

inside:



12 Salt Spring Slasher on this weekend



7 Peter Prince CD release concert at All Saints



2 LCC looks to acquire Phoenix school access

Arts and Entertainment..... 7
Classifieds 10
Editorial 4
Island Life 9
Letters 5
Sports & Rec 11
What's On 8

INSERTS:
• Country Grocer
• Pharmasave
• The Local Liquor St.
• Thrifty Foods



Driftwood

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PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

SANTA AND HIS HELPERS: Taking a break during Salt Spring Toy Run events at the Farmers' Institute grounds on Saturday are, from left, Sidney Dudley, Shelby Gardner, Santa (a.k.a. Kerry Butler, a long-time participant), Christie Darlin, Noella Fraser and Jackie Gardner. See Page 6 and gulfislandsdriftwood.com for more photos.

PORTLOCK PARK

Draft park plan approved

Compromise sees both oval track and senior ball field among amenities

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After multiple rounds of public engagement, and several trips back to the literal drawing board, Salt Spring's Portlock Park has an approved draft plan, one officials say includes both a senior ball field and a large oval track — and, hopefully, reflects the needs of the community within the physical constraints of the island's available park land.

"I just want to start with saying I've been given a four-seater car and asked to put six people in it," laughed Salt Spring Island administration acting senior manager Dan Ovington, who brought the plan once again before the Local Community Commission (LCC) Thursday, Aug. 15.

But following months of consultation, the draft master plan has seemingly found support among not only the LCC, who voted unanimously to advance it, but the various stakeholder groups — from runners to walkers to pickleball players to baseball teams — who weighed in.

PORTLOCK continued on 2

SSIFR

Overnight structure fire extinguished

Cause of Wright
Road fire not yet
determined

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A speedy response up an out-of-the-way Salt Spring Island road helped keep a structure fire contained, according to officials, who said crews were able to put out a dark-and-stormy-night fire before it spread.

Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue (SSIFR) crews were paged at 12:33 a.m. on Sunday, Aug. 18, in the midst of a major thunder and lightning storm, for a report of a structure fire at a Wright Road address. The first crew inside found a strong smell of smoke on the main floor, according to SSIFR Capt. Warren Nuyens, and saw smoke coming out of the crawlspace vents.

Firefighters then entered the crawlspace to look for flames. "The crews had no visibility," said Nuyens, adding that

heavy smoke was encountered from floor to ceiling. A thermal imaging camera was employed, he said, and the fire was found to be extending up into the floor joists.

"A two-firefighter attack crew extinguished the fire, using 350 gallons of water," said Nuyens. "The fire was knocked down at 1:06 a.m. Pretty good win for the crew there."

Firefighters remained at the scene, Nuyens said, venting the structure and checking to ensure there was no spread.

The cause of the fire has not yet been determined.

Despite rain from the recent storm — and a reduction in the forest fire danger level to "low" on Salt Spring Island as of Monday — a ban on outdoor burning persists; current conditions and burn prohibitions can be viewed at saltspringfire.com. For updates on events that could pose a risk to property or public safety, Nuyens suggested following both SSIFR and the Salt Spring Island Emergency Program on social media.

Zen Master Wolfgang says:

"If you kicked the person responsible for your troubles, you would not be able to sit."

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LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSION

LCC seeks lease at former Phoenix school

Small groups interested in using property could be coordinated

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's largest elected body hopes to take on the lease at a former school owned by the Gulf Islands School District (SD64) and has directed staff to express its interest in the building and facilities at 163 Drake Road — the shuttered Phoenix Elementary School property.

The Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC) rose from a closed meeting Thursday, Aug. 15 to report it would be responding to SD64's request for proposals at the Phoenix site, which last saw students in 2023. Phoenix Elementary closed due to declining enrolment and had been operating at a budget deficit, according to district officials.

The LCC's plan is to preserve the use of the building for various community groups without over-taxing their individual resources, commissioners said. Despite

a large interest in the space, the ability for any of Salt Spring's smaller organizations to handle consistent rent to the district for the entire property had been seen as a challenge. LCC chair Earl Rook told the Driftwood over the weekend that commissioners viewed the Phoenix property as being much like the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) — the former middle school now operated by the CRD as a community centre.

"It's a valuable community asset that has become surplus to the needs of the school district," said Rook, "and the CRD has the resources to manage it in a way that makes it available to the community for multiple uses."

Rook said there would be extensive discussion on options to best use the space should the district agree to enter into a lease agreement with the CRD — and noted commissioners were still in "very early stages" of development for the project.

"While a number of ideas have arisen, we will be seeking input from community groups before any final decisions on use are made," he said, noting the Phoenix parcel's extensive outdoor space and limited indoor area — a contrast to the SIMS property. "Stay tuned."



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Phoenix school on Drake Road in 2023. The alternate-program K-8 school did not open last September due to budget constraints and low enrolment.

BC POLITICS

Candidate petition launched

Greens' nomination process criticized

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Salt Spring Island resident who was disqualified from the BC Green Party candidate nomination race in the Saanich North and the Islands (SNI) riding is demanding she be reinstated on the ballot and another vote held.

Amy Haysom was one of three individuals nominated to run for the Greens in SNI position in this fall's provincial election. In a press release issued Monday, Haysom said she had garnered significant support when her name was removed from the party ballot less than an hour before voting began on Aug. 2, "with the party citing unspecified complaints" having been received about her.

Robert Botterell of Pender Island was ultimately named the SNI candidate after receiving more votes from local riding Green Party members than North Saanich resident Stuart MacKinnon, and after Haysom's appeal of the decision was denied.

Haysom has launched a petition to recall the candidate nomination contest, reinstate herself on the SNI ballot and hold another vote by or before Sept. 6. She said if the petition is not successful she may consider legal action against the party.

Haysom can be reached at amyhaysomyoga@gmail.com for more information.

In an Aug. 12 statement, the BC Greens said, "The disqualification arose as a result of new confidential information being brought to the attention of the Returning Officer that resulted in a reconsideration of the party's willingness to support Ms. Haysom as a potential candidate," and added that "The Returning Officer was satisfied the disqualification was appropriate."

Hydro field upgrade also slated

PORTLOCK

continued from 1

Part of that solution stemmed from an awareness, to continue Ovington's metaphor, that there were other cars available to drive; approving the master plan for Portlock Park came alongside amending one for the Rainbow Recreation Centre site, specifically removing the planned covered multisport court there and adding six pickleball courts instead.

"Pickleball was very enthusiastic as long as they had six courts," said Ovington. "It didn't matter as much to them where they were."

And, Ovington pointed out, the loss of the covered multisport court will be less impactful given the existence of the Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS).

"When that plan was developed, we didn't have SIMS, we didn't have an indoor gym," he said. "I'd argue we've already created an indoor multisport court that accommodates all those users and more — we have kinder gym, basketball, indoor pickleball; we have badminton, floor hockey, soccer uses. The list goes on and on."

The approval of a master plan is important, Ovington said, not only because it offers direction but also shows community support that can be demonstrated to potential funding partners.

In addition to the senior ball field and

oval track, the draft as approved adds storage and field lighting at Portlock Park.

As for other park properties — the other "cars" on Salt Spring Island — Ovington reported islanders would see some work happening this fall at 160 Rainbow Rd., the so-called hydro field, although mostly some levelling of the field and removal of excess material. The field is slated for upgrading for ball field sports.

