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Wednesday,
Oct. 9, 2024

64th year
Issue 41
\$1.50



PHOTO BY GAIL SIJBERG

SHARING THE GIFT: Performing with Swing Shift Big Band at the Gulf Islands Families Together Society (GIFTS) 25th anniversary celebration at Lions Hall on Saturday are, from left, John Moore and Peter Keys on tenor saxophone and Dominic Scott on vocals. The event saw the sharing of food, music, art activities, a silent auction, a video about GIFTS and more.

HOUSING

CRD keeps Drake options open

Well drilling in budget despite moratorium easing plans

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

As Salt Spring Island looks toward a future that may include more piped water connections, regional officials are hedging their bets at one property — and hope future public housing efforts aren't left high and dry.

After years of delay, construction at 161 Drake Road has finally begun, with foundations being prepared for what BC Housing has said will be 32 units of supportive housing, as well as four additional affordable rental units to be made available for people with low to moderate incomes.

As the timeline for that project becomes clearer — BC Housing now predicts residents will move into the modular-construction units

by this coming summer — the downstream effect of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District's (NSSWD) announcement it may ease its 10-year-old moratorium on new water connections is less certain.

In August, NSSWD officials said the district will propose adding the water-draw equivalent of as many as 300 multi-family dwelling connections, just on one side of its system — where water is drawn from Maxwell Lake.

"That could — and probably will — include Drake Road," said Salt Spring Island CRD director Gary Holman, speaking at the regional district's Housing and Hospital Committee meeting Wednesday, Oct. 2. "But there's only so much water available."

The land is owned by the CRD, but leased

in its entirety by BC Housing, a 60-year agreement that so far has seen work only in the portion fronting Drake Road. The regional district has had plans to utilize the entire 5.5-acre parcel for affordable housing before — 80 units were proposed in 2013 — but they were halted as the water connection moratorium began.

Well drilling results at the time were "poor," according to a contemporary Islands Trust staff report, and unlikely to support that density.

But tucked into the CRD's Regional Housing operating and capital budget for 2025 is a \$300,000 allocation for "additional" drilling work at 161 Drake Road.

DRAKE continued on 2

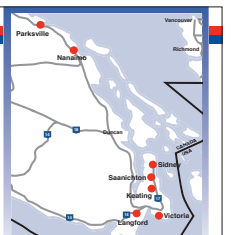
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COURTS

LMHF sues BC Housing for \$1.3M

Lease terms allegedly breached for foundation's Bittancourt property

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In an effort to collect monies it says it's owed, the foundation renovating a motel into hospital staff housing on Salt Spring Island has filed legal action against both the Provincial Rental Housing Corporation (PRHC) and BC Housing — alleging the former failed to abide by terms of its lease, and the latter “facilitated, encouraged and supported” trespassing at the site of the former Seabreeze Inne.

A notice of civil claim filed in July by the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) asks the court to enforce what it said were agreed-upon consequences to its Bittancourt Road property — leased by BC Housing until July 15, 2022 — remaining occupied until Jan. 12, 2024, citing a lease amendment both parties allegedly signed.

In that June 30, 2022 document, the parties seemingly agreed that PRHC would pay \$2,500 for each extra day it was “unable to provide vacant possession” of the property, which LMHF had purchased earlier that year, after the lease ended.

The foundation's filing further alleges that BC Housing, rather than make efforts to support providing vacant possession, continued to enter into agreements and provide funding to Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) to support that organization's operations at the Seabreeze, citing a January 2023 agreement with BC Housing it said was signed by SSICS executive director Rob Grant.

In that document, LMHF alleges, SSICS agreed to continue to provide services to those living at the Seabreeze Inne “in exchange for compensation from BC Housing, as SSICS had done without interruption since after July 15, 2022, with BC Housing's knowledge.”

In its response, filed in August, PRHC either denied or said it had no knowledge of most of the lawsuit's allega-

tions of fact; for example, it denied either it or BC Housing “entered into agreements or provided funding to SSICS for operating, or operations at, the Seabreeze Inne,” according to the filing.

