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July 3, 2024

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PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

Gerhard and Lesley Haltner of Victoria sport Canada Day shirts beside their Canadian-built 1955 Chevrolet Bel Air two-door sedan at the Salt Spring Cruisers' Show and Shine on Monday. Gerhard remembers sitting in the back seat as his father drove the car home from the dealership in Regina, and he and Lesley dated in the Bel Air while they were going to Vic High. He was gifted the car in 1970 and it had been on the road until the fall of 2017 when we started a "frame-off" restoration. See page 6 for more photos of the car show.

PROVINCIAL POLITICS

MLA Adam Olsen won't run again

Need to spend more time with family cited as reason

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen will not be on the ballot for the fall provincial election.

The two-term BC Green Party MLA made the surprise announcement at a press conference held in Victoria last Tuesday.

Olsen, 48, who is married and with two teen-aged children, said he had been greatly impacted by the tragic deaths in the past calendar year of three men, younger than himself, who all had children that would not know their fathers.

"There are three deaths in the last calendar year that each, in their own way, have put me into an existential re-evaluation of what is truly important to me, who I'm prioritizing and where I serve," he said. "It has put me in an ethical

dilemma because frankly, I'm stubbornly reluctant to change how I serve the people of Saanich North and the Islands.

"I began asking myself, 'How much do my children actually know me?' Really, for the first time, I allowed myself to consider how much elected public life dictated the mood, the availability and the actions of our family. I became much more thoughtful about the impact that it was having on my partner Emily, our relationship and how that had changed. All but two of our married years have been in elected public life."

"There's only one story about this decision," he stressed. "And that's the story of what's in the best interests of our family."

Olsen expressed gratitude to the BC Green Party staff and volunteers, and to leader Sonia Furstenau.

"The BC Green Party has provided a political space and a rigid political system for me to be creative and expressive. The organization has encouraged me to be me, and supported me. It's an important instrument of legislative accountability, even when there's only been two of us in parliament. I raise my hands in thankfulness and gratitude for the opportunity to act as the conscience of the legislature for this time."

Of Furstenau, he said, "We've worked together for the past seven years as close as two people can be in a political landscape that is focused just solely on removing obstacles. We have been those obstacles. And the love and the trust that Sonia has shown in me should be a model for all our political leaders."

OLSEN continued on 3

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ISLANDS TRUST

Trustees advance code of conduct document

Level of discourse worries some Islands Trust trustees

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Concerns among elected trustees in the Islands Trust area have led to plans for updating that body's official code of conduct, as members look for a balance that might ensure trustees feel free to voice opinions without feeling threatened.

The Islands Trust Governance Committee voted during a special electronic meeting Monday, June 24 to

advance draft language and recommend a select committee of the Islands Trust Council (ITC) develop the document. And even as committee members expressed philosophical objections to any structural limitations on speech, the sense in the room seemed to be that many were finding the tenor of debate increasingly uncomfortable.

"This is trying to acknowledge that [discomfort], without trying to curtail free speech and constructive criticism," said Gambier Island trustee Kate-Louise Stamford. "I think that's a fine line to tread. But don't underestimate how low the discourse can get."

Updates for the code of conduct were built from extensive examination of other governments and municipalities, and include draft language to make clear that neither staff nor the Islands Trust Council chair would be adjudicating any disputes — and that complaints that might initiate any processes can only stem from staff, trustees or Islands Trust Conservancy board appointees, not the public.

The document lays out conduct expectations regarding personal interests, conduct in meetings, collection and handling of information, interactions with staff — and advisory bodies — as well as the use of social media and interactions with the public and traditional media.

Staff also recommended such proceedings should be in a setting mostly open to the public.

"The meeting should be closed as applicable, for receiving legal advice, for example," said director of legislative services David Marlor. "But everything else would then be done in open meetings. It's politicians, our trustees, policing themselves; so that probably should be public."

Citing the wide spectrum of opinion inherent in such a body, ITC chair Peter Luckham said that there had "certainly" been numerous complaints over his time on the council, with mixed results.

"Often the action that the complainant is anticipating is significantly less than what is prescribed," said Luckham.

"This is trying to acknowledge that [discomfort], without trying to curtail free speech and constructive criticism."

KATE-LOUISE STAMFORD
Gambier Island trustee

"This is a valuable conversation, to figure out how we can land on a place that supports a respectful workplace and respectful dialogue."

Lasqueti Island trustee Tim Peterson, who also chairs Salt Spring Island's Local Trust Committee, said while it was reasonable, for example, to have criticism about the contents of a report, it's not reasonable to "start saying you've done a crappy job."

"I have witnessed some Trust Council behaviour," said Peterson. "I can think of one really bad meeting last term where a trustee was named, and their approach to the particular problem at hand was called names as well. It was really dispiriting."

Peterson added that he felt many people struggle to keep themselves at the level of speaking to issues and ideas,

rather than to personalities.

"A lot of folks don't have practice at that," he said.

Gambier Island trustee Joe Bernardo said he preferred to keep the focus on outright bullying, abuse or intimidation, saying he was uneasy with the approach of "attempting to manage the speech of trustees through prohibitions."

"Discomfort is part of the game," said Bernardo. "People aren't here to agree, they're here to work out things and then reach agreement. Robust debate isn't comfortable."

And Salt Spring trustee Jamie Harris, as he wondered why ITC needed to "line up" with other municipalities on matters like this "but not on housing," asked for examples of specific instances of trustees feeling they couldn't speak their minds without fear of being disparaged.

"When it comes to the 'unsafe' and 'uncomfortable' idea, how do we describe that specifically?" asked Harris. "I've had another trustee this term tell me that trustees and staff feel unsafe just being in my presence. What are we talking about? It's not my fault I am the way I am. I'm not threatening anybody, but when I hear this talk it's very concerning to me."

"I'm not saying any one person, I'm just saying that it does come up quite frequently," said Stamford. "I think this [code of conduct] is a way of framing our conversations in a more political realm, rather than focusing on aggressively winning a discussion and a decision."

If the Executive Committee and ITC agree, the next step for the code of conduct will be the latter electing members to a select committee to develop the document, which would then return to ITC for approval.

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DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS	DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS
3	1:12	11.2	3.41	7	1:18	9.7	-0.1
	9:45	0.5	0.15		3:51	9.9	3.02
	18:36	10.8	3.29		12:28	0.6	0.18
	21:55	10.3	3.14		20:52	11.3	3.47
4	1:41	11	3.35	8	2:14	9.2	-0.23
	10:26	0.2	0.06		4:47	9.5	2.87
	19:11	11.2	3.41		13:08	1.1	0.34
	23:10	10.2	3.11		21:23	11.2	3.41
5	2:17	10.7	3.26	9	3:06	8.7	-0.33
	11:07	0.1	0.03		5:47	9	2.74
	19:45	11.4	3.47		13:47	1.9	0.58
	23:10	10.2	3.11		21:53	11.1	3.38
6	0:17	10	-0.03	10	3:56	8.1	-0.46
	3:00	10.3	3.14		6:53	8.5	2.59
	11:48	0.2	0.06		14:25	2.8	0.86
	20:19	11.4	3.54		22:19	10.9	3.35

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LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION

CRD's Kanaka Road parcel plans shared

Maintenance staff building and bus storage concepts outlined

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring officials approved first steps toward growing and electrifying the island's transit fleet, narrowly voting to advance plans for a bus depot — alongside an integrated facility for parks maintenance staff — on Kanaka Road.

