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PHOTO BY ANDY DOYLE-LINDEN

KEEPING THE BEAT: Usually seen playing guitar and singing, Billie Woods takes a turn on the drums as part of her new Chico Eh duo with "eljose" (a.k.a. Jose Sanchez) during a Summer Outdoor Concert Series performance in Centennial Park on Thursday, Aug. 8. Chico Eh opened the evening for visiting performers A.W. Cardinal and Jasmine Colette of Blue Moon Marquee. This Thursday's free concert features a double bill with Daryl Chonka and Caraluna, while the final series concert on Aug. 22 sees Kàrà-Kàtà Afrobeat Group headlining with Wesley Hardisty the opener.

RCMP

Farmstand thefts hit hard, say operators

Police provide prevention advice for largely unreported crime

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With plenty of summer still ahead, some Salt Spring Island farmstand operators are scaling back their offerings or closing their stands for the season over concerns about theft of both cash and items for sale.

And despite several honour-system home businesses missing goods without any payment being made, thefts of that kind are rarely reported to police. Salt Spring RCMP Detachment Commander Sgt. Clive Seabrook said very few of the operators who had taken to social media to chronicle missing goods this summer had filed police reports. While the theft of cash during this year's tourist season had prompted more people to involve the RCMP, Seabrook said there had still been only two reports filed this summer — and a total of four for the calendar year so far.

"The two [recent] reports we have are regarding theft of the cash box at the farmstand," said Seabrook. "That said, to me a stand can be a target for its cash or items for sale."

Margaret Fisher said she was among the few who reported a theft to police this summer. Her "Stand Out of the Way" farmstand on Cudmore Road was hit during a late June wave of thefts that operators had attributed to one person, having caught security camera images of a similar figure making off with goods from several stands. Fisher said her stand did not have a camera, but the timing lined up.

"I mean, I've had the odd dozen eggs go missing over the years," said Fisher, who has been at the same location since 2021. "But then this. She took my whole container of soap, and my basket full of lavender sachets. She just took everything."

And after another theft three weeks ago — Fisher said she'd stocked more soap on her stand, and someone took all of it — Fisher joined several operators reached by the Driftwood who were reducing what they're putting out until the summer ends. Seabrook suggested farmstands might benefit from only having items for sale during certain times of the day, when there is more traffic around to deter theft — and positioning them so they can be seen from the operator's residence.

FARMSTANDS continued on 2

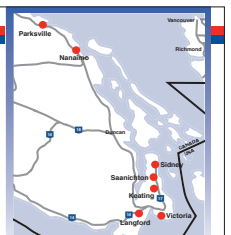
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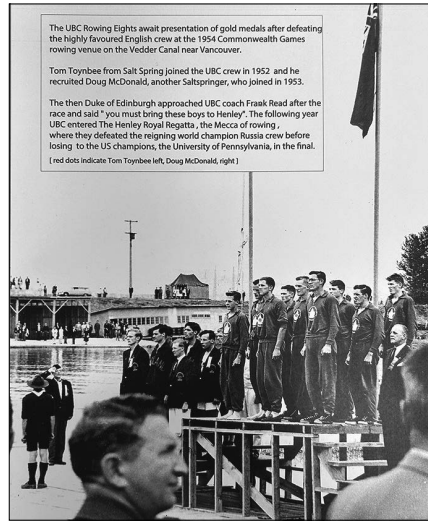
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MEDAL ANNIVERSARY MARKED



The UBC Rowing Eights await presentation of gold medals after defeating the highly favoured English crew at the 1954 Commonwealth Games rowing venue on the Vedder Canal near Vancouver.

Tom Toynbee from Salt Spring joined the UBC crew in 1952 and he recruited Doug McDonald, another Saltspringer, who joined in 1953.

The then Duke of Edinburgh approached UBC coach Frank Read after the race and said "you must bring these boys to Henley". The following year UBC entered The Henley Royal Regatta, the Mecca of rowing, where they defeated the reigning world champion Russia crew before losing to the US champions, the University of Pennsylvania. In the final. (red dots indicate Tom Toynbee left, Doug McDonald, right)

PHOTO COURTESY BITTANCOURT HOUSE MUSEUM

With the Olympic Games in Paris just concluded, Salt Spring's Bittancourt House museum has a timely new exhibit for its local sports history section. A photograph of the UBC Rowing Eights team set to receive gold medals after defeating a highly favoured English crew at the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games held in Vancouver has been enlarged and enhanced with an explanatory note and two Salt Spring Island team members – Tom Toynbee and Doug McDonald – identified. The UBC team's victory was a huge upset in the sports world at the time, and is chronicled as part of a book called *The Miracle Mile: Stories of the 1954 British Empire and Commonwealth Games* by Jason Beck. A reunion of team members was held 10 years ago on the 60th anniversary of the Vancouver games.

The museum located on the Farmers' Institute grounds is open from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays and Sundays.

Salt Spring Island had a notable presence at the Paris Olympics, with Dr. Clare Rustad, a former Canadian women's national soccer team member and Olympian, providing analysis on women's soccer matches for the CBC, which she has done for several years.

RCMP: info could lead to arrests

FARMSTANDS continued from 1

And he recommended using video cameras wherever practical, along with a sign posted saying the area is being monitored.

"Ideally there would be a camera in the stand that catches the face of the suspect and another positioned in a way that captures the road in front of the stand so we can get the licence plate number," said Seabrook, advising operators test the camera a few times to see if it's positioned well, and ensure it records — preferably to a hard drive or cloud storage.

"When using the kind of camera that has an internal memory the footage disappears with the camera when stolen," said Seabrook. "If someone steals a camera with an external memory, we can still identify the suspect even if they steal the camera — and include theft of the camera with our charges."

Many cameras can be set to notify the operator when anyone is at the stand, he added.

With more than 200 farmstands open on various days during the summer, Seabrook said even when there are no witnesses or camera footage, he would still prefer thefts be reported.

"This way we can track these thefts," said Seabrook, "including locations, days of week and times of day. This information may eventually show a pattern that over time can assist us in making an arrest."

Seabrook said RCMP has a suspect in one farmstand theft file, but so far police have not been able to identify the person. Fisher said the experience is discouraging, but supported her belief it was not generally locals responsible.

"When people steal things you so carefully offer up for sale, you do feel violated," said Fisher. "For now, I just won't put that stuff there anymore. I'll do a little baking on the weekends, and I'll have eggs. Probably when the tourist season's over, I'll go back to putting other things out."

More Farmstand Security Tips

- Use a locking cashbox that is secured to the stand, or switch to e-transfers. RCMP suggest frequent check-ins with the cash box so it is emptied frequently, which will minimize any losses. Frequent checks of the cash box will also provide a more accurate account of what was stolen should an arrest be made.

- Position the stand in a location that is visible from the residence — this way a potential thief knows they can be seen by the operator.

- Even if you don't have a camera, check with your neighbours — if someone a few doors down has one, you can let police know if you have to report a theft.

- Know what you have, and if unique items like handmade clothing or pottery are for sale, take pictures of the merchandise — this way it can be easily identified when located.



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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.

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LCC

Holman proposes compensation shift for director, commissioners

LCC members' pay should reflect responsibility level, says CRD director

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gary Holman is angling for a pay cut. The Salt Spring Island Electoral Area director notified the island's Local Community Commission (LCC) at its Aug. 8 meeting that he was working with Capital Regional District (CRD) staff to crystallize a process by which funds budgeted for the director's salary and that of local commissioners could be redistributed.

"The director is paid too much, and the commissioners aren't paid enough," said Holman, noting that he felt the formation of the LCC represented a significant shift in responsibility previously held by one person and

now shared among five.

"I'm also pursuing with staff how we can ensure clarity that the LCC has delegated authority over what are now the contribution services — the so-called advisory services — as well as grants-in-aid," said Holman. "Right now, for example, we have applications that are 'recommendation to the director' where it should be a fully dedicated service."

Since the formation of the LCC in 2023, requests for grants-in-aid have been discussed and voted upon by all LCC members — including the latest at last week's meeting, where the commission voted to approve an application from the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce for \$3,500 to help support the third annual Convergence Festival set for Sept. 20 again in the parking area adjacent to Mateada.