“In the alternative, the Defendants deny that if they entered into agreements or provided funding to SSICS for SSICS's operations or any operations at the Seabreeze Inne, as alleged or at all, the Defendants did not direct or agree that SSICS could trespass at the Seabreeze Inne (which trespass is outside the knowledge of the Defendants or, in the alternative, denied) to provide any services which SSICS was required or funded to perform under any agreement with the Defendants.”

“In the further alternative,” read the filing, “if the Defendants directly or indirectly facilitated, encouraged, or supported SSICS's trespass, if any, at the Seabreeze Inne (all of which is denied) PRHC denies that SSICS's trespass caused any loss or damage to LMHF, as alleged or at all.”

Calculating a wait of 546 days for vacant possession after the lease terminated, LMHF is asking a judge to order a \$1.3 million payout, as well as monetary damages it said it incurred from the delay of renovation work, “significant damage” done to the property during the interim, and legal and administrative costs.

LMHF also wants a judge to order PRHC to indemnify them for “all expenses arising from the Occupants' claims that they were tenants of the Seabreeze Inne protected by the RTA,” again per terms of the agreement it says both sides signed in 2022. That could cover a \$30,000 settlement LMHF referenced in its filing, which it said it paid to convince the last person remaining at the motel to move out of the building.

A court date has not been scheduled, according to B.C. Court Services.

A legal action LMHF took against SSICS in 2022, alleging damages and seeking an injunction against them, ended in an agreed settlement in the summer of 2023. Third-party actions against the PRHC and former Seabreeze residents were also ultimately dismissed.

Salt Spring Island

Complete Communities
Assessment



What does a “Complete Community” on Salt Spring Island look like to you?

Join us for an in-person engagement session to share your ideas on what makes a complete community. View interactive maps and provide your input on what is important to you as a resident of Salt Spring Island.

Date: October 16 or October 18, 2024

Time: 1:30 PM – 3:00 PM

**Place: Salt Spring Island Public Library
(in-person)**



[islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/
salt-spring/projects/
ssi-complete-community-assessment/](https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/salt-spring/projects/ssi-complete-community-assessment/)

More housing contemplated

DRAKE
continued from 1

Last November, CRD's general manager of planning and protective services Kevin Lorette told the Electoral Areas Committee that CRD

staff and a consulting hydrogeologist had been prepping for a groundwater exploration there, meant to inform the CRD board for future development on the site.

And at the Oct. 2 meeting, Lorette said there may yet be “further opportunities” for the CRD at the site, adding that while the lifting of the water connection moratorium may negate the need, the one-time operational expense for drilling — to be funded through the Community Works Fund — should remain in the budget.

Holman said his concern was that if development on the rest of the Drake Road site was delayed, publicly funded affordable housing could lose its place in line; new connections to the NSSWD system may simply be allocated on a first-come, first-serve basis.

“The limited number of densities that that partial lifting would allow could be taken up by other projects,” Holman warned, “both for-profit and non-profit.”

CRD staff said they would continue regular reporting on Drake Road to directors; meanwhile, the first of two open house events on the water moratorium review, hosted by NSSWD at the Legion's Meaden Hall, takes place from 2 to 7 p.m. on Tuesday, Oct. 22.



CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Erosion plan proposed by homeowners

Baker Beach application open for comments

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Provincial regulators are seeking input from the public on a proposed shoreline stabilization project on Salt Spring, meant to protect a row of island properties above Baker Beach from erosion without using "hard" shore armoring.

A comment period will run until Nov. 13, according to a licence of occupation application filed with the Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship, who are considering the application for a 560-metre strip of provincial Crown land fronting six Booth Bay waterfront parcels between Quarry Drive and Baker Road.

Several property owners have applied together to install the erosion protection, using principles from the Stewardship Centre for B.C.'s pilot Green Shores program, according to submitted documents, a "nature-based" climate adaptation design standard encouraged by Salt Spring's Official Community Plan that minimizes hard armour seawalls in favour of non-uniform rock clusters, vegetation enhancement and "beach nourishment" — sand and gravel placed at the toe of the eroding slope.