In a 3-2 vote, the island's Local Community Commission (LCC) directed staff to submit a request to the Islands Trust for a relevant bylaw amendment for the land at 210 and 220 Kanaka Road, which abuts the western edge of the Gulf Islands Secondary School property.

LCC member Brian Webster, who along with Gayle Baker voted against the proposal, had wanted to retain the larger 0.76-acre 210 Kanaka property for a housing project and put off bus depot plans, utilizing the smaller 0.46-acre parcel for the new parks staff facility. Those staff currently work out of an unventilated modular building on the property, with limited storage and no running water.

But with no proponents having advanced feasible designs for housing at the site — and with other housing projects on the island that already have land allocated stalling — Capital Regional District (CRD) director and LCC member Gary Holman suggested it was economics, rather than available land, that needed to be overcome.

"There are nine or 10 lots on Salt Spring already designated or zoned for housing," said Holman during the LCC's meeting Thursday, June 27. "The availability of land for housing is not the deal breaker; the deal breaker is funding."

Holman said BC Housing, the province's principal funding source for non-market housing, had been contacted about

the Kanaka parcels, and they had "no interest whatsoever." That, he said, would likely mean any new residential property built on the site would have to pay for itself through market-rate sales or rentals.

"Our objective should be to create a stock of housing that's disconnected from the marketplace," said Holman. "In order to do that you need funding, and Kanaka would have to get in line behind the other lots which already have proponents attached who are in active talks with funders."

While electrification of Salt Spring's bus fleet may be a future aspiration, the need for a bus facility is likely to manifest sooner. Earlier in the same meeting, the LCC directed staff to reach out to BC Transit for revised costing for an expansion of bus service irrespective of fuel sources — prioritizing implementing 1,000 additional service hours on Route 2 (Fulford-Ganges) without adding year-round service to Beaver Point and Ruckle Park in January 2026, and an expansion on Route 7 (Cusheon Lake) to extend to Beddis Beach in January 2027.

Both service expansions would require Salt Spring's bus fleet to grow, likely to as many as 10 vehicles, according to Holman.

Both Kanaka properties planned for the depot and maintenance facility are located in the Agricultural Land Reserve, although according to staff the CRD received confirmation from the Agricultural Land Commission that typical restrictions on use would not apply, as both parcels are less than two acres in size.

The request to the Islands Trust will be a zone-specific variation based on an already completed conceptual site plan that CRD staff said had been made in collaboration with BC Transit staff. The land use authority would add the planned uses to the statutory definition of "Public Service" as a bylaw amendment — which currently includes facilities for road maintenance vehicles but does not note buses specifically.

Political colleagues praise Olsen for service

OLSEN

continued from 1

He also gave thanks to Green Party of Canada leader and Saanich-Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May.

"I'm forever grateful to Elizabeth for the investment she made in me and my development as a community leader. I'll never forget her generosity with me, and I will pay it forward wherever and whenever I can."

A provincial election is set for Oct. 19. When asked at the press conference if he was worried that his withdrawal was leaving his party and the next candidate in a difficult position, Olsen pointed out that no other parties had declared nominees in the riding at this point.

He will also be the BC Green Party's campaign chair for the election.

"We are delighted to have Adam in the role of campaign chair," said Furstenau. "He brings extraordinary campaigning experience and capacity, and I know that he will help us move forward with the momentum, and with the recognition that we are a voice of integrity."



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Adam Olsen, left, speaks at an ASK Salt Spring event with BC Ferries CEO Nicolas Jimenez at Lions Hall last fall. Olsen was a frequent participant at ASK Salt Spring events, either alone or with other MLAs and guests.

Political cohorts offered appreciation for Olsen's service.

"As candidates competing in provincial elections, and now as elected officials, I've always seen Adam as a colleague," said Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman. "It's been an honour to work with him, and I'm grateful for his support on so many local issues. It seemed to me that as a First Nations leader, Adam has a special role to play in British Columbia's path to reconciliation. He is still a relatively young man, and I hope he can find a

way to continue serving our communities while supporting his family."

His federal counterpart May said, "I am so indebted to Adam Olsen for being such an outstanding MLA. And prior to that I owe him a great deal for, as Central Saanich council member, being the only elected person to endorse me to be the area's Member of Parliament in 2011. He is like a brother to me and I will miss him as my MLA. That said, I am confident the next BC Green candidate for Saan-



PHOTO COURTESY ADAM OLSEN

Saanich North and the Islands Green party MLA Adam Olsen's "official" photo from 2021.

ich North and the Islands will be elected and continue to work for the community following Adam's excellent example."

Olsen has been a regular guest at ASK Salt Spring sessions coordinated by Gayle Baker, who is also a Local Community Commission member, where he has reported to the community and taken questions on any topic from attending members of the public.

"While I am pleased that Adam is making life decisions that 'excite and delight' him,

what a loss for Salt Spring!" she said. "I join so many others in appreciation of his hard work, enthusiasm, responsiveness to our concerns, willingness to address complex issues and his consistent optimism, even during those hard times."

Baker invites people to wish Olsen farewell at the ASK Salt Spring session this Friday, July 5, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space.

Olsen noted in his press conference that there are "many seats at many tables" and he would find alternate ways to serve his communities at those tables.

"I'm certain that after a time to reset and recharge, I'll begin a new phase of my career," he said.

Olsen was first elected in 2017, beating incumbent NDP MLA Gary Holman with 41.95 per cent of the popular vote to Holman's 30.56 per cent, and 26.46 per cent received by Liberal candidate Stephen P. Roberts. He then increased his popular vote in the 2020 election to almost 52 per cent.

The Tsartlip Nation member began his political career as a Central Saanich municipal councillor in 2008.

ENVIRONMENT

Beach water health improves

Enterococci bacteria levels drop to negligible normals

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Follow-up testing at two of Salt Spring's ocean beaches suggests island swimmers can rest easier about entering the water, according to results released by Island Health.

Testing of saltwater samples taken on June 12 and again on June 18 showed "LT5" or less than five enterococci bacteria per 100 mL of water at Churchill Beach, down from what now appears to have been a temporary spike of 85 on June 4.

At the Centennial Park bulkhead, where readings of 70 and 55 bacteria per 100 mL were tallied May 22 and June 4 respectively, a sample tested from water collected on June 18 showed just nine.

Enterococci are indicator bacteria Island Health uses to identify the presence of fecal contamination and

determine potential risk associated with swimming. On June 11, Island Health and the Capital Regional District issued a water quality notice advising visitors avoid swimming at Churchill Beach and to keep animals on a leash to prevent them from ingesting or swimming in the water until the advisory had been lifted. Churchill Beach is not a well-used swimming spot.

None of Salt Spring's popular freshwater swimming lakes have shown high levels of indicator bacteria so far this year.

Saltwater beaches are generally deemed "acceptable" when single sample enterococci results are less than or equal to 70 per 100 mL, where there is considered a "significant risk of illness" from entering the water, according to Island Health, or if the average of the most recent five finds fewer than 35 of the bacteria per 100 mL sample.