"There's a bit of a drastic lift there where we want to put the ball field, so that needs to be brought down," said Ovington. "And we're discussing what material we want to use to bring things up; there's not water irrigation, so sand's not the best solution, even though there's a drainage issue there. So it's a balance."

Funding is in place for that project, between a \$300,000 donation and \$50,000 in capital reserve funding allocated — a "tight" budget for what's planned, Ovington said, but certainly doable.

"But that's why we've been going somewhat slow," he said, "to get the most that we can for what we have."

There had previously been funding set aside for detailed drawings for the field at Fernwood Elementary School, but it was redirected when a private donation came in specifically for the hydro field. Once that project advances, Ovington said, staff plan to revisit detailed designs for the field at Fernwood.



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HARBOURS

LCC eyes harbour services

Expansion of Small Craft Harbour Facilities could help liveaboards, says commissioner

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's elected officials are taking a hard look at delivering services to liveaboards in Ganges Harbour — or, at a minimum, getting a better understanding of what services they already provide.

Local Community Commission (LCC) member Brian Webster brought a report to the group Thursday, Aug. 15 on his participation in an April workshop called Collaborative Action to Resolve Boat-Related Issues in the Capital Region, put on by the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Environmental Protection Division.

For regional officials, that mouthful of a meeting linked the proliferation of mooring buoys to the growing number of derelict vessels within the CRD, and prompted directors to start considering whether a regional harbour service — and tax — might be warranted.

But on Salt Spring, Webster argued, local government is already providing services for people who live on moored vessels, particularly in Ganges — and might do more. Webster noted the CRD, through services delegated to the LCC, already provides some services to those living on the water in Ganges Harbour — although indirectly, through the Parks and Recreation service. Webster pointed to the washroom and water fountain at Centennial Park, which are available to anyone, including liveaboard residents who come ashore.

"We have a dock for small boats for people who go back and forth," he said, referring to the Rotary dock, "and despite some claims on social media, we also have garbage facilities — although limited and less at some times of year than others — in Rotary and Centennial parks."

Webster proposed the LCC assess whether those services would be "more appropriately" funded through the commission's relatively unknown Small Craft Harbour Facilities Service, one of several brought under LCC jurisdiction when it was established in 2023. That service is most commonly called the "Fernwood Dock Service," referring to the 400-foot no-services transient dock on the northeast side of Salt Spring Island.

"For whatever reason, we've quite carefully constrained it to only talk about the Fernwood Dock," said Webster. "But in fact, service potentially could go way beyond that."

Indeed, while the establishment bylaw for the Small Craft Harbour Facilities Service sets a maximum annual requisition of 5 cents per \$1,000 property value tax rate — or \$162,800, whichever is greater — the service in recent years has reflected a fraction of that cost, with \$53,000 set aside in the CRD's 2023 final Salt Spring Island Electoral Area Capital Plan.

And, Webster argued, even without increasing the tax burden, allocating dollars appropriately is better governance; he told commissioners he would likely argue at a minimum for shifting some funds from Parks and Recreation to the Small Craft Harbour Facilities Service — "putting more dollars in that budget so it can actually contribute toward the services Parks and Rec were already providing."

Webster gave notice he would be making a motion to get discussion of the topic onto the agenda for a future meeting, likely in October.

"We need to talk about it and see if we can find some kind of consensus — because if we don't, the CRD machine is going to just roll on," said Webster. "We are the CRD, but we are CRD Salt Spring; if we want to make sure that our community's needs and priorities are fully accounted for, we need to have conversations about it."

AGRICULTURE

Rooster issue prompts town hall

LCC on eggshells around bylaw controversy

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) has decided to open its doors for a town hall meeting to discuss "island agriculture" and "animal control bylaws" — likely only recognized as hot-button topics under the community's understanding that what they really mean is "roosters."

And while technically anyone can talk about anything at a town hall, with what qualifies here as a high-profile court case scheduled to wrap up this week, it's likely that any public forum after would be dominated by "the rooster issue" — a community disagreement seemingly exemplified by the court case of island resident Clint McNichol.

At press time McNichol still faced five counts of bylaw infractions related to poultry, having been charged with keeping livestock on his property — specifically a rooster — contrary to a Capital Regional District (CRD) noise bylaw requiring animals in most places on Salt Spring be kept in a manner that does not disturb the "quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of other property owners in the vicinity."

Two of what had been seven charges had been stayed July 8, according to court documents, which also indicated a resolution to the case would emerge Thursday, Aug. 22. Having been advised by legal counsel to avoid all but general discussion while the case was pend-

ing, the LCC is now setting the stage for what it hopes will be a "Salt Springers talking with Salt Springers" meeting on the broader topic in September.

Commissioner Brian Webster, who on Thursday, Aug. 15 brought the motion to plan the meeting, admitted he had worded the motion deliberately, but had no plans to limit discussion to roosters or noise bylaws — quite the opposite, in fact.

"If somebody stands up and wants to talk about pickleball, so be it," said Webster. "But people who are concerned about this particular issue have been told for six months that we can't talk about this. So I absolutely want to explicitly say to our community that they finally have an opportunity to talk about this, talk about these bylaws, and talk about Salt Spring's needs and character and how it's affected."

"I would suggest that if we were to have an open town hall meeting after a decision is reached, people will come to talk about it," agreed LCC chair Earl Rook. "It's inevitable that it would be the most popular subject of the night."

The LCC technically has no power on its own to change the CRD's noise bylaws or how they are enforced; its delegated authority is limited. Commissioners have previously said the LCC's role could be to bring a sense of the Salt Spring community's desires regarding any such bylaws outside its direct purview to the CRD Board, as a matter of general advocacy.

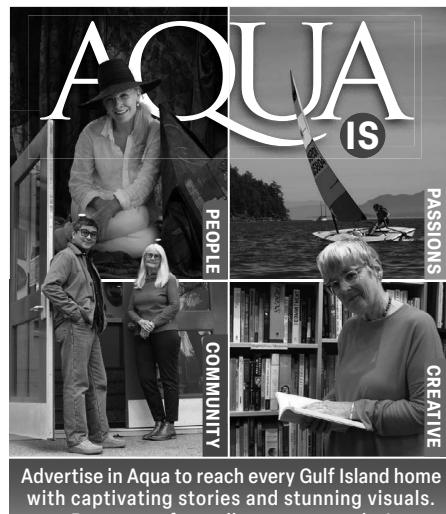
"I'm not pretending for one second that we control bylaws," said Webster. "But we absolutely have a responsibility to address issues that affect

the economic sustainability of our island. There's a community interest, and because it touches on our responsibilities it's completely appropriate for us to have these discussions."

Rules for town hall meetings do not allow the LCC to act — to pass motions as they could during a regular meeting — but commissioners felt it would be the best format to listen and have community dialogue, which they hoped would remain constructive.

"That'll be our job," said LCC member and CRD director Gary Holman. "To help make sure people are being respectful, and that if there are opposing views that people feel safe in expressing them — to make sure we're listening to one another."

A date and location for the September town hall will be set soon, according to staff.