Unlike hard armoring — such as bulkheads and seawalls — Green Shores design allows for the continuation of natural ecological processes, according to program literature, such as littoral drift and the establishment of coastline vegetation, while not completely altering beach or backshore areas.

The application estimates some 85 loads of material to be either trucked or barged in, with irrigation for new native vegetation planted on the shoreline to come from each homeowner's water supply, according to the application, which notes no plans to encroach into riparian areas — and intends to remove invasives during the project.

"The design basis is based on coastal sediment processes and protection of the natural environment," according to the application, adding planting would be "done by hand, and on a plant-by-plant basis to avoid sedimentation into the marine environment."

Baker Beach is used by residents and visitors alike; there are two Capital Regional District-maintained staircases nearby for public access — currently armoured with boulders — and while the application notes access will be "unimpeded," it points out there may be areas where pedestrians find themselves "walking over increased thickness of beach sediment (gravels) placed during beach nourishment."

For information about the application or to comment, visit comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications?clidDtid=1415573. To learn more about the Green Shores standards, visit stewardshipcentrebc.ca/green-shores-home.



PHOTO BY FRAN MCININCH

SINGING FOR THE FUTURE: Islanders gather for a National Seniors Day climate-action event held in the library program room on Oct. 1, which included singing along with Valdy (centre) to his song called "Stop the Subsidies, Fund the People!" A video of the song as performed that day is being produced. Salt Spring's event was one of several taking place across the country, initiated by a group called Seniors for Climate.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Double-digit tax hike predicted

CRD officials mount search for savings

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring taxpayers can expect a double-digit increase over last year, as the island's voice at the regional table argued for one more try at trimming costs.

As the Capital Regional District's (CRD) governance committee met Wednesday, Oct. 2, members voted in favour of a motion from electoral area director Gary Holman for a final, not-quite-last-minute pass at the provisional numbers, in advance of the CRD's Committee of the Whole (COW) budget meeting at the end of the month. Holman noted the briefing he'd received from staff indicated an increase of "12 or 13 per cent" for most on Salt Spring Island.

That contribution would be another significant escalation from increases in earlier years; Salt Spring's 2024 contributions rose 9.6 per cent over 2023, after a 5.6 per cent bump the previous year; the average increase in

years preceding had been 3.9 per cent.

"If we ask the question on Oct. 30, that's a bit late in the day to do that," said Holman. "The intent is to give staff a heads-up, to see if there's any way that the pencils could be sharpened a little further."

The motion specifically recommended the broader CRD Board task staff with a report to present to the COW's Oct. 3 meeting, regarding "possible cost saving" in the 2025 provisional budget — showing not only where money could be saved but also what the implications of those savings might be.

"In the end, it may come to a choice," Holman said, "where there's an objective the board wants to pursue that's inconsistent with shaving the cost here or there. But I think this sends a signal to taxpayers that we're doing our best to achieve cost savings wherever possible."

Provisional budgets have in recent years been approved and presented to the public in October, with financial plans for both the CRD and the Capital Regional Hospital District approved by their respective boards in March. Last year's consolidated budget topped \$777 million; Salt Spring's portion was \$8.37 million.

Remembrance Day Special
Feature publishing November 6

HONOUR THE MEMORY
OF THOSE WHO SERVED

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75th ANNIVERSARY NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT

Building Resiliency

Drop by and review the projects:
Oct 22 & Oct 30
• 2-7 pm at Meaden Hall, Legion Branch 92 •

Today, we're building a more resilient system to ensure a sustainable water supply for Salt Spring Island's future.

Proposed easing of the water moratorium on the Maxwell Lake side of the system.

Raising the weir on St. Mary Lake to improve supply resiliency and sustain flows to Duck Creek.

Constructing a new water treatment plant on Maxwell Lake to improve water quality and supply.

Connecting the two systems to enhance flexibility and reliability.

To review and comment on upcoming projects visit
NorthSaltspringWaterWorks.ca/projects

OPINION

2023 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)
Bronze - Best All Round | Bronze - Best Front Page

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



Driftwood

Published every Wednesday by
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR



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EDITORIAL

Poll power

It's hard to believe that four years have passed since we last voted for a new provincial government in B.C.