Last summer, just three samples were taken at each Salt Spring Island ocean beach; this year Churchill Beach has already been tested four times since water quality monitoring was restarted May 22.



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?

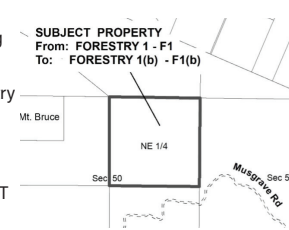
Contact Chris Buchan, Acting Island Planner, via email at ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca or by phone at 250-537-9144.

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 ssiinfo@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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Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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EDITORIAL

Gratitude to Adam

Saanich North and the Islands Green party MLA Adam Olsen shocked community members last week by announcing he will not seek a third term this fall.

Anyone who has observed Olsen at work in our riding for the past seven years would have seen a person who seemed indefatigable as he thrived in the job. He has been an exceptional MLA and a strong advocate for Salt Spring and Gulf Islands concerns. He reports to constituents with a monthly column, community meetings and frequent social media posts, and has been a regular guest at ASK Salt Spring sessions since its inception. He seems to be everywhere and anywhere, as requested.

Olsen's reason for not seeking election for a third term is entirely justifiable. Due to his political commitments, beginning in 2008 when he became a Central Saanich municipal councillor, his two children have grown up with a largely absent father. Olsen isn't willing to let that continue for another four years. Admirably, he can't see doing the job any other way than in full-on mode. But the loss of Olsen at the provincial political level highlights how without some form of support or structural change — MLA job sharing; more funds for staff support? — we run the risk of being overrepresented by older individuals without family considerations.

THE ISSUE:

Adam Olsen's decision to leave provincial politics

WE SAY:

MLA job needs more support

Politicians face extraordinarily high expectations. It's as if they begin their careers with a full glass of grace points, and each real or perceived error takes a sip out of that glass. The political career is over when the glass is empty. (Imagine if the same process applied to corporations that fail to serve us flawlessly. We would have new banks, telecommunications companies and airlines replacing the old ones on a regular basis.)

These days, politicians and their families are also subject to unimaginable mindless abuse via online platforms, as well as in person in some cases. A diversity of voices in the political realm is reduced when elected officials must endure constant threats to safety, yet more diversity is needed if democracy is to function properly with broad representation.

We know Olsen will continue to serve the public in other capacities. He is a natural born leader and facilitator. But we need to find a way to make it easier for truly good people of all ages and circumstances to be the political leaders we so desperately need.



Housing details important

BY GARY HOLMAN
SSI CRD DIRECTOR

Jason Mogus complains in last week's Driftwood about a backgrounder drafted by CRD staff and I for a Local Community Commission (LCC) housing workshop.

He says the 10 properties listed in the backgrounder with development potential of over 300 housing units was too rosy. But the backgrounder clearly states that "most properties already designated or zoned for affordable housing" still "require development funding, and additional water and wastewater services and approvals."

Actually, two of these properties listed are being developed, namely the BC Housing 36-unit Drake Road supported and worker housing project, and Seabreeze Inne renovations creating 17 health worker homes. I share concerns about project delays, but they weren't caused by local government, and when completed, these projects will hugely benefit our community.

Those two plus Salt Spring Commons and Croftonbrook mean 131 units of affordable, worker and supported housing will have been built within five years. Most of these new units also free up existing rental accommodation. And during this time, we finally secured year-round funding for our 30-unit homeless shelter. Developing affordable housing is challenging. More has to be done. But decision-makers and our community also need to understand when and how we succeed.

The Brackett Springs and Brinkworthy Road properties Mogus complains about were again simply identified in the backgrounder as being available for housing development. Any future housing development there will benefit from the CRD requirement to extend the new fire hall sewer line to the Brinkworthy boundary. Mogus also

VIEWPOINT

seems unaware of Brackett Springs' history: rezoned by the Trust over a decade ago, and awarded grant funding from

CRD, BC Housing and CMHC. Most funding was later retracted because the project was floundering. It's good the lender has listed this property for sale.

I share the disappointment about the Dragonfly project. As I wrote in the Driftwood recently, the proponents chose the more difficult strata ownership path, rather than affordable rental. Provincial regulations effectively required the creation of a water utility (to which the CRD agreed) and also precluded Dragonfly from government grants. Contrast this with the Croftonbrook affordable rental project: no utility required and receiving over \$6 million in funding from CRD and BC Housing. Thankfully, Dragonfly's owners state they'll sell the property at cost to facilitate future housing development. Hopefully, new proponents will see the advantages of an affordable rental approach.

It's true that an NGO has decided not to pursue the Norton Road property, already rezoned for 26 affordable units. Details are confidential, but essentially it was decided to pursue a BC Housing project grant separately from a more ambitious project on Norton. The LCC housing backgrounder also summarized a number of other housing initiatives, some of which didn't exist until recently, including: the Housing Now landlord-tenant matching project; CRD Rural Housing Program; a renewed, \$85-million CRD housing fund; and other provincial and federal funding and legislative measures.

Deciding next steps to facilitate affordable housing requires an understanding of existing development potential, and a rapidly evolving funding and legislative framework.

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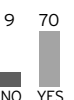
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are codes of conduct important documents for local governments? ☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you glad the NHL playoffs are over?



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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Facts omitted

We are addressing this letter to the Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation department et al: Further to our letter of concern regarding a proposed plan by Parks and Rec for a third access to the new Maxwell Park acquisition, after reading an inaccurate critique in the June 12 Driftwood of the Wright Road farming community's letter of protest ("Naysayers strike again"), we feel compelled to point out a number of relevant facts that were omitted by the writer.

Firstly, the "large" cul de sac at the end of Wright Road in fact only has a radius of 23 feet (seven metres) due to the difficulty of roadbuilding in such rocky, steep terrain. This is just enough space for a fire truck and tanker to turn around in as long as there are no other vehicles impeding access. As we noted in our initial comments about this project, any human-caused fire event in this increasingly drought-prone area, which by the way includes the vital Maxwell Lake watershed, would be an ecological disaster.

Secondly, the writer somehow missed

the existing driveway going off the south-east portion of the cul de sac. The Capital Regional District, the surveyors, the Island Health inspector, the Islands Trust consulting biologist and a drainage design engineering firm all managed to locate said driveway in order to complete the year-long permitting process, which has finally been completed, and it really is hard to miss.

This brings us to our third point, which is that the legally mandated width for a driveway entrance is 20 feet (six metres), with a 10-foot (three-metre) parking exclusion on each side, which obviously limits the available room for any vehicle parking to access a theoretical trail.

Finally, a summary of our original opposition to this plan states the following: Added fire risk from increased human presence, off-leash dogs endangering our livestock, traffic congestion on our quiet dead-end road and a no-doubt sizeable increase in property taxes for us all to finance the construction of yet another costly, ill-conceived and unnecessary trail.

ANDY AND CAROLINE HICKMAN,
WRIGHT ROAD

BC Ferries spends responsibly to build new vessels

This letter is in response to the June 19 "Build ferries closer to home" Viewpoint by Phil Venoit.

As we embark on a significant expansion of our capacity by building new major vessels to replace aging ships, it is critical that our decision-making process for selecting shipyards prioritizes technical excellence and competitive pricing.

