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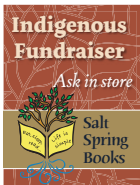


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Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
Sept. 18, 2024

64th year
Issue 38
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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

A TOAST TO ADAM: Saanich North and the Islands Green party MLA Adam Olsen, left, joins the toast to himself during a tribute event at Lions Hall on Friday, Sept. 13, along with, from left, his mother Sylvia Olsen and Green party members Alvaro Sanchez and Brian Smallshaw. The event saw numerous people speak, everyone in the crowd sharing a word or thoughts about Olsen, two songs from Bill Henderson, a giant "group hug," cake and finger foods to share. Posted on the wall behind are Olsen quotes from Legislative Assembly speeches. For more photos, see page 5, and see our gulfislandsdriftwood.com website for a video of Olsen's address and other coverage. Olsen announced in June that he would not be seeking a third term as MLA.

TOWN HALL

LCC gets earful from farming reps

Agriculture community advocates for protective bylaw changes

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's agricultural community crowded Lions Hall to press officials for change, in the wake of a courtroom decision that went against one island couple whose poultry-breeding activities were found to have violated local noise bylaws.

Seating capacity at the town hall was reached and exceeded Monday, Sept. 9, and as members of Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) listened, one islander after the next took the microphone largely to speak in favour of legal changes that could shield farming activities from neighbourhood complaints, irrespective of whether they were within Salt Spring's Rural or Agriculture land-use zones.

The community gathering was called in response to a provincial court judge fining Salt Spring resident Clinton McNichol for contravening Capital Regional District (CRD) noise bylaws due to keeping roosters on his Rural-

zoned Woodland Drive property. That judge also ordered a prohibition on any roosters being kept there until Sept. 6, 2025.

Addressing the LCC, Salt Spring Island Farmers Institute board of directors president Terry Clement and Agriculture Committee chair Kevin Chipperfield re-sounded that group's alarm on the shrinking availability of farmland on the island, saying it seemed clear the local court case would ultimately have a wider reach.

"This action far extends beyond Salt Spring Island," said Clement, "because what it does is, it impacts the food security and the food sovereignty right across the province."

Clement said the Farmers Institute's plan was to escalate its involvement, beginning with a suggested dispute resolution mechanism sent to the head of CRD's bylaw enforcement and hopefully extending to input on new legislation in the longer term.

"With this as a precedent set in the court," said Clement, "it means that any new nuisance,

noise type of issue — regardless of whether it's agriculture, or whether somebody is setting up a scrap metal [operation] that has been zoned industrial and it is a permitted activity — can be prevented and dismissed as a result of a nuisance bylaw issue."

"If we cannot find common ground between small lot farmers and their neighbours, the situation could become untenable," said Chipperfield, "with the legal profession as benefactors."

That particular sort of common ground would have to wait for another night. As the LCC heard one speaker after another expressing the need for more permissive or protective bylaws for farming activities — or for unsympathetic neighbours to simply "deal with a little cock-a-doodle-doo," as one attendee put it — the increasingly enthusiastic applause made it clear the gathering was dominated by farming advocates.

LCC continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:

"Arguments are an exchange of ignorance."

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CAN YOU DIG IT?



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Crews work in, on, around and below an excavator Friday, Sept. 13, as the first holes were dug for improvement work planned for Salt Spring Island's Fulford-Ganges Road, on "Ganges Hill" above Seaview Avenue. Traffic will continue to shift to a single alternating lane weekdays between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m., according to contractors Northridge Excavating Ltd. Road crews struggled in the first week to keep delays as short as possible, but as traffic backed up — as far south as the Fields store, according to drivers' reports — some islanders faced adding as much as a half hour to their trip into Ganges. The speed limit through the construction zone on the island's busiest road has been lowered from 50 km/h to 30 km/h.

Capital Regional District



Fulford Water Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3248 (Fulford Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2004), residents within the Fulford Water Local Service Area are invited to attend a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting:

Fulford Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, October 21, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm

Place: Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) boardroom
124 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 2V5

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3248, real property owners or residents in the Fulford Water Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is four plus the Electoral Area Director (three members must be owners of real property; and one member may be a resident). There are two positions expiring December 31, 2024.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3248 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Fulford Water Services Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to Mackenzie Williamson, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Parks and Recreation: 250.538.4304 or email: mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw review planned

LCC

continued from 1

Noticeably absent was public comment from the "other side" of the debate, LCC member and CRD director Gary Holman noted, while expressing his disappointment that so many who spoke were unwilling to refrain from cheering for one another.

"So there were folks here who do have a different view than virtually everyone in this room, and they felt intimidated to express that view," said Holman. "And I'm telling you that I feel honour-bound as an elected official to also listen to those views. I'm open to try to make changes to avoid this kind of circumstance in the future, but it's going to be done by listening to everybody."

Holman proposed convening a working group of all stakeholders to craft a way forward, but next steps meanwhile for those feeling a greater sense of urgency are less clear.

McNichol told supporters at the town hall there may yet be further legal appeals, although he noted he and spouse Alia Elaraj were left with "a very sizable debt and a ticking clock" to further contest the court decision.

McNichol's neighbour Isy Cohen — one of the CRD's court witnesses who complained about noise — addressed Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee Thursday, Sept. 12, suggesting trustees consider changing the zoning for parcels on Woodland Drive bounded on two sides by Mobrae Avenue from rural "R" to residential R1-R5 or R8, which would prohibit intensive agriculture.

Salt Spring Island Poultry Club president Elsie Born submitted paperwork to speak

before the Islands Trust Council during its next meeting set for Sept. 24 to 26. Born's delegation request indicates she will bring several proposals, including policy revisions to protect farming practices on rural-zoned land.

And, at the tail end of the LCC's regular meeting Thursday, Sept. 12, chair Earl Rook brought a notice of motion — "basically to get the conversation started, but not committing us necessarily to any particular course of action," he noted — that the LCC initiate a review of both the noise and animal control bylaws, "for the purpose of assessing the suitability of existing bylaw language for the community of Salt Spring Island, and recommending changes where appropriate to the CRD Board."

"The commissioners will work with staff to develop an open and transparent process," Rook said, which would include "full public notification of the initiation of the review and the specific bylaws under review; public solicitation of input on the bylaws under review through multiple means, including written comments, public forums and meetings with stakeholders; and solicitation of legal opinion and guidance where necessary."

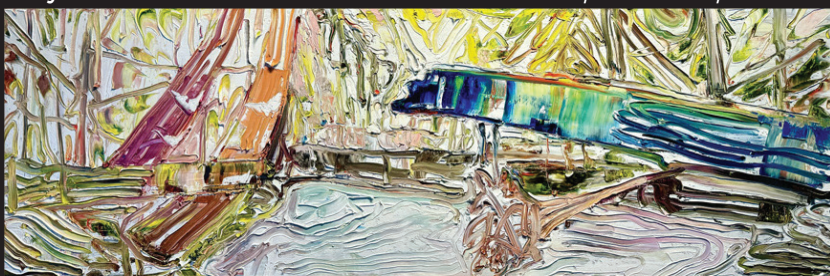
Upon a reminder that the LCC lacks the authority to make recommendations directly to the CRD Board, commissioners at the Sept. 12 meeting seemed resigned to the protocol of making recommendations to Holman, who — in his role as CRD director — could bring recommendations to the CRD's Electoral Areas Committee (EAC).

"Whatever the LCC recommends," said Holman. "Even if I disagree with it, I will commit to making sure that the EAC sees that."

That motion is likely to be made during the LCC's meeting in October, Rook said.

Deon Venter

Chrysalis



Kathy Venter

Echo/Reflection/Entrance



Gallery 8 is proud to present a two person exhibition of new work by internationally exhibited artists Deon and Kathy Venter. Kathy and Deon established their studios on Salt Spring Island in 1989.

"This is an exhibition not to miss"

Opening reception Friday September 20th, 5 - 8 pm.
Exhibition runs September 20th - October 20th, 2024

Gallery 8

PARKS & REC

Sunday pool hours back in 2025

Safety concerns prompt new cameras

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Budget wrangling for the coming year is wrapping up, and users of Salt Spring's second most popular public amenity will be happy to hear the Rainbow Recreation Centre's pool will be returning to a seven-days-a-week schedule in 2025.

Among dozens of preliminary budget tweaks worked out over a marathon session for Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) Thursday, Sept. 12 was a funding bump that will re-open the pool on Sundays — mostly likely with staffing in place to permit swimming from 1 to 5:30 p.m., according to acting Capital Regional District (CRD) senior manager Dan Ovington.

Calling the pool "a hole into which we pour money," LCC member and CRD director Gary Holman agreed more islanders use the pool than any other amenity apart from the library — and voters approved both.

"There are still things we're not able to do," said Holman. "The service level at the pool is lower than it was a few years ago. But our single largest requisition cost is that one facility."

Ovington said Sundays were historically popular days for swimming, often seeing more than 100 visitors even with shortened hours.

"We hear it a lot now, 'why aren't you open on Sundays?'" he said. "It also opens up opportunities for birthday parties, and really something else for families to do on weekends in the winter."

In addition to the staffing increase, commissioners also approved a budget for a new safety improvement: surveillance cameras in public indoor areas at the recreation centre.

"It also opens up opportunities for birthday parties, and really something else for families to do on weekends in the winter."

DAN OVINGTON
Acting SSI senior manager, CRD

Ovington told LCC members there had been a number of recent safety incidents at the pool where some "younger, specifically female staff" felt unsafe — prompting a safety audit that brought forth several recommendations, including improvements in training and front desk arrangements and adding surveillance.

"This would be similar to what we have at other CRD and greater Victoria facilities," said Ovington, pointing to Panorama, Oak Bay and Saanich pools. "Cameras in the common areas, as well

as out on the pool deck — but not the change rooms."

Ovington said there had also been multiple reports from parents — either to his office, he said, or often to police — of various kinds of inappropriate behaviour toward children, but it was often difficult to take action when one party denies doing anything wrong.

"As an example, on the low end of what we've been experiencing there, we hear 'an elderly man was licking his lips at me, it was inappropriate,'" said Ovington. "We approached the gentleman, he said 'I didn't do that.' And it's their word against a seven-year-old."

Ovington said staff in other CRD pools had found common-area cameras useful, and they were recommended by local RCMP — to help enforcement, he said, but also as a deterrent.

LCC member Brian Webster said that while he was generally skeptical of public surveillance for its privacy implications, he was more agreeable to cameras inside a public facility than outdoors, where unknowing passers-by "could have their privacy invaded."

"I think this passes the test," he said, "for something where the importance of ensuring the safety of staff outweighs my concerns around protection of privacy, particularly given that the only people affected would be people who chose to enter the facility."

A one-time expense for that project will be met by Community Works Funds, according to a staff report.

MEDIA

Driftwood earns national awards

One of 12 papers recognized for 'general excellence'

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Top-three winners in Canadian Community Newspapers Association (CCNA) competition were announced Monday, Sept. 16, with the Driftwood earning four awards.