The NDP government was criticized at the time for calling the election during the Covid pandemic period and a year before it was necessary. They clearly wanted out of the confidence and supply agreement situation they had with BC Green Party MLAs during the previous three years in a minority government. First under John Horgan and then David Eby, the NDP has been able to govern with a stable majority government since 2020.

This time the political landscape has surprisingly shifted, with the collapse of the former BC Liberal Party and the rise of the BC Conservatives, once again proving that politics and elections are never dull in this province.

THE ISSUE: B.C. election

WE SAY: Take advantage of ease in voting process

Whoever succeeds past MLA Adam Olsen in Saanich North and the Islands has big shoes to fill, but the choices to do that appear to be solid. An ASK Salt Spring session with all four candidates as guests allowed all to show their strengths in a relaxed setting at the Salt Spring Island Multi Space. Tonight (Oct. 9) they will gather again at ArtSpring for a moderated all-candidates debate, co-sponsored by the Salt Spring Forum and the Driftwood. Islanders are encouraged to come out — the event runs from 5 to 6:30 p.m. — and ask questions about issues that matter most to them, or just listen, or take a moment to chat with candidates in the lobby after the event. A videotape of the evening should also be available by Friday for viewing on Forum and Driftwood websites.

As democracy faces threats from various corners these days, it's crucial that individuals do their best to learn as much as possible about their choice of MLA representatives and their parties and head to the ballot box with confidence.

Increasing the number of advance polls — they are from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16 — has made it easier than ever to vote in provincial elections. Advance polls in our riding are at Community Gospel Chapel, Pender Island School, Mary Winspear Centre and Stelly's Secondary School. An ad on page 10 of this paper also describes voting qualifications and another on page 11 gives riding-specific voting locations for Oct. 19 and candidates.

In the big scheme of things, getting informed and voting takes very little time. Let's continue the Gulf Islands hallmark of higher-than-average voter turnout.



ADDITIONAL EARTH TREMORS FELT ON GULF ISLANDS

Local means accountable

BY TIM SHOULTS

There's something about getting hit over the head with a copy of your own newspaper that really focuses your attention.

Many years ago, as a young reporter at a weekly newspaper in Jasper, Alta., I wrote an overly snarky front-page headline about one of our councillors losing in the municipal election. I thought I was being clever, but really, I was being crass.

I happened to be at the local post office grabbing my mail at the same time as that councillor was getting his newspaper out of his own mailbox. He unrolled it and looked at the front page. Then he rolled the newspaper back up, walked over to me and whacked me over the head with it.

Thankfully it was a small paper, so it didn't hurt.

But I learned later that it did hurt that councillor very much. His playful protest was his attempt to cover up deep humiliation.

I've never forgotten it. I feel ashamed of it again as I type this. And it's come to mind many times since when I've been tempted to get too clever with a headline or an opening paragraph. It's an example of what not to do.

But it's also an example of what makes local journalism, done by local reporters, so very important.

I've often said over the years that one of the things I appreciate most about community journalism is that the people we write about, and write for, are all around us. We're not in some ivory tower in Toronto opining on things; we're in the council chambers, on the sidelines at the sports fields, at count-

less community events. (And in the post office.)

That makes us accountable for our work in a way that someone writing from far away can't be. And our work also makes the institutions we cover — your local governments, your school boards — accountable to you.

Hundreds of communities across Canada have lost that accountability already as Facebook and Google absorb the local advertising revenue that used to pay the salaries of local journalists. Hundreds more communities are at risk.

If you're reading these words in your local community newspaper or on its website, there's still a chance to keep those local voices in your community. If your local newspaper has a subscription, please buy one. If they accept voluntary contributions or sell memberships, please get one. If their model is still fully advertising-supported, please support the local businesses that support them — and let those businesses know that's what brought you to them.

Real people writing real news about the place where you live means real accountability. We need your support so we can be accountable to you.