Our customers have been very clear: affordability is their top priority, and we cannot justify passing on the cost of a contract that is not the most competitive, simply because the shipyard is local. In fact, building locally could cost hundreds of millions — or even billions — more.

We do recognize the importance of local investment for economic support and service reliability, but it must be balanced with affordability for our customers. BC Ferries invests \$15 million

annually in local shipyards like Seaspan and allocates \$60 million for maintenance, totalling approximately \$900 million over the next 12 years. These investments are key for fleet reliability and go a long way to be a good economic partner in this province.

As we look ahead to seeking bids to build these new major vessels later this summer, we encourage all eligible shipyards to submit competitive proposals that consider the financial pressures faced by British Columbians and that deliver the vessel reliability our customers expect.

Mr. Venoit is right on one point: as an essential public service, BC Ferries is committed to delivering reliable, affordable and integrated ferry services in British Columbia. The best way we can do that is by not asking our customers to pay higher fares as we build high-quality, safe ferries and deliver them on time.

JEFF GROOT,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, COMMUNICATIONS
BC FERRIES

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Discomfort is part of the game. People aren't here to agree, they're here to work out things and then reach agreement. Robust debate isn't comfortable."

JOE BERNARDO, GAMBIER ISLAND LOCAL TRUSTEE, ON ISLANDS TRUST DISCOURSE

U.S. presidential election a looming disaster for the entire world

We live in difficult times. I don't personally regard my own times as especially difficult because I am retired and lead a life of untarnished lethargy, but I can recognize a catastrophe in the making.

I am well into my 70s, although not yet as far into them as the two old men (aged 78 and 81) contesting what is regarded, by Americans at least, as the highest office on the planet. In the blue corner, a sweet elderly gentleman who really should be settling down in a comfy chair with a good book and in the red corner, just a few years younger, an odious lout who wouldn't read a book if you beat him over the head with it.

These are what the "greatest nation in history" (their words, not mine ...) has shackled itself to — a potential Commander in Chief who will either be a well-meaning geriatric or a deceitful, philandering convicted criminal. Watching them spar in the recent presidential debate was a fight between a plague rat and a dormouse and if the carnage of the evening demonstrated one thing it is that Donald Trump is no more suited to the White House than I am to the Papal See. Yet at least 35 million Americans and

hundreds of reptilian Republican politicians are prepared to put him there!

But it also showed that, as decent as he is, Joe Biden is no better qualified for the job now than my old nan was. While Trump lied and blustered, failed to answer a single straight question and showed himself for what he is, an ignorant, belligerent loud-mouthed bully, Joe let him get away with it.

So the U.S. is teetering on the edge of a monumental cataclysm that will likely blow the bottom out of any semblance of civility in the First World. It is NOT yet another Gaza or Ukraine, but in today's very divided, and very trigger-happy United States it has the awful potential to become one.

Consider this (and don't tell me it has no place in a small Canadian newspaper; we live a sunflower spit from the American border and what happens down there in November will have an existential impact on us up here), America has the potential to elect a man who is a convicted criminal, a serial sex offender, a liar, a cheat and a fraudster to the highest office in the land, perhaps the highest office in the world if



Paul McElroy
+ ANOTHER THING

you allow for the customary American self-adulation.

Just how witless do you need to be not to see the peril of electing Donald Trump to the presidency? How morally bankrupt to stand beside him and clamour for his approval, for the imprimatur of a man who, had he not once conned his way into the presidency, would now doubtless be in prison? These sniveling Republicans are the worst of them, men and women whom Trump metaphorically spat on and who now laud him. It is disgusting.

But America's looming disaster goes beyond the peril of electing someone who, in any sensible society, would be unelectable. The United States today is riven, split inextricably down the middle and the political gap is wider than the Mississippi. There is no commonality, no single point of agreement between the two

political camps. Most Democrats, not without good reason, detest today's Republicans and most Republicans, because of who they are, detest Democrats.

I have Canadian friends, and probably family, who vote differently to me, but while I might disagree with their reasons, I don't detest them for it. It is just politics, but in America it is more visceral, and seemingly irreversible. There is simply no arguing with Trump's MAGA fanatics. The shameless lies and casual corruption, reinforced by the endless fabrications of Fox News and from the pulpits of the poisonous evangelical Christians, have corroded their link to reality and now they fulminate in their own swamp of stupidity.

Donald Trump is a man who, by his own admission, cannot see an attractive woman without trying to interfere with her, considers fleeing his own charities as simply doing business, and quite likely detests the millions of hapless proles who would drink his Kool-Aid. This is a man whom a court determined was a rapist, who has been bankrupted six times and yet they are content to let him loose on the economy of

the wealthiest nation on the planet. He is a man who has been convicted 34 times for falsifying business records and they expect him to be taken seriously by the heads of other nations.

But the shambling, mostly incoherent, hapless old man who failed to confront him seemed, on Thursday night, only marginally the lesser of two evils.

This presidential election has been billed as a battle of the geriatrics and, quite frankly, I wish that the Democrats could have put up someone younger than Joe Biden. He's older than me, for goodness sake, but if I were an American I would sooner vote for Donald Duck than Donald Trump. Joe may be in his dotage, but he is a decent, honest man surrounded by decent honest men and women. Trump is most certainly not and is surrounded by dangerous, opportunistic snakes.

He has already whipped up one insurrection, God knows what will happen when, if decent Americans prevail, he loses the election again in November. Worse still, if he wins.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

Happy CANADA day

Show & Shine photos
by Rob Lowrie



Salt Springer Brian Gilliam with the 1967 Jaguar E-Type he has owned for 10 years. It has only 38,000 original miles.



Katherine Little loves her 1990 Nissan-S Cargo, nicknamed "Dolly," bequeathed to her by her Aunt Judy. Salt Spring's July 1 car show was Little's first one with Dolly.



School District 64 mechanic Mike Reynolds with one of three electric school buses in service on Salt Spring. A fourth bus is on order for the district and is expected to arrive next spring.



Vesna sits on the SD64 electric school bus at the Canada Day car show at the Hydro Field in Ganges, and could be riding on it or another one in the near future.



Murray Belyk with his 1951 Pontiac Fleetleader Deluxe, which he keeps on balmy Salt Spring Island to avoid the Saskatchewan winters. The car has been inherited down the generations from the original owner, his grandfather, and Belyk plans to pass it on to his son.

Join Us for an Interactive Community Workshop Salt Spring Island



Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024
Time: 12:30 - 2:00 PM
Space is limited. RSVP for more details.

We've gathered a list of the feedback we've heard from your community and Ferry Advisory Committee. Now we need your help! We want to understand which, of the many topics we've heard about, are most important to you.

Join us for an interactive workshop, or participate online, and help us shape the list of your community priorities.

An online survey will be available July 13 - July 28 at the link below.

Learn more and RSVP at
bcferriesprojects.ca/salt-spring-island
or scan the QR code. For event questions, please email engagement@bcferries.com



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BC Ferries

Free speech in letters appreciated

Thank you to all who responded to my May 22 "Men are Pigs" letter by writing letters to the paper.

Although generally negative, that is called free speech and it's how the game is played. It's not the first time I've been slapped around and

certainly won't be the last. I had mixed reviews, depending on how it was interpreted by readers, ranging from "Loved it!" to "What the hell is wrong with you?!" I'll call it a win.