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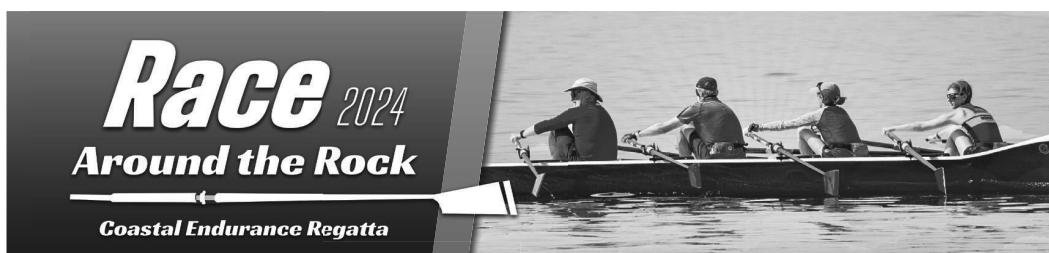
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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Phoenix rising

Even during (mostly) grown-up government meetings, the halls of the former middle school often ring yet with the sound of children's laughter.

Since the Capital Regional District (CRD) entered into a lease agreement on the the acronym-consistent Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) building in 2022, the community centre has happily become home to many groups of grown-ups, from Transition Salt Spring to the CRD's local emergency program. Yet from music to dance to circus to roller skating, we also see young people utilizing the classroom and courtyard spaces that once held island students.

So as Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) — itself meeting in a former SIMS classroom — considers the potential to take over the operation and management of the former Phoenix Elementary School property, we imagine how a very different property may soon see a similar transformation, and remain curious whether youth will find a place there.

Unlike the larger SIMS, the former Phoenix Elementary School is a converted two-storey home; 163 Drake Road as it sits features just one classroom, plus some storage and office space. Outside lies a portable classroom and playground, adjacent to a garden and basketball court; the majority of the nearly seven-acre site is undeveloped.

The Gulf Islands School District (SD64) has said it expects its lessor(s) to provide a monthly (or annual) payment to fully cover operating and maintenance costs — including utilities and insurance — for a period of one to five years. Without knowing the extent of that financial burden, it's difficult to imagine how that might be split among several groups too small to utilize extant space at SIMS.

SD64, in its first call for proposals in early summer, said it would prioritize organizations that demonstrated "a direct benefit to children and families"; even then, it said it would be open to a single organization taking the lead and then subleasing parts of the space to other groups with similar objectives.

Dreams of a new operation with PHOENIX as its acronym aside, we trust that as negotiations continue and options for the "new" space are considered, the LCC will keep in mind the needs of a diverse island community — including, we hope, those children and families.

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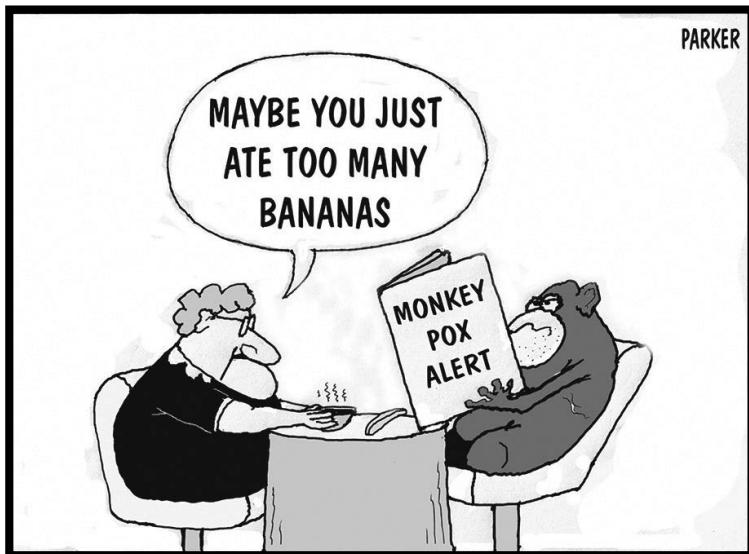
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Gold - Community Service Award



PARKER

How much tax is enough?

BY COLIN ROSS

The recent capital gains tax increase from 50 to 66 per cent by the Liberal government in Ottawa has been accepted by most Canadians with remarkable equanimity.

It is always politically popular to increase taxes on the "rich," whether or not a particular change makes sense. To better understand the issue of tax fairness, it is essential to know how much of the total tax revenue collected by governments in Canada is paid by high-income earners.

Canada Revenue Agency statistics published in 2011 still provide a reasonable guide to how our system operates. That year, 25.1 million Canadians filed tax returns. Of that number:

1. 8.4 million, or one third of them, paid no income tax;

2. The top one per cent who reported income over \$250,000 (203,000 people) paid 20 per cent of federal and provincial income tax;

3. The top 6.6 per cent with income over \$100,000 paid 47 per cent of all federal and provincial income tax.

This may seem reasonable to many of us: the wealthy should pay a greater share of the total tax burden. It is one of the reasons why social democracies work.

Why is there any tax exemption for capital gains in the first place? Why not tax all gain as ordinary income? It is obvious when we understand how our free enterprise system works. The 7.6 per cent of our tax filers, who pay 67 per cent of total federal and provincial taxes, are the same people who invest in the businesses and corporations that drive our economy. They therefore create much of the wealth that funds our social programs, our military and all other government expenditures, as well as most of our

VIEWPOINT

jobs. Previous federal governments in Canada understood the vital importance of capital investment in our country, and set up the partial capital gains exemption to encourage it. It is difficult to estimate how great the negative effect this recent change will be, but in a country already plagued by low productivity, it is certainly the last thing we need.

To illustrate how ill-conceived this policy change is, there is one immediate sad effect, which could have been avoided. Part of the capital gains tax change removes private corporations from any benefit under the exemption rules. Most Canadian doctors will suffer immediate negative financial impact because they operate their practices by forming a company, and will lose all exemptions under the new rules. You can be sure that many will choose to leave for greener pastures. So at a time when our medical care system is in crisis, when many Canadians do not even have a family physician, the Trudeau Liberal government, backed by the NDP, brings in a tax change that makes it more difficult for doctors to make a living in Canada. How could they fail to anticipate this unintended consequence of their tax change? Unfortunately, it is another example of the incompetence that Canadians have come to expect from our federal government.

No doubt when the Canada Revenue Agency provides current figures, we will see that high-income earners in Canada are paying an even bigger percentage of total tax revenues than they were in 2011. The "tax and spend" policies of the Liberal government during the last eight years make this a virtual certainty, and raises the question of what percentage is fair and reasonable in our modern social democracy. How much is enough?

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you like the proposed Portlock Park master plan? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you buy goods at local farmstands?



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ISLAND VOICES

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED:

How do you prevent food waste from going in the garbage at home?

This Salt Spring Says is part of the Lighter Living initiative presented by Transition Salt Spring.

DAWN HADLER



“

We compost at home.

PAULA GUILBAULT



I buy small amounts at a time, I shop weekly and only buy more when we run out.

KELLY NAULT



I buy a lot less, plan ahead, but if I am missing something I figure out how to cook without it. I try to be mindful of eating. If you don't prioritize eating you will not prioritize food waste.

BRENT & EMMETT FAULKINS



We compost so food goes back into the garden, and I eat a lot of leftovers for lunch.

