

inside:



2 NDP members pick local candidate



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PHOTO BY BRYN FINER

NECK AND NECK: Two participants in the annual Salt Spring Slasher longboard race on Juniper Place on Saturday, Aug. 24 turn a corner almost in tandem at high speeds. The two-day event organized by Salt Spring's Maxwell Kaye saw some of the country's best racers compete and enjoy the course and island hospitality. See page 12 for more photos from the event.

POLITICAL CONTROVERSY

Haysom petition continues

More Green party nomination process details shared

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Amy Haysom isn't ready to give up on becoming the local BC Green Party candidate in this fall's provincial election.

The Salt Spring Islander who felt confident about her chances of being chosen by Saanich North and the Islands Green party members was left confused and frustrated after her name was removed from the ballot just hours before online voting commenced on Aug. 2.

As reported in last week's Driftwood, after being unsatisfied with the explanation given for her removal, and noting irregu-

larities with the process of her disqualification, Haysom launched a petition to press for another vote and has continued to publicize her experience, which she says points to irregularities in the party's stated process. A number of signatories describe themselves as Green party members or supporters.

"I would say you've got a lot of livid people," Haysom said on Monday. "I think this points to a bigger concern around internal party politics. So if we really are a democratic system, and particularly in a nomination contest, where a vetting process has already been completed... I mean, they won't even highlight who made the decision, what the reason was, and it's very non-transparent. In terms of a party that highlights participatory democracy as one of their core principles, that did not

happen here."

Haysom said she was contacted by BC Green Party returning officer Rylee Maclean on Aug. 2, the date of the vote, which had already been delayed by one day "due to technical difficulties," and asked to withdraw from the race.

Maclean and Alex Brunke, party provincial field manager, indicated in a Zoom call that evening that the problem arose from an undisclosed person having a work-related "grudge" against her. Despite having successfully passed a thorough vetting process, where she disclosed a contract issue from when she taught some classes at Salt Spring Centre School, the returning officer said "new information" had been received about that situation.

HAYSOM continued on 2

COURT

Judge rules against rooster noise

Disturbance of neighbours takes priority in CRD case against chicken breeder

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A provincial court judge has found a Salt Spring Island rooster owner guilty on five counts of violating a Capital Regional District (CRD) bylaw related to livestock and noise.

Clinton McNichol had been charged with keeping livestock — one to three roosters — on his 0.92-acre Woodland Drive property, contrary to a CRD bylaw requiring animals be kept in a manner that does not disturb the "quiet, peace, rest, enjoyment, comfort or convenience of other property owners in the vicinity." Seven CRD bylaw infraction tickets were written in November and December of 2022, with two later dropped.

While Judge Christine Lowe's reasons for judgement have not yet been published, both McNichol and next-door neighbour Isy Cohen, who was a witness in the case, shared the Aug. 22 outcome with the Driftwood. If McNichol's property had been determined to be a farm, or in one of Salt Spring's Islands Trust agricultural zones, the outcome would likely have been different. But the property is in a "rural" zone of similar-sized lots, and a B.C. Farm Industry Review Board ruling had determined the property was not a farm due to its income level and not subject to the province's Right to Farm Act.

ROOSTER NOISE continued on 3

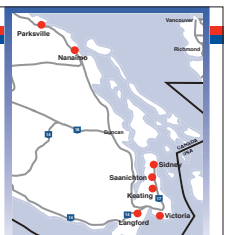
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BC ELECTION

NDP chooses Sarah Riddell as local candidate

Central Saanich council member wins over cohort

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Central Saanich councillor Sarah Riddell will be the BC NDP candidate for the Saanich North and the Islands (SNI) riding in the upcoming provincial election.

Riddell received the nod in an Aug. 22 riding association vote, which saw members choose her

over Zeb King, the NDP candidate for SNI in the 2020 election and a fellow Central Saanich council member.

Riddell, who topped the polls in her first council race in 2022, has a master's degree in public and health administration, and more than 15 years of experience in public health care administration. She is currently a director in the B.C. Ministry of Health. According to candidate information, "she led the practical implementation of our government's new payment model for family doctors, one of the most significant

primary health care reforms in decades."

Riddell lives with her husband Evan and two young children Alicia and Clayton in Brentwood Bay. She is involved with conservation, trail and running organizations, and she volunteers with Beacon Community Services, the Peninsula Country Market, her kids' sports teams and helps out with community events.

As a Central Saanich councillor her priorities have been affordable housing, climate action, and active transportation and road safety.

The provincial election is set for Saturday, Oct. 19.

Other candidates nominated to date are David Busch for the BC Conservatives, and Robert Botterell for the BC Greens, although the Green party's nomination process is being challenged by Salt Spring Islander Amy Haysom, who was in the running for the position before the party withdrew support for her candidacy. The other major provincial party — BC United (formerly the BC Liberal Party) — has yet to name a candidate. The deadline to file candidate nominations with Elections BC is Sept. 21.



PHOTO COURTESY BC NDP
Saanich North and the Islands BC NDP election candidate Sarah Riddell.

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Complaint filed with Elections BC

HAYSOM
continued from 1

No further details were shared, with confidentiality rules cited as the reason. Green party officials said in an Aug. 12 statement that the actual complaint about Haysom was not investigated.

"The party is not an arbiter of whether background issues or concerns are objectively true or not . . . it is a confidential decision by the party as to who it wishes to move forward with in the upcoming election."

But Haysom points out that BC Green Party bylaws state that "any complaint about a nomination contestant needs to be filed by a Green party member in good standing or another contestant, that it needs to be filed in written form, and that it needs to be investigated by the returning officer."

She requested an investigation, but that did not occur. She also requested use of a 48-hour appeals process provision, but the vote proceeded less than an hour after she was disqualified, so no chance for an appeal was offered.

"I want to say it again: we were vetted. It was a very complete process. I mean, they were asking details about work history, about sexting, all kinds of things. So you have a very open vetting process that went on for about a week, and then they put three of us forward. And so it just



PHOTO COURTESY AMY HAYSOM

Amy Haysom, one of three candidates accepted for the Saanich North and the Islands Green party nomination before being disqualified at the 11th hour.

seems so suspect that after two weeks of campaigning, nothing came forward until the last day."

"The whole thing is very stinky," she added.

Haysom said she has filed a complaint with Elections BC, highlighting the procedural breaches, and will proceed with an injunction next week if the party does not respond.

Salt Spring resident Dennis Lucarelli is one petition signatory who supported Haysom's candidacy.

He said, "The mystery around the BC

Green Party's disqualifying Amy Haysom from the ballot, in which party members would choose their candidate, reminds me of one of those elite private 'country clubs' that don't explain to applicants why they are being rejected. So I am no longer comfortable to vote for any BC Green candidate."

When the Driftwood contacted BC Green Caucus press secretary JoJo Beattie to provide a response or update on this issue, she referred the query to John Kidder of the Green Party of Canada's Federal Council. Kidder is also Saanich-Gulf Islands Green MP Elizabeth May's husband. Neither Kidder nor May were able to respond to the Driftwood before Monday's press deadline. May's name had also appeared on the petition, but despite expressing support for Haysom's situation, Haysom was assured by May that she did not add her name herself.

Haysom said she has received expressions of support from Green party members across Canada, including Quebec Green party leader Alex Tyrrell.

"He said, 'You know, Amy, there's a silver lining.' He said, 'None of us knew who Amy Haysom was a couple of weeks ago, but now we all do.'"

