

inside:



Driftwood

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• Pharmasave
• The Local Liquor St.
• Thrifty Foods



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

FABULOUS FORM: Kodi gets some air while skateboarding at Kanaka Skatepark during a Friday night jam as the Salt Spring Skatepark Society looks to expand the 20-year-old recreational facility. See story and more photos on page 12.

HEALTH CARE

Hospital fundraiser smashes goal

Crash cart for new emergency department assured

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The 33rd annual Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) golf tournament was the most successful fundraising event to date, according to organizers, raising well above its initial goal and cementing plans to purchase a critical piece of medical equipment for the hospital's new emergency department.

That department is likely to open this fall as summer staffing pressures show some relief, officials have said, and the weekend's tournament — which had hoped to raise \$35,000 to buy a new defibrillator crash cart — blew the top off its "thermometer" to exceed \$50,000 in

donations. That was thanks in large part to local businesses "showing up in force," according to LMHF executive director Eric Jacobsen, who said they came with cash, contributions for the live and silent auctions, and prize contributions.

"I am just overwhelmed with gratitude," said Jacobsen. "We are so grateful for the generosity and values of our community. We can all be extremely proud to live in a place where we so value taking care of each other."

Over 120 golfers were on the course Saturday, July 6, competing for trophies and enjoying a surprising cool breeze across Salt Spring's golf course on an otherwise hot day, according to Jacobsen. Windsor Plywood and Country Grocer

teamed up with exceptional presenting sponsorships, he said, with Windsor contributing \$10,000 and Country Grocer — and other plaza shops — adding another \$8,000 plus prizes, as well as an in-store contribution campaign that will continue until the end of next week, where shoppers at several stores can contribute to the hospital as part of their purchases.

More than two dozen local businesses contributed cash through hole sponsorships and prizes for the silent and live auction, Jacobsen said, and the live auction alone raised over \$4,000.

LMHF continued on 10

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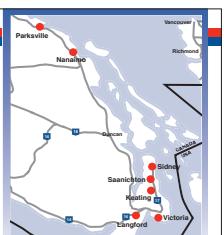
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LAND CONSERVATION

Pender parcels saved

'Veteran' trees and habitat protected on 46 acres

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two new nature reserves on Pender Island encompass a combined 46 acres of forest, according to a registered land trust on that island, protecting both habitat for species at risk and "veteran" trees that survived the logging boom more than a century ago.

The Vulture Ridge and Osprey Ridge Nature Reserves join an increasing network of protected lands on Pender Island, according to biologist Erin O'Brien, who serves as ecology and conservation director for the Pender Islands Conservancy, and will help ensure diverse and resilient forests in the Southern Gulf Islands — as well as protect groundwater, reduce fire risk and buffer climate extremes.

"It's difficult to find room for nature amidst increasing development, especially on the Gulf Islands," said O'Brien, adding that while such forests within the Coastal Douglas-Fir biogeoclimatic zone hold the highest number of species and ecosystems at risk in B.C., they are mostly in private hands — and at risk of development.

"Only 11 per cent is currently protected,"

said O'Brien. "It's over 80 per cent privately owned and highly fragmented, thanks to ongoing land conversion and urbanization. That's why protected areas like these two nature reserves on Pender are so important."

The new 36-acre reserve at Vulture Ridge lies on the north-facing slope along Pender's Clam Bay Road, supporting forest wetlands, diverse microclimates and understory vegetation, O'Brien said, and a sensitive herbaceous bluff ecosystem; the parcel helps connect existing community parks and private conservation lands along the ridge.

The smaller Osprey Ridge Nature Reserve, comprising 10 acres, provides a direct connection between Roe Lake and Shingle Creek's Masthead-Shingle Community Park, providing habitat connectivity for species at risk like red-legged frogs, olive-sided flycatchers, common nighthawks and silver-haired bats.

The new nature reserves were announced July 2.

Pender Islands Conservancy Association members recently identified land protection through land acquisitions as a top priority, according to a news release. The acquisitions were undertaken with the financial support of Environment and Climate Change Canada, the Province of British Columbia through the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, and contributions by private donors.

Join us for our Public Meetings

B.C. Ferry Authority & British Columbia Ferry Services Inc.

The Boards of Directors of the B.C. Ferry Authority and British Columbia Ferry Services Inc. invite you to attend our upcoming:

- Annual General Meeting (B.C. Ferry Authority)
- Annual Public Meeting (British Columbia Ferry Services Inc.)

Date: Thursday, August 15, 2024

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Location: Anvil Centre, 777 Columbia St, New Westminster, BC

Visit bcferries.com/agm for information on how to participate and to RSVP. The annual report and agenda will both be available online at least 10 days before the event. Participants, both virtual and in-person, can submit questions and comments live.

We look forward to having you join us to share your thoughts and be part of the conversation.



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treasurefair.artspring.ca | 100 Jackson Ave

STEPPING BACK



PHOTO BY ROBB MAGLEY

Former transportation commissioner Myra Lee Johnstone smiles at Saanich North and the Islands MLA Adam Olsen at what may have been the two-term representative's last appearance at ASK Salt Spring's weekly in-the-round community event Friday, July 5. Olsen visited with about 25 islanders, speaking philosophically about his time in office, tentative future plans, and the value of having an engaged riding and "the best" constituents. "And every MLA is going to say that," he chuckled. "But I'm not running again, so that's sincere." Olsen reiterated his position that stepping away from politics was the best decision for his relationship with his family, and revealed he would be starting his second two-week residency of a master's program at Royal Roads University, where he is examining the intersection of colonial and Indigenous governance. Olsen said the nomination period for the Green Party's new candidate would close later this month, with the nominee set on Aug. 5.

NSSWD

Rainwater tank rebates planned

Program could start later this year

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's largest water provider is getting into the small-scale rainwater catchment game, and is making plans to roll out a rebate program to help customers offset the costs to install a water storage system.

In what some trustees characterized as essentially offloading some district infrastructure, the North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) will be allocating \$42,000 from their existing budget to support a rainwater harvesting rebate.

Trustees agreed in principle with the plan at their June 26 meeting, setting aside funding for a "toe in the water" rebate project that could be expanded if successful. Those rebates will likely be managed through a partnership with Transition Salt Spring (TSS), which has successfully shepherded a similar rebate for islanders on well water. TSS board chair Brian Young and executive director Darlene Gage presented several options for the water district's initial foray, bringing trustees a menu of program choices that could eventually offer marketing and education resources alongside the rebates — and even expand into other conservation measures, such as more water-efficient toilets.

Ultimately NSSWD trustees gave the nod to initial plans that would include a \$250 rebate to offset the purchase of smaller rainwater storage tanks and as much as \$750 for larger ones.

"This kind of demand-side management is actually akin to a supply resource," said Young. "It's not just a feel-good project for the utility, but it's something that actually makes economic sense."

And, Gage said, the interest from NSSWD customers for such a program has been growing practically from the moment rebates were offered for well-water users. TSS has gathered information from people hoping to be updated if its current program expanded to become available to those on district water.

"We've had a strong wait list for quite some time," said Gage. "We know there's going to be pretty quick uptake."

NSSWD board chair Brian Pyper said he felt the initial program would be a "phase one" and would dovetail into a larger comprehensive water conservation strategy the district would be undertaking.

"And to the extent that it's successful, then we ride that wave," said Pyper, "and see how we can expand that program, or tailor it to meet specific needs."

District staff will be working with TSS over the coming weeks to bring trustees a final proposal for the program, which could be offered by the end of the summer.