Based on two papers submitted from two months in 2023 determined by the CCNA, the Driftwood was judged third-best overall from papers in the 1,500 to 6,499 circulation category, and deemed to have the best editorial page and the third-best front page.

Only 12 papers made the top three in four circulation categories nation-wide.

Dennis Parker's cartoon of a Wheel of Fortune game at a ferry terminal won first place in the local cartoon category for papers under 10,000 circulation.

FORTHRECORD

Regarding last edition's story "Trust wrestles with enforcement," bylaw compliance and enforcement manager Warren Dingman clarified his count for new Mudge Island files in 2024 was 45, and that while there may have been 132 open files for the Gabriola Local Trust Area at some point this year, they were not all on Mudge Island.

FIRE DISTRICT

Proposed fire budget nudges 10%

Fire hall project update also provided

BY GAIL S. JUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People attending the Salt Spring fire district's town hall meeting at the Ganges fire hall training room Sept. 9 heard a familiar refrain when it came to the subject of the draft 2025 budget.

Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District (SSIFPD) CAO Rodney Dieleman's detailed presentation showed a proposed 9.88 per cent increase over last year, close to the 9.02 to 10.91 per cent annual increases seen since 2021. The projected 2025 budget is \$5,649,934.

As heard for the past few years, high inflation and additional wage costs are the major contributing factors.

"We were trying to squeeze everything to make sure that the budget came in as low as possible," said Fire Chief Jamie Holmes. "But even at nine per cent we are going to have challenges moving forward because all of our suppliers' prices have gone up on everything. So we're feeling constraints, just like everybody else."

Raising compensation for paid-on-call (POC) members by a dollar an hour for training and five dollars for call-out time is in the plan. As well, another career position will be added to the current roster of 13, but essentially to cover other firefighters' holiday or sick time and reduce the significant overtime costs incurred.

"That position is added not to add more staff, but to backfill," explained Holmes. "Our overtime line items were getting higher than we would like to see, so we managed in the last round of collective bargaining to get language for, in essence, a staffing pool position that we can move around. They can work different shift patterns, and that will save us on the overtime line item."

It will be the second "pool" position, he said, as one was added last year.

The new position, POC wage increases plus International Association of Fire Fighters (IAFF) collective agreement changes will result in wage and labour burden costs rising 7.14 per cent to \$3,708,874 next year.

POC rates will rise by \$4.75 an hour to \$26.50 (with the B.C. average being \$27.49) for call-outs and by \$1 an hour (to \$22.75) for training, the meeting heard.

Jeff Outerbridge, one of about a dozen members of the public

attending the meeting, asked why POCs couldn't be used for relief purposes. Holmes said POCs did sometimes provide the relief required, but the IAFF collective agreement states any overtime available must first be offered to union members. However, he added, there's a recognition that working too much is not healthy, so an overtime cap was also negotiated along with the second flex position.

"Our approach was, 'We're looking out for your mental health and wellness, and part of that is also making sure you take time off.'"

Outerbridge also asked if there would ever be a cap on the number of career firefighter positions. It was acknowledged that the union will likely continue to push for increased paid staff, preferring to see three or four people per shift rather than the current two.

Some \$1,094,125 of next year's \$5.65 million budget is for capital costs and reserve funds, including saving for new fire trucks, water supply infrastructure, building maintenance and work being done to build the new Ganges fire hall now. Dieleman said he would recommend always putting away about 20 per cent of the annual budget for capital purchases.

An update on the new fire hall project was also provided to the meeting, with the gist of it being that things are going well, with building inspection issues related to second-storey access and the hose tower resolved, and a number of contracts signed.

Holmes said contracts for civil, foundation, rebar, structural wood, structural steel and framing have all been signed. Electrical, mechanical, drywall, millwork, paint and landscaping services have not yet been determined.

When asked about local contractor involvement in the project, owner's representative Hans Hazenboom explained that despite meeting with the island's contractors' association and encouraging them to submit bids, few have done so to date.

"I would say probably about 80 per cent of them have said they were not interested, or they were so busy themselves and they don't have the manpower."

It was noted that local company Charlie's Excavating did get the site preparation contract.

Hazenboom said Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure access permits are not yet in hand.

Dieleman also gave an update on the department's five-year strategic plan. That plan and all other documents referenced in the town hall can be viewed on the saltspringfire.com website.

Capital Regional District

CRD

Committee Membership Opportunity

Lyall Harbour-Boot Cove Water Local Services Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 1875, real property owners or residents in the Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Local Services Area are invited to nominate themselves or another owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is six (6), including the Electoral Area Director, four (4) owners or residents of the Local Service Area, and the current holder or representative of the holder of Conditional Water License No. 26480.

Nominations are being accepted for the following two (2) vacancies:

- Owners or residents who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nomination Instructions: When submitting your nomination, please clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Lyall Harbour/Boot Cove Water Local Services Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Tuesday, October 1, 2024.**

Mail or email your submission to:
Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 1875 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca/lyallboot-ws

CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

Regional transportation service heads to AAP

Elected officials unsuccessful in bid to exclude Salt Spring from new service and its costs

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Plans for a \$20-million regional transportation service — and for the tax dollars supporting it — have been approved by the Capital Regional District (CRD) board, despite pleas from Salt Spring's elected officials to not participate in a service they believe will provide no benefit to the island.

The most populous Southern Gulf Island's position was made clear months prior, according to electoral area director Gary Holman, who along with Local Community Commission (LCC) member Brian Webster travelled to Victoria to make their final case in multiple meetings Wednesday, Sept. 11. Holman and Webster reiterated that it made no sense for Salt Spring to participate in a regional service which they said was at best duplicative — and at worst, undemocratic.

"I'm a big believer in region-wide initiatives," Webster told the CRD transportation committee. "I lived for 17 years on probably the only street that had one block in Oak Bay, one block in Saanich and one in the City of Victoria."

But, he said, despite the initiative having merit generally, there were several reasons it simply didn't make sense to include Salt Spring.

"Our residents make quite limited use of the transportation infrastructure in other CRD jurisdictions," he said. "Most of our connections that go off Salt Spring don't even go to the CRD, they go to the Cowichan Valley Regional District."

Salt Spring's population is also large enough, Webster pointed out, that a "high degree" of employment and services are on-island, and don't necessarily require a ferry trip.

"And most importantly, Salt Spring Island already has a CRD transportation service — a local service that's been operating for a number of years," said Webster. "It's supported entirely by Salt Spring Island taxpayers, investing in active transportation and supporting our transit service."

But most CRD board members took a "rising tide will lift all ships" perspective; CRD director Jeremy Caradonna, councillor for Victoria, shared with the board what he felt was a relevant anecdote about a recent bicycle ride from his home in that city's Fernwood neighbourhood to Salt Spring Island.

"From my home all the way to Swartz Bay is on a protected bike lane, basically," said Caradonna. "Then when you get off the ferry in Fulford, it's a nightmare."

Caradonna argued it showed Salt Spring's local transportation service as the "status quo" was not working.

"Why are there no bike lanes on Salt Spring Island?" asked Caradonna. "Why is there no sidewalk along the Fulford-Ganges Road? Why is there no sidewalk in big portions of downtown Ganges? Why are there insufficient crosswalks that are from the 1980s?"

"In part," answered Holman, "because Salt Spring has invested millions of dollars in the existing regional trail system and received virtually nothing in return. Even with very explicit requests to include Salt Spring in [regional] trail borrowing, not only was that request rejected, it wasn't even



Salt Spring Local Community Commission commissioner Brian Webster, right, addresses the Capital Regional District Board in Victoria on Wednesday, Sept. 11, asking to exclude Salt Spring from a proposal that will establish a new regional transportation service for the CRD. Webster and Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman told the board the island already has its own transportation service and that it did not make sense for island taxpayers to contribute to a fund that would not likely benefit them.

referred to the transportation committee."

And, Holman said, had he been CRD director for anywhere else but Salt Spring, he wouldn't vote to advance Salt Spring projects either — because of the relatively small population, and because he said unconnected trails on a separate small island are hard to define as "regionally significant."

"It's about bang for the buck," said Holman. "If you're sitting here with your regional hat on and looking at how best to spend tens of millions on active transportation, it wouldn't be on Salt Spring — it would be in Greater Victoria, from an economic perspective."

With the CRD board's vote, public approval of the new service will now be sought — through the Alternative Approval Process (AAP), where a measure succeeds by having fewer signatures from voters who are against it. In this case, the AAP allows the board to adopt the service-establishing bylaw if less than 10 per cent, or fewer than 33,191 electors, join the counter petition.

Since there are just 9,500 registered voters on Salt Spring Island, Holman noted, even if all of them signed in opposition, the counter petition would fail anyway.

"One could argue, 'it's going to voters, how democratic can you get?'" said Holman. "It's not democratic; Salt Spring would be the tail wagging the dog."

The initial requisition of \$10.3 million can max out at \$20 million under the current authorization, according to a CRD staff report, although board members noted that number was linked to current property assessments and could rise further.

Salt Spring's contribution is estimated to initially total about \$339,000 each year — significant for Salt Spring, Holman noted, although just 3.3 per cent of the total cost of the service, tracking with the island's percentage of total converted real estate assessments in 2024.

**"It's not democratic;
Salt Spring would be
the tail wagging
the dog."**

GARY HOLMAN
Salt Spring CRD director

According to the CRD, an average residential tax bill on Salt Spring would increase by \$51.12 annually on the island — about the same increase faced by an average residence in the municipality of Victoria, according to staff estimates, although the larger size of that municipality means it will ultimately contribute nearly 24 per cent of the total.

At the full \$20 million, those numbers for Salt Spring max out — again, tracked to current property values — at \$658,000 per year or \$99.27 per average residence, according to staff.

"If Salt Spring Island ever wants to have a regional trail from Fulford Harbour to Vesuvius, which is envisioned, I believe it probably will be more likely to happen with a regional transportation service than being borne on the backs of Salt Spring Island residents hoping for grants from the provincial and federal government," said CRD Board chair Colin Plant. "I think it is untenable, with all due respect to my colleague from Salt Spring Island, to have them not participate."

Holman was unconvinced.

"It could be possible that if this regional service is established, maybe there might be an incremental benefit to Salt Spring," said Holman. "To say, 'have faith, eventually you will get a regional trail.' Well, history over the past 15 years has clearly indicated that's not the case. I'm not willing to support being drawn into a service where the historical experience has indicated we'll get zero benefit."

The successful vote to advance the new service, where Holman was joined in opposition only by Juan de Fuca electoral area director Al Wickheim, was celebrated by remaining directors with a round of applause.

"To be honest, I'm more concerned now than I was before," Webster told fellow LCC members during their meeting the following day, noting board discussions about commuter rail from the West Shore area to downtown Victoria. "By the end of the meeting there, I thought the way the service is envisioned fit Salt Spring even less than I thought."