Robert Botterell was chosen as the riding's candidate for this fall's provincial election in the vote that occurred without Haysom on Aug. 2, with the result announced on Aug. 6.

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Driftwood

NOTICE OF TOWN HALL MEETING & SPECIAL MEETING

The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will be holding a Special Meeting to appoint an Auditor for Financial Services and a Town Hall Meeting to present:

Draft 2025 Budget	New Fire Hall Project update	5-Year Strategic Plan update
When: September 9, 2024, from 6:45 PM to 9:00 PM		Where: Ganges Fire Hall Training Room, 105 Lower Ganges Road

The Board of Trustees, Chief Administrative Officer, and the Fire Chief will make presentations and receive feedback from the public in attendance.

Windsor Plywood

HOUSING

ADU subsidy project in the works for island

CRD program could stack with B.C.'s forgivable loan

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Regional officials may soon sweeten the pot for landowners on Salt Spring interested in operating a long-term rental suite — but who can't pencil out the finances to make it worthwhile.

The Capital Regional District's (CRD) pilot Rural Housing Program envisions stacking more dollars in forgivable loans atop the existing \$40,000 similarly offered from the provincial government, according to Southern Gulf Islands CRD manager Justine Starke — possibly as much as another \$40,000. That money is technically not yet allocated in the CRD's budget, but is receiving a lot of board support.

Back in May, BC Housing launched its Secondary Suite Incentive Program (SSIP), cen-

tred on a forgivable loan meant to offset as much as half the cost of creating a new secondary suite or accessory dwelling unit (ADU) on a property already zoned for it. In exchange for having as much as \$40,000 in loans forgiven, homeowners participating in SSIP agree any unit built (or renovated) with that money will be rented below market rates for a minimum of five years.

Already considering something along similar lines, CRD staff and consultants had looked at building permit data, Starke said, and have spoken to builders and landowners throughout the Southern Gulf Islands to determine where the needle might move for incentivizing more housing here. Not unlike the conclusion drawn by the province, the biggest bang for the CRD's limited buck seemed to be in working to convince landowners already zoned for secondary suites to create them — because so far, there aren't a lot.

Nowhere is underutilized zoning more apparent than on Salt Spring, where a 2013

bylaw allowing secondary suites on hundreds of island properties has resulted in just 10 building permits. Starke said that poor uptake had a lot to do with people simply not wanting to be landlords, but for many it was just as much the dollar amounts attached; building or renovating costs money, and upon completion breaking even would require charging higher monthly rent than many workers on Salt Spring could afford.

The provincial program defined "affordable" rent as 30 per cent of the median income for an area; BC Housing sets that amount on Salt Spring Island using the median for Victoria, around \$70,000. That's higher than the median income on this island, Starke admitted, so there might be some shift in that number for the CRD's program — and even then, it might not be affordable for every island worker.

But any new unit that's rented for less than current market-driven rates is an improvement.

"I'm not going to sit here and tell you this program is going to solve our housing crisis," said Starke. "It's a small piece of the solution. But we think it can help."

The coordination of the pilot program needs staff — who will draw a paycheck at least partly from funds contributed by the Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership, using some revenue from the short-term accommodation tax.

For the forgivable loan funding itself, the CRD Board meets next in mid-September, and approval — and program specifics — could come as early as the fall. Starke said perhaps the most important part of building out the program is the establishment of a function within the CRD that's specializing in rural communities' housing needs — and that needs input from those communities.

A significant public engagement effort will be launching this fall. Visit getinvolved.crd.bc.ca/crd-rural-housing-program for more information on the program and to be notified of updates.

Precedent's impact on farming feared

ROOSTER NOISE

continued from 1

"Non-intensive agriculture" is a permitted use in the rural zone, however.

McNichol and his spouse Alia Elaraj, who breeds heritage chickens to sell, will be prohibited from having roosters on their land, which they moved to in the fall of 2020, for a period of one year. The judge will dispense fines and any other sentence conditions on Aug. 30.

Both McNichol and Cohen said that despite numerous recordings of the noise presented to the judge by the CRD, the decibel level was deemed not relevant.

"In our case, the judge threw out objectivity, and said while she appreciated the CRD took noise readings, they aren't applicable. If two complainants say they are aggrieved, that is 'believable and reasonable,'" McNichol said, quoting the judge.

Cohen has lived on the neighbouring property — which is about 0.8 of an acre in size — since 2006 and worked as a nurse at Lady Minto Hospital and in community health care since that time.

"Initially, the whole issue was about noise — the bylaw being contravened between 11 o'clock at night and seven in the morning — where the rooster was crowing from two in the morning and onwards, and I wouldn't be able to sleep."

Cohen said he would have to cancel shifts at work because he didn't feel he could safely care for people without adequate sleep. Daytime crowing was also a problem when he worked night shifts at the hospital and then wouldn't be able to sleep during the day.

He and the neighbour on the other side of the property tried to discuss the issue with McNichol, with various mitigation suggestions made by all parties. While the main coop was eventually moved from being only five feet away from the property line, Cohen said, it had little impact on mitigating the noise for him and made things worse for the other neighbour, who also provided their experience for the CRD case.

Cohen said he first contacted the CRD in June of 2021 just to find out what his rights were, but a CRD bylaw officer ended up visiting the McNichol property and issued an infraction ticket for an unlicensed dog rather than discussing the noise from the rooster. Due to staffing changes at the CRD, a number of different officers were ultimately involved.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

View from sloped, upper portion of Isy Cohen's Woodland Drive property showing part of neighbours' lot being used for farm purposes, and proximity of coops to the fenced property line. Roosters were moved to a coop on the other side of the house and property in an attempt to reduce noise disturbance.

McNichol said, "We have been dragged through a process that we do not recommend as healthy on many levels... Voluntary compliance is [the CRD's] stated goal, and legal prosecution is the penalty. That hurts farmers, taxpayers and the community. It is not an effective use of resources. Many people, like ourselves, cannot afford lawyers. We gambled on a lawyer, logic and reason, and are faced with a sizeable debt owing."

He said fines added to the cost of the legal defence will exceed \$40,000. A GoFundMe campaign was initiated by the Salt Spring Island Poultry Club (SSIPC) to help offset those costs.

McNichol said the farming community on Salt Spring and in other parts of B.C. were following the case, concerned about the precedent and implications for backyard and small-hold farmers. SSIPC president Elsie Born articulates those concerns in an opinion piece, which was endorsed by the agriculture committee of the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute, on page 7 of this issue of the paper.

Elaraj stressed that roosters are necessary for her breeding business, as she is not just producing eggs to sell for consumption.

"It may be considered a small farm operation, but it has contributed significantly to the island," she said. "One hundred hens from my hatching eggs or chicks will produce 25,000 eggs a year. This number now needs to be replaced by off-island breeders or commercial hatcheries."

While Cohen believes "the CRD won their case to some extent," he is concerned that noise could be an ongoing issue.

"Hopefully there's some resolution.

But I'll just keep on fighting as much as I can, because I believe in having a peaceful environment and enjoying my home."

Fall Fair Focus

SALT SPRING ISLAND FALL FAIR 2024

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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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OPINION

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



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EDITORIAL

Another chance

With a provincial election still almost two months away, Salt Spring's Amy Haysom is turning out to be a fearsome political opponent.

Unfortunately for the Green Party of BC, who she wanted to represent in Saanich North and the Islands (SNI), Haysom has so far used her prowess against and not for them due to their handling of the riding's nomination process. Haysom was disqualified as a candidate within hours of an online vote by SNI Green party members in early August. Many of them expected to see her name on the ballot after being impressed by her performance in an online debate or otherwise meeting or talking with her during a two-week campaign period before the vote.