WILDLIFE

Drivers urged to be aware of fawns on roads

Seal pup advice also offered by wildlife centre

BY MARCIA JANSEN
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

It's the time of year again: fawns are born and start to follow their mothers, and inevitably cross our roads. Marielle Bonnet, animal care manager at the Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre, urges people to slow down for the safety of animals and humans.

Bonnet has been working at the island's wildlife rescue centre, located in the south end, since 2000. She said in recent years she has seen a stark increase in the number of deer and fawns hit by cars.

"With the increase in population and traffic on Salt Spring Island, we have seen a noticeable rise in the number of fawns hit by vehicles in recent years," Bonnet said. "Each year, we rescue between 30 and 40 deer. We used to care for one or two fawns hit by vehicles each year, but currently, around 50 per cent of the fawns that we rescue have been hit by cars."

Deer and their young often fol-



PHOTO AT LEFT COURTESY SARA ST. ONGE; PHOTO AT RIGHT COURTESY IWNC



it is always wise to call the wildlife centre.

"Female harbour seals raise their pups in rookeries, which are isolated rocks or small islands away from populated areas. They do not nurse on beaches where people are around. When a baby seal is born it can swim like a rocket, and mother and pup always stay together. So when you see one by itself on a beach, in a marina or a harbour, it could be orphaned."

Bonnet, who worked in the Netherlands at the biggest seal rescue in Europe and has 25 years of experience working with seals, explains how you can recognize an orphaned seal pup.

"When it's constantly crying, has punctures or wounds, is thin and lethargic, suckling on inappropriate objects like boats or kayaks, or trying desperately to haul out on a boat or a dock, or if you see a pup stranded in an unusual location like a busy beach, it is likely orphaned. If you see these signs in a seal pup, don't touch it and call us so it can be accurately assessed by trained professionals. You could save a life."

The Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre can be reached at 250-537-0777 seven days a week.

From left, two fawns cross a road by a "fawn crossing" caution sign; a seal pup at the island's wildlife centre.

low the same paths every day, so volunteers have been placing signs on the sides of the roads at the most dangerous locations where deer and fawns are frequently struck.

"We urge people to slow down when they see these signs or a deer on the side of the road. Give it time to cross the road because there may be one or two fawns, as twins are a frequent occurrence, following closely. Of course, we ask people to be cautious and only slow down when it is safe to do so. We don't want anyone to cause or get hurt in an accident."

Some people may say that we have a large deer population on

Salt Spring Island and losing a few is not that bad.

"We actually don't have an estimate on how many deer we have on the island and I am sure that we lose far more deer to cars, diseases, dogs and hunting than we would if we had more bears and cougars on the island," Bonnet said. "And no matter how many deer we have on Salt Spring, getting hit by a car and suffering from internal bleeding and multiple fractures on the side of a road is a horrendous way to die."

Most of the black-tailed deer are born between May and June. The first two weeks of their lives they stay mostly in one place, while their

mothers are foraging close by.

"Fawns have white spots for camouflage and no scent to keep them safe from predators and in those two weeks the moms are usually not far away. If you find a fawn lying down alone around this time of year, they are likely in trouble since they are older and should be walking and be with their mother. If you think a fawn is injured or orphaned, please do not touch it and call us right away so we can check on it."

Between June and mid-September, we have another baby boom when the harbour seals are born. If you see a baby seal all by itself,

PUBLIC HEALTH

Wastewater shows rising virus levels

Anecdotal evidence matches BCCDC data

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

From reduced service hours to cancelled social plans, if it feels like everyone on the island knows someone coming down with COVID right now, there's at least some supporting evidence, according to provincial health officials.

SARS-CoV-2 levels are elevated in most of the province's wastewater testing sites relative to April, according to a monthly update from the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC) that came

Thursday, July 4, with Island Health region sites in Nanaimo and Comox Valley holding steady while Victoria's levels rose. And while testing showed elevated levels of the virus that causes COVID-19, the number of detected cases has increased even while testing rates remained stable.

Neither that wastewater detection increase nor the Island Health region's rising positivity rate — 24.5 per cent for the week ending June 29, according to BCCDC data, up from 10.8 per cent for the week ending May 11 — necessarily mean the disease is more severe, according to BCCDC's July 4 Respiratory Epidemiological Summary, but more peo-

ple are likely becoming sick.

"COVID-19 severity indicators remain stable since late May," read the report. "The majority of hospital admissions are among adults 60 years and older."

Genomic surveillance testing across the province indicates the KP.3* and LB.1* sublineages of JN.1* account for the majority of sequenced virus specimens; that mirrors the national context across Canada, officials said, where these sublineages are showing growth. Most COVID-19 indicators nationwide are at low levels with signs of increase, although trends vary across the provinces and territories.

Buy this townhouse at Grace Point!

Rare opportunity to own a finely designed and impeccably maintained seaside townhouse in Grace Point on Salt Spring. The entire home has received a major upgrade with premium finishings since original build.

This 1900 sq ft 3-bedroom, 2½ bath home is spacious and light-filled. Top floor has master with walk-out deck and large bathroom with walk-in shower, heated tile flooring and six-foot air-jetted tub. Second bedroom is king-sized and third bedroom/office has a queen Murphy wall-bed, and they enjoy a bathroom with walk-in glass shower plus laundry.

The main floor has oak flooring and two gas fireplaces in the living room and den. With its harbour view and premium touches, the chef's kitchen is unparalleled: granite counter tops, built-in Wolf range (gas top/electric oven), and Sub-zero and Miele appliances including built-in coffee maker, steam oven, convection/microwave, warming drawer. The tile floor is heated and a large pantry is nearby.

Downstairs is the charming entry, attached heated single garage with work bench, and a spotless crawlspace lined with shelving. Among Grace Point's signature features are its ocean views, proximity to Ganges village, and private marina with moorage.

For sale by owner: \$1,900,000. Please call Susan at 604.880.3551.

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OPINION

Driftwood

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Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



EDITORIAL

Support park plan

It was 20 years ago this summer when construction on the Kanaka Skatepark in Ganges began.

After an initial struggle to raise the estimated \$250,000 needed to kickstart construction, the Lions Club of Salt Spring Island came through with a \$100,000 donation in May of 2004 to essentially give the Salt Spring Skatepark Society the ignition key to the cement truck.

At the time, the 12,000-square-foot project was lauded for achieving Ecosmart status due to its use of an environmentally sensitive cement mix, its design and its affordability, the latter owing largely to volunteer labour and major contributions from contractors and other local businesses.

The park has served the community well, but current skatepark society board members say it's time for an addition and an upgrade.

What's proposed is a 4,600-square-foot expansion at an estimated cost of \$357,000, according to an estimate from a Vancouver Island-based skatepark design company called Radius. The plan will see new features added, including several that are ideal for novice skaters, in an area that is closer to the School District 64's TASK program, as well as integrated landscaping and seating areas.

As always, partnerships are key to any project's success, and the skatepark society will be needing local business contributions, and support from government and non-profit organizations.

Salt Spring Local Community Commission (LCC) members were somewhat gobsmacked to hear a recent presentation from skatepark society members that did not involve a request for funds. The group just needs approval since the facility is a CRD/LCC entity through a joint use agreement it has with School District 64, which owns the 1.2-acre parcel housing the skatepark.

It's easy to assume that Salt Spring's population is just getting older and greyer by the year, but families continue to move to the island, while others manage to find ways to stay and thrive. Amenities like the Kanaka Skatepark and others geared towards youth will help ensure that continues to be the case. We encourage support from all quarters for the park expansion as the society's plans develop.