If the bylaw is adopted, the Southern Gulf Islands Electoral Area will contribute 2.6 per cent — an average of \$39.11 per residence — and the Juan de Fuca Electoral Area will contribute 1.8 per cent, or \$44.41 per average residence.

GOVERNMENT

Trust announces new office location

Creekside space secured

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A six-figure renovation of the former Apple Photo space appears to be going ahead, as Islands Trust officials formally announced Wednesday, Sept. 11 they had secured a "multi-year" lease for the relocation of their Salt Spring Island office.

By this time next month, the Islands Trust's office on Lower Ganges Road will have closed its doors, as staff move to a new location in Ganges at the 121 McPhillips Ave. in the Creekside building near the

main Capital Regional District administration office. Trust staff in March said a budget of \$210,000 would cover the change.

The current office space was leased from BC Hydro, who last summer told the Islands Trust the contract would not be renewed.

The move-out date has been set for Oct. 18, after which officials said there will temporarily be no public-facing staff available, at least in an in-person setting. Staff plan to respond to phone calls and answer emails during regular weekday business hours, office closure notwithstanding. No date has been set for services to re-open in the new location.

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Saltspring Town Hall

Lions Club - 103 Bonnet Ave

September 20th 6-7:30PM

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HOUSING

ADU plans sent to Tsawout

First Nation's input sought on Bylaw 537

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's land use officials are once again moving forward with proposed rules for accessory dwelling units (ADUs) — perhaps counterintuitively by rescinding third reading of Bylaw 537.

Policy wonks reading that might be excused for double-checking the date on the calendar; originally floated in 2023 as a smaller-scale version of 2022's Bylaw 530, Bylaw 537 is the Salt Spring Local Trust Committee's (LTC) latest run at an ADU regulatory scheme, last seen in public meetings at the beginning of this year.

Bylaw 537 seemed poised to be adopted until Feb. 2, when a letter was sent to the Islands Trust Executive Committee from Tsawout First Nation Chief Abraham Pelkey expressing Tsawout's "deep concern and continuing opposition" to the bylaw, as well as frustration with the process — saying they were not consulted or even informed that the bylaw was progressing, nor given time to express opposition before it happened.

Trustees paused the process to consult with Tsawout First Nation leadership and, hopefully, improve that strained relationship. Regional plan-

ning manager Chris Hutton said staff took that direction to heart.

"So we did have conversations with staff at Tsawout First Nation," said Hutton at the LTC's regular meeting Thursday, Sept. 12. "And the word is that following up on that meeting, the Tsawout First Nation would appreciate if we would send a referral to them of Bylaw 537."

But, Hutton explained, as the bylaw had already been read three times, it was technically no longer open to amendment, rendering a referral meaningless. So, staff recommended the third reading be rescinded, and the bylaw then be formally referred to Tsawout First Nation for comment.

"A lot of this could have been avoided if we had communications from the beginning," said trustee Laura Patrick. "We had delayed Bylaw 530 to wait, respectfully, for their elections, but we never told them that; we reduced Bylaw 530 to this bylaw to respond, in part, to comments that they provided during the referral on Bylaw 530 — and we never told them that."

Patrick also said Tsawout had received "documentation from an organization's lawyers" indicating the bylaw was violating Salt Spring's Official Community Plan (OCP), and she regretted the LTC never had a conversation to tell them otherwise.

"I've since learned there was a developer on the island, that went

and told the Tsawout, 'oh my gosh, no, you can't have accessory dwelling units down over there!'" said Patrick. "They've been getting an earful from everybody but us — and you know, I can understand why they're frustrated."

Trustee Jamie Harris lamented the enduring delays, and passionately suggested defeating Bylaw 537 "today" and re-starting the process to enact the original Bylaw 530 and the necessary OCP amendments that would entail — a course of action met with far less enthusiasm from the other trustees.

The LTC voted 2-1 to rescind Bylaw 537's third reading and issue the referral, with Harris opposing.

Bylaw 537 would add a new map to Salt Spring Island's planning documents, indicating where and how ADUs would be allowed — essentially everywhere secondary suites are already permitted, except for lands subject to excessive saltwater intrusion and those subject to the existing moratorium on new connections within the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's (NSSWD) service area.

What effect NSSWD's recently announced plans to gradually lift that moratorium may have is not yet clear, but the LTC had proposed staff develop a streamlined spot-zoning "pilot project" to allow residents to request their properties be added to the map.



PHOTOS BY GAIL SJURBERG

HÍSWKE TO ADAM: From top, local MP Elizabeth May says HÍSWKE (thank you) to her retiring provincial counterpart Adam Olsen at a tribute event at Lions Hall on Sept. 13, while Island Pathways rep Robin Jenkinson gives Olsen a rear-view mirror for his bicycle as a gift of appreciation for all his hard work on the active transportation file during his eight years in the MLA seat. May also held a community meeting at GISS that evening.

FIGHT FOR A BC THAT PUTS PEOPLE FIRST

We can build a BC that protects the environment for future generations and ensures everyone has what they need to thrive. By protecting the planet, we protect the health of future generations.

The BC Greens have bold plans for a province where everyone feels safe, has an affordable home, accessible healthcare, and a strong economy, all within a healthy environment.

Together, we can achieve this. This election, choose the BC Greens. We put communities and the future first.

vote.botterell.ca | teambotterell@greens.ca | 778-351-1514



Vote BC Greens on **October 19**

BC greens

Rob Botterell
SAANICH NORTH & THE ISLANDS

AUTHORIZED BY MOLLY MCKAY, FINANCIAL AGENT, 888-473-3686

OPINION

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

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



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Be-calmed traffic

There's a proper traffic jam out front, and without a single sheep in sight.

For readers fortunate enough not to have noticed, construction on Fulford-Ganges Road between Cranberry Road and Seaview Avenue has officially entered its alternating-one-lane-traffic stage, and — at least between 9 a.m. and 3 p.m. — it's led to a few frustrations.

From our vantage point on Fulford-Ganges Road, we're among those with a front-row seat to the traffic back-ups, and we're happy to credit both flaggers and drivers as we watched emergency vehicles pass by largely unhindered.

For those without lights and a siren, however, it's an exercise in patience. The delays can be long — reportedly adding as much as a half hour to some Salt Springers' commutes — and just one person needing to turn left off the main road (or worse still, trying to turn left onto it) can make the backup longer still.

While it looked a little better managed as we went to press Monday afternoon, we're all going to have to try harder to not block driveways and side streets, or to at least pay

close attention and leave enough room between vehicles to sort something out on the fly.

But, as they say, we're not really stuck in traffic — we are the traffic.

It's easier to believe there are truly thousands of cars using that road every day when a few moments' pause backs them up to Beddis. Perhaps, living on a small island, we've been lulled by the relatively short distances into thinking a quick trip into town, no matter how often repeated, can't possibly contribute to a traffic problem; perhaps our independent spirits have pushed things like carpooling too far from our minds.

When construction is finished, we'll have fresh surfaces, excellent drainage and shoulders wide enough for bicycles and pedestrians to feel a little more confident about their safety. For drivers, at least for the foreseeable future, there's literally no getting around the road work. Those with flexible plans would be most helpful in exercising a choice to consolidate trips to town and people in vehicle seats, using transit, walking or cycling — the latter with extreme care, of course — until the project is hopefully completed next year.

THE ISSUE: Construction congestion

WE SAY: Be patient; or skip a trip

PARKER



Seniors' safety on radar

Greater Victoria Crime Stoppers (GVCS) program coordinators Gillian Millam and Phil Downie are two guests at a Seniors' Safety event co-presented by the island's Community Response Network, which works to prevent and educate about elder abuse, and the Salt Spring Public Library at the library's program room on Wednesday, Sept. 25 from 3:30 to 5 p.m. The following piece is provided by Crime Stoppers.

VIEWPOINT

The concept of Crime Stoppers quickly caught on and became a worldwide program. In 1984 your local program began named Greater Victoria Crime Stoppers.

We are housed in the Saanich police department but cover nine different police jurisdictions: Sooke RCMP, West Shore RCMP, Saanich Police Department, Victoria Police Department, Oak Bay Police Department, Central Saanich Police Department, Sidney North Saanich RCMP, Salt Spring Island RCMP, and the Outer Gulf Islands RCMP.

We remain a community, media and police co-operative program designed to involve the public in the fight against crime. Crime Stoppers provides citizens with a way to anonymously provide law enforcement with information about unsolved crimes, crimes that are about to occur, wanted persons, or crimes that the authorities are not aware have occurred.

Two civilian coordinators run the program and we have a volunteer board of directors who administer the rewards to the tipsters as well as fundraise to help the program maintain its important role within the community.

We run a Crime of the Week feature in the local press and on radio, in addition to drawing the public's attention to people wanted by the police.

Anonymous tips can be submitted by either calling into our call centre or online via our website. If a tip is successful, then a cash reward can be awarded.

Our tipsters will always remain anonymous; we have no caller ID and do not have the ability to track IP addresses.

Our phone number is 1-800-222-8477 and our website is victoriacrimestoppers.ca.

Greater Victoria Crime Stoppers is your local anonymous tip program. We would like to share an insight as to how we started and the work we do today within the community.

In July 1976, in Albuquerque, New Mexico, a university student was killed during a gas station robbery. After six weeks of investigation the police had very few leads as to who was responsible. Police investigators thought that if the public were able to observe a re-enactment of the crime on television this may lead to a citizen providing information that may lead to an arrest. At the end of the advert the lead detective — a man named Greg MacAleese — addressed the viewers and gave them a phone number to call. He said that he did not want to know who the callers were, just the information they had to tell him about the crime. The gamble paid off! A caller contacted the police department the next day after seeing the re-enactment. The tip information was enough to lead the police to the two men who were responsible. Within 72 hours of the re-enactment being aired, the police had solved the murder. This was the beginning of Crime Stoppers.

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Medias d'Info Canada

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should the CRD consider relaxing noise bylaws for farming activities?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Does Salt Spring need to find ways to reduce its traffic volume?

64 85
NO YES

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday at 12 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 12 p.m.

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

A prebaked cake?

Will the public engagement part of the upcoming official community plan (OCP) "update" be a mere formality?

According to a July 31 staff report, the OCP amendment project "aims to update and align" the OCP "with the Salt Spring Island Housing Action Planning Task Force (HAPTF) recommendations..."

That leaves little room for discussion. The HAPTF recommendations, which include mass upzoning, "eco-villages" and many other strategies for higher densities, have been prioritized.

Yet a draft document in the same report says "the overarching goals" of the project are "to increase housing options and housing equity on the island." That is much more general, and allows for housing options other than the HAPTF recommendations — for example, non-market initiatives like those recently discussed by Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman.

So, is the cake already baked, or are we still deciding on a recipe? And, if the former, why is the public being invited into the kitchen for consultation?

The legal problem for the Trust is that the underlying policy changes required by the HAPTF recommendations have never been formally aired in the community. Foremost among the required changes is deletion of OCP Policy B.2.1.2.1 which Trust lawyers flagged in 2018 as incompatible with major density increases.