THE ISSUE: SNI Green party nomination

WE SAY: Party should follow process

With all due respect to nominated candidate Robert Botterell, the BC Green Party needs to revisit the candidacy process that occurred. Haysom's disqualification did not meet any standards of professionalism or fairness, nor conform to the party's own bylaws and stated guidelines.

The party may well have valid reasons for removing Haysom from the ballot, and they are not obliged to share those with the public, but at the very least they should allow the party's appeal process to unfold. Haysom launched an appeal as soon as she received an email confirming the disqualification, but the candidate vote proceeded regardless.

Perhaps most troubling is that party bylaws outline how nomination contestant complaints should be handled. They need to be filed by a member in good standing or another contestant, done in writing and investigated by a party returning officer. An anonymous complaint apparently related to a long past workplace "grudge" does not qualify in any way.

Haysom's response to her treatment — to create a petition demanding a new candidate nomination contest and to threaten legal action if the party does not comply — may not be helping her win favour from the Green party, but in light of how her disqualification was handled, it's easy to understand why she has chosen that course.

Sept. 21 is the final date for candidate names to be filed with Elections BC. There is plenty of time to turn the clock back on the SNI nomination and see what transpires. The outcome may well be the same, but at least the Green party will be able to cast off the crippling cloak of a clearly flawed process.



More history re-examined

BY SETH BERKOWITZ

In his "History and beliefs distorted" piece in last week's paper, Anthony Issa does a very good job of laying out the history and etymology of the word "Palestine," including the new-to-me Egyptian reference of "Peleset." I had been taught that the word Palestine was probably derived from the Greek colonizers called Philistines. Then I found the Encyclopedia Britannica says that "Peleset [is] generally believed to refer to the Philistines ..."

What Mr. Issa fails to mention is that when the Greek writer Herodotus, and the ancient Romans, used the term Palestine they were referring to a larger area or province that includes at different times the Jewish kingdoms of Israel, Judah and Samaria, and not a nation called Palestine. When the Egyptians used the term Peleset, Jews had been living in Israel for 500 years. When the myth of Zeus was being written by Herodotus, Jews had been living in their own kingdoms in Israel for 1,000 years. In the several decades before the re-establishment of Israel in 1948, Jews living there often used the term Palestine for their businesses and societies, much as we use the term Salish Sea or Cascadia.

Mr. Issa does not mention that there has never been a sovereign nation of Palestine. For the past 2,000 years, since the last Jewish kingdom of about 70 CE, the land has been under the imperial rule of one empire or another, until the re-establishment of Israel by the United Nations in 1948.

It is easy to throw around the term "colonizer." It pushes the emotional buttons, as it is intended to do. If you don't know the his-

VIEWPOINT

tory then it is difficult to argue with. But let me ask Mr. Issa regarding his use of the term "colonial Israel": How long does

a people have to be in a place to be considered indigenous? Does 3,500 years of Jews living in Israel still make them "colonizing?"

It is easy to throw around the term "apartheid," as it too elicits an emotional response. In reality, Israel is a multicultural nation that protects the rights of its minorities as citizens. Multicultural Israel also includes Arabs, Christians, Druze, Bedouin and many others as full citizens. Arabic is an official language,

There are two indigenous peoples there, each of whom need to accept each other and to learn to live together.

a Supreme Court seat is reserved for an Arabic judge, and at times the largest opposition party in the parliament is the Arab List coalition of parties. Hospitals, universities, cities, businesses and more are all managed by all the different peoples — including Arabs — who make up Israel. One difference between Arabs inside Israel and those in the West Bank and Gaza is now largely due to the leadership that was foisted upon those Arabs in the territories. The world has a lot to atone for in this regard.

There are two indigenous peoples there, each of whom need to accept each other and to learn to live together. Until the world stops delegitimizing one of those nations — as Mr. Issa does — the cycle of violence will continue. By condoning the delegitimizing of Israel's right to exist, the world at large accepts and encourages the horrific violence that most recently started on Oct. 7, 2023, the largest killing spree of Jews since they were being marched off to the gas chambers during World War II.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Do you feel the CRD 'rooster ruling' threatens island farming?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Do you like the proposed Portlock Park master plan?

19 26
NO YES

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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

If only . . .

The saddest, most haunting words we can use when looking back at the past, at history as it actually transpired, must be "If only . . ."

If only the Jewish Bundists Eva Peskin so movingly evoked in her opinion piece last week had been proven right in their beliefs, and where they lived had been their home and not a setting for pogroms and, in the end, extermination. And if only their neighbours had fought alongside them against fascism and not joined the fascists and hunted them down. And if only the Zionists had been proven wrong, and their neighbours had not turned on them and someone, anyone, in Europe or anywhere in the world, had come to their rescue. If only.

MURRAY REISS,
FULTON

Horried and outraged

My father was among the first Canadian troops to liberate a concentration camp in Holland, and what he saw there scarred him for the rest of his life.

But I think being a victim does not

give us the right to perpetrate horrors on others. And I think the brutality we saw Hamas use against innocent people in Israel does not give the Israeli government the moral authority to deliberately bomb Gaza infrastructure to rubble and to kill and injure thousands of people, including little children, health workers, journalists and aid workers.

I can understand Hannah Brown's passion for Israel ("Local Gaza protesting decried," Aug. 14 Driftwood opinion piece). But I do not agree that we all feel "badly" for the children of Gaza. Obviously many don't. And I don't either. I feel horrified and outraged. And as one of the billions of people around the world who are witnessing this abuse, I feel angry at myself because I am basically just looking on while our leaders dither away and little children die.

Just as we did in protest of Vietnam, it is time for the Israeli people to rise up against their government and demand a change to the policies. Benjamin Netanyahu is basically just another war criminal trying desperately to stay in power, and it's time for a new Israeli leader who will show the world a more compassionate face of that country and negotiate an immediate ceasefire.

JANE PETCH,
SALT SPRING

Message from toy run Santa

Last weekend's event was my last run as Santa. I want to thank all those people who made our charity toy run on the Aug. 16-18 weekend a success. All proceeds go to the good people at Santa's Workshop.

As Santa I was quite visible but am only the tip of the iceberg. It takes about 40 volunteers and months of planning to put this event on. The majority of the people work behind the scenes. The organizers and doers, the volunteers and workers. Without them there would be no event.

I also want to thank the community-minded businesses who support us each year.

The bands usually give us a break on their fee, as every dollar taken away is not taken from the event but from the kids.

The flaggers are another important part of the event. They make the run smoother and safer.

I also thank the members of the public who allowed the ride to pass without disruption.

Lastly, but very importantly, I want to thank all the riders and their fami-

lies who showed up and supported the event. Ultimately they, and the children, make all the hard work worthwhile.

KERRY BUTLER,
SANTA (RETIRED)

Playground details need attention

I, along with the Driftwood, listened to the Salt Spring Local Community Commission discuss the draft Portlock Park plan (Aug. 21 "Draft park plan approved" story). I heard that the draft is still a draft. Details need to be worked out.

One of those details is to ensure that the children's play areas at Portlock Park and the Rainbow Recreation Centre are of ample size and fully equipped to meet the needs of Salt Spring Island's parents and children. Furthermore, the play areas must meet the needs of children in all age ranges.

Parents should have a single location where all of their children can run around and safely use the playground equipment under parental supervision.

CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"The whole thing is really stinky."