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

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



Let's lift watershed cloak

BY JOHN MILLSON

On June 20, Salt Spring Island had a visit from Raincoast Foundation, with a public talk by renowned expert Peter Ross and a pilot round of freshwater sampling for a possible future Fulford Creek watershed Healthy Waters project.

The Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society Freshwater Catalogue volunteers and Transition Salt Spring Marine group were amongst the first to field test "Tracker," a new mobile water pollution Raincoast field lab. This sampling work and "instant" lab analysis results provided while in the field on the same day are very likely a first for freshwater field science on Salt Spring Island! When fully equipped, the Raincoast Tracker field lab will be able to process multiple freshwater quality components on site, supporting a rapid assessment of a watershed's health and a comparison with the health of other key B.C. watersheds.

With Raincoast's support, our principal Salt Spring Island watershed and the creek systems associated with Fulford Creek can be a part of a significant Raincoast Healthy Waters program, investigating visible and invisible pollutant identification in a key island watershed — an exciting new project. This project would build on our recent Fulford Harbour collaboration and reporting, working with the Raincoast Foundation and Gulf Islands National Park.

The really good news is we have an existing basic understanding of the watershed (key field sites and natural systems variability), and a good ongoing collaboration with our Raincoast

VIEWPOINT

colleagues. A next step into a Raincoast-supported island Healthy Waters program will be easy, funding permitting.

At this point, a Salt Spring Island Healthy Waters initiative is a "potential" project only, as some quite significant funding (about \$45,000) is needed for successful execution. A key part of any possible Salt Spring Island Healthy Waters field program will be field work and sampling with Tracker to determine basic freshwater quality parameters while in the field, and relatively high-end, lab-based analysis to allow us to determine the extent of so-called invisible pollutants entering our watershed and ecosystems. The invisibles are chemicals and compounds that should not be present in a natural system and which are natural system disrupters for all life. Levels of invisibles are by their very nature unknown, and we have a real chance to lift the invisibility cloak for one of our key island watersheds. Who knows what we might find, but it is a nothing-ventured, nothing-gained story.

To undertake this project, about \$45,000 is needed for some of the lab work, which involves sampling from watershed source areas, creek systems, faucets, possible contaminated inflow sites, including roads and discharges into the marine realm.

If you are interested in helping to fund a Fulford Creek watershed Healthy Waters project, please drop a line to me at john@ssiwatertopreservationsociety.ca.

The writer is a Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society board member, geologist and environmentalist.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should Justin Trudeau step down as Liberal Party leader?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are codes of conduct important documents for local governments?



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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

'Toy Run' not just about playthings

The Salt Spring Island Toy Run is back. Perhaps "Toy Run" is a misnomer as all proceeds go to Santa's Workshop, where hardworking people ensure a better Christmas for underprivileged children on Salt Spring.

I think "motorcycle charity run" is more accurate, as cash and gift cards are welcome along with toys.

As always it will be a fun weekend and all are welcome. Live music Friday and Saturday, food, beer garden and the ever-popular motorcycle games.

The grounds are open to the public during the day, so come and have fun while watching people raise funds for a local charity.

The run itself will leave the Farmers' Institute at 11 a.m. on Saturday, Aug. 17. It will go through Ganges to Fulford via Cusheon Lake Road and then back up through Ganges and on to Fernwood, where it will go up Maliview to North End

Road and back to the Farmers' Institute via Stark, Robinson and Lower Ganges roads.

The games will commence after the run. The run takes about one hour, but it only takes about 90 seconds to pass any one spot. The bikes will be travelling below the speed limits all the way.

We ask for the public's cooperation in making this once-a-year-event a safe and fun occasion. The all-important flaggers will be posted at intersections and crosswalks to help make it a smooth and safe event. Once flaggers are posted they own that crosswalk or intersection, and anyone disobeying them is breaking the law.

This yearly event provides the majority of funding for Santa's Workshop. As always, we need volunteers. It take about 40 volunteers to put on the toy run. If you would like to volunteer for this worthy event, helping on the day or sitting on the executive, please contact us at ssitoyrun@gmail.com.

You can view more information on our saltspringtoyrun.com website.

KERRY "SANTA" BUTLER,
SALT SPRING

Many to thank for Lions Directory

The new 2024-2025 Lions Directory is now out. There is a free copy delivered by the post office to each island address.

At this time we would like to acknowledge and thank Ramona and her staff at the Lions Directory office, the Driftwood and especially all the great businesses who support us with their advertising. Without your support, much of what the Lions do in the community would not be possible.

We hope everyone has a great summer enjoying Portlock Park, the Lions Bike Park, the Kanaka Skatepark and the playground equipment at Centennial Park — all Lions projects.

We look forward to seeing everyone again in September when the Lions Garage Sale re-opens.

Many thanks and appreciation.
DON CUNNINGHAM,
PRESIDENT,
SALT SPRING LIONS CLUB

Wonderful hospital staff, community

Deep gratitude to Dr. Boucher and nurse Chris and the other staff who helped for their excellent and thorough care in the emergency room at Lady Minto Hospital on the evening of Monday, July 1, and for arranging for transportation to Victoria General the next morning.

I was so lucky to be the only one there at the time.

Fortunately, my problem turned out to be a small kidney stone, and I have had no pain since my treatment on Monday night. It was a scary experience for me and my loving partner, Wendy.

We are so grateful for our wonderful little hospital here.

Our gratitude as well to our neighbours who arranged to take care of our doggie Maya while we were in Victoria. It gave us a real feeling of being part of a caring community.

CORRIE HOPE FURST,
ROLAND ROAD

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"I have always said that we think of theatre as medicine, so we ask ourselves, 'What's the medicine that we need?' Right now, we need comedy."

JEFFREY RENN, DIRECTOR OF EXITSTAGELEFT/GRAFFITI THEATRE PRODUCTION OF THE TEMPEST

Enough bickering: It's time for some action on affordable housing

BY BRIAN WEBSTER
LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION MEMBER

It's frustrating to see community members and our electoral area director jousting about Salt Spring Island's affordable housing situation [in recent issues of the Driftwood and elsewhere], especially since it's clear that most Salt Springers want the same thing: more housing options for working people and their families, provided while protecting our natural environment and our community's character.

Just over a year ago, when I ran for a position on our Local Community Commission (LCC), housing was the top concern on the minds of most people I met. And it's at least as much of a concern today.

Unfortunately, the recent debate has been more about who said what and why, rather than what our next steps on affordable housing really need to be.

Instead of arguing over whether information produced for our LCC's recent housing workshop gives an accurate or overly rosy picture of where we stand on housing, I'd prefer to put our energy into actually doing something on affordable housing.

The half-day LCC housing workshop held in May, which brought together a wide range

of Salt Springers concerned about affordable housing, was just a first step for our LCC. Now it's time to follow up with tangible action. I heard that the folks working on affordable housing need us working together to help them deliver the housing everyone agrees we need. While there were some harsh words spoken at the workshop and there were people there who don't always see eye to eye, there was also a clear sense of a shared desire to move forward.

I heard that folks working on housing need more support. They need better coordination. They need more than just expressions of goodwill and cheerleading from our local elected officials.

So what can we actually do?

We may not have millions of public dollars available to instantly jump-start housing projects, but there's still lots we can do. Does anyone disagree with the suggestion that Salt Spring needs a coordinated and properly resourced local approach to housing? Let's start with that.