But B.2.1.2.1 is Salt Spring's cornerstone policy in terms of limiting development and protecting the environment. Supported by scientific studies showing development is already unsustainable, it uses two fundamental principles of conservation to measure human impact: total population and build-out (when all lots are developed). It imposes a zoning cap based on a projected build-out population of 17,000, about 5,000 more than today, while leaving room for affordable housing.

If that policy is deleted, the HAPTF recommendations will be just the tip of the development iceberg — a downside never mentioned after years of hard sell by trustees and their supporters.

So, two questions for trustees and lobbyists: What will limit growth on Salt Spring if OCP Policy B.2.1.2.1 is deleted, and why is

build-out population no longer a key factor in determining sustainability?

FRANTS ATTORP,
SALT SPRING

Remembering Celeste

This letter is written in response to learning of Celeste Mallett Jason's death on Monday, Sept. 9.

Despite having heard about Celeste's amazing yoga classes (notably from my partner Joanne Bealy), I resisted attending. Until one day I showed up.

Swept up in the rapture, I found myself, just before the end of the class, seated cross-legged on the floor. There, my "surgically repaired" right knee rebelled and immediately locked up. This it had done previously when in that position and I should have known better.

Beside me on the floor, Joanne tried to keep me from panicking. She motioned to Celeste, who came over, assessed the situation and then with great calm and a beatific smile gently pulled on my leg until my knee

unlocked. I was soon upright.

Mindful of the blessing, I joined Celeste's Wednesday Seniors Yoga Class, which I faithfully attended (and thoroughly enjoyed) until Joanne and I left Salt Spring in 2012 and eventually landed in Nova Scotia.

Celeste graced the yoga studio with the same beatific smile when one morning, a group of women in my class announced that they were "going on strike" and refused to do the poses she was teaching us. We all had a big-time Buddha belly laugh over that. The women eventually got back in the groove.

And Celeste Mallett Jason helped all of us process our profound grief when a cherished classmate, Edna Gatt (1921-2012), passed away after being injured in a collision on the island. The sentiments that she offered in an online tribute (April 22, 2012) to Edna echo the feelings of many who are now mourning, as are Joanne and I, the loss of Celeste: "We all loved her so much! She would want [us] to know that love she embodied, and to continue to share ourselves with each other, the ups and downs, yet always in love."

EVELYN C. WHITE,
HALIFAX, N.S.

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"They've been getting an earful from everybody but us – and you know, I can understand why they're frustrated."

SSI TRUSTEE LAURA PATRICK ON TSAWOUT FIRST NATION RESPONSE TO ADU BYLAWS

Time for change in a different direction with Oct. 19 election choice

BY BOB MOFFATT

I was born and raised in the islands and other than a stint in Toronto, B.C. is my home. However, it's not the place it used to be.

I agree with Jason Mogus, writing in last week's Driftwood. A change in government is indeed necessary, but re-electing the NDP would be cruel and unusual punishment for British Columbians. Under David Eby, the government has evolved into a larger version of the Islands Trust: inefficient, excessive costs, incoherent policies and purpose and, in the case of the province, the highest debt in history.

Unlike the Islands Trust, we don't need a governance review to change it. We just need to vote the government out on Oct. 19.

Climate scientist and former leader of the Greens, Andrew Weaver, recently said, "They (the NDP) have lost touch with the average person... Dave Eby is coming across as an ideological, know-it-all elitist, who surrounds himself with sycophants." Weaver went on to predict a Conservative win in October.

I also agree with Jason that it makes little sense to vote for the Greens. We were indeed fortunate to have Adam Olsen as our MLA. However, as Jason notes, Adam and the Greens

were peripheral actors in the big picture.

Mogus is critical of the Conservatives' position on climate policy. You'd think that the NDP would set a better example. But here we are in the midst of a climate emergency (or existential threat) while the government exports millions of tons of coal transported to Asia from B.C.

It gets worse as the government commits to an enormous increase in production with the reopening of a massive coal mine in northern B.C. Why doesn't the government develop our clean oil and gas reserves to generate revenues, rather than rely on an odious pollutant like coal? Coal is the dirtiest fuel and emits much more greenhouse gases than other sources. It's baffling.

I'm opposed to the carbon tax mainly because I believe it doesn't work and significantly diminishes the standard of living for workers, seniors and young families. Food banks are at full capacity and serving more people than ever before in the province's history. Not only are individuals suffering but businesses are closing as a result of higher costs, debilitating inflation and excessive regulations. It's tragic.

The climate experts think that if we ratchet up the carbon tax high enough (like tobacco), emissions could reach near zero. This is the

IN RESPONSE

absurd reality of progressive economics — a tax can fix everything regardless of if it incapacitates those it's supposed to serve.

Perhaps Premier Eby and his activist team finally realize that. In a 180-degree reversal, Eby said the B.C. government will remove the consumer carbon tax if the federal government removes the requirement for provinces to have that part of the carbon tax.

The NDP continue to make things up as they go along. Ironically, they now agree with the BC Conservatives that the tax was a mistake. The hypocrisy is stunning.

Interestingly, Andrew Weaver said on X: "Let's be very clear. The (federal) NDP can never be trusted to act on the climate file. They are walking hypocrites that put political opportunism ahead of principles. They have no plan, no substance and no credibility on climate. I am disgusted and so should anyone who cares about climate policy." This applies to the BC NDP as well.

Weaver added that "Eby is clearly more concerned about politics than about people — British Columbians deserve a premier who will be straight up with them. It's clear to me that John Rustad is to be trusted

more on the climate file than Eby. I'll be supporting John Rustad... in this upcoming election."

The BC Conservatives are enjoying a surge in popularity. In fact, recent polls show the party tied or leading in the popular vote. People are fed up with the hypocrisy, lack of progress in critical areas and indifference to the punitive effects of government policies like the carbon tax.

Mogus' argument relies on the dubious proposition that although the government has been a failure on certain files, it has good intentions and therefore should be given another four-year term. It's as if feelings and progressive values are more important than results and real progress.

Among other things, we expect a provincial government to take our local problems seriously. Housing, infrastructure funding, cost of living and governance are clearly priorities. Arguably, the most egregious issue may be the status of the Islands Trust.

It was established with an undemocratic structure that remains impossible to fix, regardless of how many consultant reports are commissioned. Salt Spring, with the largest population in the Trust area, is allocated two representatives on the 26-member governing Trust Council. The Local Trust Commit-

tee adds a third representative from another island — an individual with no skin in the game, so to speak.

The Trust is bloated and dysfunctional as well as undemocratic. Only the province can fix it, but in spite of a formal request, the NDP appears uninterested or unwilling to address it. Unlike the NDP, the BC Conservatives will act and do something about it.

There's no better individual to represent us than David Busch for the BC Conservatives. David is a practising lawyer and has been a critical care and pediatric cardiology registered nurse. He's taught both law and nursing at university. He has two young sons and his wife is a cardiologist in Victoria.

David cares deeply about health care, the environment and the wellbeing of our communities. He brings an unlimited supply of common sense, passion for excellence, good judgement and intelligent ideas to the complex task of government. He is results oriented and will be an outstanding champion for Salt Spring and our interests.

To follow Jason Mogus' thinking, but with a different conclusion, we need a new government, not more of the same. Vote for David Busch, John Rustad and the BC Conservatives on Oct. 19.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident.

Market table denial rankles

BY JENNIFER MARGISON

After a three-month attempt to resolve an issue directly with the individuals involved on Galiano Island, I am reluctantly writing on behalf of Friends of the Gulf Islands Society, to highlight what we see as unnecessary, unfair and harmful censorship by the Galiano Saturday Market Board.

In early June, the Friends of the Gulf Islands Society applied to have a table at a mid-July Saturday market on Galiano. The market is held weekly in the expansive Lions field and space is not an issue.

Friends of the Gulf Islands is a B.C. registered society focused on the protection of the natural environ-

INDEPTH

ment and rural character of the islands in the Islands Trust Area. We monitor Trust meetings and decisions for compliance with the Islands Trust mandate or object to "preserve and protect the unique amenities and environment" of the Trust Area.

Our interest in having a table at island markets is to provide information to residents and visitors about what it means to live in a Trust Area, and to alert people to the fact that the Trust Policy Statement — the governing document that official community plans and bylaws must comply with — is being reviewed and a new draft has been released.

Many of the islands have very limited media and local markets offer vital opportunities to connect with people. Friends of the Gulf Islands has been welcomed at both the Mayne and Pender Island markets this summer.

However, on Galiano, though Friends had a table several years ago at the market, our request went unanswered for a month. Then we were told that the board had voted against allowing us to attend. No reason was given in spite of several requests and offers to speak to the board about our group. We provided the market board with a link to our website and a copy of our brochure.

Over two months later, we were finally provided with a copy of the Galiano Market Policies and Vendor Agreement, but still no reason was given for the denial of our request. It was only after several requests to speak to someone that a conversation occurred with the market director, where we were able to ask if specific wording in the agreement was being used to deny our organization space.

This wording states that "Community groups and organizations may set up information tables at the

market free of charge, provided they restrict their activities to their stall, avoid provoking controversy and do not otherwise interfere with the primary purpose of the market... Proselytizing of vendors or customers is prohibited as is engaging in topics of discussion that have historically been divisive within the community."

"Provoking controversy" and "engaging in topics of discussion that have been historically divisive within the community" are extremely subjective concepts. We would not consider our members sitting at a table distributing a brochure and answering questions about the Islands Trust to be "proselytizing" and do not see how our presence would in any way interfere with the market. Anyone who has lived on one of our small islands knows that there are many issues that "provoke controversy" in our communities or have been "historically divisive." On Galiano, this has ranged from rezoning of land, to public shore accesses, to tax referenda, to building our library, to site locations for affordable housing. Community members do not all think alike and differences of opinion are to be expected.

The Galiano Market welcomes groups such as the island's housing societies, the conservancy association and the human composting group — promoting a petition for legislation to allow a facility to compost human bodies — and political figures such as Green Party leader Elizabeth May. Having various groups at island markets provides opportunities to ask questions, discuss issues and engage with neighbours, all part of being informed community members.

We question a market's vendor agreement being used to selectively deny an environmental group such as Friends of the Gulf Islands a presence and a voice in our community. This is dangerous and unnecessary overreach. What will this small group next decide is too "controversial" for our community to hear?

Rants + ROSES

Roses

A big thank you from the volunteers at the Visitors Centre for all the donations given to make the summer picnic gathering such a success: Country Grocer for their catering help and gift cards; Thrifty Foods with gift cards for prizes; and other gift cards that came from Hen and Hound, Arbutus View Thermal Spa and Salt Spring Inn.