A woman asked me the other day when I would be submitting a response to the angry letters. I had to tell her that I had already done so, but the Driftwood did not want to print it. We can all sleep soundly tonight in the knowledge that censorship is alive and well on Salt Spring. I do not blame the newspaper for this. I believe for them it is a matter of self-defence.

Something that should be acknowledged is the fact that a woman today can go through life without a man in the picture but for one basic function, and we all know what that is. Those pickle jars are a bugger to get open.

On a much more important subject, I have not attended services at Saint Embe's for a few weeks. Rumour has it that the good reverend was a tad miffed at being ordained without prior knowledge (as per my "pigs" letter), but Bishop Howard and Archdeacon Blomley seemed to be okay with it.

I will definitely be in attendance this Sunday, though, for one of my favourite lessons. It is the story of Oly and his truck of many colours. See you there!

MIKE STACEY,
SALT SPRING

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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

GISS

Unique youth arts program marks 20 years



Rehearsal scene from GISPAs most recent production: *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, which featured original music, innovative design, stellar acting and a number of technological and lighting effects.



Flashback to 2013: GISPAs presentation of *Sogno di Volo*, a Renaissance-era play written by and with music composed by students. GISPAs shows unite music, theatre and dance streams in a program students and staff say differs from what is found at any other school.

Gulf Islands School of Performing Arts offerings unparalleled

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

The Gulf Islands School of Performance Arts, better known as GISPA, celebrated its 20th anniversary at the end of the school year. Teachers and students at the program's Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) home base talked with me about the program that stands out in many ways.

On the last day of school, GISPA teachers Sonia Langer (dance), Michelle Footz (music) and Jason Donaldson (theatre) and their students gathered for a small birthday and end-of-the-year celebration, complete with a cake and a happy birthday song.

GISPA originated 20 years ago from a discussion between Langer, then music teacher Bruce Smith, Donaldson's theatre predecessor Christina Pittman and fellow teacher Bo Curtis, who was the producer of two GISS musicals at that time.

"Those musicals, *Grease* and *Little Shop of Horrors*, were blockbusters," Donaldson said. "It was really cool to see that the whole school was flying in the same direction. The science teacher was the stage manager and the sets were built in the wood shop. The musicals played for multiple weekends at ArtSpring and we got a lot of momentum around it."

At about the same time, the school district was facing declining enrollment and the start of the four-day school week. GISS principal Nancy Macdonald and the school board gave the green light for GISPA, an in- and after-school credit program offering advanced education, as a way to facilitate and attract serious students of dance, theatre and music.

"With the help of coordinator Mitch Howard, who

passed away in 2017, we put together this new program," Donaldson continued. "Providing innovative arts education, integrating music, dance and theatre in ways that are exciting and inspiring; building on a philosophy of student ownership in composition, choreography and design. There is nothing like this program anywhere."

Steph Cowan, who graduated this year and hopes to go to music school after a gap year, agrees with him.

"GISPA is different from any other class, theatre, dance or music experience in any other school. These inter-connective dynamics you can't find anywhere."

"Every year is different, because of the people in the program," fellow GISPA student Tayler DeBruin added. "Different people and different personalities. We pick our shows based on the people and the talents they have, and we focus on connecting with each person, establishing a collective mind. It creates amazing strong bonds. That's what makes this program special to me."

Music teacher Footz joined the program six years ago.

"Our productions are like making a quilt, working with different patches and motives," she says. "We don't work in order or in a linear fashion, as we jump around from theme to theme and character in the same direction. It can be a challenging process, especially for new students. I know it will all come together and when they start to see that as well, it is really special."

Being in GISPA asks for a big commitment from students and teachers alike.

"You get opportunities that you won't get elsewhere," said musician Artemis Rome, who has been in GISPA for two years now. "It is not just for a semester, but every single day for a full year. During school, but also several hours outside school."

Program participants decide on, create, manage and perform in their own productions. Their most recent

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show was *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime*, adapted from the Simon Stephens play based on Mark Haddon's novel, and with music composed and performed by GISPA students. Playing gigs in the community and attending shows and workshops in Vancouver and Victoria are additional GISPA experiences.

"We have a strong connection with the Vancouver and Victoria art scene," Langer said. "Crystal Pite came to Salt Spring and was here for two full days and now she is the biggest name in contemporary dance in the world. She was in our classroom and worked with our students. That was my personal highlight in the past years."

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Fall Fair Focus

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2024

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SEPTEMBER 7TH & 8TH

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TEA À TEMPO

Piano and flute team up

July 10 at All Saints

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

Returning to the Tea à Tempo stage on Wednesday, July 10 is Theodora Primes, who together with flutist Kathryn Cernauskas will present a delightful program of music for flute and piano by composers such as Bach, Chopin, Schumann and Fauré.

Primes is best known for her sensitive and emotionally immersive performances of the classic piano and organ repertoire. Primes was a protégé of the legendary Adolph Baller in her undergraduate years at the San Francisco Conservatory of Music and the California Institute of the Arts where she received her masters degree.

Primes has performed solo recitals, cham-

ber music and concerti in the U.S., Canada, Italy and Croatia. Primes is a Colleague of the American Guild of Organists and many of her performances appear on her theoprimes.com website.

Cernauskas has made Canadian music a focus of her performing, publishing and recording activities. Her work has included premieres of more than 100 compositions (many written for her), a solo CD and a music publishing company. She was coordinator of music at Douglas College and chair of the Canadian Music Centre, B.C. region. For more information see KathrynCernauskas.com.

Music by donation begins in All Saints 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.

what's on this week

Wed.

July 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Dave Carl. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

Morien Jones. Moby's Pub lower patio. 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. Open on the Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

Thur.

July 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mark Krissinger. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Sam Wilson Trio. Mateada. 9 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Fri.

July 5

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Re-Centering/Margins Residency 2024 Artists. A dance presentation from Dance West Network in collaboration with Antler Ridge Dance Studio. At 211 Horel Rd. Reserve at 250-537-6537. 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.

Sharon Bailey Trio. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

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

Cabin Fever. DJ set by Caleb Hart. Mateada. 9 p.m.

Fri.

July 5

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is MLA Adam Olsen. At SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Story Time. Library children's area. 11 to 11:30 a.m.

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

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Sat.

July 6

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Provocation: Investigating Technology Exhibition. Opening celebration of art exhibit. Music by Firewood Poetry and Leland. 215 Baker Rd. 6 to 9 p.m.

Julia Beattie. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Dan Reynolds, Mike Bjella, Meredith Bates & Peter Knight. Jazz and innovative music at All Saints. 7 p.m.

Standard Deviation. Kate Trajan, Bruce Cobanli & Mike Wall debut performance. With Atom Lazare. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

The Great Divide (The Band Tribute Band). Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Workshop: Explore Your Purpose in Life. Led by Charlie James and William Koty. 1 to 5 p.m. Info/register: SixDimensionsofPurpose.com/saltspring

Sun.

July 7

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Raffi. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

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

Drag Show & Dance Party. With Peaches 'n' Screams and POPTART, and DJ TriIKSTR for the dance party. Mateada. 9 p.m.