AMY HAYSOM, BC GREEN PARTY ELECTION NOMINATION CANDIDATE PROTESTING DISQUALIFICATION

Autocorrect proves digital ghost in the machine is calling the shots

This is an open letter aimed at whoever is in control of the auto-correct function on my computer. Come on out from under that rock where you are hiding and stop your devious and insidious actions that twist my words around so that my thoughts become cartoon parodies of their intended meaning.

For those of you unfamiliar with autocorrect (which I am calling AC), it is an automatic data validation function whose purpose is to automatically correct common spelling mistakes and typos while you are still typing on your keyboard. Also known as text replacement or text expander, AC employs speech recognition patterns and text disabling algorithms to correct the words and phrases in your text almost as soon as you have imagined them.

This is just a fancy way of explaining that AC tries to predict the words you are about to choose and either suggests them as possibilities or just downright replaces your words with AC's own. Consequently, "why a cantaloupe" is likely to be replaced with "why can't we elope." Similarly, a heartfelt text extolling

the virtues of "friendship" may be received as a crass reminder to bring home an order of "fried shrimp."

You get the idea. In my case, AC is constantly looking over my shoulder as it watches my fingers press down on the keys. Its aim is to sabotage and subvert whatever idea I am trying to construct. No sooner have I typed the first few letters of a word, than AC pretends it can read my mind by substituting a completely unrelated term into my text. Particularly exasperating is when I go back to delete AC's offering and replace it with the word I really want, I can only watch as it is once again replaced with AC's illegitimate offering.

So it becomes a constant struggle between what I want to say and what AC will allow me to type. My "be by in a minute" will nefariously morph into a more morose "die in a minute." Any grandiose pronouncements I make regarding the inalienable rights of people is turned into an insipid generalization about "peepholes."

Are my thoughts so transparent that they can be easily predicted before they have even



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

begun to take form? Sometimes I think that I am just a passive tool, and it is AC who is in control. I am the cyborg who clicks the mouse and punches the keys, but it is the digital ghost in the machine who calls the shots.

It's not as if I have absolutely no say in the matter. I'm still the one who turns the computer on and off. I pay for the internet server costs and the WiFi fees. Ultimately, it is me creating the text that is about to be communicated to other sentient beings. Sure, AC can try to slow me down or even trip me up, but in the end I'm the one who has the final say on what gets sent. Right?

Wrong. By some strange fluke, my AC still has the ability to make some last minute changes and can also trick me into approving these text altera-

tions. Worst of all is when the text I actually intend to convey is replaced one nanosecond before I hit the SEND button. Nevertheless, it's always good policy to give your message one last proof and edit before you send it on its way. Often, there's no telling what AC will substitute in the last moment, but I can only hope it's something as innocent as switching "well" and "we'll" and not something more sinister or potty-mouthed, such as words that rhyme with "duck" or "skit." No doubt, many fried shrimps have been terminated and budding romances truncated by the misadventures of dear old AC.

I sometimes have to wonder what kind of heavy drugs have been programmed into the more popular AC functions. For instance, what kind of mind-altering algorithms have been installed to change "Give me liberty or give me death" to "Give me liver tea origami debt?" I can put up with replacing "deli" with "devil" or eating a jar of "dill pixels," but what was AC thinking when it came up with "peanut uterus" to take the place of "probably?"

Are you ready for a few more AC fails and foibles? You had better watch where you step because the weather forecast calls for a cold front moving in and a possible "lizard warning." A grizzly bear sighting may have been grossly exaggerated due to an overindulgence of a case of "sizzling beer." Although they may prefer to grow among heaps of manure, "shiitake" mushrooms do not get their names from a synonym for excrement. You may get scolded for leaving the bloody lamp on, but at least you know better than to leave a bloody "tampon."

Nobody asked me, but I think it's time for me to create some separation between AC and me. It's become obvious that my thoughts are no longer represented by that evil little spirit inhabiting my computer. As a matter of fact, I've fired the mischievous and troublesome nutcracker . . . er . . . muckraker and replaced it with a much more cooperative and intuitive text correcting program. It's called "Otto Korrekt." So far we are getting along famously. I think this could be the beginning of a beautiful fried shrimp.



It's Back to School Time!

Tuesday, September 3rd

School District No. 64 (Gulf Islands) is thrilled to welcome students back for the 2024/2025 school year.

Opening Day: Tuesday, September 3rd, will be an early dismissal (regular school start time, dismissing at lunch). Full-day classes begin Wednesday, September 4th.

Registration: Schools will be open for student registration and inquiries starting on August 26th.

Salt Spring Island Schools

Fernwood Elementary School (K-7)

Principals: **Marie Mullen & Shelly Johnson**

Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm

Phone Number: 250-537-9332

Fulford Community School (K-7)

Principal: **Kaz Lundgren**

Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm

Phone Number: 250-653-9223

Gulf Islands Secondary School (8-12) & Phoenix Place Alternate Program

Principal: **Ryan Massey**

Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm

Phone Number: 250-537-9944

Salt Spring Elementary School (K-7)

Principal: **Amy Dearden**

Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm

Phone Number: 250-537-9928

64GO (online learning: K-12, adult education, graduation program)

Principal: **Dan Sparanese**

Email: dsparanese@sd64.org

Phone Number: 250-537-1254

Outer Island Schools

Galiano Community School (K-7)

Vice-Principal: **Kadek Okuda**

Office Hours: 9 am – 1 pm

Phone Number: 250-539-2261

Mayne Island School (K-7)

Vice-Principal: **Marcus Down**

Office Hours: 8:30 am – 12:30 pm

Phone Number: 250-539-2371

Pender Islands Elementary & Secondary School (K-12)

Principal: **Margot Landahl**

Office Hours: 9 am – 3 pm

Phone Number: 250-629-3711

Satuma Island School (K-5)

Vice-Principal: **Jackie Borosa**

Email: jborsa@sd64.org

Phone Number: 250-539-2472

Satuma Ecological Education Centre (10-12)

Vice-Principal: **Ben Desrosiers**

Email: bdesrosiers@sd64.org

Phone Number: 250-539-2472

Early Learning

Kindergarten

To enroll in kindergarten, a child must be five years old by December 31st, 2024. Please provide your child's Birth Certificate and BC Care Card during registration. The school will contact parents to arrange the entry date.

StrongStart BC Programs (ELF)

StrongStart Early Learning programs will be welcoming families again this year. For more information, please check with your local school.

Student Transportation

School Bus & Water Taxi

Information about school bus and student water taxi routes is available on the SD64 website at <https://www.sd64.bc.ca/page/3111/transportation>. The Facilities and Transportation Administration will be available from August 26th for student transportation registration and inquiries. You can contact them at 250-537-5723 or transportation@sd64.org.

Stay Informed

SD64 Mobile App

Download the **SD64 App** to have everything your family needs, from events to transportation delays, in one place. Stay connected with up-to-date notifications and information from your school and the district, no matter where you are.

www.sd64.bc.ca

Higher taxes on the 1% not a bad thing

BY ERIC MARCH

In his Aug. 21 "How much tax is enough?" Viewpoint piece, Colin Ross questions Canadians' acceptance of the June 25 increase of the capital gains inclusion rate and asks readers to consider whether we should reduce the tax burden on Canada's struggling ultra rich.

If you work to earn wages in Canada, as I do, 100 per cent of your wages are considered as income when deciding how much income tax you pay. If you earned capital gains, passive income from selling assets such as stocks, bonds, property, etc., prior to June 25, 2024, only 50 per cent of those gains were considered income when deciding how much tax you pay.

