, especially the Salt Spring Island Foundation, the CRD, the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership and the Salt Spring Arts Council. The latter two both gave the event a home online with their new regional community calendar.

Second, the 10-year anniversary event on Sunday, to celebrate the ancestors and the success of the protests around Grace Islet, was an historic event on its own. Elders gathered from five of the 14 Nations and Tribes whose territory includes Salt Spring Island: Penáloxeth' (Penelakut) Tribe, Halalt First Nation, Quw'utsun Tribes, STÁUTW (Tsawout) First Nation and WSIKEM (Tseycum) First Nation, representing both Hul'qumi'num and SENĆOŦEN speaking peoples. Salt Springers answered the call to come forward and welcome those on whose territory we live, with gifts and a space to share and a delicious meal.

To all who supported and attended, Huy tseep q'u siem / HÍSWKE SIÁM NEZILIYE / thank you.

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