The commission Thursday also approved \$5,000 in capital reserve funding to support the Kanaka Skateboard Park expansion project in 2025.

EDUCATION

Salt Spring Centre School announces closure

Declining enrolment and lack of staff cited

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After four decades, an independent school on Salt Spring Island has entered into a school closure procedure, according to officials, citing unexpected understaffing and lack of student enrolment.

Ganges Education Society board member and Salt Spring Centre School founder Usha Rautenbach told the Driftwood Sunday, Aug. 11 that after consultation with both the Office of the Inspector of Independent Schools and B.C.'s Federation of Independent Schools Association, the school would not be opening in September.

Rautenbach, who began the Salt Spring Centre School with a single teacher and one multi-aged classroom in 1983, had also taught at the school, later serving as principal until 1997.

She said tuition fees for students enrolled for the 2024-2025 year would be refunded, and there had been some parent efforts begun to organize around the school's Blackburn Road facilities.

The school provided instruction for students from kindergarten through Grade 7, encompassing the regular curricula laid out by the B.C. Ministry of Education and Child Care, as well as emphasizing interpersonal relationships, environmental awareness

and individual creativity. Enrolment had been in a period of decline, according to school administrators, and Sunday night's announcement was not entirely unexpected.

Salt Spring Centre School's closure comes after Phoenix Elementary shuttered in September 2023. That alternative K-7 school had been operated within the Gulf Islands School District since 1991 and was closed due to declining enrolment and operational budget deficits, according to the district.

FIRE

Firefighters contain hay field blaze

Dry conditions persist, say officials

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Fire crews from two Salt Spring stations fought a hay field blaze for three hours on Saturday, Aug. 3, highlighting what island officials called "matchstick" dry conditions that persisted despite a brief period of rainfall the previous week.

White smoke could be seen from much of the island as a section of field burned at Church Hill Farm on North End Road, according to Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) Capt. Cody Hunsberger, who said on-duty firefighters arriving there from Hall 1 in Ganges were immediately backed up by trucks from Central's Hall 3.

"We were able to split and take on the two heads of the fire," said Hunsberger. "The duty crew took one and the paid-on-call took the other."

The fire had already spread across two acres by the time firefighters arrived, according to Hunsberger, with one end of it headed towards a barn structure and the other toward Suffolk Road to the north.

"It could have been quite a challenging fire had it gotten away from us," said Hunsberger. "Suffolk is kind of a natural

fire break, but if it had jumped the road, then you've got trees, neighbours, all that stuff. A quick response — with a full complement — definitely contributed to us having a quick knockdown."

In total, 18 firefighters and seven apparatus used some 10,000 gallons of water to extinguish the fire, Hunsberger said. After the fire was under control, SSIFR's new brush truck allowed crews to drive into the burnt field to make sure it was fully extinguished.

"The brush truck has a pump and hose reel on board," said Hunsberger. "So we could drive the whole perimeter, stopping to soak down hot spots — something we're really not capable of doing in any other truck."

All of the Coastal Fire Centre is currently under a burn ban, according to officials, and as of Aug. 12 Salt Spring Island is at a "high" fire danger rating with a two-hour fire watch — meaning after any currently allowed high-risk activities, such as operating machinery that might create sparks, someone needs to be watching for fires for two hours after finishing work.

"The hay is like a matchstick," said Hunsberger. "If you're allowed to use machinery, make sure you have some water on site."

For daily updates on fire risk conditions, visit saltspringfire.com.

POLITICS

Local provincial election candidates named

Conservatives and Greens complete process

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The B.C. Green Party is putting forward a Gulf Islander in the upcoming fall provincial election, following MLA Adam Olsen's decision not to seek re-election.

BC Greens announced one-time Bowen Island trustee and current North Pender resident Robert Botterell would be the party's candidate for the Saanich North and the Islands riding, chosen during a final nomination event held Tuesday evening, Aug. 6. Botterell was chosen

over Stuart MacKinnon, a North Saanich resident, retired secondary special needs teacher and former Vancouver Parks Board commissioner.

Botterell was born and grew up in Victoria, according to his campaign materials, and recently formed an informal group of 800 waterfront owners known as Southern Gulf Islanders for Collaboration and Reconciliation to work with the government of B.C., First Nations, the Islands Trust and others to address waterfront access issues.

He joins the MLA race with Conservative candidate David Busch, who was announced by his party in June. Busch ran for the Conservatives in the Saanich-Gulf Islands federal electoral riding in

2019 and 2021, hoping to unseat MP Elizabeth May and finishing both contests with roughly 20 per cent of the vote.

Other parties have yet to formally announce additional candidates. A spokesperson for BC NDP said it has a contested nomination meeting to decide its candidate set for Thursday, Aug. 22.

Standing nominations can be filed with Elections BC at any time before Sept. 21.

The Driftwood will be co-sponsoring a candidates' debate with the Salt Spring Forum Wednesday, Oct. 9; look for more information about that event in the coming weeks. Election day is set for Saturday, Oct. 19.

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EDITORIAL

Arts smarts

Two recently announced local arts funding initiatives are something to celebrate.

Firstly, the Island Arts Centre Society (IACS), which operates ArtSpring, has shared news about an endowment fund created earlier this year.

Thanks to the generosity of a bequest of stocks made by former IACS board chair George Ehrling, who died suddenly in 2020, the fund was initiated on a firm footing. ArtSpring reports that five other major donations have already been added to the fund, which will be managed by the Victoria Foundation, putting it close to its initial \$1-million target. However, some \$30,000 is still needed to attain that goal, and ArtSpring's board and staff encourage donations of any size to ensure a successful campaign by the end of August.

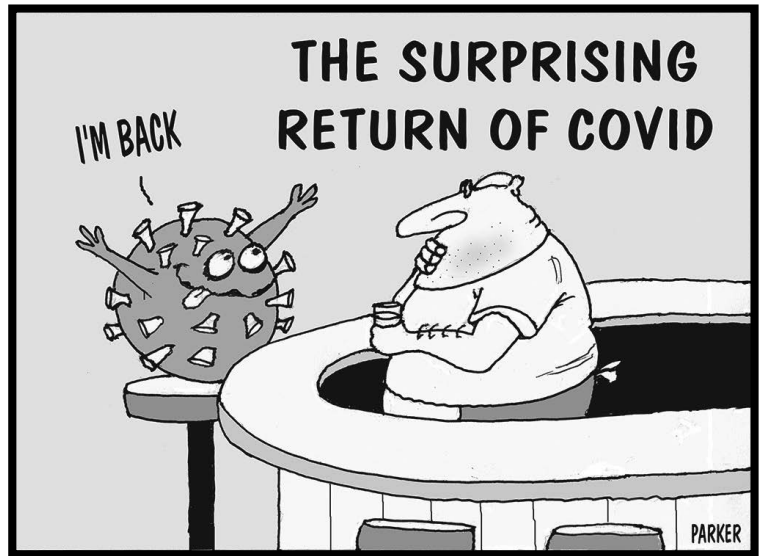
THE ISSUE:

Local arts funding
WE SAY:
Endowment and grants programs crucial

Establishing an endowment fund has a secondary benefit of qualifying for matching funds through Canadian Heritage, a federal government agency. Once the fund grows to its ultimate \$5-million level, it is expected to bring in \$250,000 in revenue annually, which will go a long way to ensuring fiscal stability for the arts centre.

The second news item about funding for the arts comes from the Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) Society. Again thanks to the generosity of community members who appreciate the arts and their positive impact, some \$100,000 per year for three years will be made available for Southern Gulf Islands visual artists through SSNAP's Catalyst Grants. Funding comes from The Wilding Foundation, a Salt Spring-based entity that supports other charities, with encouraging "skill development through the creative interplay of technology and art" being one area of focus. The foundation has supported the Salt Spring Public Library's FabLab, the high school robotics club, Graffiti Theatre and Salt Spring Arts. Foundation spokesperson Ethan Wilding said the Catalyst Grants are seen as "a crucial investment in the cultural and economic vitality of the community." Individuals are also welcome to donate to The Wilding Foundation.