The change that occurred on June 25 was to consider 50 per cent of capital gains below \$250,000 and 66 per cent of capital gains above \$250,000 as income for the purpose of determining how much income tax you pay. The Liberal party has only increased what is called the "tax inclusion" rate. The tax inclusion rate for income from wages is 100 per cent, but the tax inclusion rate for income from capital gains is only 50 to 66 per cent. Perhaps we should be asking ourselves why passive income deserves to be taxed less than income from labour.

In November of 2023, Statistics Canada published a report regarding capital gains and high-income earners. In 2021 only 11.9 per cent of the bottom 99 per cent of Canadian income earners had any capital gains. Those capital gains averaged out

IN RESPONSE

to be \$30,200. On the other hand, 47.3 per cent of the top one per cent of Canadian income earners had capital gains, earning on average \$223,400. Sixty-six per cent of the top 0.1 per cent and 72 per cent of the top 0.01 per cent earned \$684,100 and \$1,723,100. The June 25 increase to the capital gains tax inclusion rate will only affect the very wealthiest of Canadians. Considering the tax inclusion for capital gains in 2021 was 50 per cent, that top 0.01 per cent received an approximate average of \$861,550 in tax-free income in 2021.

This report also includes total income for 2020 and 2021 and the difference between them. In 2020, the bottom 99 per cent of Canadians earned \$52,300, and in 2021, that figure was \$52,900, an increase of 1.1 per cent. The top one per cent earned \$673,800 and \$811,800, an increase of 20.5 per cent. The top 0.1 per cent earned \$2,531,000 and \$3,230,100, an increase of 27.6 per cent. And finally, the top 0.01 per cent of Canadians saw their income increase a whopping 31 per cent, from \$9,571,700 in 2020 to \$12,542,100 in 2021.

If someone's total income is over \$12 million, do they really deserve to earn over \$800,000 tax free when someone earning only \$52,900 has to pay tax on the entirety of their income? Colin Ross may think so, but I disagree.

Canadian workers are struggling. According to an

RBC report in 2023, 55 per cent of Canadians are unable to afford a starter condo with their income; 74 per cent of Canadians are unable to afford a single-family home; 83 per cent of renters here in British Columbia would be forced to downsize or move to a different community if they faced eviction. The wages of the working class have stagnated while the income of the rich has ballooned. Canada's top one per cent are doing just fine and, despite Colin Ross' protests, could handle being taxed even more.

If, like me, you are working class, just imagine how improved your life would be if your income went up 31 per cent, or even just 20.5 per cent. If, like me, you are one of 740,000 British Columbians who earn below a living wage, imagine how improved your life would be if your income increased even to just that level. Then ask yourself if Canada's ownership and investment class really deserves so much more wealth than Canada's working class.

Colin Ross asks how much is too much? The cost of living in Canada is too much. An annual income of \$12,000,000 while food banks are busier than ever is too much. Half of Canadians being unable to afford to buy a home is too much. Being allowed to take home 33 per cent of passive income completely untaxed is too much. Income inequality in Canada is too much. The taxes on the rich? Not nearly enough.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

MORE LETTERS continued from 5

Lesson offered

I was quite distressed upon reading columnist Paul McElroy's admission of guilt regarding his abysmal lack of prowess in the manly art of DIY ("No need to reach for a confounding tool when a red mallet will do," Aug. 7 Driftwood). Before we yank his Man Card, perhaps a simple lesson on driving screws in the correct manner will steer him towards redemption.

First, determine the location that the screw is required. Mark it with an "X." Place the business end of your screwdriver on the mark. (Type of screwdriver is not all that important, but using one that matches the head of the screw is generally viewed as showing off.) With a hammer, mallet or any suitable large object, "drive'er" into the wall (that's why it's called a screwDRIVER).

Continue striking the screwdriver until it reaches a depth roughly equivalent to the length of the screw. Wiggle it out of the wall and place the pointy end of the screw directly on the hole. Now, holding the screwdriver by the tip, place it on the screw and wallop the other end with your designated weapon. Be sure to have plenty of screws on hand to fill any errant holes that

may appear around the work area.

In the event that you punch the screwdriver through your hand, DO NOT CRY. Simply hold your blood-dripping wound up for all to see and say something like, "Well, would ya look at that." Light a smoke or open a beer like nothing happened, leaving the offending instrument lodged firmly in your hand. If you can open the beer using the screwdriver still in place, that's very manly. Make your way to the hospital emergency department but do not extricate the screwdriver. You are going for maximum manly effect here.

When someone sees it and screams, you say, "Hmm . . . Oh, THIS? Nothing really, but I'm out of Band-aids at home." Everyone will think, "He's so incredibly brave, tough and manly." Or maybe, "He's so incredibly stupid!" Either one is acceptable; it's a guy thing.

When the repairs to your hand are complete, ask for your screwdriver back and wipe the blood off with your shirt. Saunter out, whistling a cheerful tune. Once clear of the place and alone, then you can cry. If required, get your mom to kiss it better.

There you go, Paul. Hope this helps.

MIKE STACEY,
SALT SPRING

MORE LETTERS continued on 7

When the courts turn their backs on farmers

BY ELSIE BORN

In a decision that has left many of us in the farming community stunned and disheartened, we recently lost a court case that will have far-reaching implications for anyone trying to make an honest living off the land.

This ruling is more than just a legal defeat; it's a message to every farmer that our struggles and sacrifices mean little in the eyes of those who hold the power.

For years, we've heard rhetoric about the importance of local agriculture, of supporting farmers who provide food for our tables and care for the land that sustains us all. But when push came to shove, and our right to farm was challenged by those who find our way of life inconvenient, the court decided that we were the ones who had to change, not the people who lived next door and didn't like the sounds, smells and realities of rural life.

This case was more than just a dispute over a few noisy animals or the occasional

odour that drifts on the breeze. It was a test of whether farming could survive in a world increasingly hostile to the very things that make it possible. And let's be clear — this was a benchmark case. The precedent set here is one that every farmer in this region, and beyond, should be worried about.

If you're trying to farm, and your neighbours don't like it, prepare yourself to make sacrifices — big ones. Because, as this ruling shows, there's little to no support for you or your farm. Your livelihood, your way of life, and the food you produce are all secondary to the comfort of those who don't understand, or don't care, about what it takes to keep a farm running.

We didn't just lose a court case; we lost a piece of our identity. Farming is not just a job; it's a calling, a commitment to the land and future generations. But what happens when that calling is drowned out by the complaints of those who see farmland as nothing more

than an extension of their own backyards?

This isn't just about us. It's about every farmer who wakes up before dawn, who works through long days and uncertain seasons. A farmer who fights to keep their farm afloat in the face of rising costs, changing regulations, and now, unsympathetic courts. We've been told to adapt, to modernize, to be more efficient. But now we're being told to do the impossible — to farm without the very things that make farming possible.

The court may have spoken, but we can't afford to remain silent. This ruling has put every farm at risk, and it's time to ask ourselves what kind of community we want to be. Are we going to stand by and watch as farmers are pushed off their land, or are we going to fight for the right to farm, to live, and to work in a way that sustains us all?

The loss is bitter, and the future feels uncertain. But one thing is clear: if we don't stand up now, there won't be much left to

fight for later.