Our LCC can take three immediate steps:

1. Bring together the community on an urgent basis to develop an integrated Salt Spring Island housing strategy.

2. Undertake a review of stalled or failed projects such as

IN DEPTH

Dragonfly, Brackett Springs, Norton Road and others to make sure we learn from them and don't repeat past mistakes.

3. Get to work on making available properties already owned by the LCC/CRD that may be appropriate for housing but are currently just empty lots overgrown with blackberries.

We can't afford to wait and see if the provincial and/or federal governments will somehow come to our rescue with big bucks. We can't afford to just stand by and hope for the best. We need to act.

We need to act.

On the first item, some people might say we don't need "another plan," but instead should just get on with it. But get on with what? Our island doesn't have a housing plan that identifies the areas where we need to act.

That's what an integrated housing strategy would give us.

We can't afford to wait and see whether the CRD's proposed Rural Housing Program will help. We can't afford to wait and see if the provincial and/or federal governments will somehow come to our rescue with big bucks. We can't afford to just stand by and hope for the best. We need to act.

The Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area already has a housing strategy. So does Cowichan Valley Regional District and North Saanich. North Cowichan District Municipality is finalizing one. Central Saanich has a Residential Infill and Densification Plan.

Many B.C. communities, incorporated or not, have housing strategies. But Salt Spring lacks one.

An integrated housing strategy will help us identify what we need to do on affordable housing and get moving with it. Our LCC has the authority and funding already set aside to get to work on an integrated housing strategy this year. Let's get moving.

As for reviewing stalled or failed affordable housing projects, some people might say we don't need to analyze them because we already know why they aren't all underway.

Is this really true? If so, have

we documented this? Have we acted to remove barriers and delays they've encountered, and put these projects in a better position to succeed? Without doing so, how can we know we've learned from experience and won't repeat past mistakes? Reviewing stalled/failed affordable housing projects need not be a huge or lengthy task, but it does need to happen.

On making unused parkland available for housing, it's clear from the list of potential affordable housing projects that stirred up the recent fuss that there are already some sites on the island available for affordable housing. And it's unlikely that unused parkland will add hugely to that potential. But our housing crisis is large and complex and we need to look in more than one place for solutions.

The potential of making available unused parkland is one tool at our disposal, so let's quit musing about it and actually get to work on identifying potential sites, seeking community approval as necessary and making it happen.

There's been enough finger-pointing and bickering about this issue. It's time to move.

Let's get to work like never before on affordable housing for Salt Spring.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

LIVE PERFORMANCE

'Tempest' returns island theatre to Bard Owl

Shakespeare
favourite finds
unique footing

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With a cast of actors ranging in age from six to 80, the Salt Spring production of Shakespeare's *The Tempest* is, according to Christina Penhale, above all else a crowd-pleaser — even while the play itself seems to have much to say on matters within the current political and social zeitgeist.

"It talks about nature, and how nature is treated," said Penhale. "And colonialism, and misogyny, and racism. There are all these pieces tied to the human condition."

Set with largely original music, and as a return to the lovely outdoor Bard Owl Manor location and its cedar grove, *The Tempest* invites audiences to a tale of "power, forgiveness, and the relentless passage of time, seen through the eyes of a man navigating his own extraordinary reality," according to Penhale.

And not unlike *exitStageLeft*'s earlier production of *Taming of the Shrew* — deliberately cross-cast, and re-set in the wild west — the company's presentation this year of *The Tempest* proposes another uncommon framing: a residential care home.

Elaborating further might spoil too many delightful surprises,



PHOTO COURTESY EXITSTAGELEFT PRODUCTIONS

Promotional image for *The Tempest*, the *exitStageLeft* and Graffiti Theatre production set to run on Salt Spring July 11, 12, 18, 19, 20 and 21.

cast and crew told the Driftwood; but the journey is rewarding, featuring sound and music written by Caitlin Acken, Penhale and Jekka Mack. And the entirely local cast is supported by what Penhale said might be the most ambitious technical production the company had yet devised.

"There's a theatrical feast of magic elements that occur throughout the play," she said. "We have an incredible technical crew. What has been accomplished is quite astounding."

The company, according to

director Jeffrey Renn, takes its purpose from Shakespeare's proposition in *Hamlet* — to "hold as 'twere the mirror up to nature."

"And that makes us ask a bunch of questions," said Renn. "We're trying to look at Shakespeare as our contemporary, not as some museum beast. If we're going to still do these plays, then we have to look at them through the lens of contemporary society."

That gaze, he said, has inescapably sharpened since the start of the COVID pandemic — whether examining racism, sexism, our

relationship with First Nations or the rise of right-wing fundamentalism — and among its many virtues, the theatre is also a place for healing.

"I have always said that we think of theatre as medicine, so we ask ourselves, 'What's the medicine that we need?'" he asked, pausing. "Right now, we need comedy."

"Received wisdom" on the framing of *Tempest* as a comedy or a fairytale notwithstanding, Renn said, there is so much more within.

"On one level, it is play, and fun, and joy, and entertainment," he said. "On another, it's some serious questioning of who and what we are."

"There's something about creating and community that's very necessary and very relevant right now."

CHRISTINA PENHALE
exitStageLeft Productions

Clark Saunders — playing Prospero — called the play relatable, and his character intriguingly complex.

"He's not entirely sympathetic," laughed Saunders. "Every one of his relationships is complicated; he loves his daughter Miranda

in his own way, he's occasionally annoyed with Ariel but has real feelings of affection for her, too. There's no unidimensional relationship in Prospero's life, they're all in some way complicated."

Running for just six performances — in a partnership with Rebecca Nygard at Graffiti Theatre and through the generosity of the Roome family, Penhale said — *The Tempest*'s outdoor setting may require "cozy wraps or jackets," as even in summer an evening can be cooler. Penhale said guests should arrive with lawn chairs or blankets, and might consider bringing a picnic dinner to enjoy before and during the show. And, with proceeds going to Salt Spring's BC SPCA, there will be dessert snacks and drinks available for purchase.

Penhale said these productions are possible only through the hard work and creative spirit of everyone involved — and all were looking forward to bringing islanders and visitors together for several special evenings.

"We're probably looking at between 50 and 60 people that will be making this amazing show happen," said Penhale. "There's something about creating and community that's very necessary and very relevant right now."

Showtime is 7:30 p.m. July 11, 12, 18, 19 and 20, with a 4 p.m. closing performance July 21. Gates open 30 minutes earlier. Tickets are available only in advance at *exitstageleftproductions.com*.

MUSIC IN THE PARK

Steph Strings headlines concert

First in Centennial Park
weekly series

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

This summer marks Salt Spring Arts' fifth year offering free live music at Centennial Park through their Summer Outdoor Concert Series (SOCS), presented in partnership with Salt Spring Country Grocer and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union.

The six-week-long series launches next week on July 18, taking place every Thursday evening from 6 to 8 p.m. through Aug. 22. This beloved program of Salt Spring Arts brings together locals and visitors, youth and elders, and everyone in between, strengthening our island's vibrant creative community in celebration of arts and culture.

SOCS' first concert next week will see enchanting vocal trio The Selkies of Salt Spring Island taking the stage at 6 p.m. as the first local opening act of the season. These three sopranos, Schuyler Witman, Leanne Brunelle and Johanna Peters, came together in 2022 to join voices and forces.