“

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. For details about deadlines, and word limits for the Viewpoint and other longer opinion pieces, contact the editor at the email address below, or phone 250-537-9933. All submissions may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are asked to provide a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign letters with their full name. Letters published do not necessarily reflect the views of Driftwood Publishing Ltd., its staff or advertisers. Send letters to: news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

LETTERS to the editor

Nauseating

What a shameful calamity was Hannah Brown's depiction of Israel's assault on Gaza in last week's paper. Irrespective of the rights or wrongs of this lopsided so-called war, it is an undeniable fact that more than 40,000 Palestinians have died against fewer than 1,800 Israelis.

She goes on to compare the few displaced Israeli children with the thousands of young Palestinians who have been slaughtered in the Jewish state's relentless holocaust. For Brown to effectively say, "So what, they're all probably Hamas anyway," and then turn any criticism of Israel's ruinous massacres fed by the United States' bottomless war coffers into the usual "antisemitism" trope was truly nauseous.

There is quite simply nothing antisemitic about the very polite and perfectly reasonable pro-Palestinian protests on Salt Spring of an ongoing massacre. It was fed by concern for two million peaceful citizens of Gaza who are being systematically slaughtered while their homes, schools and hospitals are ground to dust.

It shames me to say it, but Israel seems to have taken a page from the Waffen SS massacre of Warsaw's Wola district in which 40,000 Poles were systematically slaughtered. The difference then was that Nazi soldiers killed hospital patients in their beds. The Israel Defense Forces, meanwhile, use 21st-century weapons supplied by the U.S. to the same end.

PAUL MCELROY,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

“I just want to start with saying I've been given a four-seater car and asked to put six people in it.”

DAN OVINGTON, ACTING SR. MANAGER, SSI ADMINISTRATION, ON NEW PORTLOCK PARK MASTER PLAN

An offering of revolutionary love to community

BY EVA PESKIN

I submit this writing as a practice of Toch-echa (loving rebuke). I invoke this Jewish name for a concept shared by many traditions of offering critique when someone is missing the mark as an act of radical love.

In fact, according to Vayikra (Leviticus) 19:17, I am obligated to provide feedback when I perceive wrongdoing by none other than HaShem (the ineffable expression of the divine conversation among self, earth and cosmos often represented in English as "God"). As James Baldwin put it, "If I love you, I have to make you conscious of the things you don't see."

Every day for the last 10 and a half months, I have seen parents rocking in grief over the bodies of their children wrapped in small white shrouds. I have seen children trembling in hallways of hospitals in shock from airstrikes, screaming as their limbs are amputated without anaesthesia, thousands now carrying the horrific designation "WCNSF" (Wounded Child-No Surviving Family). Over the weekend, the Gaza Health Ministry reported the first confirmed case of polio in a 10-month-old child after Israel's utter destruction of Gaza's health, hygiene and waste management infrastructure has produced the conditions for an epidemic.

This is only a tiny fraction of the devastation currently unfolding as the so-called civilized Western world will not stop sending the perpetrators of these atrocities weapons, nor implement the ruling of the International Court of Justice, which on July 19 declared Israel an apartheid state, illegally occupying Palestinian territory, and demanded that all states party to the court cease supplying Israel material support immediately.

Meanwhile, self-described Zionists on Salt Spring and around the world antagonize and demean those of us who take a public stand against this nightmare. Maybe you did not see me at the Pride march a few weeks ago. Maybe your attachment to Zion-

ist outrage prevented you from entertaining the possibility that there might be Jews chanting "Intifada, revolution!" and "Land Back" alongside our Palestinian and Indigenous comrades. (Intifada is an Arabic word that means to shake off one's oppressor, the same word used in Arabic to describe the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising.) Maybe the propaganda upon which Zionism is built has confused you about the distinction between Zionism and Judaism, such that you cannot see how (dare I say) antisemitic it is to erase Jews who don't conform to your worldview.

But Zionism is not Judaism. Judaism is a pluralistic, multi-thousand-year-old religious and cultural tradition with a wide variety of expressions throughout a diaspora that spans every continent. Zionism originated among European Christians in the 16th century, based in the belief that Jews who refused to convert and assimilate needed to be expelled from Christian Europe. Currently, the largest demographic of Zionists are Evangelical Christians, who believe Jews must be returned to the holy land to usher in the apocalypse, when all the heathens burn in hell on earth while the true believers ascend to heaven in the rapture. Just ask Pastor John Hagee, president of Christians United For Israel, a U.S.-based organization boasting more than 10 million members (there are only about 15.5 million Jews of all political/theological persuasions worldwide). Hagee has said that Jews caused the Holocaust and Hitler was sent by God to help create the state of Israel. He was celebrated as a keynote speaker at the "March For Israel" rally in November in Washington, D.C.

Zionism caught on as a Jewish nationalist movement in the late 19th century in reaction to European antisemitism. Founders of the Zionist political project openly described their aims in terms of colonization, explicitly predicated on the dispossession of Palestinians from their land with the help of Western imperial powers, summed up by Israel's

hurtful but also deeply unsettling, creating an environment that felt unwelcoming and divisive. Such displays deter visitors like myself from ever wanting to return, as they undermine the inclusive and neutral atmosphere that markets should strive to maintain. This experience has left a lasting negative impression, making it difficult to imagine visiting the market again.

I am aware that the market is reevaluating its signage policy. However, I would agree that the urgency of this issue is far too important. If a vendor was displaying a swastika, would the market organizers not intervene and take action?

SHARON TENENBAUM,
VANCOUVER

MORE OPINION [continued on 6](#)

first Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in his diary in 1937: "the compulsory transfer of the Arabs from the valleys of the projected Jewish State . . . We have to stick to this conclusion the same way we grabbed the Balfour Declaration, more than that, the same way we grabbed at Zionism itself." The Balfour Declaration of 1917 was the arrangement by the British ruling class to seize the land of Palestine and "give" it to the Zionists to colonize. Notably, the only Jewish member of parliament at the time, Edwin Montagu, decried the declaration as antisemitic, a means to isolate and expel Jews from Britain.

But there was another conversation happening among European Jews at this time, anchored in the concept of doikay, a Yiddish word that translates to "hereness." Opposed to the "thereness" of Zionism, doikay was a rallying cry for the Bundists, the Jewish labour movement which believed that their home was where they lived and their struggle was against fascism alongside their neighbours who were also oppressed by capitalism and imperialism. Doikay meant pride in Yiddish culture and language, joy in welcoming the stranger, and determination to stand up for the most vulnerable. Zionism sells Jews a self-annihilating story: You are small, weak, alone. Your neighbours will turn on you and no one will come to rescue you. You must destroy your enemies before they destroy you.

My commitment to opposing Zionism is unshakeable, as it comes from the deepest self-love. I believe we can choose to be on the side of life, standing with the people of the global majority, fighting to end oppression, taking responsibility for what is ours to repair. I believe we all belong in Olam Haba, the world to come.

The writer is a Salt Spring Jewish community member who has a Ph.D. and experience as a teacher, movement researcher and community-based art maker.

SLOW RIDER



PHOTO BY ROB LOWRIE

Joe Barrett from Nanaimo drives a Harley Davidson 98 Dyna Convertible on his way to winning the Slow Rider prize in the motorcycle games portion of the Salt Spring Toy Run weekend. Some 70 bikes from on- and off-island participated in the actual Saturday, Aug. 17 ride around the island, with hundreds of people enjoying live music, games, refreshments and food at the Farmers' Institute — thanks to about 40 volunteers — all while raising funds and toys for Santa's Workshop this year.