If you want to be part of the dialogue or lend your support, consider attending the open house that the Salt Spring Local Community Commission is planning for September (date yet to be confirmed). For those passionate about bolstering our local food systems, writing to the Islands Trust and CRD can make a difference. And if you're in a position to help, please think about donating to Alia and CJ. This has been an immensely costly and challenging experience for them and their family. Sentencing is slated for Friday, Aug. 30, with the CRD seeking an additional \$7,000 in fines. You can contribute at gofund.me/e1d74fdc. Every bit of support counts.

This message is endorsed by the agriculture committee of the Salt Spring Island Farmers' Institute.

The writer is president of the Salt Spring Island Poultry Club.

MORE LETTERS

continued from 6

Loss for small-scale farmers

As someone who attended two of the three days of the trial, I can tell you that this case was about far more than a few noisy roosters — it was a critical fight for the rights of all rural property owners in the Capital Regional District (CRD). Unfortunately, the judge's ruling delivered a

harsh blow, not just to this one farm family but to everyone who values small-scale farming and rural life.

My biggest takeaway from being in court was the judge's shocking statement that we do not have a right to dispute our tickets. Hearing this was a turning point. The judge made it clear that the only thing that mattered was the fact that the neighbours felt "disturbed and harassed." It didn't matter how much noise mitigation had been done, nor the fact that this is rural-zoned land that allows agricultural

uses. What mattered was the complaint, and the CRD bylaw officers were there to hear every word. Because of this ruling, the implications are terrifying.

The judge even acknowledged that the family had the right to farm, that their property was zoned for it, and that their work was important to the community. However, she ultimately ruled that the comfort of the neighbours was more important. Because of this ruling, anyone in a rural area could be penalized simply because a neigh-

bor doesn't like the sounds of rural life — whether it's roosters, geese, sheep, cows, or even dogs. You won't have a leg to stand on. The fact that small-scale farmers and rural property owners have been stripped of their right to defend themselves against these complaints is deeply concerning.

This case was a massive waste of taxpayer dollars — funds that could have been used for community improvement were instead funnelled into an unnecessary legal battle over a few birds. I believe the

CRD appears to be using cases like this to justify an increase in bylaw enforcement.

But the most troubling aspect of this case is the precedent it sets. This is a loss for all rural property owners and small-scale farmers in the CRD district. The fight may be over for this family, but the battle to protect our rural way of life has just begun. It's time for someone to step up and protect farmers on Salt Spring Island and throughout the CRD.

DONNA SAFFEL,
SALT SPRING ISLAND

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EXHIBITIONS

Climate doom challenged in final Showcase

Shannon Wardroper's new show comes to Mahon Hall

SUBMITTED BY ARTCRAFT

An exhibition bursting with joyful colour nevertheless contains an important warning about the future in Artcraft's final Showcase exhibition of 2024.

Opening Friday, Aug. 30, The Beholders' Share is a solo show featuring contemporary textile artist Shannon Wardroper, who speaks to climate change, biodiversity loss and the ability to choose better outcomes in both large sculptural works and 2-D wall art.

The exhibition title stems from an art term describing how past personal history shapes viewers' experience of

art, whether that be enjoyment, elation, bewilderment, disgust or boredom.

"The idea that a viewer brings personal history and meaning to a work, that the brain indeed finishes the work, that this interplay makes all art a collaboration between artist and audience, seems akin to life itself. Communication, collaboration and respect between us, others and our natural environment are vital to thrive," Wardroper explains in her artist's statement.

Wardroper has lived on Salt Spring for the past 18 years. She holds a masters degree in arts education and studied at the Alberta College of Art, as well as formally at Chiang Mai University, Thailand, and informally in Kyoto, Japan. She has exhibited nationally and internationally.

The artist employs wax-resist dying in a myriad of complex colour combinations on screen-printed silk, using acid dye and ancient Japanese kimono dying techniques. In the case of the sculptural pieces, Wardroper also adds machine and hand embroidery, applique and free-form stitching.

The imagery depicts what we have to lose or may have already lost in the natural world due to human-caused climate change, as well as some of the industrial causes. The sculptural pieces are meanwhile based on a children's fortune-teller game that is normally made with a folded piece of paper yielding multiple potential outcomes. This structure highlights the choice-versus-chance interactive nature of the game, especially the impact of human choices on the environment.

"The layered and detailed imagery of flora and fauna — a celebration of the earth's lush and colourful environmental diversity — is contrasted with images relating to degradation and disruption: pipelines, fishnets, ocean warming data and viruses," Wardroper's statement notes. "Youth will be the most impacted by our choices, or lack thereof. This is represented, almost tragically, by



PHOTO BY SHANNON WARDROPER

Lengths of silk fabric that have been dyed using a wax-resist method in artist Shannon Wardroper's studio. Her show called The Beholders' Share opens Aug. 30 at Mahon Hall.

the fortune-teller game they themselves make and play."

An opening reception will take place from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, Aug. 30, in combination with a Salt Spring Arts Council members' appreciation night, with discount sales. An artist talk will follow on Sunday, Sept. 1 at 2 p.m. The showcase will be open during Artcraft hours, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily at Mahon Hall, through Sept. 22.

salt spring arts presents
THE BEHOLDERS' SHARE
SHANNON WARDROPER
ARTCRAFT SHOWCASE EXHIBITION
OPENING RECEPTION
AUG 30 | 6 — 8PM
ARTIST TALK
SEPT 1 | 2 — 3PM
EXHIBITION
AUG 30 — SEPT 22, 2024
Mahon Hall Stage
114 Rainbow Rd.
This showcase is generously sponsored by:
Hastings House
www.saltspringarts.com

PHOTOGRAPHY

Photosynthesis shares wildly diverse images

Twenty-two artists part of 24th annual show at ArtSpring gallery

BY CICELA MÅNSSON
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

At 24 years and counting, Photosynthesis is the longest continuous photography show on Salt Spring.

This year's exhibit opened on Aug. 22 to an exuberant crowd, which is remarkable when you consider the number of events occurring on that particular Thursday. Delectables were contributed by Thrifty Foods, Country Grocer and, as usual, by the photographers themselves. Many thanks to Conny and Upper Ganges Liquor Store for a lovely wine service! All of this contributed wonderfully to the crowd's enjoyment of the opening event for this year's exhibit, so expertly and beautifully hung by Zoe Zafiris.

The exhibit presents 80 pieces by 22 of Salt Spring's fine-art photographers spanning the photographic gamut: from wildlife to portraiture to abstract, traditional wet prints (with and



Just two of 80 photographs forming the Photosynthesis exhibit are, from left, guest artist John Denniston's Accidental Portrait, and Two Blossoms by Amy Melious.



PHOTOS COURTESY PHOTOSYNTHESIS

without using a lens) to digital compositing, panoramic landscapes to macro. The show maintains a high level of photographic insight, spanning the personal experiences of each artist. Each year, guest artists are included in the group, as well as a student from our local schools.

Howard Fry's stunning black and white portraits capture the beauty and personality of each of his subjects. Birgit Freybe Bateman unveils the quiet intimate details in commonplace views, Seth Berkowitz and Michael Wall have interest-

ingly different takes on the same subject matter, Anette Schrage shows cold, hard, brittle views that hit deep, while Brian Purcell's historical views of Montreal show a very different time, and Susan Huber's image of Sloan's Gate askew makes this viewer want to draw closer and understand the underlying story.

This viewer urges you to take in the exhibit so that you too may wander through the pieces of exceptional photographic work and experience the varied stories of this wildly diverse exhibit. Photosynthesis is in

the ArtSpring gallery, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily until Tuesday, Sept. 3.