Salt Spring Arts sends baskets of beautiful wild roses to our vibrant island community for making our 2024 Summer Outdoor Concert Series a success! This year's weekly audience attendance broke program records; seeing the collective joy, connection and celebration each week was inspiring. Thank you to our Marquee presenters, Salt Spring Country Grocer and Island Savings, a division of First West Credit Union. Thank you also to our series funders and sponsors: Canada Council for the Arts, Government of British Columbia, Salt Spring Island Foundation, Gulf Islands Driftwood, Harbour House Hotel, SaltyPay, BC Ferries, Capital Regional District, Country Grocer Pharmacy, Harvest Moon Cannabis, Upper Ganges Liquor Store and the Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island.

The family of Cardin Davis (Kathy, Mike, Kecia and Tyler and families) would like to send a huge thank you to our amazing friends and wonderful community for the incredible outpouring of love and support after the heartbreaking loss of our amazing, handsome, kind, talented and funny son, brother, uncle, teammate and friend.

We thank you for the flowers, the plants for Cardy's memorial garden, cards, gift cards, meal train, hugs, kind words, memories, tributes, donations to Cardy's charities, May Long Cardy T-shirts, the teams that had his initials or his jersey number on their May Long jerseys, half-mast tribute at Mouat's, the drinks, lunch and dinners such kind people have bought us, the friends who dragged us out of our grief to events (and were still there for us when we had to leave as grief washed over us), and gifts of time and services that warmed our hearts, nourished our souls and for everyone who helped us put together an amazing Celebration of Life (Cardy's big party) and May Long tribute — we truly could not be more amazed and grateful!

We feel so blessed to have such wonderful family and friends and to live in this incredible community. In the most tragic and heartbreaking time of our lives, we have deeply felt the love for Cardin and the overwhelming love and support for our family.

So, we are sending a million roses back to you all. Thank you for the love and support you have shown in so many ways. We feel held, seen, heard and deeply loved. Much love and appreciation to you all.

I would like to thank the gentleman who drove my little white dog home from Vesuvius Bay Road to Stonecutter on Friday. I don't know what kind of roses you deserve. But heartfelt thanks you get. GM

Seniors' Safety

Stopping Elder Abuse & Neglect



In Collaboration!

The local Community Response Network and the SSI Library are presenting a free, in-person event featuring Cari Taylor from BC CRN, the provincial umbrella organization that supports local initiatives to reduce abuse, neglect, and self-neglect.

PLUS

Come check out these amazing presenters:

Gillian Millan and Phil Downie from Crime Stoppers, award-winning individuals recognized internationally for developing specialized training with Island Fraud Departments on Crime and Elder Abuse awareness.

Wednesday, September 25, 3:30pm at the Library



BC Provincial Election
Saanich North and the Islands

CANDIDATES DEBATE

Moderator: **Valeskca San Martin**



WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 9TH
5:00 - 6:30PM @ ARTSPRING
EVERYONE WELCOME / FREE ADMISSION

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salt spring forum Driftwood

SENIORS FOR CLIMATE



NATIONAL SENIORS DAY
OCTOBER 1ST 2024

Hello, Seniors!

Sing with Valdy!

Send a Message!

Stop the Subsidies!

One of fifty Canada-wide climate actions for National Seniors Day

WHEN: 2:00pm Tuesday, October 1st.	WHERE: Program Room at the Salt Spring Library
WITH: MC Anne Parkinson	
FEATURING:	
WHAT SUBSIDIES? Chris Humphreys & Scott Hylands	CLIMATE CHANGE IS HERE! Marian Hargrove & David Denning

SING ALONG WITH VALDY
on his new song, "Stop the Subsidies, Fund the People!" Peter Prince will make a video, to be sent to all federal Members of Parliament.

LATER IS TOO LATE!

The Salt Spring Island APPLE FESTIVAL

Sunday September 29th 9 am to 5 pm

Tickets are available outside the Ganges Visitor Info Centre and at Fulford Hall.

Cost is \$10 for adults, \$5 for students and little kids free. No advance ticket sales.

Ticket purchase includes a map for a self-guided tour of about 15 farms, orchards and food/drink producing locations, and entrance to Fulford Community Hall, where a huge display of apples grown on Salt Spring

Island is set up (for viewing only). Last year, 489 different varieties were assembled in alphabetical order.

The hall is also where the Pie Ladies of the Salt Spring Island Women's Institute will be selling apple pies (whole or in slices), with the variety of apple identified. The South End Sausage team will have their BBQ set up outside as well. Festival posters and other items will be for sale, and an apple cider expert will be among the guests.

Photos from last year's Apple Festival by Rob Lowrie

One special spot included on the tour is the Bloom Castle by the Sea orchard and broader landscaped property (but not the building itself), now owned by Royal Roads University as a gift from late property owner Susan Bagley Bloom.

Two ciders and a new distillery are also participating.



By the Numbers

1/4	Cups of apple in an apple fritter
2	Number of ciders on Salt Spring Island
15	Average number of farms participating in the Apple Festival over recent years
24	Number of Salt Spring Island Apple Festivals held
36	Percentage of Salt Spring land that is actual or potential farmland
270	Millilitres of juice or cider from a pound of apples
489	Number of different apple varieties on display at last year's Fulford Hall display
1,500	Average number of ticket-buying festival attendees
3,560	Number of apple trees in Salt Spring Apple Company's orchard
7,500	Estimated number of apple varieties world-wide

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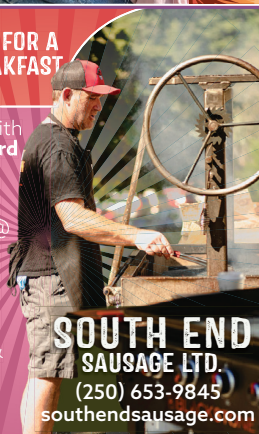
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**COME ON DOWN FOR A
DELICIOUS BREAKFAST
OR LUNCH!**

We'll be set up with our **BBQ at Fulford Hall, 9:00am - 2:00pm**, making some wonderful food! Our shop @ 111 Robinson Rd will also be open from **10:00am - 5:00pm**, well stocked with apple sausages & much more...

**LOOK FORWARD
TO SEEING YOU!**

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SAUSAGE LTD.**
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OF THE 2024 SALT
SPRING ISLAND
APPLE FESTIVAL
ORCHARD TOUR**

royalroads.ca/Saltspring



**Royal Roads
UNIVERSITY**



The Mercantile in Fulford is excited to celebrate Apple Fest this year by offering in-house baked goods all week made with local Salt Spring Island apples!

2915 Fulford-Ganges Road,
Salt Spring Island, BC.

Come in and try our delicious sweet & savoury goodies cooked up by Chef Russ. On feature will be our island-famous Pork & Apple Roll made fresh daily with finely chopped apples, Sannich pork, toasted fennel, spices, puff pastry and sesame seed topping. We look forward to your visit!



(250) 653-4321

store@saltspringmercantile.com
saltspringmercantile.com



ISLAND LIFE

ISLAND TRADITIONS

Garden bench raffle supports Greenwood's



PHOTO BY SILK QUESTO

Participating in the Greenwood's Garden Bench Raffle draw on Sept. 9 are, from left, Janice Benson, director of care; Trish Staicesku, operations manager; Aletha Humphreys, executive director; Pam Ramsay, treasurer; Robert Steinbach, Country Grocer Community Relations; Claire Cupples, director; Mark Cleveland, chair; and Paul Roberts, director.

Legacy of community generosity continues to grow

SUBMITTED BY GREENWOODS ELDERCARE SOCIETY

Monday, Sept. 9 saw the much-celebrated draw for the 26th garden bench raffle at Greenwood's, and the prize was won by Elena Smith for her mother Marlene Rista of Southey Point.

Greenwood's staff members Janice Benson and Trish Staicesku drew the lucky name, with executive director Aletha Humphreys, sponsor Robert Steinbach of Country Grocer and Greenwood's Eldercare board members on hand for the ceremony.

The 2024 bench was created by Salt Spring artisan Luke Hart-Weller of Copperwood Gallery, and is crafted from salvaged Gulf Islands cedar, embellished with charred cedar and copper flowers.

The annual fundraising raffle of a handcrafted garden bench to benefit Greenwood's Eldercare has been a tradition on Salt Spring since 1998. These coveted heirlooms now grace many special places around the island as landmarks of our community's generosity.

Every year, the true winners of the annual garden bench raffle are the residents of Greenwood's and Braehaven, and those who benefit from Greenwood's community programs. This year the popular fundraiser brought in over \$5,300 in ticket sales.

Greenwood's Eldercare is a not-for-profit, community-based organization that owns and operates Greenwood's long-term care and Braehaven assisted-living residences. In addition, it offers community programs like Meals on Wheels and an adult day program. Every dollar raised in the annual garden bench raffle goes directly to supporting the needs of the residents and clients that Greenwood's serves.

Under the local governance of a volunteer board of directors, Greenwood's operations are carried out by a highly trained staff of professionals in elder care. The organization receives operational grants for Greenwood's from Island Health under an affiliate agreement, as well as funding from BC Housing to help support Braehaven. However, direct fundraising in the community is vitally important to provide the high-quality living space, infrastructure and equipment that make Greenwood's and Braehaven the comfortable, welcoming homes residents deserve.

"The community's support of Greenwood's is so appreciated," said Greenwood's Eldercare director Paul Roberts, who organized this year's event. "Our thanks go to our valued sponsors Country Grocer and Island Savings for their support of ticket sales, Luke Hart-Weller for his craftsmanship, our fundraising volunteers for their time and everyone who bought raffle tickets. You really make a difference."

Capital Regional District



Cedars of Tuam Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3055 (Cedars of Tuam Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2003) residents within the Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Area are invited to attend a hybrid in-person and virtual meeting:

Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Monday, October 21, 2024

Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm

Place: Creekside Meeting Room (CRD Administration Office)
108 –121 McPhillips Ave, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T6

The electronic Zoom link will be provided on the first page of the agenda package posted to the CRD website: www.crd.bc.ca four days prior to the meeting.

Committee Membership Opportunity

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3055, real property owners or residents in the Cedars of Tuam Local Water Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is two plus the Electoral Area Director (one member must be an owner of real property; and one member may be a resident). There are no position expiring December 31, 2024.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, please include the committee name in the subject line, your full-name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full-name, telephone number and residential address. Nominations may be submitted at the meeting for members to stand on the committee for the following term.

Bylaw No. 3055 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca

Personal information collected is in accordance with s.26(c) of the Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, for the purpose of administering the Cedars of Tuam Water Services Commission nominations. Personal information submitted will be kept confidential, and used only for the purpose for which that information was collected. Any questions about this matter should be directed to MacKenzie Williamson, Committee Clerk, Salt Spring Island Administration: 250.538.4304 or email: mwilliamson@crd.bc.ca

RUNNING FOR A DREAM



PHOTO COURTESY ROB PINGLE

Runners stretch out at the start of the 44th Terry Fox Run, taking place on Salt Spring Island this year at Ruckle Park on Sunday, Sept. 15. The annual event continues Terry Fox's dream of raising critical funds for life-changing cancer research in Canada through the Terry Fox Foundation. Salt Spring joined nearly 600 communities across the country and an estimated 3.6 million participants.