History and beliefs distorted

BY ANTHONY ISSA

Last week's "Local Gaza protesting decried" piece in the Gulf Islands Driftwood by Hannah Brown defamed Palestinians, Arabs and Islam. The piece perpetuated many harmful tropes and distorted the history of Palestine.

Brown's narrative is unfortunately not unique, it is part of a wider effort to erase the historical struggles of the Palestinian people to undermine their legitimate claim to their lands. I will focus here on addressing her ahistorical claims and remarks that constitute anti-Palestinian racism, as defined by the Arab Canadian Lawyers Association.

To begin, Brown misleadingly claims that the Qur'an does not mention Palestine, while the Christian New Testament is set in Israel and the Hebrew Bible is filled with references to Israel and Judea. However, the term "Palestine" has a long history in the region. Its earliest recorded use dates to 1150 BCE in Egyptian hieroglyphics, where the land was referred to as "Peleset." In fact, contrary to Brown's beliefs surrounding Christian canon, the King James Bible translated the term Peleset to Palestine.

The historical ties to the name go even deeper. In the 5th century BCE, Herodotus referred to a district of Syria called "Palaistinē." During the Mutasarifate of Jerusalem in the late Ottoman period, the area was also commonly referred to as Palestine. During the British Mandate of Palestine, the term was officially revived and used to denote the territory under British administration following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire. The issuance of coinage,

IN RESPONSE

stamps and passports bearing the name "Palestine" during this period further solidified its geographical significance.

Despite the absence of a formal administrative region called Palestine under Ottoman rule, the term was widely used to describe the region inhabited by Palestinians. The name has also been used by various civilizations, including the Greeks, Romans and Ottomans, to describe the region encompassing modern-day Israel, the West Bank and Gaza.

It should be clear that "Palestine" is not a modern invention but a historical term that has existed in the region for a good part of recorded human history. Hannah Brown's imaginative geography and armchair analysis of history and religion seems to construct the region of the Levant and the Holy Land not as it is but rather in a way that is sympathetic to the modern, colonial State of Israel — and to be clear, colonization was the preferred word of many of the fathers of Zionism, including Vladimir Jabotinsky, who said, "Zionism is a colonization adventure."

I take particular issue with Brown's use of biblical stories to justify Israel's ongoing occupation and system of apartheid against Palestinians in occupied territories. Using misleading interpretations of the Bible to downplay Israeli military actions in the almost 11-month-long siege of the Gaza Strip that has killed over 40,000 Palestinians is both morally repugnant and intellectually dishonest.

By the 20th century, Palestinian identity rose dramatically. Palestinians sought self-determination in response to colonialism and the rise of Arab nationalism. The UN Partition Plan of 1947, although never fully realized, recognized the Palestinian people's right to statehood, a right that continues to be obstructed primarily by the ongoing occupation of Israel and international reluctance on the issue.

On the question of anti-Palestinian racism, Brown portrays Muslims as inherently violent, and Israel and its Western allies as inherently peaceful. Her statement questioning whether those killed by the Israeli military in the strip are truly civilians stereotypes Palestinians as deceitful and inherently violent, as well as not deserving of basic human rights protections. This blatant dehumanization also suggests that Palestinian civilians are indistinguishable from terrorists, rationalizing the collective punishment of the Gazan population who are under a brutal siege.

In short, Brown's article is a clear example of anti-Palestinian racism, dismissing the severity of the violence inflicted on Palestinians and denying their suffering. I implore her and others who prescribe to this distorted belief of the region and its history to engage with balanced narratives in the region rather than perpetuate the age-old Orientalism used against a marginalized community.

The writer is a Montreal-based journalist and media analyst at Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East.

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MUSICAL PROJECTS

Prince CD launch concert set



PHOTO BY AMY MELIUS

Salt Spring singer-songwriter, filmmaker and videographer Peter Prince, whose eighth album of original music – Born to Fly – was released this spring.

Born to Fly celebrated at All Saints church on Sunday, Aug. 25

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Longtime Salt Spring Island resident, musician and filmmaker Peter Prince released his eighth album earlier this year, and is ready to share the songs in a concert at All Saints by-the-Sea church on Sunday, Aug. 25.

Born to Fly, Prince's first CD of original acoustic folk-roots music in several years, celebrates the spirit of the Gulf Islands and of other places he has visited and loved, including Bhutan and Tonga.

"Prince mines the depths of the human heart for real truth," states CD promotional material. "Meaning and story emerge in his cross-cultural musical journeys, striking emo-

tional chords that resonate deeply with listeners."

Song subjects range from the deeply personal — including the lively Feels so Fine, written for his daughter Sappho and her husband Tyler for their 2019 wedding at Beaver Point Hall — to the political in songs like Drowning Dreamers, which calls for world peace, or in Make A Difference, which uses a distinctly poetic voice to urge the next generation to address climate change.

All songs were written and recorded by Prince at his Salt Spring Island studio, with Prince on vocals, guitar, piano and harmonica. A star-studded cast of musical friends contributed their talents on one or more Born to Fly tracks. They are: bass player Ian Van Wyck, Laurent Boucher (drums, percussion), Brent Shindell (acoustic and electric guitar), Bruce Everett (flute, harmonica), Bruce Cameron (percussion), Henry Boudin (saxophone), Tara MacLean (background vocals), George Crotty (cello), Doug Cox (dobro guitar), Kenn Faris (mandolin), Sivalala (background vocals), Lorne Burns (drums) and Jane Phillips (cello). The CD was mastered at Greg Pauker's Sculptor Systems studio.

For this Sunday's concert at All Saints, Prince will be joined by Van Wyck on bass, Dave Rowse (tenor sax, bass clarinet), Wesley Hardisty (violin, fiddola), David Storm (piano) and Sivalala (backing vocals). Music begins at 6 p.m.

Tickets are available online through artspring.ca or the box office at 250-537-2102.

Born to Fly and Prince's other CDs can be purchased at his Saturday Market booth and the Artcraft gallery shop at Mahon Hall. Streaming is available through his website: peterprince.ca.

Prince has also directed documentary films such as Bhutan – The Kind Kingdom, about endangered black cranes; and his first film — ReDiscovery: The Eagle's Gift, which was filmed in Haida Gwaii and narrated by Bill Reid. He has also produced soundtracks for film and TV.

LIVE MUSIC

Simon Millerd and Woodland on stage at next Tea à Tempo

Eclectic mix of genres promised from talented ensemble

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

On Wednesday, Aug. 28, the Music Makers group welcomes Simon Millerd and Woodland — a funky, soul-slinging fusion jam group of four friends local to Salt Spring Island — to the Tea à Tempo stage.

What started at a sauna on Woodland Drive quickly morphed into a light-hearted yet driven powerhouse of diligent and dedicated musicians. Eclectic and diverse influences from rock, funk, soul, jazz and blues come together to form an original home-grown sound.

Woodland features Simon Millerd on

trumpet, Alex Pinto on guitar, Atom Lazare on drums, Justin Kelley on guitar and special guest Geoff McFarlane on bass.

The concert at All Saints by-the-Sea church on Park Drive begins at 2:10 p.m.

Entrance is by donation, with funds providing the honoraria for performers and contributing to the running of the Tea à Tempo series, which runs each Wednesday in summer months and once a month through the rest of the year.