This year's exhibitors include: Birgit Freybe Bateman, 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, Juliana Slomka, Susan Kronick (guest artist), Michael Wall, Doug McMillin and Sophie Hermann (student).

Sept. 14th, 2024 7:30pm
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Intermission provided by the SSI BC SPCA
BCSPCA
ArtSpring
artspring.ca

TEA À TEMPO

Birney and Grittani play at All Saints

Eight-year musical partnership celebrated

SUBMITTED BY MUSIC MAKERS

The Music Makers group welcomes long-time Salt Spring residents Marianne Grittani and Rose Birney back to the Tea à Tempo stage for an afternoon of music on Wednesday, Sept. 4 at All Saints by-the-Sea.

Grittani, a singer-songwriter and West Coast Music Award nominee, has been making music for more than 50 years, 20 of those here on Salt Spring Island. When she was here originally in the '70s, Valdy recognized her as a fellow folk artist and encouraged her to perform her own songs. They toured the Gulf Islands and Vancouver Island together for many years, along with Kathy Stack and other

Island musicians. She returned to Salt Spring in 2013, after 35 years based in Vancouver, and picked up right where she left off, but with that many more years of experience developing her songwriting and performance skills.

Grittani is known now for her warm, engaging stage presence and thoughtful, compelling songs. She was influenced early in her teenage life by artists like Joni Mitchell, Gordon Lightfoot, Tom Rush, Carole King, John Prine and so many more. She is now a seasoned songwriter in her own right, whose musical personality is deep and wide, ranging from swing-era toe-tapping tunes to intimate personal journeys. Grittani knows how to take her audience deep into her storylines with her soulful vocals. Her well-crafted songs explore common themes like love, loss, home, the road, hopes for humanity and

more — all in a way uniquely her own. To see her live is to become a fan.

Birney is a two-time songwriting delegate to the B.C. Festival of the Arts and winner of the North Island Talent Search in the acoustic group category. Birney has played most of the festivals on Vancouver Island, as well as the CBC's Madly Off In All Directions show, with her many groups from Victoria. Birney brings a lot to the table with her versatility on harmonica, mandolin and harmony — not to mention her humour!

The two musicians met on the dance floor at Moby's Pub in November 2016. They were introduced by a mutual friend, who said, "You two should know each other." They got together the following Thursday to play and they've been making beautiful music together ever since.

The Sept. 4 concert begins at 2:10 p.m.

BEADS SALE

Saturday, Aug 31 • 10am-5pm

Sunday, Sept 1 • 10am-3pm

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what's on this week

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

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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.

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

Salt Spring Island Museum. Farmers' Institute grounds. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Thur.

Aug. 29

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

John and Bruce. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Open Mic & Jam. With Rough & Tumble at the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

ArtSpring Season Launch. Sneak peek of the 2024/25 season. ArtSpring. 4 to 6 p.m.

Green Drinks. Topics include solar panels, rainwater collection, electric vehicles, electric lawn mowers and tools. Salt Spring Wild Cider House. 5 to 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Film Festival Society AGM. At the library program room. 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Museum. See Wed. listing.

Fri.

Aug. 30

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Karaoke. At the Legion. 7 p.m.

Best Laid Plans. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Fri.

Aug. 30

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 David Norget from the Mental Wellness Initiative. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Museum. See Wed. listing.

Sat.

Aug. 31

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Duck Creak Trio. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Old Times Cafe. Open stage at the Fulford Hall annex. 7 to 11 p.m. (And on the last Saturday of every month.)

La Gisto and The Grateful Living. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Books & Bling Donation Day. Back entrance of SIMS. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Bead Sale. In the Salt Spring library program room. 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Chronic Wasting Disease Seminar. Wildlife health biologist Cait Nelson speaks on provincial government program seeking deer samples. Rod & Gun Club. 3 p.m.

Sun.

Sept. 1

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Fawkes and Hownd. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

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

Pitchfork Social: Kelly Hunt Trio. The Jam Factory. 7:30 p.m. Check pitchforksocial.com for ticket availability.

ACTIVITIES

Bead Sale. In the Salt Spring library program room. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sun.

Sept. 1

ACTIVITIES

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

Mon.

Sept. 2

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Dogwood Bloom. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Tues.

Sept. 3

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Frank Allen Four. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

Country and Folk Singers & Songwriters. Legion. 7 to 10 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

What Is Zen? First in six-week series of talks presented by Salt Spring Zen Circle. All Saints by-the-Sea. 7 p.m.

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

Wed.

Sept. 4

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Marianne Grittani and Rose Birney. All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m.

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

Bert's Blues Banned. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

SSI United Church Choir Practice. First session under new music director Ron Klusmeier. United Church. 3:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Museum. See last Wed. listing.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

CINEMA

• **Deadpool & Wolverine** is the movie from Wednesday, Aug. 28 to Thursday, Aug. 29 at 7 p.m. **Inside Out 2** is the movie from Friday, Aug. 30 to Tuesday, Sept. 3 each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Shannon Wardroper - The Beholders' Share** is the new ArtCraft Showcase Exhibition, running Aug. 30 to Sept. 21 at Mahon Hall, with an opening reception on Friday, Aug. 30 from 6 to 8 p.m. Artist talk on Sunday, Sept. 1 at 2 p.m.

• **24th Annual Photosynthesis exhibition** of fine art photography runs at ArtSpring through Sept. 3, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

• **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.

• **Resurgence Art Exhibition** is the library program room show beginning Sept. 3.

• **Megan Coupland** shows work in the ArtSpring lobby until the end of August.

• **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** 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 Laundry-O-Mat in August.

• **Heather Webb** has an exhibit of work showing this month at Dragonfly Art Supplies.

Salt Spring Fall Fair

Sept. 7-8 at the Farmers' Institute
See ssifi.org/fall-fair for all the info about entries and attending the fair.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Announcement

Coming Events

Garage Sale

Michel Valcourt



December 25th 1951
- August 13th 2024

It is with immense sadness that we announce the passing of Michel Valcourt of Saltspring Island BC. Our beloved husband, father, brother, uncle, grandpa and friend.

Michel leaves behind the love of his life, his wife Darlene, his children who will be forever cherished; James, David, Melissa, Corey and his grandchildren Lexy, Colten, Macey, Dawson, Karen, Conner, Ella, Lou and Rosie. Michel had MANY nieces/nephews and friends that also meant the world to him.

Michel is pre-deceased by his parents Philias and Yvette Valcourt, his brothers Pierre and Jean-Marc Valcourt and his sister Anne Van De Reep.

Michel was very much a hard working man his entire life who was loved by many. He passed away peacefully with many loved ones by his side.

He will be forever missed and never forgotten as his incredible legacy will continue to live on.

Love you Mike, may you rest easy. Until we meet again. xo

There will be an event held in Michels' honor at the Legion on Saltspring Saturday August 31st from 3-5pm followed by a private family gathering at a later date.

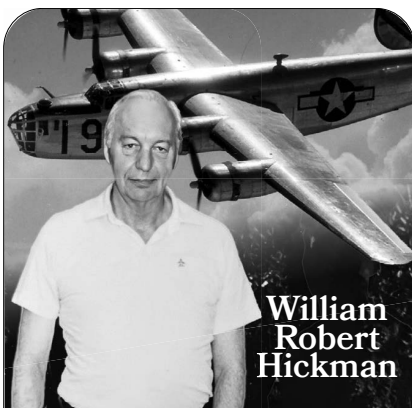
In lieu of flowers, please send all donations to the Legion or SPCA.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



William
Robert
Hickman

July 29, 1921 - August 4, 2024

Bob died in North Vancouver on August 4 at the venerable age of 103. Predeceased by his sister Winifred Burrows (2006), and his wife, from whom he was separated but always remained friends, Elizabeth Anne (2012).