ArtSpring, SSNAP, Salt Spring Arts and other artistic entities contribute immeasurably to our quality of life. Individuals and foundations willing and able to provide financial resources to local groups deserve our appreciation and support.



Don't politicize the market

BY TOBY FOUKS

Let's not turn a joyful market experience into a political arena ("Censoring sign policy in limbo," Aug. 7 Driftwood).

The market experience for those who attend should be joyful, not fraught with concerns about situations either far away over which we have no influence, or close to home.

We all have the right to have opinions and to express them in an appropriate way in an appropriate location. We certainly live in a time in which as a result of social media people have grown accustomed to shouting their views out into the digital atmosphere and engaging with others for good or for ill because of those opinions and beliefs.

The space a vendor rents at the Saturday Market is not one of those appropriate places. It is not a public square and it is not a collection of personally owned pieces of territory.

To be clear, this is not about the rights of vendors who insist they should be able to publicize their political or religious opinions in their market stall (or on the cement walkway), it's about the kind of atmosphere that our Saturday Market requires if it is to remain a pleasurable venue, not a space punctuated by opinions and discussions unconnected to its purpose. It's what visitors to the market, on whom vendors depend, have the right to expect.

The market should be a place where people can enjoy and appreciate (and we hope purchase) products grown, baked or made and sold by Salt Spring vendors. Such a space should be neutral — free of politics and religion. These fall into what can be highly charged emotional territory which always brings discomfort when there's

VIEWPOINT

disagreement. Our market should be a kind of haven in that way — where visitors are free from troubles for a short

while — small, large and quite honestly horrendous — in places near and places far from here — troubles both personal and those affecting others, often causing great suffering.

Vendors have every right to express their opinions in a public square but the market is not a public square. Vendors are renting space and that space comes with conditions. It's a kind of community bound by common goals.

I am curious about why anyone would feel they must express opinions in that way in a market stall or scrawl graffiti all over the cement or march through in a group chanting at us that "Salt Spring market must not hide." Do people think that they are going to influence anyone else's opinion? They are not. Why would a vendor think that it was important that everyone be informed of his/her political views? The market is not about the vendors, or what any vendor thinks or believes. It's about the products that are made available to visitors in a pleasant, welcoming atmosphere. If anything it can be an escape from worry for a short period of time.

People's opinions do matter a lot to them and to their associates, but making sure that countless others know what those opinions are should be accomplished not by a poster at a market stall or a march through a market, but possibly a letter to the editor of the Driftwood. Of course, that does take more time and thought.

The writer is a Salt Spring Saturday Market vendor.

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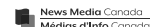
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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you buy goods at local farmstands?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should political signs be banned from the Salt Spring Saturday Market?

119 212
YES NO

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Protestors lack knowledge

I read about the "Free Palestine" signage in the farm stand of one of the market vendors and watched with dismay the group of Free Palestine marchers at the gay pride parade the other week. (Queers for Palestine is laughable given it is a crime to be gay in Gaza.)

I think it's important to point out a few parallels and connections.

Every person sitting on Salt Spring Island sits on unceded territory. The protestors' incredible concern for people thousands of miles away doesn't appear to extend to the Indigenous communities that are the real owners of this land. Have any one of them turned the keys to their homes over yet, or is it just fun and cool to scream "intifada, revolution" before grabbing an iced latte and watching the Olympics from the beauty and safety of their homes? I'm curious if every white woman who was eagerly yelling "Intifada" as they passed Hannah Brown, the lone 84-year-old Jewish woman holding a sign to express how gay people are treated in places like Gaza, would feel so strongly in their conviction if they had to round her up and send her off like we did on Salt Spring Island to Japanese families not so very long ago.

After these protests, did they feel like they actually did something? Helped some kids in Gaza, maybe? They most certainly didn't, but they did manage to let their thinly veiled racism out and to co-opt the many decades of work the gay community has done to find safety in being who they are, ironically,

through crashing a parade in celebration of a group that would absolutely not support their existence.

The second part is more emotional. You can feel how you want about this war (Jewish families don't want war either, contrary to popular dehumanizing rhetoric that is all over the place right now). Think clearly: if a group of militants stormed your child's Taylor Swift concert and kidnapped your beautiful 23-year-old child and raped and killed and burned others, and civilians in Ganges cheered and spit on one of these girl's broken and dead bodies, what would you do? What would you do to get your child back from that? If someone took one of my beautiful daughters: ... I would do anything at all to get them back. Where are the signs about bringing home the hostages? Where is the outrage for them?

I've also heard lots of nonsensical rhetoric about how Israel is "colonizing Palestine." Cut it out. Go to Israel. Israelis are brown-skinned and largely indistinguishable from anyone else in the Middle East. As a quick reminder: Jews are actually indigenous to the region. Some European Jews have moved there but so have many Black Jews. More than two million Arabs live in Israel and enjoy the same rights as all other Israelis.

To the protestors and the sign-wielding farmstands: Honestly, go to the places you are protesting for (and against) before you think that you know everything about everything, and start calling for an intifada. I can assure you, you wouldn't like it if we got one. It's ignorant and dangerous.

N. MILLER,
SALT SPRING

Signs are futile

There's been a lot of talk about freedom of speech regarding signs protesting Israel's attacks on Palestinians at the market. What about freedom FROM speech?

The market represents positive values of our society — living in harmony with the land and supporting local enterprise in a peaceful environment. It's not for being reminded of the bloody history nor the present horrors of the Middle East. The people there have been at each other's throats for millennia, fuelled by tribalism and primitive superstitions as well as suffering sometimes horrific invasions and prejudice when they migrated to other cultures. Taking sides in this is pointless.

Futile signs which unfairly focus on only one society in the current conflict instead of all of them accomplish nothing.

ANDREW OKULITCH,
SALT SPRING

Cruelty to dogs

This is a rant, although it really should be a "shame on you" to the older guy who left his giant Bernese mountain dog in the back of his tiny car in the full sun at Barb's Buns on Thursday, Aug. 8 with just the hatch open.

The temperatures were 30 degrees C and the dog was panting and he didn't even leave a side window open for any air flow. I went into Barb's Buns and asked whose dog it was and when the man, sitting in the cool shade, said it was his I told him that leaving a dog like that in full sun in a car is illegal

and in Vancouver could get a \$2,000 fine. He didn't say a word.

I went to the library to find out who to call and they gave me the SPCA Cruelty to Animals Hotline, but there was a several hour wait. So I thought I'd go back and look at the dog. The guy had the dog on the deck under the shade, so I thought, "Good, he heard me." Nope.

About 15 minutes later the same car pulled up in front of us in the dappled shade at Centennial Park. We were in our car with all our windows open and our doors ajar because it was so hot. Well, the guy gets out of his car and locks his Bernese inside his car without even cracking open a window or the hatch. We watched that poor animal sit panting heavily for 15 minutes while I called the RCMP and they had me call the CRD's animal control department. A full 15 minutes after leaving his animal to suffer the guy got back into his car. If he hadn't come back within a few minutes I was just going to smash one of his windows to help the dog.

Nobody should leave a dog in a car in 30 C or even 25 C heat. This is cruelty to animals.

We have a Bernese mountain dog cross and they have double coats. They do not tolerate heat well at all. We took our dog to town but brought her into stores or else waited in the shade outside.

So this is more than a rant, this is alerting folks here that cruelty to animals doesn't always take the form of violence. This is dangerous neglect.

SUZANNE M. STEELE,
SALT SPRING VISITOR

MORE OPINION continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"When people steal things you so carefully offer up for sale, you do feel violated."

MARGARET FISHER, SALT SPRING ISLAND FARMSTAND OPERATOR

Salt Spring karma works its magic on the roads or in the henhouse

BY MIKE STACEY

There are two things that I consider as irrefutable proof that God has a wicked sense of humour.

Number one is the animals in Australia. Often referred to as "The Blunder Down Under," it is all explained away by evolutionists that since the Australian land mass separated from all the rest so long ago, the creatures that went with it evolved along a different route. Blah blah blah. Creationists, however, will tell you it was more of a "Hold my beer and watch this" scenario. The second piece of evidence is "karma." This is the divine "pie in the face" one gets for doing something dumb. Often "instant" but sometimes served cold.