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

So bring a friend or visitor to the Island, enjoy a funky, soul-slinging fusion of Salt Spring-inspired musicians' jam, and then have a delicious treat and enjoy some socializing afterwards.

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ARTSPRING

Met Opera leads new season

Plus launch event Aug. 29

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

The passion, splendour and emotion of opera returns to ArtSpring for the 2024/25 season with tickets for five Live in HD transmissions from the Metropolitan Opera available as of this week.

Last season saw a notable increase in Salt Springers' attendance as those in the know, and those new to know, discovered the tradition of Saturday mornings, warm intermission quiche service and the powerful cinematic experience of attending the world's most renowned opera house in real time with audiences in New York and around the world.

The season opens with the Oct. 5 performance of Offenbach's *Les Contes d'Hoffmann*, starring acclaimed French tenor Benjamin Bernheim in the title role of the tormented poet.

New stagings of Strauss's psychological *Salomé* with cast led by South African soprano Elza van den Heever and Swedish baritone Peter Mattei, and Verdi's Egyptian epic *Aida*, with American soprano Angel Blue and Polish tenor Piotr Beczala, are much-anticipated events.

The first-ever Met transmission of *Fidelio*, Beethoven's only opera, features Norwegian superstar soprano Lise Davidsen, and Rossini's *Il Barbiero di Siviglia* showcases opera's newest star, Russian mezzo-soprano Aigul Akhmetshina, returning to the Met after her hit run last season in Bizet's *Carmen*.

Met Opera tickets precede the roll-out to ArtSpring's 2024/25 Season Launch Event on Thursday, Aug. 29, which promises to give attendees a sneak peek of the season's record 37 performances in what is being called "the most culturally diverse, captivating, and colourful season yet." The event is from 4 to 6 p.m. and free to attend.

Season tickets for members go on sale Sept. 3 and tickets for the general public on Sept. 10.

what's on this week

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.

ACTIVITIES

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

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

Thur. Aug. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Atom Lazare Quintet. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Summer Outdoor Concert Series: Kára-Káta Afrobeat Group, with opener Wesley Hardisty. Centennial Park. 6 to 8 p.m.

Pitchfork Social: Willie Watson. The Jam Factory. 7:30 p.m. Check pitchforksocial.com for ticket availability.

Open Mic & Jam. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Thur. Aug. 22

ACTIVITIES

Going Buggy! Make bug snacks, sing bug songs, hunt for bugs, observe aquatic insects and make a bug craft to take home. For children aged 3-10 and their adult. Blackburn Nature Reserve. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

SSI Local Trust Committee + SSI Local Community Commission Joint Meeting. SIMS board room. 2 p.m.

Fri. Aug. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Sharon Bailey, Adam Dobres & Wesley Hardisty. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. This week's guests are CHiR-FM folks. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Indigenous Art Demo. Coast Salish/Nez Perce artist Virgil Sampson demonstrates painting technique at Artcraft. Mahon Hall. 12 to 3 p.m.

Sat. Aug. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Old Times Cafe. Open stage at the Fulford Hall annex. 7 to 11 p.m.

CANCELLED: VagaBlonde — Anita McCamley Band. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Salt Spring Slasher. Competitive downhill skateboarding races on Juniper Place. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Learn To Spin On A Drop Spindle. At SIMS. 1 to 3 p.m. All supplies included in fee. Register at windrush4669@shaw.ca.

Sun. Aug. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Chamigos. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

Peter Prince Born To Fly Album Release Concert. Island singer-songwriter and musical friends. All Saints by-the-Sea. 6 p.m. Tickets through ArtSpring or at the door.

Aug. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Sharon Bailey, Adam Dobres & Wesley Hardisty. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Karaoke.

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Peter Prince Born To Fly Album Release Concert. Island singer-songwriter and musical friends. All Saints by-the-Sea. 6 p.m. Tickets through ArtSpring or at the door.

Aug. 25

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Slasher. Free ride races on Juniper Place. From 10 a.m. til the afternoon.

Race Around the Rock Fernwood Dock Picnic. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Mon. Aug. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Wesley Hardisty & Geoff McFarlane. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Pitchfork Social: Mike Farris & the Fortunate Few. The Jam Factory. 7:30 p.m. Check pitchforksocial.com for ticket availability.

Tues. Aug. 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Closed for staff party. Tree House Cafe.

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

ACTIVITIES

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

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

Wed. Aug. 28

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Simon Millerd & Woodland. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

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

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

ACTIVITIES

Getting to Know Our Neighbours: Stewart Webb. Global security specialist speaks on Global Security and Climate Change at the SSI United Church. Doors at 6:30 p.m. and event at 7 p.m.

CINEMA

• **Deadpool & Wolverine** is the movie from Wednesday, Aug. 21 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

• **24th Annual Photosynthesis exhibition of photography** runs at ArtSpring from Thursday, Aug. 22 to Sept. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily, with an opening reception on Aug. 22 from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

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

• **Three Seconds – Recent Contemporary Fibre Work from Shannon Wardroper** is the Salt Spring Gallery exhibit through Sept. 4.

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

• **Megan Coupland** shows work in the ArtSpring lobby through August.

• **Don Hodgins** has an art show at Country Grocer Cafe for the month of August.

• **A photographic exhibition by Cherie Geauvreau called A Family of Trees** is on display at the Salt Spring Laundr-O-Mat for the month of August.

Tuesday Farmers Market

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ISLAND LIFE

ECOLOGICAL IMPACT

Lots of ways to reduce 'foodprint,' cut waste

lighter living

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How many of us cringe at the thought of cleaning out the crisper drawer in the fridge? Perhaps there might be a mouldy cucumber, slimy spinach, shrivelled carrots, or maybe leftovers from last week that you promised yourself to use up.

Recent research shows that a whopping 50 per cent of our ecological footprint in southwest B.C. is tied to food (mobility 25 per cent, buildings 15 per cent, and stuff 10 per cent). This 50 per cent figure includes all the energy and resources that go into growing, producing, packaging, transporting, distributing and disposing of food. The choices we make every day related to what we eat or don't eat have a significant impact on our "foodprint."

According to recent research (UN Environment, One Earth, 2021), the most effective actions individuals can take to reduce their carbon footprint as it relates to food is to reduce the amount of wasted food at home. Approximately 40 per cent of our landfill is made up of food waste, with each household in the Capital Regional District throwing away around \$1,500 worth per year. The most commonly discarded foods, in descending order, include vegetables, fruit, snacks and staples, leftovers, bakery items, dairy and meat.

The Canadian Zero Waste Council reported that 63 per cent of the food we throw away could have been eaten. Some food waste is unavoidable, such as parts that generally can't be sold or eaten, like bones, vegetable peelings, egg shells or coffee grounds. Avoidable food waste refers to edible food that ends up in the compost or garbage because we bought too much, cooked too much, didn't like it or didn't store it properly.

There are plenty of reasons for all this food waste at home, including food getting "lost" inside people's fridges, consumers misinterpreting food date labels, impulse buying, poor planning before shopping and a general lack of awareness about the need to reduce food loss. Eating the food we purchase or grow should be a top priority when it comes to preventing waste. Fortunately, there are plenty of great ideas, tips and tricks to address the underlying drivers of all this waste. None of these steps are particularly difficult or cumbersome.