The first headlining act of this year is also the furthest-travelled SOCS artist yet; singer/songwriter and guitar sensation Steph Strings hails from Melbourne, Australia. With influences ranging from the John Butler Trio to Kim Churchill, this young storyteller combines fingerstyle guitar with bursts of percussion, Celtic, blues and folk. Her music and stage presence continue to captivate audiences around the world.

Steph's fourth EP, *Cradle Mountain*, was just released on June 28 after it was recorded on the Gold Coast in Australia. She has sold out shows while touring both domestically and internationally, and this year will see her performing across Canada and Europe. Steph has been breaking onto the global festival circuit, having played previously at the Edmonton Folk Festival, Hillside Festival, Festival Les Escaliers, Rolling Stone Weekend, and Woodford Folk Festival and more.

Next Thursday, July 18, bring a blanket, a picnic and your dancing shoes to Centennial Park to enjoy the first of six free live concerts in the beautiful setting of Ganges Harbour.

For more information about the Summer Outdoor Concert Series, visit saltspringarts.com/socs.

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EXHIBITIONS

Wooden boat love illuminates painting exhibit

Tony Grove solo show at
Gallery 8

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Gabiola islander Tony Grove has a unique understanding of wooden watercraft, having enjoyed careers as a shipwright, boat-building teacher and, most recently, as a visual artist.

Having built and designed scores of vessels from the ground up and become an expert on restoring historic wooden boats, Grove's understanding moves beyond the structural and into something like the metaphysical. When he sees an old boat he can often tell its provenance and its designer, but on a deeper level he grasps its innate character.

That unique insight informs Grove's paintings, which can currently be seen at the solo exhibition called *A Boat Builder's Perspective* at Gallery 8.

Nearly filling the new addition that housed Steffich Fine Art for many years, Grove's large canvases produce an immediate impact on the viewer. He works in a realist style without being concerned with hyper-photo realism. Indeed, his acrylic works move a step beyond the real to express his unique perspective. The painted wooden rowboats and canoes seen

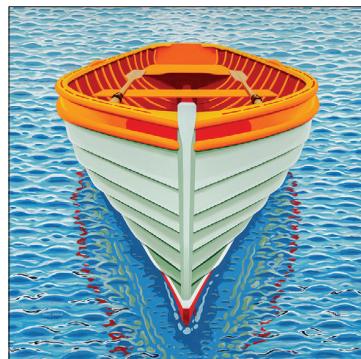


IMAGE COURTESY TONY GROVE
Tony Grove's *Drifting*, 48X48-inch acrylic, part of his *A Boat Builder's Perspective* exhibit on now at Gallery 8.

pulled up onto the beach or waiting at the dock are given a souped-up palette of bright oranges and reds. The boats contrast beautifully with the cool ocean and forest shades while creating a very different look than your typical West Coast landscape.

Speaking on the phone from Gabiola, he said, "For me, I just love colour, so I want to pop the colour up. There's a lot of people

who do West Coast imagery where they try to stay true to the colours they're looking at, but I love colour so I try to bring them up."

As to whether boats or art came first for Grove, he said he always had a colouring book as a child and later moved on to drawing and painting, but career-wise it started with the boats. He was looking for work after high school when he noticed the Vancouver Shipyards was seeking apprentices. He entered the program as a woodworker and came to specialize in wooden boat building and restoration.

Grove moved to Gabiola after signing on as teacher at the Silva Bay Shipyard School, Canada's only full-time traditional wooden boatbuilding school during its lifetime from 1997 to 2010. (He soon became the school's chief instructor.) While there, he received a commission to build a 34-foot sailboat, so he found himself a property with a shop, which also came with a house.

A significant project that truly showcased Grove's skills came to fruition with the restoration of the Dorothy, the oldest sailing vessel in the Pacific Northwest and the oldest vessel in Canada that has been in continuous use. The project was commissioned by the Maritime Museum of B.C. and Grove received an award for Best Classical Restoration Under 40 Feet for his work.

In recent years Grove has focused on his visual art, where wooden boats are still nonetheless his favourite subject. Grove said he often selects the boats he paints because their design, their builder and/or their location has meaning to him in some way. He's sharing his appreciation for the myriad hulls, styles and construction styles of yore that were both beautiful and incredibly efficient in the water, but have been supplanted by fibreglass and boxy shapes propelled by motors.

"Selling a lot of paintings is not my main drive," Grove said. "The West Coast has a lot to offer [in maritime history], but it's disappearing quickly, so I'm trying to document these old great designs."

For this reason, moving art sales is in no way a motivating factor behind Grove's artwork. But at the same time, Grove is deeply moved that others have responded so strongly that he can now focus on art full-time.

"I love the emotional response when I see people walk in and say, 'Oh my God!'"

West Coast art lovers and mariners of all types should hurry in to Gallery 8 to see the solo exhibition before it ends on July 14, but Grove's work will still be found after that in the regular group exhibit.

For more information about Grove and his paintings, visit gallery8saltspring.com.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Flower Child portraits energize July Showcase

Howard Fry photography show
opens at Mahon Hall July 12

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
FOR ARTCRAFT

Artcraft's second Showcase exhibition of the 2024 season kicks off on Friday, July 12 with a colourful new portrait series by Howard Fry on the Mahon Hall stage.

Flower Child comprises a series of photographs Fry took of his neighbour wearing hippie clothes. She surprisingly still had them stashed away in three old trunks from her time living in London and wandering the world in the 1960s and '70s, "never looking back, always an eye out for the next adventure." The portraits capture the essence of a woman who lived an eclectic life and is still full of fun and boundless energy. Several of her outfits will be displayed alongside the portraits to provide extra insight into the cultural moment that she was part of.

"When approaching a subject I look for the beauty. When I find it, I find inspiration. Then I let my imagination and emotion take over," Fry said regarding his photography.

A Yorkshireman by birth, Fry had a long career as a fashion photographer after moving to Canada, with contracts with multiple department store corporations and editorial spreads in publications such as Vancouver Magazine, Western Living and V Magazine. His photographic art was also highlighted in gallery exhibitions, books and professional reports. He gave up professional photography in 1998 in exchange for rural living on Salt Spring Island, where he has contributed to several high-profile fundraising projects — such as the infamous nude calendar to save the Burgoine area from clear-cutting — and other community exhibitions.

"A few years ago I'd come to realize that as much as I liked rural living, I missed the excitement of my previous career as a fashion photographer and launched myself into shooting portraits of my very colourful fellow islanders," Fry explained, adding the two types of work have very different aims. In fashion, "You pay the models the big bucks to put on a face that makes it appear they love the garments they're wearing. Really it's about showing the [clothing] piece in its best light."

With portraiture, in contrast, the photographer

wants to convey something meaningful about the subject. Fry starts by having a conversation with the people sitting for him, observing their body language and watching for an expression that grabs him.

"The face reflects what's going on in the mind, which can make the expression more interesting," he observed.

The portraits in Flower Child are of a longtime neighbour and friend, so Fry found the opening conversation easy enough. The two also had lots to talk about regarding the clothing, beautiful silk and wool fabrics produced in the era and carefully preserved since then. Beth Chernoff provided time-appropriate jewellery and styling. A soundtrack featuring The Rolling Stones took care of the rest.

"She was in the thick of the excitement that was happening during that period. It brings back memories," Fry said. "It was more about reliving that era, for this series."

"I'm not unique. There are thousands of me; ask your older neighbours about the Sixties [and] everyone has a story to tell," the unnamed Flower Child said.

An opening reception for Flower Child takes place July 12 from 6 to 8 p.m., and an artist talk with Fry is set for Sunday, July 14 at 2 p.m. The show runs daily during Artcraft hours through July 29.