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INTERNATIONAL AID

Education provides hope for girls and families

Salt Spring's CFUW group welcomes sponsorships

BY MARILYN MCDOWELL
FOR CFUW SALT SPRING

Educate a young woman and you educate a whole family. So believes the Canadian Federation of University Women (CFUW).

The Salt Spring chapter of CFUW awards "second chance bursaries" to women in the Gulf Islands who are out of school for at least two years and wish to pursue education to improve a career choice, and in most cases support a family. Internationally, a project called HOPE sponsors girls in developing countries for secondary education by paying for school fees, books and uniforms.

Our HOPE project began in 2005 with three students and since has multiplied; a total of more than 250 teenaged girls have received sponsorships in 13 countries in Africa, Central America and the Caribbean, the Indian subcontinent and South East Asia, as well as Papua New Guinea, Fiji and the Solomon Islands. These 250 girls have been supported by Salt Springers.

As funding covers only school expenses, families make sacrifices when daughters choose school over work or early marriage. Each girl requires between \$540 and \$710 in Canadian dollars per year, some a bit less, depending on the country.

The HOPE project is life changing. Letters from each girl and her headmistress are required for application, with progress reports required each year before continuation. These letters are compelling:



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Part of a Salt Spring CFUW HOPE Project display from 2017. The group invites people to learn more about how to support girls' education in developing countries.

Clare in Nigeria "has a passion to look after patients, hopes to become a nurse," states a report.

Rose Marie in Namibia said, "Both parents lost their jobs and father abandoned family of six. Commonwealth Girls Education Fund (CGEF) sponsorship enabled me to continue schooling toward becoming an accountant. During school holidays my job as a babysitter helps mother with expenses."

Muknaan, who lives in Nigeria, said, "I want to be a lawyer, combat injustice and corruption in Nigeria and ensure all are treated equally and offenders punished! I

also want to establish a school for girls at an affordable price."

Katarina, of the diminishing Hadzbe hunter/gatherer tribe in Tanzania, said she "aims to become a civil engineer, to bring change and development in my community: houses, clinics, schools, roads, bridges." Infrastructure is needed all over the less developed world.

Elizabeth in Tanzania, like others, identifies many problems in her home community. Elizabeth said she "stays at school during school holidays to avoid being pressed into early marriage."

To educate a girl is to educate a family. Adelaide in Kenya points out, "Your intervention in my studies has been nothing short of life changing."

A recent development has been formation of alumnae groups of young women who have embarked upon their careers. Feedback from Marion in Uganda includes gratitude for financial help throughout secondary school. Marion secured a government scholarship to study civil engineering at Makerere University and currently works as a civil engineer at a construction firm in Kampala. She endeavours "to reach out to as many young girls as I can through mentorship and career guidance as a way of carrying the kindness forward."

These alumnae support each other and mentor their younger aspirants.

Our HOPE project works in partnership with the CGEF, founded in 1967 by a small group of women in England, including Lyndsay Mundy, who moved to Salt Spring and spearheaded the project dubbed HOPE, which works through CGEF.

This English charity is almost entirely volunteer run. CGEF assumes all administrative costs and provides local contacts for screening and monitoring. That means all donations made from Salt Spring are directed entirely to school fees, books and school uniforms. In addition to donations from the club and its individual members, support is invited from individuals and businesses of our community.

So far this year there are 55 potential candidates approved for funding, with 22 applications pending. If you would like to sponsor a girl (or two), or provide partial support, and receive a copy of their photo and letters of application and progress, please consider a donation — a meaningful gift for someone who has everything or someone who is receiving your help with their own education. It's an inspiration to study diligently!

Even a portion of the \$540 to \$710 annual sponsorship amount would help enormously. In the poorest countries, \$145 could sponsor one of four girls in Sierra Leone; \$210 sponsors one in 10 girls in Malawi; or \$260 allows one of the three girls in Namibia to continue her education.

Our CFUW Salt Spring branch has received an award for International Relations and Certificate of Merit for International Women's Day for the HOPE project.

People who are interested in learning more about CFUW on Salt Spring, or would like to join our monthly get-togethers, are invited to contact Kay Woodhouse at 250-653-4927. For more information about the HOPE project, contact Sandra Hyslop at 250-537-4568.

BOOK LAUNCH

Rock art as resistance explored in new book

Chris Arnett shares latest work Sept. 26

SUBMITTED BY SSI LIBRARY

Rock art — etched in blood-red lines into granite cliffs, boulders, and caves — appears as beguiling, graffiti-like abstraction. What are these signs?

The petroglyphs and red-ochre pictographs found across Ntē?kepmx territory in present-day British Columbia and Washington State are far more than a collection of ancient motifs.

Salt Spring archaeologist and historian Chris Arnett's new book — *Signs of the Time: Ntē?kepmx Resistance Through Rock Art* — will be celebrated at a launch event at the Salt Spring library on Thursday, Sept. 26 at 7 p.m.

Signs of the Times explores the historical and cultural reasons for making rock art. Arnett draws on extensive archival research and decades of work with Elders and other Ntē?kepmx community members, their oral histories and oral tradition, to document the variability and similarity of practices. Rock art was and is a form of communica-

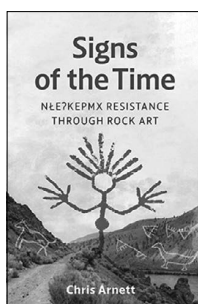
tion between the spirit and physical worlds, a way to pass information to later generations, and a powerful protection against challenges to a people, land and culture.

Ntē?kepmx have used such culturally prescribed means to forestall external threats to their lifeways from as early as the 16th century — when they were aware of incipient European encroachment — until well into the 20th. As this important work attests, rock art remains a signature of resilience and resistance to colonization among Ntē?kepmx today.

As well as providing essential reading for scholars and students of archaeology, cultural and applied anthropology, Indigenous studies and art history, *Signs of the Time* will also fascinate rock art specialists and amateur enthusiasts.

Arnett's previous books include *The Terror of the Coast*, *Two Houses Half-Buried in Sand* and *They Write Their Dream on the Rock Forever*.

The Sept. 26 event is co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Island Historical Society.



Capital Regional District



Committee Membership Opportunity Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2339, real property owners or residents in the Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner or resident who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is seven (7), including the Electoral Area Director and six (6) real property owners or residents who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following three (3) vacancies:

- Residents or property owners of the Magic Lake Estates Water or Water and Sewer Local Service Area

Nomination Instructions: When submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number, residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number, residential address and the service you are nominating for.

New appointments to the Magic Lake Estates Water and Sewer Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Tuesday, October 1, 2024.**

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 2339 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca/magiclake-ws

Capital Regional District



Committee Membership Opportunity Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 2558, real property owners in the Sticks Allison Water Local Service Area are invited to nominate themselves or another real property owner who is prepared to represent the Local Service Area to stand on the committee for a two (2) year term commencing January 1, 2025.

Total membership on the committee is five (5), including the Electoral Area Director, and four (4) owners of real property within the Local Service Area.

Nominations are being accepted for the following two (2) vacancies:

- Real property owners who are prepared to represent the Local Service Area.

Nomination Instructions

When submitting your nomination, clearly print the Committee name in the subject line, your full name, telephone number and residential address along with the nominee's full name, telephone number and residential address.

New appointments to the Sticks Allison Water Local Service Committee will be made by the CRD Board based on the Electoral Area Director's recommendation.

The deadline for nominations is **Tuesday, October 1, 2024.**

Mail or email your submission to:

Attention: Electoral Area Director, Southern Gulf Islands
479 Island Highway, Victoria, BC, V9B 1H7
Email: iwsadministration@crd.bc.ca

Bylaw No. 2558 is available for viewing on the CRD website at www.crd.bc.ca/sticks-ws



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ART EXHIBIT

Resurgence represents landmark exhibition

First show by multiple Indigenous artists all residing on Salt Spring

SUBMITTED BY SSI PUBLIC LIBRARY

On Sept. 6 the Salt Spring Island Public Library celebrated the opening of Resurgence, an Indigenous art show. The show is comprised of work by 14 Indigenous artists aged 14 to 71, who are residents of Salt Spring Island and from First Nations across Turtle Island.

Organized and curated by library Indigenous coordinator Caroline Dick, Resurgence is a reflection of the joy of creating an Indigenous community on Salt Spring



PHOTO BY JESSICA WOOD

Christine Welsh with her beaded piece called Jessica's Jacket, part of the Resurgence exhibition in the library's program room through Sept. 28.

while living in diaspora.

"This is the first time I've been represented in an art show, and I'm thrilled and honoured to be part of this show with so

many talented members of our Indigenous community here on the island," said Christine Welsh, Métis artist and award-winning filmmaker. "I didn't grow up with beading. Though my Métis grandmothers were skilled beadworkers, that tradition wasn't handed down in my family. I only learned to do traditional Métis floral beadwork quite recently, during the Covid-19 pandemic, and I now create beaded pieces for my family, like the beaded jean jacket that I made for my daughter-in-law Jessica that's in the show. I still have so much to learn, but I like to think that in my own small way I'm honouring those ancestor grandmothers."

Resurgence is a show that is unprecedented on Salt Spring. This is the first exhibition focusing solely on Indigenous residents of the island, as well as the only time Salt Spring has had so many Indigenous artists showing their work in a single exhibition. The show includes sculpture, paintings, prints, textiles and jewellery, with many pieces for sale.

Resurgence runs until Sept. 28 and is viewable from Monday through Friday, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. in the main display case in the lobby as well as in the program room when it is not in use for events.

Artists represented in Resurgence: Caroline Dick (Tahltan), Autumn Elworthy (Anishinaabe/Métis), Willow Elworthy (Anishinaabe/Métis), Marilyn Fortinakis (Anishinaabe), Krysta Furiosa (Anishinaabe), Sheena Gering (Métis), Quentin Harris (Secwepemc), Kitaay Bizhikikwe/Amanda Myers (Anishinaabe), Klahhidaa/Greg Dennis Sr., Charlene Linnell (Musqueam), Eartha Linnell (Musqueam), Laura Mulks-Elworthy (Anishinaabe/Métis), Christine Welsh (Métis) and Sherry Leigh Williams (Métis).

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Octets of Yesterday & Today

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Adults \$30 / 18+under free
Tickets at Mondo or
<https://bit.ly/autumnocets>

CONCERT PREVIEW

Wind ensemble returns to All Saints

Works performed span more than two centuries

SUBMITTED BY ISLAND CHAMBER WINDS

On Saturday, Sept. 28 at 3 p.m., Island Chamber Winds (ICW) will be returning to Salt Spring for their second concert at All Saints by-the-Sea.

Their Autumn Colours - Octets of Yesterday and Today program includes a diverse array of old and new octets for an ensemble of two oboes, two clarinets, two French horns and two bassoons. The music they've chosen covers quite a bit of ground, with one piece over 200 years old

and another written only two years ago. Running through it is a thread of balancing melancholy and joy, a dichotomy that feels seasonally appropriate for the fall.