SaveFood Canada suggests three simple steps and provides plenty of details regarding their "Plan it Out, Use it Up and Keep it Fresh" method, including an encyclopedia of food storage best practices. Several behavioural scientists suggest organizing our fridges completely differently, recommending a Feng Shui approach. "Best by" and "use-by" dates are not the same thing,

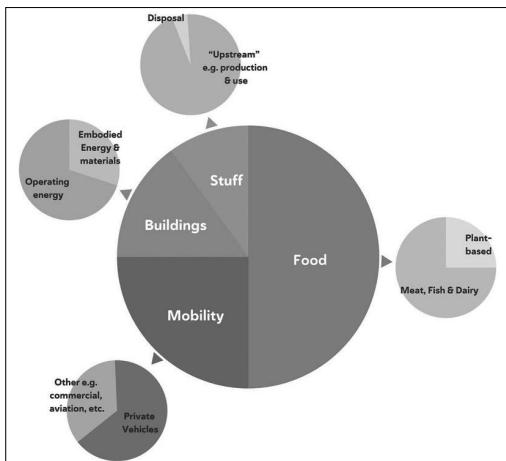


IMAGE COURTESY TSS

and neither necessarily means that a product is no longer good.

Unfortunately, when we throw away edible food, we not only lose the energy, time and resources that went into getting the food from seed to table but also contribute to methane gas production in landfills. Methane is 28 times more powerful than carbon dioxide at trapping heat in the environment when food decomposes.

Many islanders are keen composters, each with a method that works for them. For example, Alicia Herbert invites two of her neighbours to contribute their food scraps to her large plastic bins, sharing surplus bounty from her garden in return. Patti Wardlaw loves her Speedibin composter, designed and built in B.C. from galvanized metal, which allows composting all food waste, including meat scraps, without pest problems. Deborah Miller swears by trench composting, dumping all food waste into pre-dug 30-centimetre-deep trenches in fallow beds. Barbara Dempster uses a digester for non-plant-based scraps, Nancy Deas feeds scraps to the family flock of hens and Andria Scanlan divides food scraps between a standard plastic composter and worm bins.

The good news is that small choices can make a big impact, especially when we work together. A number of excellent resources are available for free to islanders who love food but hate waste. The Salt Spring Island Farmland Trust (SSIFT) offers a Harvest Share program for those with fruit trees they are unable to harvest, sending trained volunteers to do the work and sharing the harvest equally among landowners, volunteers and partner organizations supporting food-insecure individuals. SSIFT

also hosts a Food Exchange program every Sunday afternoon, encouraging surplus food from gardens in exchange for produce one does not grow; leftovers are donated to partner organizations like food banks. They also offer workshops, including ones on composting and vermiculture. For more information on all their offerings, visit ssifarmalandtrust.org.

To learn more about how to waste less food, Transition Salt Spring invites you to sign up for free access to Lighter Living Salt Spring content at tinyurl.com/Lighter-Living. Learn how to take low-effort actions that make you feel good, benefit our community, and help the planet.

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EVENTS

Defence specialist speaks

Stewart Webb at
neighbours gathering



in political science and security studies and is an affiliate of the Canadian Network for Research on Terrorism, Security and Society.

On Wednesday, Aug. 28, Webb will give a presentation called Global Security and Climate Change, exploring topics such as "What happens when the water runs out?" Doors open at 6:30 p.m. for a 7 p.m. start.

Entry is by donation toward the work of the United Church Social Justice Committee. Refreshments provided.

Global security specialist and Salt Spring Islander Stewart Webb is the next guest at the Getting to Know Our Neighbours series of events at the Salt Spring Island United Church.

Webb is the editor of the DefenceReport website and a frequent guest on CTV National News and other Canadian media outlets with respect to Canadian and international military issues, including terrorism and insurgencies. He holds degrees

Fall Fair Focus

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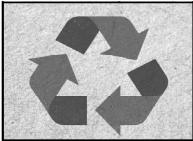
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Copper Kettle Community Partnership

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~ Thank You!



TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

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
21	0:47	6.7	2.04	25	4:12	2.7	0.82
	5:48	9.2	2.8		11:42	8.6	2.62
	12:31	2.3	0.7		15:07	8	2.44
	19:46	10.6	3.23		21:15	10.7	3.26
22	1:34	5.6	1.71		5:10	2.2	0.67
	7:02	8.9	2.71		14:05	9.1	2.77
	13:11	3.6	1.1		15:53	9.1	2.77
	20:09	10.7	3.26		21:37	10.5	3.2
23	2:25	4.5	1.37		6:11	2	0.61
	8:22	8.6	2.62		15:53	9.8	2.99
	13:50	5.1	1.55		18:06	9.7	2.96
	20:31	10.7	3.26		22:02	10.2	3.11
24	3:17	3.5	1.07		7:14	1.8	0.55
	9:52	8.5	2.59		16:34	10.3	3.14
	14:29	6.6	2.01		20:39	9.7	2.96
	20:53	10.8	3.29		22:37	9.8	2.99

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HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF AUGUST 18 TO 24, 2024

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
ARIES, TAURUS AND GEMINI



ARIES

If you closely examine your budget, you'll discover you can turn your dreams into reality. The funds you need to achieve one of your greatest dreams will be within your reach.



TAURUS

Although your responsibilities may seem overwhelming, your steady progress will give you confidence in your abilities. From now on, nothing will be able to stop you. You'll have the courage to act.



GEMINI

Sometimes, you must take a step back to gain clarity. At work, achieving your ambitious aspirations will require incremental progress.



CANCER

Although you're barely back from your summer holidays, you'll already start planning the next one with your friends. You'll organize a large meeting at work, bringing together the entire company.



LEO

You desire intellectual and spiritual growth. You may be contemplating a career change or taking an enriching personal journey. Don't be afraid of change! It's good for you.



VIRGO

You must take some time to reflect before making an important decision about your personal or professional future. Negotiations are necessary. You must weigh the pros and cons before finalizing anything.



LIBRA

Compromise isn't always possible, especially when there are conflicting opinions. You'll need to use your imagination to keep the peace with those around you and resolve conflicts.



SCORPIO

A few small wins will help restore your self-confidence, giving you the boost you need to move forward with a project near and dear to your heart.



SAGITTARIUS

Creating a functional home office will be a top priority this week. After careful planning, your leadership skills will emerge, allowing you to start your own business.



CAPRICORN

Love will take a prominent place in your thoughts this week. Subtle gestures, small tokens of appreciation and words of love will help you deepen your feelings for your partner.



AQUARIUS

The idea of selling or buying a property will cross your mind. You could find more affordable housing to improve your family's quality of life and get your hands on a large sum of money.



PISCES

Some individuals may repeatedly request your assistance, requiring you to travel frequently. This could allow you to treat yourself and even consider buying a new car.



SPORTS + RECREATION

DRAGON BOAT RACING

Spirit Point Dragons bring home gold medal

Local paddlers prevail in challenging working harbour conditions

BY DONNA COCHRAN
FOR SPIRIT POINT DRAGONS

Salt Spring's dragon boat team won gold in Division D at the Canada Dry Dragon Boat Festival in Victoria's Inner Harbour on Saturday, Aug. 10. It is Canada's only dragon boat festival that takes place in a working harbour. The festival began in 1994 as part of the Commonwealth Games in Victoria.