It's fun to see videos of guys who have just bought a supercar with five times the horsepower of the biggest semis on the road. To prove their driving prowess they punch the throttle, leaving a light, whereupon said vehicle breaks traction and goes rogue,

travelling wherever it should not be and invariably ending up in someone's swimming pool or more likely smashed into a large stationary object: power pole, fire hydrant, police car, like that.

My own favourite cases of divine intervention all involve tailgaters. I do not like being followed too closely. The first was when I was travelling through the Fraser Canyon with some clown in a BMW right up my tailpipe. After a few miles of this foolishness he got his chance and blew past me like I was chained to a stump. "Won't see him again," I told myself. Wrong. A mile up the road I found him engaged in pleasant conversation with the cop who had just nailed him. I did not see him again after that.

The second incident was while driving the big truck up a hill in Saanich with a moron in some small car behind me. He was close enough that I could not see him in the mirrors, but I had seen him catch up. Up ahead I

could see a bicycle grinding its way up the hill. Plenty of visible road ahead, time to pass him. To let the genius behind me know what I was up to, I turned on my left signal before pulling over to give the bike lots of room. Einstein decided that this was a perfect time to pass me, having been too close to me to see the bike. I saw him pull out and thought, "Run over the bike or put this idiot in the weeds?" The cyclist was innocent on all counts, so I opted for the weeds option. I enjoyed how he plowed through the grass, dodging mailboxes and signs and hitting bumps that car was never designed to encounter. I'm sure he had plenty to say about me after he returned to the travelled portion, but looking in his mirror he would have seen the bike and a smiling truck driver.

Third, and my favourite, was

when I was going past St. Mary Lake with a big Cadillac trying to shove my '51 Chev up to warp speed. I saw up ahead a rock on the road about the size of a grapefruit. He could not see it, situated exactly where it would conflict with my left front wheel, had I maintained my current heading. The nice thing to do would have been to somehow warn the Caddy, but for reasons unknown I just drifted slowly across the centre line, like a guy in an old pickup is likely to do. As I straddled the road hazard I listened for the results. Bulls-eye. He hit that thing with a very satisfying crunch and I felt no shame listening to it bouncing around the inner fender, leaving dents wherever it went.

Now, the purpose of all this storytelling is to show what can happen to someone who writes disparaging letters to the paper about roosters. Our neighbours decided to have a few chickens in the back yard. One of the little ones (chicklings? chicklets?)

turned out to be, you guessed it, a rooster. So I should be all wound up and raise hell, right? No.

My letters were not so much about roosters but people and entitlement. Over the years we have had some good neighbours and some bad. Right now we are surrounded by good ones, all homeowners, and I'm not going to screw that up. The rooster's owners are prepared to get rid of him if it becomes a problem, but I don't think it will come to that. He is a very nice looking bird and doesn't crow very much. Sometimes I go over to the fence and talk to him about the CRD coming to clap him in irons, but that has not happened yet.

When I was told that his name is Cinderella that clinched it. He is not going anywhere. As I write this I can faintly hear Barry White emanating from the henhouse amid the crashing, flapping and squawking as Cinderella "gets busy." Turns out roosters are pigs too.

GUEST COLUMN

PHOTOS BY GAIL SJUBERG

EYES ON THE SKIES: Getting a look at the final flight of the Hawaii Martin Mars water bomber from Salt Spring on Sunday, Aug. 11 proved tricky without knowing the detailed flight plan in advance, but the plane, which helped extinguish the major Galiano Island forest fire of 2006, did skirt the northern part of the island, while the accompanying Royal Canadian Air Force Snowbirds aerobatic team planes flew separately over Portlock Park. The bomber also flew in low over Trincomali Channel as part of its route from Sprout Lake near Port Alberni to Patricia Bay. See Scott Simmons' Escape to Salt Spring YouTube channel for a video. The Martin Mars plane will be housed in the BC Aviation Museum in Sidney.



Local Gaza protesting decried

BY HANNAH BROWN

I want to address the elephant on Salt Spring Island: land ownership in Israel, genocide in Gaza, cries for intifada and revolution on Salt Spring Island.

In the Koran, do you ever see a reference to Palestine? Not one reference. Do you see references to Israel in the Christian New Testament? Oh yes, it's set in Israel. Do you read references to Arabs there? Once, in the case of an Arabian man; the rest talks about Jews, Christians and Romans. What about the Hebrew Bible? Is it filled with references to Israel and Judea (modern day West Bank). Yes, and to Gaza, which was called by its Hebrew name Azza, which was a well-established city that had abundant commercial dealings with Egypt. In later years and up until 1967, Egypt was the administrator of Gaza and Jordan "ruled" the West Bank. Many Biblical stories are known by most of you about the Jews in Israel . . . I refer to the Sarah and Abraham story, Joseph and his coat of many colours, Joseph who saved Egypt from the seven years of drought, Moses and the Hebrews in the desert after escaping from slavery in Egypt . . . and on and on.

Where did Muhammad have his revelation about Islam? On Mount Hira in Saudi Arabia. Other important countries mentioned in the Koran are Iraq, Madina (Saudi Arabia), Yemen, Jordan and once Jerusalem, when Muhammad was taken there on his Night Journey to the Jewish temple where Muslims believe he met with Abraham, Jesus, Moses, etc. and led them in prayer.

On Oct. 7, 2023, five Palestinian terrorist groups joined Hamas and entered Israel in the very early hours of the morning, killing many people in their beds, beheading others, raping and killing young people at a music concert, and pillaging and burn-

IN RESPONSE

ing people alive in their homes in kibbutzim built near the Gaza border. The kibbutzim were built there with the intent of helping Palestinians and furthering the cause of peace. Kibbutz Be'eri was constantly organizing peace conferences and daily taking Palestinians to Israeli doctors and hospitals. Vivian Silver, a well-known peace activist, was burnt alive in her home. Members of this kibbutz continually arranged jobs in Israel for thousands of men who came in daily to work in construction, farming, etc.

Hamas started this war with 30,000 in their army. If they were not lying to us, then how many of the "civilians" in Gaza have really been killed? Are the Israelis really killing civilians and letting these "lovely peaceful" terrorists live? Over two million people are still living in Gaza. This is not a "genocide."

And yes, we all feel badly for the children. For some of you it's the children in Gaza and for some of us it's the children in Gaza and in Israel where 160,000 have been displaced because of danger and daily rocketing. I teach English to wonderful Arab and Jewish high school students in my Zoom room every week. Ask me for their stories next time we meet up. Ask me about these teenagers running with their iPads in the middle of our class . . . running to a bomb shelter. Several thousand rockets have come into Israel since last October.

Israel has the capability of wiping out Gaza. Instead, young Israeli men and women, Bedouin, Druze, Jewish, Christian soldiers are dying in Gaza in hand combat, often in the booby-trapped tunnels as they search for the hostages and for weap-

ons that are stored in hospitals, schools, homes. Entrances to tunnels are under carpets in many homes.

"Intifada, and we are the revolution!" was continuously screamed in Ganges at the Pride Parade on July 27. We all know the horror of an intifada. I would like to know why people were not asking this crowd to stop screaming this horror. Why did they just walk on by? Why did only a dozen of you give me support with a thumbs up or by standing with me? Why was this group allowed to lead the Pride Parade — a parade that is meant for celebration of the legality and legitimacy of gay love?

The Syrian government gassed many of her people and millions have left the country as refugees. The lovely Syrian families we hosted on Salt Spring Island never got to see people with signs in Ganges protesting the Syrian government.

Darfur has women being raped and killed each day and children dying of starvation, but not one peep about this on Salt Spring. Why not? What is the missing link? I submit to you that the missing link is the Jewish connection, for all of the reasons that have always been and I'm sorry to say exist today. I am even sorer to say they exist on my island.

The difference today is that a large number of us who are Jews know that if we keep silent it won't go away. We have learned our lessons. Many on this island are saying, in a negative way, that we are "Zionists." You can be sure we are! We have a right to a country that is ours . . . the same as Canadians, Mexicans, Irish, Brits, etc. have a "mother" country to call their own. Millions of Jews would not have been murdered in Europe before and during the Second World War if Israel had existed.