Fall Fair Focus

SALT SPRING ISLAND FALL FAIR 2024

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FLOWER CHILD

PHOTOGRAPHS BY HOWARD FRY

ARTCRAFT SHOWCASE EXHIBITION

OPENING RECEPTION
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ARTIST TALK
JULY 14 | 2 – 3PM

EXHIBITION
JULY 12 – 29, 2024
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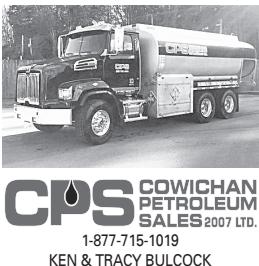
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LIVE MUSIC

Selkies trio visits Tea à Tempo

First time in recital series

Music Makers are happy to introduce The Selkies of Salt Spring Island to the Tea à Tempo stage on Wednesday, July 17.

The Selkies of Salt Spring are a trio of

three sopranos and musicians: Schuyler Witman, Leanne Brunelle and Johanna Peters, who came together in 2022 to harmonize and create beautiful sounds. Next Wednesday's concert begins at 2:10 p.m. at All Saints by-the-Sea.

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

Tea and treats for \$5 will be served immediately following the concert in the hall overlooking Ganges Harbour.

what's on this week

Wed.

July 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Theodora Primes, piano, and Kathryn Cernauskas, flute. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

Morien Jones. Moby's Pub, lower patio. 5 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.

ACTIVITIES

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

Treasure Fair Preview Gala. View auction items in person at ArtSpring from 4 to 6 p.m. Online bidding begins at 6 p.m.

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

Thur.

July 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Jessica Benini. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Shakespeare on Salt Spring Island: The Tempest. An exitStageLeft Productions and Graffiti Theatre presentation. 7:30 p.m. (Gate at 7 p.m.) Location provided with ticket purchase through exitstageleftproductions.com

It's All About the Song – a Night of Songwriters. With Kathy Stack, Marianne Grittani, Bruce Everett, with Tom Bowler and Bob Delion. All Saints. 7:30 p.m.

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

Rachael Kilgour & Kristen Lindell. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee Regular Business Meeting. Meaden Hall. 9:30 a.m.

Cyber Security: Keeping Safe Online. Library program room. 2 p.m.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Treasure Fair. See items at ArtSpring, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., and online 24/7.

Fri.

July 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jessica Benini. Moby's Pub, lower patio. 5 p.m.

Fri.

July 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Doug and His Buds. Tree House. 6 p.m.

Shakespeare on Salt Spring Island: The Tempest. See Thursday listing.

Treasure Fair Concert: Raagaverse. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Star Captains. Mateada. 9 p.m.

Everyday People. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Treasure Fair. See Thursday listing.

Book Launch: Margaret Sullivan. Local author shares Jacinta's Orderly World, ideal for kids aged 5 to 9. Library program room. 10 a.m.

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are LCC commissioners Earl Rook & Gayle Baker. At SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

Bittancourt Museum. See Wednesday listing.

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

Sat.

July 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mateada Songwriter Showcase. Hosted by Blair Francis. Noon to 4 p.m.

Vixx Sutherland. Moby's Pub, lower patio. 5 p.m.

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

Gen Who. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Qairo. Funk, jazz, Flamenco and more. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Resume Workshop. For teens at the library program room. 1 to 3 p.m.

Treasure Fair. See Thursday listing except bidding ends at 6 p.m.

Sun.

July 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John Gogo and Allen Dobb. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

Sun.

July 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Museum Heritage Day. Fun family day with activities celebrating the island's farming heritage. Farmers' Institute. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

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.

Mon.

July 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Blair Francis. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District Board of Trustees Meeting. Ganges Fire Hall. 7 p.m.

Tues.

July 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vixx. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

Caravan World Rhythms: Maryna Krut from Ukraine performs at Salt Spring Island United Church. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

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

Wed.

July 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: The Selkies of Salt Spring Island. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

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

Iain Duncan's Dinner Jazz. With special guest keyboardist Chris Gestrin. Mateada. Dinner at 6 p.m., music at 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Embroidery Circle. Local artisan Celeste Morris leads a circle for teens. Library program room. 1 p.m.

Knit Purl Community. Knitters, crocheters and needleworkers meet every third Wednesday in the library program room. 5 to 7 p.m.

Wed.

July 17

ACTIVITIES

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

Central Community Hall Society Board of Directors Meeting. Public welcome to attend. Central Hall, lower hall. 7 p.m.

Bittancourt Museum. See last Wednesday's listing.

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

CINEMA

• **Inside Out 2** runs Wednesday, July 10 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

• **Photographer Howard Fry's Flower Child series** is the Artcraft Showcase exhibition at Mahon Hall from July 12 to 29, with an opening reception on Friday, July 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. and an artist talk on Sunday, July 14 at 2 p.m.

• **Patrick McCallum's exhibit But I Love You** is on at Salt Spring Gallery through July 24. The gallery is open Tuesdays through Saturdays.

• **Tony Grove's exhibition called A Boat Builder's Perspective** runs at Gallery 8 through July 14.

• **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** shows his photo images in the Country Grocer Cafe this month.

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

SSI Museum Heritage Day

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ISLAND LIFE

LITERACY

Book bus campaign underway

Salt Spring family members head to Zambia at the end of July

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Margriet Ruurs is the author of more than 40 published children's books. One of those is called *My Librarian is a Camel*, which features mobile libraries around the world.

It's fitting, then, that she and family members are heading to Zambia later this month to volunteer with a unique mobile library called The Book Bus, and hopefully bringing lots of books for the library with them.

A few years ago, Ruurs and her husband Kees travelled to Zambia to volunteer with The Book Bus. This year, Ruurs decided to take her two grandsons and their mother along to do the same.

"I think it is important for the boys to experience life on a different continent, but also to engage in volunteer work," Ruurs said.

The Book Bus program is a not-for-profit organization based in the U.K., which runs literacy programs for children in Zambia. Ruurs, grandsons Nico, aged 14, Aidan, aged 12 and their mom Hannah will all be working as volunteers in the town of Kitwe in northern Zambia.

"We expect to be helping children discover the joy of books by reading to them, doing crafts based on books and running a summer program," Ruurs explained.

Aidan Ruurs is a well-known young skateboarder who rides in Kanaka Park most days. His goal is to share his love of



PHOTO COURTESY MARGRIET RUURS

From left, Hannah Ruurs-Dayneswood, Nico Ruurs, Margriet Ruurs and Aidan Ruurs, who will be taking books and skateboarding gear to Zambia this summer.

skateboarding by teaching kids in Zambia to ride. His sponsor, Nanaimo-based Vault, as well as Salt Spring's Axe & Reel, have generously donated skateboards and equipment that the family will take along.

They have also started a GoFundMe Campaign in hopes of bringing the gift of books from Canadian friends and supporters. Many Canadian children's authors have already contributed to the cause. Any Salt Springers wishing to help reach the goal of sponsoring a shelf full of books and teaching materials for children in Zambia are encouraged to check out the gofundme.com/f/a-meter-of-books-will-make-miles-of-difference page. Ruurs' fundraising goal is \$1,750.

CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION

Energy sources diversify

B.C. solar, battery rebate plans revealed

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands homeowners — and local solar system installers — have more to look forward to this month, as the electric utility sharpens rebate rollout plans in the wake of its first call for increased clean power generation in 15 years.