Sun.

July 7

ACTIVITIES

Weekly Food Exchange. Exchange home-grown and home-made foods. A Farmland Trust Salt Spring Food Share program at The Root. 2 to 3 p.m.

Book Launch: Maggie Squires. Slide show of Yukon Mountains and presentation for launch of A Wild Life and a Dog Called Brown. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

Mon.

July 8

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Atom and Friends. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Tues.

July 9

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Peter Prince. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Probus Club of Salt Spring Island. Guest speaker Roger Mah Poy is an expert on international bank notes. His topic is International Banknotes: Their Art, Design and Historical Significance. Public welcome. Lions Hall. 10 a.m.

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

Stewards In Training (SIT) Program Spring Season Wrap-Up Celebration. A walk to collect and examine pond critters, make crafts, enjoy snacks and mingling. Learn about the program and sign up to volunteer for the fall session. RSVP to reed@saltspringconservancy.ca.

Climate, Culture, Land: Cultivating Community Resilience Through Indigenous Approaches. With Sulsameethi (Deb George) and her granddaughter Sulatiye' (Maiya Modeste) via Zoom. 7 p.m. Register at transitionsaltspring.com.

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

Wed.

July 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Theodora Primes and Kathryn Cernauskas. All Saints. 2:10 p.m.

The Bruce Collective. Tree House. 6 p.m.

Pitchfork Social: Dylan Leblanc and the Yaletown Strings. At The Jam Factory on Upper Ganges Rd. 7:30 p.m. Tickets through pitchforksocial.com/shows.

CINEMA

• **Inside Out 2** runs Friday, July 5 to Thursday, July 18 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Artcraft Showcase** exhibition at Mahon Hall is **Phenomenologies – Kim Korol and Kristine Webber.** Daily until July 8.

• Today, July 3, is the last day to see **Both Sides Now – Paintings by Julia Lucich** at Salt Spring Gallery.

• **Patrick McCallum's exhibit But I Love You** opens at Salt Spring Gallery on Thursday, July 4 with an opening reception from 5 to 7 p.m. and continues through July 24. Gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays.

• **Art Jam at the Library: Joseph Reville (aka CJ) and Sherman Sherwood** are exhibiting in the library program room through July 31.

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

• **Rolando Lampitoc** exhibits artwork at the Salt Spring Coffee Cafe & Kitchen until July 29.

• **Johanne Berube** is showing photo images in the Country Grocer Cafe in July.

• **A photographic exhibition by Cherie Geauvreau** called A Family of Trees will be on display at the Salt Spring Laundry-O-Mat for the month of July.

Heritage Day

Farmers' Institute grounds
Sunday, July 14
11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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ISLAND MUSICIANS

Music director Bunyan retires



PHOTO BY ALISON MCMANUS

Retiring Salt Spring Island United Church music director Shirley Bunyan.

Thirty years of service to Salt Spring Island United Church and the community

BY HELEN HINCHLIFF
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

One summer day in July 1994, Shirley Bunyan walked into Salt Spring's United Church. Lorne Bunyan, her RCMP officer husband, had recently been transferred from Vernon, and as they and their young family got settled here, Shirley, a lifelong church musician, went church shopping.

The local RCMP detachment knew of the Bunyans' imminent arrival, and Const. Dave Simmons, himself a United Church member, mentioned the fact to Frances Eide. As fate would have it, Marilynne Cunningham, currently the longest-serving member of the congregation and of the choir, happened to be a greeter the day Shirley Bunyan arrived. As Cunningham reached out to shake Bunyan's hand, she noticed a coil-bound United Church hymn book under her other arm, a clear signal that at minimum the newcomer could play a piano or organ. As Cunningham continued to welcome people, Bunyan found herself sitting in a pew next to Arlene Dashwood, who also noticed Bunyan's hymn book. The following Sunday, Bunyan found herself on the organ bench, where she has been ever since. And to her great delight, Cunningham, Eide and Dashwood still sing in the choir.

Bunyan has been a church organist, pianist and choir director for over 50 years, serving in many churches and denominations in three provinces. But her longest stint by far has

been here on Salt Spring Island at the United Church. Over the past 30 years, she estimates that some 60 singers have participated in our choir. One year we had 29 singers; currently, the choir averages around 15 members, who sing every Sunday from September through June or July, the only consistently serving church choir remaining on Salt Spring.

According to Bunyan, we are also the island's hardest-working choir.

"We sing about 40 weeks per year, at least two pieces every Sunday service, averaging 80 pieces a year, with some repeats, of course," she said. "But that means we've probably sung around 2,000 different songs in those 30 years." It also means Bunyan has learned to play them and has taught us how to sing them. But we accept the challenge and, as Bunyan has been frequently heard to say, "Who has more fun than us?!"

When asked for highlights of her United Church musical career, Bunyan mentions participating every year in Schmeckfest, when Salt Spring's many choirs gather together to perform for each other, as well as for several events sponsored by ArtSpring featuring many of the same choirs. In 2004, Bunyan was deeply honoured when the late Hetty Clews, a University of Victoria professor of English and Salt Spring United Church choir member, penned "Music Makers," (Clews' son-in-law Sheldon Corbett composed the music) and dedicated it to Bunyan on her 10th anniversary at Salt Spring United.

Bunyan remembers 2006 as an extra-special year. Not only did we host the Christ the King Church Choir from Kampala, Uganda on July 12 that year, but we also sang the world choral premiere of This Could be the Day, along with its composer, Salt Spring's own Alan Moberg.

"Alan allowed us to buy the music even before he and Larry Nickel published the choral version that Nickel arranged," Bunyan remembered.

Speaking of world premieres, last year we sang Holy Ground, an anthem penned by our own Clark Saunders to music composed by Craig Cassils.

Over the years, Bunyan has been exceptionally generous with her musical time and talent, having taken on The Lost Chords seniors choir not long after she got herself settled at the United Church. She has accompanied or sung with or conducted every major Salt Spring choir, played weddings and funerals at every church, accompanied school choirs for the whole 30 years and played for many community events. She also served on the B.C. Choral Federation board for 10 years and is the proud holder of the Joyce O. McGuire provincial award for excellence in choral accompaniment.

Bunyan's strong connections throughout Salt Spring's music community give her the opportunity to call on musicians to accompany the choir when our anthems call for special instrumentation. We are grateful to

all of them, including, for example, oboist Sheila Spence, trumpeter Michelle Footz, saxophonist John Moore, Celtic harpist Oona McQuat, cellist Paula Kiffner, dulcimer player Christy Cook, and the trumpet/trombone/horn trio of brothers Brad, Geoff and Rob Cronin.

Our exceptionally talented and beloved music director Shirley Bunyan retires on Sunday, July 7 and is looking forward to the next chapter of life that hopefully will provide time to see a little more of the world, hug grandchildren, finish a few quilts and grow a few flowers. But it will also leave her a little time to continue gently with a few musical endeavours; we hope to see her as a member of the United Church choir in the not too distant future.

The writer has been a United Church choir member for 23 years.



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DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Shirley Bunyan, left, accompanies Viva Chorale choir at a Centennial Park concert in 2022. Bunyan has been part of all of the island's larger choral groups in the past 30 years, either as an accompanist, singer or conductor.