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22 You didn't look both ways before crossing the road. **GO BACK 3 SPACES**

23

24

25 **YOU DID IT! WELCOME TO SCHOOL!**

18 You ran in the halls at school. **GO BACK 10 SPACES**

17

16

15

14 You crossed the road with a crossing guard. **MOVE 5 SPACES**

13

12

11 You remembered to cough into your elbow. **ROLL THE DICE AGAIN**

10 You didn't look both ways before crossing the road. **GO BACK 3 SPACES**

9

8 You remained seated for the whole bus ride. **MOVE TO THE NEXT RED SPACE**

7

6

5

4

3 You kept your bike helmet on all the way to school. **MOVE TO SPACE 15**

2

1

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FUNDRAISING

New ArtSpring endowment fund nears first million

Fund seeks final \$30,000 to reach goal

SUBMITTED BY ARTSPRING

In what has been a banner year for ArtSpring's 25th anniversary, board president Sandra Heath took to the stage at July's donor appreciation event to announce the launch of ArtSpring's first-ever endowment fund, with proceeds already nearing \$1 million. The organization's goal is to reach that figure by end of August.

Thanks to the extraordinary bequest of stocks from former ArtSpring board member George Ehring, who died in 2020, ArtSpring's dream of securing greater financial stability in the future has been set in motion.

Like many arts organizations, ArtSpring has expressed being vulnerable throughout its history and particularly through the pandemic, which saw the closure of both small and renowned institutions around the world. The economy, increasing costs, shifting audiences, changing volunteer patterns and the unpredictability of annual community fundraising efforts have all been cited as contributors to ArtSpring's uncertain financial position each season.

ArtSpring maintains surprisingly little of its budget is supported by government funding. In 2023, it accounted for approximately 10 to 15 per cent, with the vast majority coming from facility rentals, ticket sales and donations, which fluctuate year to year.

"This position impacts operations, programming, community learning and accessibility programs," said executive and artistic director Howard Jang. "It also impacts our ability to keep this remarkable facility and asset to the community functioning and thriving, at a time when the arts are more important than ever in fostering empathy, bringing people together and creating lasting impacts."

As an added advantage, establishing an endowment fund now qualifies ArtSpring to apply for matching funds from the federal Department of Canadian Heritage, multiplying the impact of each donation dollar. Since the Ehring donation, five other significant donations have joined the fund, which currently sits only \$30,000 short of reaching its goal by end of August.



HOWARD JANG

"George's transformative donation spotlights the importance and impact that planned giving can have as a legacy and tax strategy," said Jang. "However, donations of all sizes are crucial towards our short-term and long-term sustainability as a community arts centre."

Reaching the \$1-million threshold marks the important first phase of ArtSpring's longer-term campaign of raising \$5 million in upcoming years. The fund, managed by the Victoria Foundation, will direct the portfolio's annual investment income back to ArtSpring to help support operations, people and diverse programming on a permanent basis. Attaining a \$5-million endowment will translate into approximately \$250,000 of secure funds per annum.

"This does not replace the ongoing annual need to raise funds for operations, artists and capital improvements, but it provides a more secure starting platform," said Jang.

At the same time the legacy endowment fund was announced, a new list of donor benefits was rolled out in what is being called a pilot project.

Eight donor categories, distinguished by name and donation level, are now matched with a corresponding set of benefits ranging from acknowledgement credits to "first-to-know" status, VIP events to backstage tours, artist meet-and-greets to season's tickets.

"Escalating donor benefits are common in larger centres but haven't significantly been introduced yet on Salt Spring," said Kirsten Bolton, communications and donor engagement manager. "The intent is to recognize, encourage and engage our donors with value-added experiences that make giving about more than just a tax receipt. It's a relationship."

For more information about donating, visit artspring.ca/donate where funds can be directed to legacy fund, operations or Theatre Angel programs. For larger gifts or planned giving, contact Howard Jang at ead@artspring.ca or 250-537-2125.

"This does not replace the ongoing annual need to raise funds for operations, artists and capital improvements, but it provides a more secure starting platform."

HOWARD JANG
ArtSpring executive and artistic director

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Obituaries



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Greenwood's Eldercare Society is looking for community-minded people interested in our mission and the possibility of serving on our volunteer Board of Directors.

We're a locally based, non-profit society, operating extended care and assisted living residences on Salt Spring Island and providing a range of services and programs to the elders of our community.

Our Board is comprised of members with diverse backgrounds who work together to direct and provide operational oversight to our professional staff. We know the value of bringing together individuals with different perspectives drawn from a wide range of backgrounds, skill sets, areas of expertise and experiences.

Helen Keller said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much."

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AUGUST 2024 PST (UTC-8H)							
When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table							
DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS	DAY	TIME	FEET	METERS
14	7:14	2.7	0.82	18	2:02	9.5	2.9
	16:46	9.7	2.96		10:26	0.7	0.21
	20:16	9.4	2.87		18:36	10.6	3.23
	22:40	9.6	2.93		23:23	8.5	2.59
15	8:06	2	0.61	19	3:19	9.5	2.9
	17:17	10.2	3.11		11:09	0.8	0.24
	21:36	9.5	2.9		19:00	10.6	3.23
	23:29	9.6	2.93		0:02	7.7	2.35
16	8:55	1.4	0.43	20	4:34	9.4	2.87
	17:45	10.4	3.17		11:51	1.3	0.4
	22:17	9.3	2.83		19:23	10.6	3.23
	0:42	9.5	2.9		0:47	6.7	2.04
17	9:42	0.9	0.27	21	5:48	9.2	2.8
	18:11	10.6	3.23		12:31	2.3	0.7
	22:49	9	2.74		19:46	10.6	3.23

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JOAN SHIRLEY
TURNBULL
1935 - 2024

With heavy hearts, we say farewell to Joan Turnbull, beloved wife of 65 years and best friend to her husband, Don.

Joan passed away peacefully on August 1, 2024, at Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island, B.C., where she lived for over forty years. Born in Montreal, Quebec, Joan was predeceased by her husband. She leaves to mourn her sister Wendy McDonald of Calgary, Alta.; her brother Bill Phillips of Delta, B.C.; sister-in-law Bev Phillips; her nieces Catharine Uitto of Delta, B.C. and Bonnie Phillips of Surrey, B.C.; her nephews Liam McDonald of Lethbridge, Alta. and Cody McDonald of Calgary, Alta.; and her Salt Spring Island, B.C. community.

Joan was loved by all who knew her.

We take comfort in knowing that those who live in our hearts are never truly gone and will remain with us forever.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



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Coming Events

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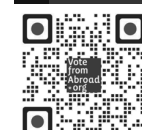
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Dr. William
(Bill) Albert Whitelaw,
September 3, 1941
- July 7, 2024

"Bill will remain in my memory for as long as it lasts as a most kind, gentle, loving, funny, witty, and brilliant person who, for me, exemplifies what it is to be a friend, a gentleman, and a marvellous human being with well-chosen and steadfast priorities that made him so beloved by everyone who knew him."

- Tim Yates

Bill Whitelaw died peacefully on Sunday, July 7, 2024, at the Extended Care Unit of the Lady Minto Hospital on Salt Spring Island, BC, following a struggle with dementia. Predeceased by his wife Jenny in 2018, he will be missed by his son Peter and daughter-in-law Helen, his son John and daughter-in-law Tracie, and their daughters Emily and Claire, as well as his brother John's family, his brother Bruce and family, and his many lifelong friends.

Bill was a self-effacing, softly (sometimes too softly) spoken man who was fun-loving and serious, principled and independent, an intellectual and a lover of farce. He was known as a prankster and a supreme storyteller, an adventurer, and a lover and collector of classical music and books. Endlessly curious, Bill dove into birdwatching, mushroom hunting, and wildflower collecting.

He left an indelible mark on those around him. To his children and grandchildren, he was deeply caring and supportive. Despite working long hours, he refused to let his young boys go to bed without reading to them, and each year he concocted a treasure hunt with devious riddles that had to be solved to find their Easter baskets. When his sons were older, he encouraged them to pursue their hearts' desires, as long as they worked hard. Later in life, he welcomed news of his granddaughter's gender transition by cracking a bottle of champagne.