Last month, the provincial government and BC Hydro announced new rebates for customers planning to install solar panels and battery energy storage systems that could offset as much as half the cost of some systems — up to \$5,000 for solar panels and another \$5,000 for batteries for residential installations, both capping at 50 per cent of the total cost of labour and materials.

But prior installations aren't eligible, and while full eligibility requirements won't be public until the program officially launches, interested homeowners will need to have their systems reviewed and approved for connection to BC Hydro's grid through the utility's "self-generation" program, a net metering scheme that allows owners of solar systems to offload excess generated electricity for a credit.

Some concern among installers had emerged surrounding the start date, according to Salt Spring Com-

munity Energy's (SSCE) Kjell Liem, who was the original project manager for the Gulf Islands Secondary School's Solar Scholarship project and coordinated the electric school bus study. Liem said businesses struggled with the delay between the program's announcement and its implementation.

Liem said SSCE had worked with BC Hydro to get some applicability for net metering applications as far back as May 1. Those applications will be eligible for incentives so long as the projects had not been installed as of June 27, he said, with the exception of battery-only applications, which will not be eligible until the program launch.

New applications to the net metering program from June 27 will also be eligible, as will any submitted once the program officially launches July 23, according to a utility spokesperson, adding that some 9,300 customers currently participate in net metering with 99 per cent of them contributing electricity to the grid via solar panels.

Liem had hoped for some announcement regarding community net metering — "a big change, and something we've advocated for since 2013," he said — but as of press time there was no new information from the BC Utilities Commission.

Program details are available at bchydro.com/powersmart/residential/rebates-programs/solar-battery.html.

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HOUSING

CRD buys Galiano parcel for affordable rentals

Project described by electoral area director as 'a beacon of hope' for families

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A regional district purchase of 10 acres on Galiano Island is paving the way for 20 units of affordable rental housing, according to officials.

The Capital Regional District (CRD) announced Monday, July 8 it had acquired the parcel, formerly known as "Galiano Green," for its 2023 assessed value of \$672,000, advancing

ing what is now called the Thuthiquut Hulelum' Housing Project — "Forest Homes" in the Hul'q'umi'num' language. Southern Gulf Islands electoral area director Paul Brent said the purchase would expand affordable living options on the island, something he said has been his "top priority" as an elected official.

"The acquisition of this property marks a significant step forward in addressing this critical need," said Brent. "We are committed to creating inclusive, sustainable communities, and the Thuthiquut Hulelum' Housing Project stands as a beacon of hope for low to moderate income individuals and families seeking a place to call home."

"The acquisition of this property marks a significant step forward in addressing this critical need."

PAUL BRENT
*Southern Gulf Islands
Electoral Area director*

The property had previously been held by the Galiano Affordable Living Initiative Society (GALI), a non-profit charity which shepherded the parcel through pre-development after purchasing it from the Galiano Community

Housing Society in 2020. GALI received zoning approval for the proposed project from the Galiano Island Local Trust Committee in late 2022.

Under the terms of the CRD's purchase agreement, GALI will be the project operator once an occupancy permit is issued.

Praising the property's Georgeson Bay Road location for easy access to amenities and services, organizers said Thuthiquut Hulelum' will offer a diverse array of housing options catering to low- and moderate-income residents, Indigenous Peoples, seniors, individuals with disabilities and families.

In September 2023, the CRD Board approved the use of

\$2,750,000 Growing Communities Funds (GCF) to advance the project; those funds are being used to purchase the property, with the remaining to be used as equity towards construction.

According to a press release, the CRD is also continuing to pursue additional equity funding which will be required before construction can begin.

The CRD has been developing a Rural Housing pilot program for the Southern Gulf Islands and Salt Spring Island electoral areas, and said the project on Galiano was "an example of the scale appropriate for multi-unit affordable housing suited to our island communities."



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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
10	3:56	8.1	-0.46	14	6:54	4.8	-1.07
	6:53	8.5	2.59		14:16	7.8	2.38
	14:25	2.8	0.86		16:33	7.7	2.35
	22:19	10.9	3.35		23:32	10.1	3.08
	4:44	7.4	-0.6		7:33	3.9	-1.22
	8:09	8	2.44		23:40	10	3.05
11	15:00	4	1.22		8:11	3	-1.37
	22:43	10.7	3.29		17:38	9.5	2.9
	5:29	6.6	-0.76		19:48	9.4	2.87
	9:44	7.5	2.29		23:50	10	3.05
12	15:34	5.2	1.58		8:49	2.2	-1.52
	23:03	10.5	3.2		18:03	10.1	3.08
	6:13	5.7	-0.92		21:26	9.8	3.02
13	11:41	7.4	2.26				
	16:05	6.5	1.98				
	23:20	10.3	3.14				

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SOCIAL-EMOTIONAL HEALTH

The Circle Education reaches more youth

The Parent Project podcast also launched by local group

SUBMITTED BY THE CIRCLE EDUCATION

Students are now out of school and the Circle Education is looking back at another successful year. The not-for-profit organization that offers social-emotional educational programs in the school district has reached more students, children and youth this school year than ever before.

A staggering 1,246 local youth, over 500 more than last year, were impacted by the programs, helping them develop the skills to engage in healthy relationships.

"The growing numbers leave me with mixed emotions," said Janine Fernandes-Hayden of The Circle Education. "We feel purposeful that teachers value and trust in how The Circle Education can be of service to social-emotional needs of students. But the increasing number of teachers requesting our programs to support their classrooms also feeds an ongoing concern for the growing challenges that

our youth are facing with regards to their mental well-being."

The Circle Education focuses on children and youth to promote healthy relationships as a way to foster communities free of violence, bullying, discrimination, assault and abuse. To have a bigger impact, The Circle Education launched podcast series for parents last month: The Parent Project Podcast. For this project, program facilitator Kate Nash sat in circle with new and seasoned local parents, as well as grandparents, to talk about one of the most important but also hardest jobs in the world: parenting.

"All participants of our programs live with parents and caregivers," said Nash. "We wanted them to experience the power of sitting in a circle and sharing experiences as well. Unfortunately, we don't have the funds and resources to offer adult programs and that's how the idea of the podcast emerged. Through this podcast, we can talk about important parenting topics and reach parents and caregivers on the Gulf Islands and far beyond."

The Parent Podcast is available on most of the popular podcast platforms.



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Obituaries



Robert Hollis Ogilvie

January 12, 1962 – July 1, 2024

Robert Hollis Ogilvie was born on January 12, 1962, in Fort St. John, British Columbia. He left this world quickly, after unexpected medical complications, on July 1, 2024, in Victoria, BC, with family by his side.

Rob was predeceased by his parents, Jack and Dorothy Ogilvie; his sister, Debra; many friends; and his dogs, Ty and Zen. We are comforted by knowing that he has been reunited with them.

He leaves behind his sister, Earlyne Pidherney (Merv); his brother, Greg Persson (Carol), all from Rocky Mountain House, Alberta; his sister, Amber Ogilvie (Paul Zolob) of Salt Spring Island, BC; and his best friend, Lewis the Dog. Those who received messages from him may have noticed his sign-off was always, "Rob & LTD."

Uncle Robbie loved his nephews and nieces, Shane, Clint, and Troy Pidherney; Jason Gale; Trish Staicesku; Jerry and Michael Persson; Desiree Jelley; and Kaylee Lapierre, as well as his many great-nieces and nephews.