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Coming Events



**Terence (Terry)
Edward Norfolk**

**December 17, 1931 –
June 24, 2024**

We are saddened to announce Terry's passing at the age of 92. Terry was born and raised in Leicester, England. In his words: "I had a bloody great childhood because no one was watching." He served with the British Army in post-WWII Germany and, after returning to England, met and married Barbara Spawton. They moved to Canada in 1956, settling in Ontario where Susan and Peter were born. Terry was very successful in the art supply industry, first as a salesman and then as a manager, which resulted in cross-country transfers between Vancouver and Toronto. After separating from Barbara in 1967, he married Lorraine Wiens in 1972, and together they raised Randy and Leslie. Shortly after Terry's retirement in 1995, Terry and Lorraine moved from Victoria to Salt Spring Island to be closer to Leslie and her family, where he joined the Salt Spring Golf Club. They had been married for 43 years when Lorraine passed away in January 2015. Terry was predeceased by his sister Doreen, his sons Peter and Randy, and his wife Lorraine. He will be greatly missed by his daughter Susan (Bruce); grandchildren Adam (Janet), Laura (Chris), and Kirk; his daughter Leslie (Chris); grandchildren Allie (Morgan), Liam, Jaci, Zoe, and their father Paul (Diane); as well as seven great-grandchildren. Also important on this list are his treasured friends, especially the amazing Meadowbrook community where he will always be affectionately known as the coffee guy. The family would like to thank Christie and Hannah at Haywards, the staff at Lady Minto, the incredibly supportive Meadowbrook staff and residents, and family and friends near and far. A celebration of Terry's life will be held at a later date.

**March 9, 1940 –
May 22, 2024**



**Marion Agnes
De La Franier
(nee Schikowsky)**

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Marion Agnes De La Franier. Marion passed away peacefully, surrounded by loved ones, after a lengthy and very courageous battle with cancer.

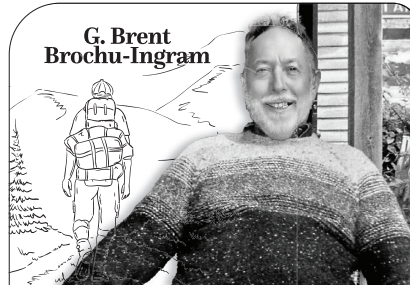
Marion was born on March 9, 1940, in Humboldt, Saskatchewan.

Predeceased by her husband, Jack De La Franier, in 1995, Marion is survived by her children, Denise (Shawn) Coward and John (Yolanda) De La Franier; and her grandchildren, Benjamin, Sophia, and Colin.

Marion will be dearly missed by her family and everyone who knew and loved her.

Rest in Peace.

There will be a graveside gathering and interment for family at a future date.



**G. Brent
Brochu-Ingram**

August 8, 1955 - May 22, 2024 at the Royal Jubilee Hospital in Victoria.

In loving memory of my coffee companion of some eight years, G. Brent Brochu-Ingram, environmentalist, photographer, hiker, farmer, writer, activist and traveller extraordinaire.

I will see you in the colours in a cloud and the froth on my latte.

I am glad to have known you in my life.

Dianne

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ISLAND LIFE

HOME ENERGY

New ‘green’ rebates announced

Heat pumps more affordable for low- to middle-income families

BY ANDRIA SCANLAN
CLIMATE COACH, TRANSITION SALT SPRING

Salt Springers are seeing first-hand the costly impacts of more frequent and intense extreme weather events fuelled by climate change.

Both the provincial and federal governments have announced a significant investment to expand a program designed to help B.C. households switch to electric heat pumps — which are more climate-friendly than traditional heating methods.

At this time of year, many of us are concerned about how we will stay cool this summer, and an upgrade to a heat pump might be the answer. We asked Hanna Hull, co-owner of Whirlwind Heating and Refrigeration, how heat pumps cool our homes.

“A heat pump cools your home by transferring heat from the inside to the outside. It uses a refrigeration cycle to absorb heat from the interior air and release it outdoors very efficiently,” she told us.

But will a heat pump enable you to beat the summer heat?

“The ability of a heat pump to keep your house cool largely depends on the size of the unit in relation to your home’s size and insulation quality. Generally, a properly sized and well-maintained heat pump can keep a home cool during the warm summer months.”

What about the wood smoke from wildfires coming into our homes? Hull explained that a standard heat pump does not specifically filter out smoke, pollutants or other airborne particles.

“However, a high-quality air filter installed in the heat pump system or complementary air purifiers can help reduce the amount of smoke and other pollutants circulating in your home.”

Islanders are most welcome to reach out to Hull and her team at Whirlwind as they are delighted to answer questions or to provide an in-home estimate. Timing couldn’t be better!

Several changes took effect June 18: households with lower and middle incomes will be eligible to apply for funding, and there will be more money available to cover the electrical service upgrades that are sometimes necessary before a heat pump can be installed. In addition, households will no longer have to pay up front to have the work done, nor will they have to get an energy assessment as a first step.

“Not everyone can afford the higher upfront costs that are involved in switching to an electric heat pump,” said Josie Osborne, Minister of Energy, Mines and Low-carbon Innovation, but everybody deserves a more comfortable, energy-efficient and affordable place to live.”

The program also provides funding for upgrades, such as the installation of energy-efficient windows and doors, as well as insulation and ventilation.

How It Will Work

The new CleanBC Better Homes Energy Savings Program became available online June 18. Households will have to verify their income level and eligibility. Then, they’ll find a provider and get the work done. It will be up to the installers to process the paperwork, and the province will send the rebate directly to the company. If a household is not fully covered by the program, it will be billed by the company for the remainder. The exact dollar value that’s covered will depend on both the size and income level of a household as well as the current primary heat source.

For more information or to apply now: <https://www.betherhomesbc.ca/rebates/energy-savings-program/>

Rebate amounts for heat pump installations vary with household income and size, as outlined in the table below from B.C.’s Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, which shows the maximum rebate amounts in the new CleanBC Better Homes Energy Savings Program.

Number of people living in your home	Combined pre-tax annual income of all adults in your home		
	Income Level 1	Income Level 2	Income Level 3 (NEW)
1 person	\$47,007	\$61,697	\$99,891
2 people	\$58,522	\$76,810	\$124,358
3 people	\$71,945	\$94,428	\$152,884
4 people	\$87,350	\$114,647	\$185,620
5 people	\$99,072	\$130,032	\$210,528
6 people	\$111,735	\$146,653	\$237,438
7 or more	\$124,402	\$163,277	\$264,353
Eligible Rebate Amounts (Heat Pump Installations)			
Previous Heat Pump Rebate	95% coverage Up to \$9,500	60% coverage Up to \$9,500	Up to \$6,000 (Under the non-income tested program)
New Heat Pump Rebate	100% coverage Up to \$16,000	100% coverage Up to \$12,000	100% coverage Up to \$10,500
Electrical Service Upgrade Rebate	\$5,000	\$3,500	\$1,500
Northern Top Up	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$3,000	Up to \$3,000
Total Support Available	Up to \$24,000	Up to \$18,500	Up to \$15,000

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HEALTH CARE

Family doctor recruiter working for Salt Spring

Collaborative community approach needed for success

BY CONNIE GIBBS

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

In May of this year, the CBC radio program White Coat, Black Art, hosted by Dr. Brian Goldman, reported that "Fewer physicians are choosing family medicine as a specialty." Along with the entire country, Salt Spring is in a fierce competition for family doctors.