Colleagues and students praised Bill as a wise mentor, a great teacher, and a researcher driven by insatiable curiosity. He was also a merry soul. He was infamous around the medical school for his amusing selection of bow ties, which led to the Dr. Whitelaw You May Be Funny But Your Mother Sure Dresses You Funny award given annually by the medical students. The joy with which he shared news of this "honour" among his friends and colleagues showed that his ego never got in the way of anything he did. One colleague said that "few people have influenced my career and hence my life as much as [Bill]," a sentiment echoed by many.

Bill was born on September 3, 1941, in Halifax, Nova Scotia, where his father was stationed during World War II. The family then moved to Vancouver, where he attended Maple Grove, Point Grey, and Magee schools, and made the first of the many lifelong friends he collected throughout his life. He finished high school at Trinity College School in Ontario, after which he returned to Vancouver to attend the University of British Columbia. After a year, he was accepted to the University of Toronto Honours Math, Physics, and Chemistry program. He thought of this as one of the most challenging academic experiences of his life and was quietly very proud to have graduated from "MPC." After graduation, he attended medical school at McGill University in Montreal, specializing in Internal Medicine.

While at McGill, Bill noticed the beautiful Jenny Mann in the Dean's

office and summoned the courage to ask her out. In spite of an inauspicious first date in which he slept through a movie, he secured a second date and survived her opening gambit: a water-bomb ambush. The two fell quickly in love and married on May 16, 1970. Their shared sense of adventure took the couple around the world. The first stop was Uganda, where Bill practiced cardiology and tropical medicine and learned firsthand the reality of life under the dictatorial rule of the ruthless Idi Amin. He and Jenny also learned the pain of loss when their daughter Emma died in a terrible accident, an event which affected them deeply for the rest of their lives.

They returned to Montreal in 1972 so Bill could work on a PhD in Respiratory Physiology. Despite their loss, they had two more children, with the births of Peter and John bringing joy back into their lives. After his PhD, the family moved to Edinburgh, where Bill completed postdoctoral studies in 1975-76.

Following a brief return to Montreal, Bill joined the new Faculty of Medicine in Calgary. During his tenure, he led the Division of Respiratory Medicine from 1978 to 1997, helped start the Foothills Medical Centre Sleep Lab, and was instrumental in achieving Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons of Canada approval for the division's training program. He was co-founder of the Calgary History of Medicine Program, which he chaired until 2007.

During their years in Calgary, Bill's sense of adventure and love of nature inspired many outdoor activities. A place he especially loved was his parents' off-grid cabin in BC's interior, which he visited as often as possible, bringing the family up for three weeks every summer. He led Cub Scouts trips, took up white-water canoeing, hiked regularly, and walked extensively.

Bill and Jenny retired to Salt Spring Island in 2007. Not content to sit on his laurels, Bill joined the Trail and Nature Club, sat on the Lady Minto Hospital Board, and was a Christmas Bird Count section leader. Unfortunately, Jenny suffered a long, slow descent into dementia, and Bill made every arrangement to keep her home and happy as long as possible. When she moved to the nearby Greenwoods assisted living home, he visited every day and often took her for walks and social outings.

After Jenny's death in 2018, Bill continued to stay fully engaged, joining a group of men called "The Old Codgers" for weekly lunches, traveling to visit friends and family, gardening, and reading extensively. Bill also struggled with dementia, so John and his family moved in with him in 2020 so he could stay at home. He was delighted to live with his granddaughters, taking great interest in their activities and pride in their achievements. In early 2024, his health deteriorated, and he was admitted to the Extended Care Unit at the Lady Minto Hospital, where he died peacefully on July 7th.

Bill and Jenny were lifelong supporters of social and environmental causes. Regular and generous donors to many charities, they also traveled to Nepal, the Philippines, Laos, and China to teach new doctors and help build capacity at local medical schools. Anyone wishing to honour Bill is asked to make a donation to their own favourite charity and to raise a glass in his memory.



James Brett Clibbery

Two months ago, I spoke to my father of 39 years. He talked about his upcoming journey with his wife, Sarah. They were planning the first leg of their trip around the world. The duo said their goodbyes and promised to visit on their way back through. That was the last time I spoke to them. Their journey ended together on July 10th when they were discovered deceased on Sable Island.

Brett lived a full life. Retired for 17 years, but never stagnant. After 25 years with CP Rail, my father worked many jobs—from scuba instructor to sailing instructor to BC Ferries employee—always striving to improve the lives of those around him.

With Sarah by his side, they had many adventures. First meeting at a bus stop in the UK, they quickly discovered they shared a love for adventure. Together, they completed three Camino routes and worked to build a home on Salt Spring Island.

The pair were always on the front lines of social justice, from decrying the genocidal actions of countries around the world to supporting many social action movements. My father believed this country could change. With enough people standing up, anything was possible. His work ethic and intelligence allowed him to make a difference in every corner he encountered.

He was actively involved in politics his whole life. Campaigning for Pierre Trudeau in his youth, he always supported the people he believed in. Once, while campaigning in Thunder Bay, Ontario, he was unable to win a seat as alderman but managed to place second. His later years saw a shift in his political beliefs, striving to make the world a better place for everyone. He joined protests for freedom and rights for all and took direct action by engaging with elected officials, often in direct conflict with them.

The friends he made around the world grieve his loss. One of his best friends, Pat Brett from his youth, recalls what Brett was like as a kid and young adult:

"As a kid, Brett was loved and respected by everyone who knew him, male and female alike. As a young teenager, Brett hung out with a group of similarly aged friends. He was one of our leaders because he had access to a car. It was a 1950s-60s Ford Falcon, and boy, did we have fun. He was an exceptional driver for his young age. We could fit six to eight people and spent hours cruising dirt roads around all the sand and gravel pits in Kenora. In fact, we were four-wheeling before four-wheeling became cool. Didn't need a four-by-four when Brett was at the wheel!"

Brett had the travel bug as a young man and made the most of it to go everywhere. When he was old enough to drive, he and his friend 'Beefy'—Rick Holiday—packed a packsack, picked up four cartons of smokes, and blew out of town to work for CPR as section men. Forty below, fixing railroad tracks between Dryden and Thunder Bay. He went out to Edmonton to live with 'Granny Maluish.' His grandfather lived in a little house on the creek. He had a charge account at Smith's Grocery store, which Brett made good use of. Grandpa would ask Brett to pick up some groceries for him, and he would add a couple of cartons of smokes. As an older teen, he spent a couple of years in Winnipeg as roommates with me, Pat Brett, when I was entertaining all over the city. Brett had no problem telling people where I played that he was my manager. Back in Kenora one morning, Brett's sisters gave him a perm complete with cute little blonde kiss curls. The boys were gathered around the kitchen table at Dan Donnelly's house when Brett charged in, all thrilled with his new hairdo. The boys got on his case bad, but by the end of the conversation, he was so cute that we christened him 'Rosie,' and it stuck with him for life. And he liked it so much he got a rose tattoo.

Brett's friends all really admired him as the guy who had a dream of sailing the world and made a point of seeing it through. Unfortunately, his journey was cut short. To those who knew him, it was abundantly clear that Sarah was really good for Brett, and they were so happy together. All along, he made a point of staying in touch with all of us whenever he was coming through Kenora to visit his mother, Peggy. He will be missed by his family and friends around the world.

Only our love for you is left. Smooth skies and steady winds are what I wish for you.

Forever missed,
never forgotten.

Sarah Justine Packwood

Sarah Justine Packwood was born in 1970 to Sean and Kate Packwood. She grew up in the quiet Warwickshire village of Long Itchington, England. Her horizons started to expand when she left home for university in Durham to study biology, after which she went on to obtain an MSc from Bangor University in Wales. Those horizons never really stopped expanding. Sarah chose a career in international aid work and worked on the ground with many different aid agencies in places such as Kosovo, South Sudan, Tanzania/Rwanda, Haiti, India, Namibia, and Papua New Guinea. She

faced many hardships and witnessed more trauma than many of us will in a lifetime, but she always persevered and somehow never became hardened by her experiences. When she eventually chose to work closer to home, she continued to work on projects that enabled her to pass on her knowledge to the next generation of aid workers and improve disaster response effectiveness, including working for the UK government Department for International Development (now the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office).