The writer is the publisher of the St. Albert Gazette and vice-president of Great West Media, which operates community newspapers and websites across Alberta. He has worked with weekly and daily community newspapers across Western Canada as a reporter, editor, publisher and executive for 25 years.

Oct. 6 to 12 is National Newspaper Week in Canada. This year's theme is "Keeping it Real."

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you concerned about the increase in earthquakes?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you paying attention to the B.C. election yet?

39 88
NO YES

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ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Let's hold onto our double Green riding

Until this riding elected Green Party representatives I never felt like I had a voice in Parliament or the Legislature.

I care deeply about our healthcare system, affordable housing, truth and reconciliation, toxic drugs poisoning our loved ones and the cost of living, but to me the most important issue is the environment.

We all need clean air, water and land to survive. Climate change is happening all around us and it is accelerating. I want a livable future for my grandchildren and yours. Our health and well-being are threatened by the continued subsidies and expansion of fossil fuel extraction and burning. For this issue I only trust the Greens to hold up against the fossil fuel industry's lobbyists.

I had an interesting and frank conversation with the NDP candidate Sarah Riddell at the Fall Fair, she told me that she personally is against fracking for LNG but if it comes to a vote in the legislature she'll have to vote with her party. Therefore, if she is elected, in the Legislature she is going to represent the NDP over her own values and over those of us, her constituents. The same is true for the Conservative candidate. Green MLAs can vote independently.

Greens are respected by their colleagues,

known for working across party lines and consensus building to get things done - which is true democracy in action.

In this election I will be supporting Green Party candidate Rob Botterell. He is a person of integrity, he is smart and has an impressive record of accomplishments.

Let's give him our vote and send him to Victoria to work for us.

MARGARITE SANCHEZ,
SALT SPRING

Everyone deserves healthcare now

When a family moves to Salt Spring Island or any place in Canada for that matter, they automatically place their children into the public school. There are no waiting lists. Yet that same family must start living without a primary healthcare provider.

Schools are available for every child, primary healthcare is not. There is an elected school board to make the system work. This is not the case for healthcare.

British Columbia is dealing with a shortage of family and specialized medical practitioners, nurses, nurse practitioners, healthcare staff, physical facilities and specialized technical equipment. A series of governments have failed by not expanding healthcare services at the same rate as population growth.

We did have one federal minister of health

who understood that the whole healthcare system needs modernization. Jane Philpott, MD, recognized that team-based care through non-profit community health centres is the answer.

The BC Greens have a similar plan. They want every riding to have at least one non-profit community health centre. MLA candidate Rob Botterell recognizes that we have a geographical issue created by the Salish Sea. There are community-operated health centres already established on Pender, Mayne and Galiano islands. Saanich Peninsula has the Shoreline Medical Society. Rob says that it is time to bring Salt Spring Island's community and healthcare providers together to create a community health centre.

The BC Greens also recognize that our healthcare authorities have evolved into cumbersome large bureaucracies that need streamlining. There are funds sitting there that should be re-directed to providing direct healthcare services.

What will a community health centre do for Salt Spring? It will provide team-based care with a combination of family doctors, nurse practitioners and other healthcare professionals all cooperating in one location. Everyone will have equal access to a team of professionals. Our healthcare providers will no longer have to be burdened with administrative work. A local community non-profit board with administrative responsibility will govern.

One of the determinants of health is our

physical environment. The Green Party's top priority is the return of our planet to its natural environmental state by reducing climate change and protecting our future.

Both of the other political parties want to eliminate (Conservative) or reduce (NDP) the carbon tax, which is one key to winning the environmental battle. How many un-natural climate disasters can we endure?

I am voting for Rob Botterell because I believe that he and the BC Greens will work to modernize our healthcare system and work for a clean environment. It is time to fully and completely enter the 21st century with approaches that facilitate the 22nd century.

CURT FIRESTONE,
SALT SPRING

Flow needs?

On Feb. 28, 2024, the Driftwood reported on the Province's \$10-million grant to North Salt Spring Waterworks District for two things. One of them is to "sustain the required environmental water flow through Duck Creek."

On Sept. 25, the Driftwood story announcing an agreement with the Province to raise the weir does not mention Duck Creek environmental flow needs. What happened to the environmental flow needs of Duck Creek?