Maybe you don't have a family doctor, or you do, but he/she is edging closer to retirement. Happily, there is some good news for Salt Spring Islanders worried about their access to a family doctor. There is a Recruitment and Retention Working Group on Salt Spring whose focus is to bring doctors to our community and keep them here. The group is pleased that Salt Spring is now a member of the South Island Division of Family Practice.

I'd never heard of this membership community of family doctors in southern Vancouver Island and Salt Spring Island. Joining this group means Salt Spring Island now has a family doctor recruiter, Niki Bouchard. She is one busy woman, recruiting to fill locums as well as permanent family doctors for communities on south Vancouver Island and Salt Spring. Locums are short-term backfills for doctors on leave, usually for vacation purposes.

Bouchard explains, "Locums can be an important way to recruit a new doctor. If it's a good experience, the doctor might commit to setting up a practice and putting down roots. Family doctors are community people."

Bouchard travels to "meet-and-greet" conferences across the country trying to woo newly minted family doctors to our neck of the woods. At a Toronto conference recently she talked up B.C.'s improved compensation plan for family doctors. Many graduates are struggling with burdensome levels of education

debt, not to mention the costs of starting a practice, which comes with overhead, staff and a load of bureaucratic paperwork.

"Locums can be an important way to recruit a new doctor. If it's a good experience, the doctor might commit to setting up a practice and putting down roots."

NIKI BOUCHARD

Salt Spring physician recruiter

Many family doctors are choosing the new B.C. payment model, called longitudinal family practice, preferring this new plan to the old "fee for service one," which is still available as a payment option, although less popular. Besides recruiting home-grown Canadian doctors, Bouchard

works with international doctors, many of whom are looking to live in their faith communities where they can practise their religion. Salt Spring can't offer what large urban centres can.

Other barriers are the familiar ones of lack of rental housing, as well as access to childcare, employment opportunities for spouses. Bouchard works holistically with prospective doctors to try and address their needs.

On the plus side, Salt Spring offers a wealth of recreation and natural beauty, opportunities to vary workload with shifts in Emergency and Acute Care, and midwives to handle maternity cases. One of the best draws is that Salt Spring is surprisingly well known across Canada. At a recent meet and greet in Ontario, Bouchard was swamped with questions from new graduates about working in B.C. One had heard of Salt Spring and asked if it was near "Victoria Island."

Recruiting family doctors is a long process. It can take 18 to 24 months to recruit one. It's a painstaking journey requiring

patience on both sides and a willingness to navigate multiple barriers. Bouchard reassures me that "recruitment is happening" and points to 15 to 20 new doctors recently added to the region.

She stresses the importance of a collaborative community approach to help break down barriers such as housing and to help doctors get to know their new communities. Exciting examples of community support for medical staff are beginning to emerge. Relying on a lone recruiter to do it all is not realistic. It takes a community to throw in their support as the following link outlines: bc.ctvnews.ca/vancouver-island-group-release-playbook-of-proposed-solutions-to-health-care-crisis-1.6922901.

As the White Coat, Black Art program referenced above stated, "Having new doctors and their families feel welcomed and supported in the community helps keep them long term." Bouchard says simply, "You need to take care of the healthcare people who are taking care of you."

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.

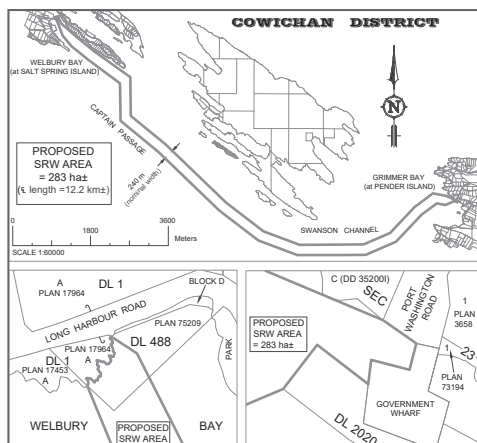
The Lands File Number that has been established for this application is Crown Land File #1415252.

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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FUNDRAISERS

Indo-jazz quartet headlines ArtSpring's Treasure Fair

Raagaverse on July 12; bidding begins July 10 after preview gala

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

With ArtSpring's annual fundraising auction Treasure Fair set to put over 600 items up for bid between Wednesday, July 10 to Saturday, July 13, the popular summer event has also become known for staging a festive Friday night concert.

Those who love or are curious about jazz will not want to miss Raagaverse, a creative Indo-jazz quartet whose members fuse two deeply historical and culturally significant genres with unexpected and explosive cohesion: ancient Hindustani melodies and jazz.

Quickly rising Indian vocal talent Shruti Ramani and Juno-nominated bassist Jodi Proznick, who both appeared at ArtSpring as part of the all-female jazz Ostara Project in March, are joined by pianist Noah Franchenolan and drummer Nicholas Bracewell for the July 12 event. All noted musicians in their own rights, they came together for this jazz experiment in Vancouver in 2022.

Since then, Raagaverse has received attention and appreciation from Canada's music scene, including performances at the Vancouver International Jazz Festival, Jazz YYC Canadian Festival and Jazz at the Bolt.

In May 2024, they released their debut album *Jaya*, which includes tracks ranging from a groovy Bollywood bossa nova to arrangements of the "raga," the colourful, emotional, melodic framework of Indian classical music. Lyrics in Raagaverse's music tell stories of love, grief, longing and a sense of being at home, underscored by dynamic jazz harmonies.

"Having concerts like this during Treasure

Fair has been a wonderful way to create a festival atmosphere for our fundraiser," said Catherine Griffiths, chair of Treasure Fair's organizing committee. "Ticket buyers can tour the gallery display of auction items prior to the show or visit during intermission, have a glass of wine and really make an event of it."

Tickets to the concert can be purchased at the box office or at tickets.artspring.ca.

With just over 600 items up for bid this year, including travel and holidays, seasons' tickets to arts and culture venues, vintage furniture, collectables, art and jewelry, food and wine baskets, BBQ and pizza ovens, life and learning experiences, and more, islanders will find something for every interest and budget.

Some of the spotlight items include a legendary Fender Jazzmaster electric guitar, a hand-crafted \$10,000 wooden kayak and the Porsche 356 Speedster custom-built replica valued at over \$80,000.

In honour of ArtSpring's 25th anniversary this year, Treasure Fair has also launched a platform to contribute either \$25 or \$250 to the cause. The proceeds will go towards the replacement of the threadbare and stained carpets in the building. After 25 years of wonderful community traffic to countless concerts, performances, films, school shows and exhibitions, the carpeting is getting a much-needed overhaul. The first phase will happen this August.

Registration at treasurefair.artspring.ca is required to bid and to review the catalogue. Donors and registrants are invited to the Preview Gala Wednesday, July 10 from 4 to 6 p.m., prior to bidding going live online.

Treasure Fair is ArtSpring's most important annual fundraiser with a goal of raising \$55,000. Last year was ArtSpring's most successful drive, and the hope is in its 25th Anniversary Season, the event will reach a new level of support.