One time she was urgently called in to work and, after a ruined weekend in the office, eventually escaped and waited at the bus stop to go home. She got chatting to one Brett Clibbery, and the rest, as they say, is history. Sarah's mum was terminally ill when she met Brett, and Brett's sister was in need of a kidney donation from Brett. They each supported the other, and their friendship quickly deepened. After her mum's death in 2015, Sarah walked the 500-mile pilgrimage route of the Camino de Santiago (the Way of St. James) in the French Pyrenees and northern Spain in her memory. This sparked a passion for Camino walking that she then shared with Brett (they did three Camino routes together and were planning to revisit one this year). Brett, in turn, shared his passion for sailing, and they embarked on sailing adventures on board Brett's sailboat, Theros. They married in Canada on Theros in 2016 and followed it the next spring with a traditional dawn handfasting ceremony at Stonehenge in England.

Sarah embraced what she called "free-range living": balancing part-time consultancy work, helping Brett build their home on Salt Spring Island, travelling and adventuring with Brett, pursuing her interests in spirituality, nature, music, and songwriting in the bardic tradition, and documenting it all as an enthusiastic budding videographer. That consultancy work involved using her extensive humanitarian aid work experience to help NGOs and international organisations such as UNHCR become more inclusive and effective. She shared her and Brett's experiences of building their off-grid home from scratch in the 'Two Blondes on a Build' YouTube series, joining other Two Blondes projects including: 'on a boat' (sailing on Theros) and 'on a walk' (their three Camino hiking expeditions).

As a singer/songwriter/bard, her creativity was blossoming: her first single, 'Meet Me at Table,' about the friendships made on the Camino, was released last year and had won her recognition as a new songwriter and podcast appearances. Like Brett, Sarah never failed to make friends wherever she went. Her gentleness, kindness, creativity, and positivity touched and inspired many lives around the world, and she will be sorely missed.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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EXHIBITIONS

Photosynthesis set to thrill for 24th year

Show by 18 fine art photographers and guests opens Aug. 22

SUBMITTED BY THE PHOTOSYNTHESIS GROUP

Next Thursday, Aug. 22 will see the opening of the 24th annual Photosynthesis exhibition at ArtSpring, making it the longest continuous photography show in British Columbia.

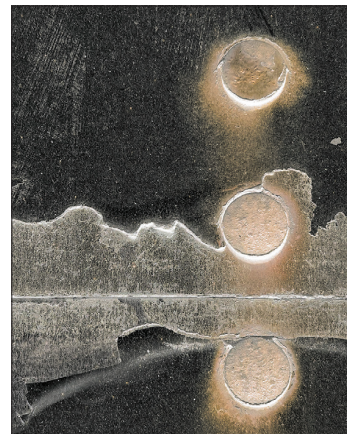
The Photosynthesis group is composed of 20 local photographers whose visual interpretations represent a wide range of subject matter. The core of the group has been together over the 24-year span expanding their skillful vision and techniques through practice and experience. Each year, two or three guests are invited, as well as a student photographer from Gulf Islands Secondary School, as a way to inject new energy into the group. Some of the most out-

standing works of photographic art have been placed on the walls of the ArtSpring Gallery, attracting visitors from near and far.

Here is an opportunity for lovers of the image to experience new and challenging visual art. Photosynthesis' lasting partnership with ArtSpring is a testament to the vision and purpose of our island's great arts centre resource.

This year's group includes: Birgit Freybe Bate-man, Alane Lalonde, Seth Berkowitz, Bernadette Mertens-McAllister, Alan Bibby, Larry Melious, John Denniston (guest artist), Amy Melious, Nirmal Dryden, Pierre Mineau, Howard Fry, Colton Prevost (guest artist), Christina Heinemann, Brian Purcell, Susan Huber, Anette Schrage, Avril Kirby, Julianna Slomka, Susan Kronick (guest artist), Michael Wall, Doug McMillin and Sophie Hermann (student artist).

An opening reception is set for Thursday, Aug. 22 from 5 to 7:30 p.m. The show will run daily from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. through Tuesday, Sept. 3.



PHOTOS COURTESY PHOTOSYNTHESIS

From left, Marimo, by Howard Fry; Rust, by Julianna Slomka, part of Photosynthesis 2024.

SUMMER OUTDOOR CONCERT SERIES

salt spring arts presents

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ARTS SUPPORT

SSNAP introduces Catalyst Grants

Wilding Foundation funds new program for local visual artists

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

In a significant boost to the local arts community, the Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) has announced the launch of its new Catalyst Grants program.

This initiative, made possible through the generous support of The Wilding Foundation, aims to empower visual artists in the Southern Gulf Islands by providing them with essential financial resources to complete ongoing projects and explore new creative ideas.

Over the next three years, SSNAP will allocate \$100,000 annually to fund these grants, with individual awards ranging from \$3,000 to \$10,000. The program is designed to support a diverse range of artistic practices, giving local artists the flexibility to pursue their creative visions without the financial constraints that often accompany artistic endeavours.

In addition to offering financial support, the Catalyst Grants also serve as a stepping stone for artists aspiring to participate in future SSNAP events. Grant

recipients will have the opportunity to develop and refine their work for submission to upcoming SSNAP competitions or contribute to SSNAP-related community activities. This initiative not only supports the growth of individual artists but also strengthens the broader artistic community within the Southern Gulf Islands.

Ethan Wilding of the Wilding Foundation explained the rationale for creating the Catalyst Grants program. Not only is the foundation deeply committed to nurturing the arts and creativity within the Salt Spring community, he said, but its members recognize "the profound impact that the arts have on our society."

"However, we also recognize that many talented artists often face significant financial barriers that can hinder their ability to fully realize their creative projects," said Wilding. "Through the Catalyst Grants program, The Wilding Foundation aims to alleviate these challenges by providing substantial financial support. This \$100,000 annual grant to the Salt Spring National Art Prize is designed to empower artists, giving them the essential resources they need to bring their visions to life and share them with the wider community."

"By investing in the arts, we are investing in the heart and soul of Salt Spring Island, ensuring that it remains a vibrant, dynamic place where creativity can flourish," he added. "This initiative is just one of the ways The Wilding Foundation seeks to make a lasting impact, encouraging artistic growth and excellence in our community."

Wilding said the foundation hopes to see several key outcomes from the grant program. Those include promotion of artistic excellence, enhanced visibility for artists, community engagement, economic impact and sustainability of the arts.

"Overall, The Wilding Foundation views its support of SSNAP through the Catalyst Grants as a crucial investment in the cultural and economic vitality of the community," he said.

The introduction of the Catalyst Grants program underscores SSNAP's ongoing commitment to fostering creativity and innovation in the visual arts. The Wilding Foundation's support has been instrumental in making this program a reality, reflecting their dedication to enriching the cultural landscape of the region.

A full program description and application form will be made available on the saltspringartprize.ca website.

Gulf Island Events .com

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GULF ISLANDS

Indigenous Art Demo
with Virgil Sampson
Aug 23, 12-3 pm
Mahon Hall

art craft

LIVE MUSIC

Final outdoor park concert set for Aug. 22

Kàrà-Kàtà Afrobeat Group
with Wesley Hardisty

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ARTS

Salt Spring Arts' final event of this year's Summer Outdoor Concert Series takes place next Thursday evening. Don't miss the last opportunity to take part in this vibrant program; bring loved ones and a picnic to Cen-

tennial Park at 6 p.m., and get ready to dance with island visitors and community members. This final concert features Kàrà-Kàtà Afrobeat Group with Wesley Hardisty.

Kàrà-Kàtà Afrobeat Group has been igniting the power of music, culture and unity since 2013. With 25 talented members strong, the vibrant collective is a testament to the transformative force of Afrobeat music and African culture. As a diverse, multicultural and multiethnic family, they embrace the rich

tapestry of Canada and Africa, welcoming all to join in their inclusive celebration.