One of the most special pieces on the program is Igor Bázlik's Four Pieces for Wind Octet. Bázlik was a Slovak composer who died just last year, and it seems that this piece, though written in 1991, was likely never published. ICW was extremely fortunate to receive scans of the composer's handwritten parts from an ensemble in Slovakia and is excited to present what is almost certainly the Canadian premiere of this work.

Tickets are \$30 for adults and free for youth 18 and under. They are available to purchase in person at Mondo & Com-

pany, online at bit.ly/autumnocets or at the door.

Island Chamber Winds is the brainchild of conductor Ben Litzcke, who lives on Pender Island and recently graduated from UVic with a Master of Music in Wind Conducting. ICW is more of a concept than an ensemble: in order to perform the widest possible variety of music, players of different instruments are hired for each concert series, which might feature any combination of eight or more winds and brass. The current ensemble includes musicians from Salt Spring, Pender, Ladysmith, Victoria and Vancouver.

This concert is generously sponsored by Wildwood Health & Performance and Long & McQuade Musical Instruments.

Salt Spring Jazz & Blues Society presents
2nd Annual Newman Fund Concert

Featuring:
Bert's Blooze Banned
Sue Newman
Monik Nordine

All proceeds given to Salt Spring school music programs in memory of Ray and Virginia Newman

Sunday Sept. 22nd 3:00 pm
AT THE LEGION

Jazz & Blues Society members: \$15
Non members: \$20
On sale at Mondo, the Legion and at the door

Visit our NEW web site: saltspringjazzandblues.com

HELP US UNCOVER THE TALES OF THE Y-CAMP PROPERTY.

Podcast Host, Natasha Tony, is looking for neighbours on Salt Spring to share some history of the Y-Camp property. Curious about stories from First Nations Territory as well as the era of the Bulman farm, YWCA Camp days and stories from the 1990's to present day.

Recording the podcast in early fall 2024. You may be open to being recorded telling a story or you can share a written story that may be read on the podcast or even share a hot tip that we can follow up on!

Contact us directly at: info@elevate-inclusion.com

I would be delighted to hear from you to learn more about this interesting property.

Talk soon!

Natasha Tony
Host of Narrative Shift Podcast

CULTURE

FisherPoets night set

Famed Astoria event travels to island

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

People who make their living on the sea are gathering at Meaden Hall on Salt Spring on Thursday, Sept. 26 to present a renowned FisherPoets evening.

For many years, poets, storytellers and songwriters from Salt Spring, such as John Elliott, Kathy Stack and Alan Moberg, have gone to the FisherPoets Gathering in Astoria, Ore. Now

they are bringing the FisherPoets show to Salt Spring.

Some of the performers coming to share their stories and songs next Thursday are Pat Dixon from Olympia, Wash., Jon Broderick from Seaside, Ore. and Wilfred Wilson from Vancouver, B.C. Also joining in will be Salt Spring Islanders Alan Hoskins, Valdy and Deb Nostdal.

The event runs from 6 to 9 p.m. with admission by donation. People are invited to bring a snack or a fish dish. A cash bar will also be running.

PREVIEW

Blues concert raises Newman funds

School music program fundraiser returns

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

For the past couple of years, the Legion has been the place to be on Sunday afternoons to enjoy live jazz and blues music played by Salt Spring's many talented musicians and singers.

Organized by the Salt Spring Jazz and Blues Society, the sessions highlight jazz or blues on alternating Sundays.

This Sunday, Sept. 22 sees an extra special event in the blues slot when the Second Annual Newman Fund Concert features Bert's Blooze Banned with guest vocalist Sue Newman and saxophonist Monik Nordine.

Bert's Blooze Banned members — Bert Hollingsworth on guitar and vocals, Frank Heuther on keyboards, Atom Lazare on drums and Tracey Whitelaw on bass — will lead the show, with Newman and Nordine also performing. Newman's brothers Bruce Eason and Paul Newman



PHOTO COURTESY SUE NEWMAN

Ray and Virginia Newman, in whose honour the Newman Family Fund was created to support school music programs, in the 1970s.

will join Sunday's concert for a few tunes, playing keys and bass, respectively.

Ticket proceeds go into the Newman Fund, which supports Salt Spring's music programs in memory of Sue Newman's parents Ray and Virginia Newman, well-known performing artists on

the island. The fund was established soon after Ray's death in 1999. Virginia died in 2013.

Last year approximately \$2,000 was raised for the Newman Fund at the concert and disbursed to Salt Spring school music programs.

Nordine, who is well known in the jazz world across Canada and also plays internationally, was first mentored by Ray Newman when she was in high school and they would also join each other's jazz gigs.

Sue Newman is the classic "triple threat" performer, with talents in music, dance and acting seen on Salt Spring Island and well beyond. She also carries on the Newman Family Productions tradition of presenting Christmas With Scrooge.

Tickets for Sunday's show cost \$15 for jazz and blues society members and \$20 for non-members. Advance tickets are at Mondo & Company.

Donations of any size to the fund are also welcomed at the Legion event, or by e-transfer to SaltspringNewmanFund@gmail.com.

Earlier in the day, musicians are welcome to check out Monik's Big Band in a Barn, a new band led by Nordine meeting at Meaden Hall beginning at noon.

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what's on this week

Wed. Sept. 18

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mary Kastle. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Knit - Purl - Community. Join us every third Wednesday of the month to knit, crochet, any form of needlework, and share. All knitting/crochet levels are welcome. Library program room. 5 to 7 p.m.

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

What Is Zen? Third in a six-week series of talks presented by Salt Spring Zen Circle. All Saints by-the-Sea. 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. Sept. 19

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

J. Knutson. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Local Community Commission Meeting. SIMS Boardroom. 9 a.m. To attend virtually, see the Microsoft Teams link in the agenda on the CRD website.

Book Launch: Brian Day. Salt Spring Island poet presents The Making. Library program room. 7 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum. See Wed. listing.

Fri. Sept. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Marianne Grittani. Tree House Cafe. 6 to 9 p.m.

Everyday People. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Fri. Sept. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Mateada Convergence Festival. All day live music in parking lot behind Mateada. 1 to 10 p.m.

Tower of Song: A Creative Tribute to Leonard Cohen. With Oliver Swain and Glenna Garramone. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

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

Fri. Sept. 20

ACTIVITIES

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

ASK Salt Spring. This week's topic is Budget Deliberations Over - What's Next for the LCC? SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

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

David Busch Town Hall. Meet local Conservative Party of BC candidate. Lions Hall. 6 to 7:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Museum. See Wed. listing.

Sat. Sept. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Eljose. Tree House Cafe. 6 p.m.

La Chuparosa. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Salome Cullen Country Night. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

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

Repair Cafe. Transition Salt Spring-hosted event at SIMS. Bring your item in to get it fixed for free! 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Legion Week Family Day. Free BBQ, kids games, live music with Jim Raddysh. Legion. 1 to 3 p.m.

Sun. Sept. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Second Annual Newman Fund Show. Fundraiser for Salt Spring school music programs featuring Sue Newman, Monik Nordine and Bert's Blooze Banned. At the Legion. 3 to 6 p.m.

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

Mon. Sept. 23

ACTIVITIES

After School Engineering Challenge. With Callum in the library's FabLab. 3:30 to 5 p.m.

Salt Spring Scottish Country Dancing. All Saints by-the-Sea upper hall. 6 to 7 p.m. Free to try this month.

Tues. Sept. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Country and Folk Singers and Songwriters. Legion. 7 to 10 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. Sept. 25

ACTIVITIES

Seniors' Safety. Stopping Elder Abuse & Neglect. With guest speakers from the BC Community Response Network and Crime Stoppers. Salt Spring Public Library. 3:30 p.m.

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

Swing Dancing. Legion. 6 p.m.

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

CINEMA

• **Beetlejuice Beetlejuice** is the movie from Friday, Sept. 20 to Tuesday, Sept. 24 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Nicola Wheston presents Drawing My 'New World Disorder,'** drawings from the artist's Covid drawing diary in the ArtSpring gallery from Sept. 18 to 24, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with an opening reception on Wednesday, Sept. 18 from 5 to 8 p.m.

• **Deon Venter presents Chrysalis** and **Kathy Venter presents Echo/Reflection/Entrance** at Gallery 8 from Sept. 20 to Oct. 20 with an opening reception on Sept. 20 from 5 to 8 p.m.

• **Shannon Wardroper - The Beholders' Share** is Artcraft's Showcase Exhibition running at Mahon Hall until Sept. 22.

• **Diana Dean: Then and Now** exhibits at Salt Spring Gallery through Sept. 25. Gallery open Tuesdays through Saturdays.

• **Resurgence**, an art exhibition by members of the Indigenous Friendship Circle. In the library program room through Sept. 28.

• **Island Textile Artists group presents Diverse Threads** in the ArtSpring lobby this month.

• **Claudia Schröder-Adams** shows bird photographs from her travels in the Country Grocer Cafe during September.

Salt Spring Apple Festival

Sunday, Sept. 29
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Coming Events

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

Wednesday
September 18th, 2024 at 7:00 pm in the lower hall at 901 North End Road.

Public welcome.

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TIDE TABLES

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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
18	5:16	9.2	2.8	22	2:34	1.5	0.46
	11:28	3.4	1.04		10:19	9.6	2.93
	18:14	10.2	3.11		14:28	8.3	2.53
19	0:14	4.1	1.25	23	19:36	10.3	3.14
	6:27	9.3	2.83		3:26	1.4	0.43
	12:10	4.6	1.4		11:55	9.8	2.99
20	18:35	10.2	3.11	24	15:37	9.2	2.8
	0:58	3	0.91		19:56	10	3.05
	7:39	9.4	2.87		4:23	1.6	0.49
21	12:53	6	1.83	25	13:32	10.1	3.08
	18:55	10.3	3.14		17:38	9.5	2.9
	1:45	2.1	0.64		20:09	9.7	2.96
22	8:55	9.4	2.87		5:27	1.9	0.58
	13:38	7.3	2.23		14:43	10.3	3.14
	19:16	10.3	3.14				

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HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF
SEPTEMBER 15 TO 21, 2024

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
TAURUS, GEMINI AND CANCER



ARIES

Take the initiative to rebalance your friendships. If you're surrounded by energy-sucking friends, set boundaries to preserve your vitality and be respected.



TAURUS

If you have young children, it's essential to be disciplined and set clear rules. Being tactful with people around you can help avoid conflicts and hurt feelings.



GEMINI

You may be drawn to travel opportunities this week. At work, serving people in a language in which you're not entirely fluent will be a rewarding challenge, both personally and financially.



CANCER

If you've been working hard to eat healthy and exercise, you'll finally start seeing positive results. Perseverance is the key to regaining your well-being and self-confidence.