Fifteen women's teams and 22 mixed teams from Canada and the U.S. competed in four races on the 250-metre course with the start line at Laurel Point and the finish line near Ship's Point. Because it is a working harbour, teams had to give way to let seaplanes and the Coho ferry keep to their regular schedules. There were lots of vendors, food trucks, live music and activities for all ages. It was a vibrant scene that showcased the diversity of Victoria and attracted huge crowds



PHOTO COURTESY SPIRIT POINT DRAGONS

Spirit Point Dragons team members pose with gold medals from the Canada Dry Dragon Boat Festival held in Victoria's Inner Harbour.

of visitors and supporters.

Spirit Point Dragons held their own in the two qualifying heats. In their semi-final, the steersperson of one of the boats lost control and drifted into the lane of a competing team that led to a two-second penalty for the offending

boat and a couple of seconds knocked off the finish time for the affected boat. That adjustment resulted in Spirit Point having to accept a fourth place finish instead of third. So for our final race, we were ready to show them what we were made of!

For the Mixed Division D final, Spirit Point easily took the lead and paddled our best race of the day, crossing the line with a decisive 1:11 win ahead of Goggin' Dragons Alumni (1:14) and Snogard Dragons (1:16). Coach Michael Peirce was almost (ok, not quite) speechless — we made him proud!

Paddlers included Cora Platz, Donna Cochran, Melynda Okulitch, Robyn Huntley, Wendy Andrews, Sam Goddard, Ann Marie Davidson, Wendy Eggertson, Michael Peirce, Chris Ortlepp, Rob Huber, John Ortlepp, Louisa Taylor, Stewart Rimmer, Carmelle Labelle, Gwyneth Ortlepp and Andrew Okulitch, with a special thanks to guest paddlers Madhu Bannur, from Fairway Gorge Momentum, and Jamie Andrews. The wakes of the boats and planes combined with the tide and current made it a real challenge for our intrepid steersperson Tom McKeachie, and a rocky ride for our drummer/caller Audrey Denton, who still managed to drum and keep us in time.

A special "paddles up!" to our team manager Barry Green and coach Lynda Green, who had to cheer us on from home this time.

SALT SPRING UNITED

Programs laid out for brand new soccer season

Youth, adult, coaching and more

In the soccer world, the Euros are over and, of course, England lost out once again. (They could not figure out how to use drones to spy on Spain. Mind you, neither did Canada!) Also, the valiant effort by our Olympic Canadian women's team fell short in a shoot-out loss to Germany, but English Premier League action started in mid-August.

What this all means is that the Salt Spring United soccer club program begins in less than a month's time and our executive has been busy putting the pieces together for another season, with details outlined below.

Youth Programs & Teams

• Tots Program — development program for boys and girls ages three and four. Sessions are every Saturday; the fall session runs from mid-September to the end of November; spring session is indoors in February and outdoors again in March and April.

• House Program — development/small-sided games. Includes Boys U-6/7, Boys U-8, Girls U-6/7 and Girls U-8/9. Sessions on Saturdays following the same format as Tots.

• House League — Boys U-9/10 Games every Saturday from September to mid-April.

• Small-sided Teams — includes Girls U-10/11, Girls U-12, Boys U-11, Boys U-12 and Boys U-13. Play Saturday games versus Victoria league,



Malcolm Legg
SOCCER
ROUND-UP

with practices held mid-week.

• Full-sided Teams — Saturdays Boys U-13/14, Boys U-15/16, Girls U-13/14, Girls U-15/16.

• Sundays — Girls U-17/18.

Teams play league games versus Victoria opponents, with practices held mid-week.

If you are interested in signing up for these teams or programs, go to our saltspringsoccer.com website and look under "registration" for details. Maggie (our registrar) can provide help by emailing her at ssiuregistrar@gmail.com.

Adult Programs

• Women's Over 30 team.
• Women's Div. 3 team — Open to all ages.

These are both teams that play in the Lower Island Women's Soccer Association league on Sundays.

• Women's Recreational Program — Open to all women just wanting to play soccer for fun (no travel). The program run by Malcolm Legg runs for 10 Wednesdays starting Wednesday, Sept. 4 and includes skill training and small-sided games. Registration for these teams is again on the website at saltspringsoccer.com.

Other Programs

• SS United Fall Goalkeeping and Academy Training — Run by Josip Bratanovic for 10 weeks, every Friday at Portlock Park, starting Friday, Sept. 13.

Goalkeeping sessions run from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. and the full academy is from 1:35 to 3 p.m. Registration can also be done through the website.

• Referees Program — Whether you are a youth (12 or older) or adult, we can get you trained to be a referee or assistant referee. That means you can be paid to officiate games on Salt Spring Island. If more information is needed, contact me (Malcolm) at mallegg@shaw.ca.

• Youth Coaching Program — We are willing to train youth and adults to assist with our teams and held mid-week.

programs in SS United. Contact Josip Bratanovic at jbratanovic@shaw.ca for more information.

If you have any interest in joining the Salt Spring United club as a coach, referee, player or executive member, feel free to contact me at mallegg@shaw.ca and I will give you the info, although if I am watching a Premier League game you might not get me right away.

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LONGBOARD RACING

Slasher event returns to island this weekend

Volunteers 'super stoked' for 13th rendition of race extravaganza

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The fastest event of its kind in Canada is back for two days this weekend, as the 13th annual Salt Spring Slasher downhill skateboarding race kicks off Saturday, Aug. 24.

Racers reach speeds of more than 90 kilometres per hour on a winding 1.5-kilometre course that starts at the top of Trustees Trail and ends about halfway down Juniper Place, according to event organizer Maxwell Kaye. Kaye said the event — also the third longest such race in the country — is scheduled each year around its most limited resource: hay.

"We have a farmer on the island who gives us a really good deal, so we pretty much plan the whole event around when he cuts his hay," laughed Kaye, "which he thinks is absolutely bizarre. Big thanks to Mark Hughes; without him we wouldn't be able to pull this off."

It's the hay bales, Kaye said — along



Vancouver-based Elycia Finch at last year's Salt Spring Slasher on Juniper Place.

with insurance and permits — that keep racers safe from sliding off the road into spectators if they take a fall during the weekend event. The Salt Spring Slasher hosts dozens of skateboarders from all over British Columbia and Canada, as well as international racers from as far away as Australia — and, Kaye said, a few stars of the sport will be participating.

"We'll probably have 70 per cent of the Team Canada stand-up team, who will be going to race in Italy for the World Skate

Games in September," said Kaye. "World Skate were the ones who worked to allow regular skateboarding into the Olympics; this is like the little sister."

Kaye said the racers are "hungry" as the Salt Spring Slasher is likely their last big race before Italy.

"No matter the weather, there will be skateboarding," said Kaye. "Rain or shine, we'll be racing."

Downhill races will begin around 10 a.m. Saturday, with events running until

mid-afternoon; Sunday should be just as exciting, Kaye said, with free-ride events.

"We do all the racing on Saturday, so that way the riders can relax on the second day," said Kaye, "and it's not two days of trying to get your race lines in."

Spectators should come up Juniper a little before 10 a.m. either day and look for signs and traffic control officials in safety vests, Kaye said. He recommended dressing for the weather and bringing a lawn chair or something else to sit on.

"We've got a bunch of volunteers helping make this happen," said Kaye. "Some of them are skaters, and the rest are just people who have been super stoked on the whole thing."

For more information on the race, look for the Salt Spring Slasher Facebook page.

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