Founded by Toyin Kayo-Ajayi, a Nigerian-born visionary inspired by the legendary Fela Kuti, their band is a beacon of community, social justice and joy. As part of a non-profit organization, the Kara-Kata Afrobeat Society of Canada, the group extends its impact through events, outreach and innovative projects like culturally appropriate food security initiatives in Canada and Africa. Their

purpose is clear: to unite, inspire, and share the beauty of African culture through music, dance and community connection.

Wesley Hardisty is a vibrant fiddle player, composer and collaborator from the Northwest Territories. He has performed nationally and internationally, at folk festivals and more. He also performed for Canada Scene and Northern Scene in Ottawa, and at the Vancouver 2010 Winter Olympics, and has two original albums and multiple commissions.

what's on this week

Wed. Aug. 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: The Sonic Cocktail: Suzanne Gay, Bruce Grey and Jim Shultz. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

Shelder the Electric Clamfish. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

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

Thur. Aug. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Synergy. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Summer Outdoor Concert Series: Daryl Chonka Band and Caraluna. Centennial Park. 6 to 8 p.m.

Bandidos. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Pitchfork Social: Eilen Jewell Band. The Jam Factory. 7:30 p.m. Check pitchforksocial.com for ticket availability.

Red Haven. Part of 10-year anniversary tour. Mateada. 8 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SSI Local Community Commission Meeting. SIMS CRD board room. 9 a.m.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Fri. Aug. 16

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Kim Churchill. Australian indie-folk-rock star. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guest is Justine Starke from the CRD on the Rural Housing Program. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 16

ACTIVITIES

Youth Games & Chess Club. For ages 9 to 13 in the library children's area. 1 to 4 p.m.

Salt Spring Toy Run Weekend. Gates open at the Farmers' Institute at 2 p.m.; music with Rough & Tumble and Salome Cullen begins at 5:30 p.m.

Naturopathic Approaches to Cancer. Free talk with Dr. Patrick Callas at Madrona Integrative Health. 2 to 3 p.m.

Bittancourt Museum. See Wed. listing.

Sat. Aug. 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Kurt Loewen. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Battle of The Bands: Rough and Tumble, H2O and Raven Barn Band. The Pirates are Coming! Costume event at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Hot Pants. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Kim Churchill. Second night for Australian indie-folk-rock star. Mateada. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Saturday Market. In Centennial Park. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Salt Spring Toy Run Weekend. Motorcycle ride registration opens at the Farmers' Institute at 9 a.m.; toy ride begins at 11 a.m. sharp; motorcycle games begin at 1 p.m.; music with Ashton Bachman and the Steph Rhodes Band at 5:30 p.m.

Sun. Aug. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Alan Moberg. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Ruckle House Museum. Open in Ruckle Park from 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. Aug. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Vixx. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Tues. Aug. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Gordo. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

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

Trivia Tuesday. Moby's Pub. 8:00 p.m.

Wed. Aug. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo. Kerry Graham, Baroque bassoon, and Martin Bonham, Baroque cello. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

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

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

Iain Duncan's Dinner Jazz. With Iain Duncan, sax, Nick Peck, organ, and Hans Verhoeven, drums. Mateada. 7 to 9 p.m. Doors open for dinner at 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Bittancourt Museum. See last Wed. listing.

Knit Purl Community. All knitters/crocheters welcome every third Wednesday of the month in the library program room. 5 to 7 p.m.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

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

CINEMA

• **Twisters** runs Wednesday-Thursday, Aug. 14-15 at 7 p.m. **Deadpool & Wolverine** is the movie from Friday, Aug. 16 to Thursday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **In the Garden Art Sale.** Original paintings, drawings, prints and cards by Amarah Gabriel and sculptures by Zosia Balc. Amarah Gabriel Studio, 270A Beddis Rd. Fri., Aug. 16 from 5 to 7 p.m.; Sat., Aug. 17 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.; and Sun., Aug. 18 from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

• **Rosie Schinners: A Place Called Home** is the Artcraft Showcase exhibition at Mahon Hall daily until Aug. 26.

• Aug. 14 is the last day to see **Cheryl Long: Recent Work** at Salt Spring Gallery.

• **Three Seconds – Recent Contemporary Fibre Work from Shannon Wardroper** opens Friday, Aug. 16 at Salt Spring Gallery, with a reception from 5 to 7 p.m., and continues through Sept. 4.

• **Her and Him Photography Show** – photographs by Gwen McDonald and Curt Firestone – runs in the library program room through August. They will discuss their work from noon to 3 p.m. on Saturdays, Aug. 17 and 24.

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

• **Don Hodgins** exhibits at Country Grocer Cafe for the month of August.

• **A Family of Trees**, photographs by Cherie Geauvreau, at the Salt Spring Laundr-O-Mat for the month of August.

• **Walletmoth** shows work done in collaboration with Potion Printing at Salt Spring Coffee Cafe until Sept. 9.

• **Heather Webb** exhibits this month at Dragonfly Art Supplies.

Salt Spring Toy Run

Aug. 16-18

SSI Farmers' Institute

See saltspringtoyrun.com for details

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ISLAND LIFE

FOOD SECURITY

Grow Local targets island's extra fruit crop

Initiative unites landowners, pickers and food programs

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A community food reclamation and sharing initiative has begun its second season on Salt Spring, establishing a new pillar program that hopes to "rescue" excess fruit from island trees.

"The harvesting has begun!" laughed Nick Jones, co-leader of Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust's (SSIFT) Grow Local initiative. "We've mostly been working with plums so far. There are a lot!"

Grow Local has a central goal of improving the community's connections to local food and the land, and for Jones and co-leader Polly Orr the focus lately has been on Salt Spring's Local Food Share program, consisting of the popular Sunday food exchange at The Root, a hosted produce drop-off effort, and now the Fruit Harvest.

"There is so much fruit that is grown on this island, and a lot of the pear, apple and plum trees from these heritage orchards don't get fully harvested," said Jones. "Some of these trees are so abundant, and the owners either don't have time or the energy."

SSIFT designed the program around volunteers interested in helping harvest, and coordinates with landholders interested in having their trees harvested.



PHOTO COURTESY SSIFT

Volunteer harvesters from Grow Local collect excess apples from a backyard tree near Walker's Hook using special picking poles.

"Then we go do it," said Jones. "We pick all the fruits, in a safe, responsible way. There's training so people know how to handle trees and pick properly."

The harvest is then shared — a third goes to the volunteer pickers, a third to the landowners and the remainder to community partners like Island Community Services (ICS), which runs the food bank, hamper program and community fridges. Jones said often the landowner doesn't need or want their third, which adds more to what's available for food programs. Jones said ICS ensures it gets distributed to people on the island who could use extra produce in their life.

"And we've booked a number of Sundays at the commercial kitchen at The Root," said Jones. "So our volunteers will be dehydrating, canning, juicing or turning things into apple pies."

With apologies for the pun, the Fruit Harvest program grew organically from last season's pilot program; the community members involved were helpfully offering suggestions throughout, Jones said.

"We were finding out what they wanted to see, what was missing, what needs weren't being met," said Jones. "What emerged from the conversations was the realization there was so much fruit people wanted to make sure was used. So we worked hard over the winter."

That effort involved acquiring funding — Jones credited

helpful sponsorships from the Victoria Foundation and Island Savings, through their community endowment fund — as well as making connections with a volunteer computer programmer who built the online logistics software to organize the harvests.

Notably, Jones said, SSIFT is also now a co-steward of the orchard at the oceanfront Bloom Castle by the Sea property, recently donated to Royal Roads University and representing some 100 fruit trees — and the potential for as much as 6,000 pounds of harvested fruit every year.

"And we've been blessed with some amazing people stepping forward," said Jones, "including the team at SSIFT, who are all pitching in, from marketing to making sure apples get into the walk-in cooler."

Jones said the current group of about 15 to 20 volunteer harvesters would love to grow; the summer apples are beginning to come in, and people have been reaching out about harvests in September and October. And anyone with more produce than they can handle should reach out as well.

"We would love to hear from people, whether you have a tree that could be harvested or a garden that's too abundant and you don't want that food to go to waste," said Jones.

To register your trees, or volunteer to help harvest, visit ssifarmlandtrust.org/foodshare.

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