Robbie moved to Alberta with his family as a toddler and spent most of his life in Rocky Mountain House. He worked for his sister Earlyne's company, Pidherney's, was fiercely proud of it, and loved the company and all its employees, whom he considered family.

Robbie moved to Salt Spring Island, BC, in 2020 to be closer to his sister Amber, giving her the opportunity to nag him for his remaining years. On Salt Spring Island, you might know Rob as he worked as the greeter at Thrifty Foods through the pandemic and loved to chat.

Rob loved his jobs and his family. He had many friends and enjoyed talking to everyone. He was a trivia expert and loved to learn new things about animals and the world in general – he loved to share these facts. His memory was incredible; he was able to recall the smallest details. If you knew Rob, you know he loved to share his trivia knowledge and tell jokes.

In his younger years, he was a dirt bike rider extraordinaire. He loved all animals and was deeply kind – he refused to kill anything, even insects. He loved flowers, especially wild ones, and yes, of course, he loved his weed!

Rob spent hours with Lewis, beach-combing for shells – Beddis Beach was his favourite spot. He acquired an amazing collection. He liked to listen to his music and created an outdoor living area at his home with shells and a few of his favourite plants, complete with a stereo system the neighbours must have loved.

He loved to watch the hummingbirds but wasn't impressed with their fighting. Rob always wanted everyone to be nice and get along. He was a lover, not a fighter.

Rob is loved by many and will be missed.

For those who love, time is not.
Missing you today and always.

Obituaries

Obituaries



Robert James Kelly

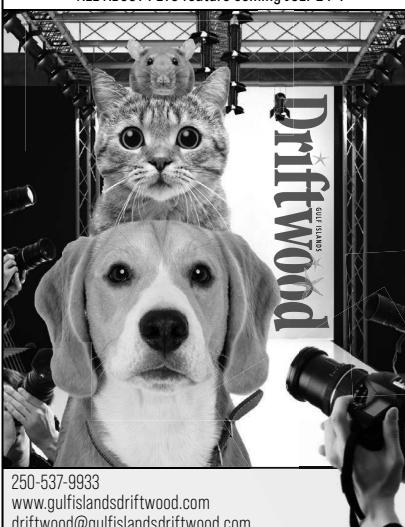
left us far too soon, passing away May 27, 2024, after a brief illness. A familiar face in the Salt Spring community, Robert drew people to him with the gentle warmth of his smile, which embodied his innate generosity of spirit as well as the curiosity, humour and intelligence of a vibrant mind. Ever a quiet adventurer, lover of birds and beasts, follower of storytellers and poets, genuine friend, and devoted lover, Robert was a rarity among men.

Predeceased by his partner of many years and many adventures, Sally Cole, Robert leaves behind his daughter Soleil Aellen, sisters Linda Osborne and Cheryl Ann Kelly, and his loving partner of later years, Tannice McKillop. His uncommon strength of character inspired unquestioning confidence and trust in these and so many others, and to the end he weathered the storms of life with stoicism and grace.

*Robert, Bobby, Big R,
you are sorely missed.
We love you.*

**JULY 2024**
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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Obituaries

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In Memoriam

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Coming Events

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

Wednesday
July 17th, 2024 at
7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.

Public welcome.

Coming Events

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Thursday July 11
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SPORTS + RECREATION

ALL-AGES SPORTS

Skatepark society launches expansion plan



Recently seen at Kanaka Skatepark are, from left, 17-month-old Ren; spectators watching Simon on a ledge; Fracas at Kanakas prize winners Leo Powers, left, and Aidan Ruurs.

Fracas at Kanakas highlights sport

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The popularity of a fun Fracas at Kanakas competition and the Kanaka Skatepark in general is giving fuel to a plan to expand the 20-year-old amenity.

"The plan is to have more of a street-style area extending the skatepark into where the swing set is by the TASK area," said Angelo Scaia of the Salt Spring Skatepark Society. "This will add a bit more variety to the existing park, which consists mostly of transitions. It will also be great for beginners."

The skatepark society spearheaded the drive for the original

park, which is on School District 64 property but owned by the Capital Regional District (CRD). The island's Lions Club stepped up in a big way with a \$100,000 donation in 2004 to ensure the park could be built.

While Scaia and fellow society member Tristan Scarfo told the Salt Spring Local Community Commission (LCC) at a meeting last month they are not looking for LCC/CRD funding for the estimated \$350,000 project, they do hope to receive approval and advice on how best to proceed. Scaia and Scarfo said funds will come from non-profit organizations, local businesses and the families of young skateboarders.

The Gulf Islands Board of Education has given approval in principle to the project, and the LCC passed a motion for staff to bring a report back to a future meeting.

Recent Fracas at Kanakas competition saw non-stop action at the park, with top-three winners in beginner, intermediate and advanced categories claiming prizes. In the beginner category, Hudson finished first, Ivy second and Woodrow third. Intermediate skaters saw Joseph Deboucherville in first place, Jasper in second and Graham in third. Advanced division winner was Leo Powers; Mike Rogers came second and Aidan Ruurs third.

Scaia was grateful to Scarfo, John Sayer and Patrick Powers for their help with organizing the Fracas, along with Katie Burke on sign-up, Nick Abley on the barbecue, DJs Graham van Pelt, Ben Frey and Raf Katigbak, emcee Jordan Ettinger and all the local businesses that provided sponsorships for the event.

SAILING

Junior sailors win championship



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS HAMPTON

Salt Spring junior sailors Reuben Sol and Izzi Pugh Aucoin lead the way in boat #9454 during a heat at the Sail Canada 2024 Sail West Championships at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club on June 22. The pair finished the weekend of racing in first place in their division and qualified for BC Summer Games, along with teammates Malikaa Clement and Maeve FitzZaland.

Four island youth head to BC Summer Games

SUBMITTED BY SSI JUNIOR RACE TEAM

In light winds and strong currents, two junior sailors from Salt Spring were first overall in the Club-420 division at the Sail Canada 2024 Sail West Championships at Royal Vancouver Yacht Club (RVYC) on June 22-23.

Team skipper Izzi Pugh Aucoin said that she and her partner Reuben Sol began the racing on Saturday morning with a first and second place in their first two heats. In the afternoon, however, the winds became light and variable, requiring careful directional changes in order to make the most of them.

In the third and last heat of the day, Pugh Aucoin and Sol had rounded the first mark when they noticed a slight change in the wind direction. They were able to use that to their advantage and outpaced the other teams, who had yet to notice the change in air. By the time the other teams changed their

courses to match the wind, they were far behind the Salt Spring team. As Pugh Aucoin and Sol crossed the finish line, the wind died and a strong current caused all the other teams to be unable to complete the course within the allotted time.

On Sunday, again with variable winds, Pugh Aucoin and Sol placed first in the first two heats, with a third in the final, leaving them on top of the standings overall.

The regatta at RVYC caps a successful spring of sailing for the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club's junior racing team. Pugh Aucoin and Sol also won the C-420 division at the Spring Dinghies Regatta held at the Royal Victoria Yacht Club in May, and they were named to the BC Summer Games Team for Zone 6, Vancouver Island. They will be joined at the games by their Salt Spring teammates Malikaa Clement and Maeve FitzZaland, who will also be competing in the C-420 division.

The BC Summer Games will take place in Maple Ridge (with sailing at Rocky Point, Port Moody) from July 17-21.

Join Us for an Interactive Community Workshop Salt Spring Island



Date: Saturday, July 20, 2024

Time: 12:30 - 2:00 PM

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

Learn more and RSVP at
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