IAN PEACE,
SALT SPRING

MORE OPINION continued on 11

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"It wasn't always glamorous but it was a lot more than I thought I would be in, and a lot more than a lot of people thought I would do."

YONI MARMORSTEIN, INVISION BASKETBALL, ON ACHIEVING ATHLETIC GOALS

The next four years: Let's continue progress being made by NDP

BY CONNIE GIBBS

On Oct. 20 we will wake up to a newly elected premier of our province. It will be either Premier David Eby again, or Premier John Rustad. Perhaps it will be a minority or majority Conservative or NDP government. If it's Premier Rustad in the leader's seat, I doubt there will be any common ground between him and Green MLAs. He will see no reason to pay any attention to them. This is the risk voters who mark their ballot for the Green Party are taking, and it's a big one. The same is true for any independent candidates. Vote splitting between the NDP and the Green and independent candidates could deliver this election to Conservative leader John Rustad.

When I realized that Eby and Rustad were running neck and neck, I spent a few minutes reading the Conservative platform to check their direction for B.C. (After I got rid of the mental image of the two men's heads on top of two sweaty, galloping horses tearing around the track to a photo finish.)

There is no mention on the Conservative website of protecting old-growth forests. (conservativebc.ca)

There is not a single word about protecting the environment. There is no mention of climate change. Because John Rustad doesn't believe it's a big deal.

What is the NDP's record on the environment?

The Ancient Forest Alliance (AFA) published their Annual Report for 2023 recently. (ancientforestalliance.org) Here's what they had to say:

"Since the inception of the Ancient Forest Alliance in 2010, there hasn't been a year that has seen more progress toward protecting old-growth forests in B.C. than 2023."

The AFA rightly criticized the NDP for not doing enough when they first came to power. Under David Eby, that changed. The NDP has been making important and measurable progress on protecting the environment in recent years. They're working with First Nations on exciting stewardship and conservation projects. At last, there is movement towards reconciliation and respect.

Similarly, the NDP have taken action to address the monster healthcare crisis. They listened and

INDEPTH

responded to family doctors who had been complaining about their fee schedule for many years. B.C. now has the best compensation plan for family doctors in Canada. This is a valuable incentive in recruiting more doctors. Sarah Riddell, the NDP candidate for our riding, was a key member of the team that made this crucial change.

The Canadian Institute for Health Information reports that surgical wait times in B.C. have improved since 2020. BC ranks #1 among all the other provinces for shortest wait times for cataracts, and #2 for joint replacements. This is real progress.

I volunteer at Lady Minto Hospital. Every week I see administrators, doctors, nurses, technicians, cleaners, healthcare assistants and other staff working flat out to care for vulnerable residents and patients. It's the same at Greenwood's.

Healthcare assistants are key staff at Lady Minto and Greenwood's. They don't earn a lot for all the heavy lifting and essential intimate

personal care they do. People aren't beating down the door to do this hard work. Recruitment is never-ending, as it is for all positions in healthcare.

The NDP brought in a new program, the Health Career Access Program, that gives recruiters a powerful tool. The Healthcare Assistant Certificate Program, an entry-level healthcare training program, is now free. This change removed a huge financial barrier. Before the NDP brought in this program, students without family financial resources had to go into debt to train for this basic healthcare certificate. Now they don't. That's a big step forward. I worked for 35 years as a student financial aid advisor in B.C. I know that removing barriers to all healthcare training is a key part of the solution to the healthcare staffing crisis.

We're living in a time of crisis. People are frustrated that not enough progress is being made to fix the problems with affordable housing, the environment, healthcare, mental health and addiction, cost of living, deficit budgets, small business. Frustrated voters can be tempted to take out their anger in

the voting booth and not recognize the progress that's been made. Just something to think about when you're at the polling station Oct. 19.

For me, the way forward is to choose the candidate and party that best aligns with my values and who can actually get things done. I ask myself: Does this candidate AND their party share my values? Can they take the necessary action that supports my values?