Born in Calgary and raised in Vancouver, Bob graduated from Lord Byng High School in 1939 as the Depression years gave way to World War II. He served with the RCAF in Southeast Asia as Captain of a Liberator aircraft and was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for duties including dropping supplies and guerrilla resistance fighters behind enemy lines in what was then occupied Burma and Ceylon.

Bob graduated from UBC in 1949 with a Bachelor of Science and joined Canada's Foreign Trade Service in 1951, where he went on to serve as a Trade Commissioner in Switzerland, Greece, the Netherlands, Denmark, and Washington, D.C. He concluded his public service in Canada as Superintendent of Economic Development for the Department of Indian Affairs.

Bob spent much of his life on the move, keen to see what lay over the next hill and across the ocean. He leaves behind his beloved children, Robert Andrew (Caro), Donald Bruce (Sheri), and Kathryn Ann; and grandchildren, Sonya, Sheralin, and Ted.

He will be missed.

*"I'll be looking at the moon
But I'll be seeing you."*

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SCAN ME!

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

AUGUST - SEPTEMBER 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
28	7:14	1.8	0.55	1 SEP	3:00	8.9	2.71
	16:34	10.3	3.14		10:36	2.1	0.64
	20:39	9.7	2.96		18:23	10.3	3.14
	22:37	9.8	2.99		23:38	7.6	2.32
29	8:14	1.8	0.55	2	4:04	8.8	2.68
	17:06	10.5	3.2		11:13	2.5	0.76
	22:03	9.3	2.83		18:42	10.1	3.08
	23:57	9.3	2.83		0:06	7	2.13
30	9:08	1.8	0.55	3	5:01	8.8	2.68
	17:35	10.5	3.2		11:47	3	0.91
	22:42	8.8	2.68		18:59	9.9	3.02
	1:39	9	2.74		0:36	6.3	1.92
31	9:55	1.9	0.58	4	5:55	8.8	2.68
	18:01	10.4	3.17		12:20	3.7	1.13
	23:11	8.2	2.5		19:15	9.8	2.99

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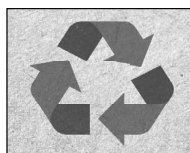
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ISLAND LIFE

PERSONAL GROWTH

Zen curiosity satisfied with six-week series

First talk set for Sept. 4

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING ZEN CIRCLE

For people wanting to learn more about Zen, a What is Zen? series of talks running from Sept. 4 to Oct. 9 will help answer questions and introduce them to a practice that has its roots in interdependence and impermanence.

Simon Rompre, Judy Daylen, Chris Smart and Michelle Reed will lead a six-week series of Wednesday night talks running from 7 to 9 p.m. at the upper hall of All Saints by-the-Sea. Beginners and seasoned practitioners are welcome to attend.

Salt Spring Zen Circle is evolving in the way that every living thing transforms. We are a

unique householder Soto Zen Sangha, initially launched in 2001 by our founding teacher Peter Levitt. Before stepping down as the sangha's guiding teacher in December of 2023, Levitt endowed two long-term practitioners, Judy Daylen and Simon Rompre, with lay entrustment, which authorizes them as teachers in the Suzuki Roshi Lineage.

Our sangha is a collective of Zen practitioners, folks who live on and off the island. We operate as a circle and a registered charity with members taking on the varied roles to keep our practice vibrant. We offer a variety of practice opportunities both in person and online.

Our 2024 fall sesshin (meditation retreat), called The Sangha Jewel and the Bodhisattva Path, is planned for the end of October. It will explore founda-

tional ways that the study and practice of the precepts (ethical principles) and the spiritual friendship offered by sangha support our journey of awakening and living our lives for the benefit of all beings. The three-day sesshin will culminate with a Zaiko Tokudo (Staying at Home, Attaining the Way) ceremony for five sangha members who will receive the precepts as they formally embark on the bodhisattva path.

Anyone interested in further information or in attending upcoming events, either in person or online, can contact Judy Daylen at jdaylen@gmail.com.

The group's website is currently being updated, but relevant information about sangha activities and membership can be found at saltspringzen.org/history-of-salt-spring-zen-circle-2001-2021/membership/.

GETTING READY FOR THE FAIR



PHOTO BY NANCY JOHNSON

Seen painting the Farmers' Institute's main hall a few weeks ago are, from left, Shirley Boyas, Carol Walde, Gail Gulayets, Elaine Huser and Pam Fetherston. They are among several Friends of the Farmers' Institute volunteers who do maintenance work on the grounds and buildings on Tuesday mornings. Improvements will be enjoyed at the Salt Spring Fall Fair on Saturday-Sunday, Sept. 7-8. The deadline for general entry (non-livestock) and horse show forms is Saturday, Aug. 31. See details and forms in the Fall Fair Entry Catalogue, accessible online at ssifi.org/fall-fair, or in print at various locations around Salt Spring. Online entries are being accepted for the first time this year.

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SPORTS + RECREATION



PHOTO BY DONALD SMITH PHOTOGRAPHY

Spectators react as a skater crashes into a hay bale on the edge of the Salt Spring Slasher course during competitive longboard racing on Saturday. The skater was not seriously injured.



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG

Katerina Hill, fourth-place finisher after Saturday's racing, rounds the sharp curve before the final stretch of the run.



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG

The 13th Salt Spring Slasher downhill longboard race attracted a number of supporters and spectators on the Juniper Place course, with high-calibre racing to be witnessed. Results were not available at Driftwood press time on Monday.

YOUTH SPORTS

Junior tennis successes marked

After-school tennis begins in September

BY MARGARET FISHER
FOR SALT SPRING TENNIS ASSOCIATION

The Salt Spring Tennis Association (SSTA) has seen a busy and successful year of junior tennis activity under coach Mukul Karthikeyan.

When Karthikeyan arrived on Salt Spring a year ago, he stated that his primary goal was to develop a successful junior tennis program. Throughout the year, Karthikeyan offered clinics to adult players of all levels, with many of us greatly benefitting from his coaching. But before and after school and on weekends, his seemingly indefatigable energy was directed toward the juniors.

This summer he ran several junior tennis camps, with 48 Salt Spring kids

participating. Youth of varying ages and abilities enjoyed the fast-paced drills and games, making great progress and having fun while learning.

Additionally, a high-performance junior camp ran throughout the summer with 18 top juniors aged 10 to 17 years participating, including three local teens.

One of these juniors, Mansino Snell, won the U14 boys provincial championships held at Bear Mountain and will be off to represent B.C. at the national championships.

I think Karthikeyan's goal of developing a successful junior program has been met; indeed, he has close to 60 juniors currently training with him.

After-school tennis will start up again in September with all kids welcome to join in.

Information can be obtained by emailing Karthikeyan at coaching@saltspringtennis.ca.



PHOTO COURTESY SSTA

Salt Spring Tennis Association coach Mukul Karthikeyan, left, with one of his junior players, Mansino Snell, who won the U14 boys provincial championships and will represent B.C. in national competition.

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Your official guide to the Fall Fair 2024 winners publishing September 25

Matt Gaudette
matt.gaudette@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Nancy Johnson
nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Harvest Time magazine is a celebration of the Fair with tons of photos, prize-winning recipes and, of course, a showcase of the winners in all categories.

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