LEO

A friend will suggest an enriching experience. Responding to a particular need for adrenalin will provide a refreshing break from your routine and boost your self-esteem.



VIRGO

Expressing your opinions confidently and authoritatively can help you rise through the ranks at work. If you showcase your leadership skills, you may even find yourself in the boss's chair.



LIBRA

You'll indulge in luxury shopping this week. Renewing your wardrobe may be justified in taking on new responsibilities at work. Treating yourself can be highly gratifying and boost your confidence.



SCORPIO

Take the time to resolve problems at home or with family members. If necessary, consider refreshing your decor to prepare for fall.



SAGITTARIUS

Make sure your car, phone and computer are in good working order. Charge the batteries so your devices remain functional no matter where you are. Preventative measures can go a long way to avoiding potential problems.



CAPRICORN

Set a strict budget to enjoy your hobbies while maintaining financial stability. Sound financial management will help calm your nerves, and financial matters will become very important at work.



AQUARIUS

New and demanding responsibilities may come your way at work and home this week. Patience and perseverance are necessary to overcome fatigue and stress, but the rewards will be worth it.



PISCES

If you're experiencing restless nights due to racing thoughts, try to find some escape. Consider signing up for a gym membership to help restore balance.



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FARMING

Book recalls rural life conflicts

Island farmer compares current rooster noise debate to past experiences in California

Michael Ableman is a Salt Spring Island farmer and author. He has submitted the following excerpt from his 1998 book *On Good Land* (Chronicle Books).

For two months in 1984, unrelenting noise pulsed from huge machines that arrived to remove the last agricultural holding that bordered the farm.

For years we had been huddled up next to each other, two small farms standing against the tide of development. Though our farm had grown and flourished, our neighbour had given in years before. His lemon orchard, now falling to the big steel blade of the bulldozer, was a wild, derelict remnant. A certain beauty emerged from this neglect, as nature reclaimed the land in the years that the orchard was abandoned. Twenty-six acres were regaining their wildness. The land was full of life. Deer, raccoons, possum, hawks and coyotes passed through a bustling society of birds, small rodents and insects.

I fought the demise of that land, feeling feeble standing in the city council chambers with a few other locals facing off against the highly paid lawyers for the developers. The story is always the same. Land is a mere commodity to be bought and sold, something to build on, pave over, mine or drill.

We protested the sacrifice of the some of the richest soil on the entire West Coast. We cited the agricultural history of this valley, our perfect Mediterranean growing climate, the rare gift of 30 feet of topsoil, the loss of farmland everywhere and the importance of small farms and local food. Our voices were drowned out by housing statistics, traffic studies, and promises of swimming pools and tennis courts, all supported by sophisticated maps and graphs.

The local newspaper acted as oracle, putting forth headlines on yet-to-be-approved projects as if they were a sure thing. "Progress Hangs Concrete Shroud on Goleta Farm," the paper solemnly confirmed. The neighbour who sold the land was quoted, saying, "Farming is a dying profession." I had to wonder where his food came from.

The housing development was quickly approved and built, and the moving vans rolled in. Only a few months after our new neighbours moved in, a uniformed county officer arrived at the farm looking for me, tramping through our peach orchard, her shiny boots threatening the tender celery transplants we had just placed between the rows of trees. "PUBLIC NUISANCE" was printed in bold capital letters on the top of her six-page document. The "ORDER" commanded me to restrict this nuisance, and deemed me responsible for enforcement costs. If I did not comply, the matter would be turned over to the district attorney.

The public nuisance was my roosters. These roosters had run free for many years, fulfilling their part in the balance of the farm, and crowing about it most mornings. When I refused to sign the document, the officer stood bewildered at first, then became angry. "You'll go to jail if you don't sign," she said with the absolute conviction of a person who knows the law.

I refused again, as I had previously to cease and desist composting or to remove the signs advertising our fresh fruits and vegetables. I refused for reasons that were purely practical to the operation of the farm, and for deeper reasons that involved my principles and convictions. I also felt a responsibility to the community that supported and benefited from the farm.

Soon the farm was at the centre of a major national controversy heralded by headlines reading "Rooster Riots," "As the Cock Crows" and "Roosters' Reveille Stirs Flap." Televised hearings were scheduled and a throng of community supporters of the farm showed up in pop-up rooster hats. Marriages were strained as couples living near the farm were divided on whether the sound was a nuisance or actually a pleasant background to a suburban environment.

Mail and messages poured in from well-wishers, as well as plenty of expert advice. "Put a large metal bucket over their heads and they can't stretch their necks to crow." "Send them on a flight to Australia and back again to upset their internal time clock." At the county hearing, officials suggested in all earnestness that we cut the vocal cords of the offending beasts.

I responded with an editorial that ran in the local newspaper on Mother's Day about the archetypal sound of the rooster and our lost connection to the land. Perhaps the district attorney didn't want to take on Mother's Day, the American farm and a public dressed in rooster hats. Perhaps the public outcry had actually been heard. Whatever the reason, the charges were withdrawn and the authorities backed down.

But the issue was not as the media presented it — just about roosters. The real story had to do with the loss of our connection

to the natural world and to the smells and sounds of a farm in a valley that not that long ago was all farms.

In the years that followed, we spent an inordinate amount of time defending our right to be. More complaints came in, as did theft and vandalism at our produce stand, bottles and trash thrown into our fields, and neighbours' dogs going after our goats, killing our chickens and eventually a rabbit called Blossom.

The internal battle that raged inside me swung to extremes. I considered holing up on the farm, building fences, guarding our borders, acting as if an alien force had surrounded us. I could fight or I could educate. I chose the latter. The neighbourhood was changing — it was time to change the goals of the farm.

People were beginning to think about food in a new way. Food safety and environmental issues connected to agriculture were surfacing in the media. Many folks longed to rediscover a relationship to the land and parents and teachers were exploring new ways to educate children. The fresh food we were producing was in itself a powerful message and I could see how pleasure was a much greater motivator for change than guilt.

While I struggled with all the upheaval, my new neighbours were cautiously beginning to drift into the produce stand. At first we were just a nearby convenience store, but as they tasted our corn, strawberries and tree ripe peaches, they realized that the sign was true: "We Grow What We Sell", and a deeper relationship with the farm emerged.

Thrown into public discourse over compost and roosters, caught in a collision of urban and rural, we were given the opportunity to work through some of the same issues that were impacting small farms all over the country.

While the grown-ups were busy working things out, the kids had already moved in. I discovered secret forts built into the avocado orchard. I found a little plastic table and chairs in a hidden corner of the fields, the setting for carefully planned doll tea parties with muffins and orange juice. Occasionally I was invited to attend.

The hostesses, Sara and Jenny, were just moments away from being too old for dolls. On the farm they clung to the ritual a little longer, even as they haunted the fields asking a million agricultural questions of my crew or searched the underbrush for signs of wild rabbits. For them the farm was full of mystery, and I'd find notes and carefully made totems left behind, like clues in a treasure hunt.

Little brothers came along too, arriving on their motocross bikes, jumping the curb that separated the farm from the development, and wiping out into the soft mountain of topsoil we had recovered from the clutches of the developer.

Things quieted down after the rooster riots, maybe because many of those who complained came to understand, even believe in, what we were doing. Or maybe it was because they decided that we were a formidable foe.

One neighbour, whose home borders the long field at the bottom of the property, often left messages saying he would rather look over his fence at condominiums, or that the dust from the tractor was ruining the plaster in his pool.

He was most sensitive about the old spreader truck I used to spread compost on the fields. The truck has a big bed with high sides. A belly chain runs along the bed dropping compost into two spinning fans that throw it onto the field about 20 feet to each side of the truck. I could see why this made him nervous.

In the spirit of peaceful co-existence — even harmony — I had a plan. When I needed to spread compost on the lower field, I decided that it would be better for our relationship if it was done before five o'clock, before he came home from work.

Unfortunately, one afternoon just as the truck moved into the field, the engine cut out and the truck stopped. It took the rest of the day to get it restarted. By that time, my neighbour was standing at the fence, arms crossed, just waiting for me to make a wrong move.

As I drove along the field near his place, I took extra precautions, veering way off to the side to be sure that the material would not land anywhere near his place. Looking in the mirror, I could see him wave, smile and acknowledge my careful consideration.

I turned around to make another pass, this time on the other side of the field. Just as the truck lined up with his home, a small rock landed on the spinners and was flung like a rocket clear across the field, over the fence and through his dining room window. There is no way I could have achieved such precision even if I planned it, but his smile faded, as I knew it would.

Peace is never perfect. Sometimes it's little more than a ceasefire. I'm sure my neighbour wonders to this day how I got the nerve (or the skill) to pull a stunt like that on purpose. I'm also sure that long after the window is fixed, he enjoyed being left with an indignant story to tell about a reckless, lunatic farmer shooting projectiles with a compost truck.

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Malcolm
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SOCCER ROUND-UP

Still room on some teams and in special programs

After a long summer break, Salt Spring United's many youth and adult teams all played on the Sept. 7-8 weekend under sunny skies, with smiles all around as players were able to play the "beautiful game" again.

So what does SS United have to offer and how can you get involved?

We have groups, programs and teams for ages two and up. (We are not sure what the real ages of the Old Boys men's team members are, but the speed of their game gives you an idea.) I will list what we have:

- Tots Program: Non-competitive program for ages two to four, playing Saturdays at 10 a.m. at Portlock Park.
- House Program: Non-competitive programs for Girls U-6/7, Boys U-6/7, Boys U-8 and Girls U-8/9, who play Saturdays at 10 a.m. for younger groups and 11:05 a.m. for older ones at Portlock Park.
- House League: Non-competitive group broken into a four-team league that plays games Saturdays at 11:30 a.m. and practices mid-week.
- Small-Sided Teams: Competitive (although no league standings kept) for Girls/Boys U-11 to U-13. Play Saturdays (times vary) at Portlock and Victoria fields, with practices during the week.
- Full-Sided Teams: Competitive teams for Girls U-14, Girls U-16, Girls U-18, Boys U-14 and Boys U-16 play in the Lower Island Soccer

Association league on Saturdays and Sundays. Teams practice during the week.

• Adult Teams: The Women's Over 30 and Women's Div. 3 teams are part of SS United. Men's teams (Div. 2, Over 35, Old Boys) are independent.

• Women's Recreational Soccer Program: A program designed for women who want to learn how to play soccer in a non-competitive environment. Training and small-sided games under guidance of coach Malcolm Legg. Every Wednesday at 5:30 p.m. at Portlock Park.

Some teams are full, but the younger age groups can still take plenty of participants.

Special training programs include goal-keeping training (12:30 to 1:30 p.m.) and full academy (1:35 to 3 p.m.) every Friday at Portlock Park, under the guidance of our technical director Josip Bratanovic.

See our website for more details and to register for any team or program.

For general inquiries, contact myself at mallegg@shaw.ca; for registration, Maggie at ssiuregistrar@gmail.com; or for team/academy info, Josip at jbratanovic@shaw.ca.

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