I'm looking at what direction the three parties are charting for B.C. for the next four years and beyond. It's about direction and progress because there are no quick fixes to any of these problems. They've been decades in the making. I'm voting for Sarah Riddell, NDP, to represent our riding. As a potential member of Team Eby, she can bring new energy and a great track record to continue the progress that is finally happening.

Let's not slide back or veer so far right, we end up in a ditch. Let's keep moving forward.

The writer is a Salt Spring resident who volunteers in the island's healthcare sector.

BC Election 2024

Gulf Islanders are getting set to vote in the provincial election, with four candidates vying for the Saanich North and the Islands riding's MLA seat.

Information about the four individuals is available on their respective websites, and they have answered three Driftwood questions below and on the next page. An all-candidates meeting is set for tonight, Oct. 9, at ArtSpring at 5 p.m., which will also be videotaped and available on the websites of co-sponsors Driftwood and Salt Spring Forum.

Advance polls run from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Oct. 10, 11, 12, 13, 15 and 16, with general election day on Oct. 19. See details in Elections BC ads on pages 10 and 11.

ROB BOTTERELL - GREEN

Rob Botterell is a retired lawyer, strategic consultant and public speaker who focused on major project negotiations, Indigenous law and advocacy. He lives on North Pender Island. More info: vote.botterell.ca

1. Please describe two of your party's policies or beliefs that are different from the other parties' and why you think those differences are important.

We are the only party that is truly serious about tackling the climate emergency. And we are the only party that advocates for keeping a price on carbon pollution. The Con-



ROB
BOTTERELL

servatives deny climate change. The NDP is not acting as though it is an emergency — continuing to subsidize fossil fuel, approve new LNG infrastructure and log old-growth forests. The BC Greens will put an end to these destructive practices.

Unlike the NDP and Conservatives, the BC Greens recognize that the housing crisis is an equality crisis. For-profit housing cannot solve housing affordability. The government needs to invest in co-op, non-market and social housing. The BC Greens are the only party proposing

a historic investment in non-market housing to ensure that everyone has a safe, secure and affordable place to live.

2. Tell us about a personal strength you have that you feel will make you an exceptional MLA, and give an example of when that strength has served you or another person/organization well in the past.

I am a tenacious advocate. I have dedicated much of my career to fighting for social and economic equality, healthy communities, a stable economy, and environmental protection. I understand how to get things done and will work to bring the affected people together in order to resolve complex issues. I don't take no for an answer.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Participating in an Oct. 4 ASK Salt Spring session are candidates, from left, Sarah Riddell (NDP), Amy Haysom (Independent), David Busch (Conservative) and Rob Botterell (Green).

The communities of Anac and Bamfield are connected to Port Alberni by a 76-km industrial service road that has resulted in eight fatal accidents and countless other accidents. In 2016 I was asked by the Huu-ay-aht First Nations to lead a renewed effort to secure funding from the B.C. government to upgrade the Bamfield Main and make it safe. We built the plan from the ground up with all stakeholders involved, secured expert advice and collaboratively developed out-of-the-box solutions to address the concerns raised by the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. It ultimately led to securing B.C. government funding of \$25 million toward the \$30.7 million project to build a much safer road.

3. How will you build relationships with your Gulf Islands constituents? Will you commit to participating in the existing multi-agency Southern Gulf Islands Forum?

I now live on Pender Island and recognize the uniqueness of each of the Gulf Islands and their communities. Like Adam Olsen and Elizabeth May, I plan to regularly hold community meetings to hear from residents, and will have an open and accessible constituency office.

I am grateful to Elizabeth May and Adam Olsen for establishing the Southern Gulf Islands Forum. I commit to building on the work forum members have started, and with Adam and Elizabeth's guidance I know we can continue to be a strong voice for the islands.

DAVID BUSCH - CONSERVATIVE

Saanich resident David Busch has been a lawyer since 2007 and has also worked as a registered nurse in critical care and in pediatric cardiology. He has taught nursing at Laurentian University and the University of Alberta, and taught law at the University of Victoria.

More info: conservativebc.ca/busch

1. Please describe two of your party's policies or beliefs that are different from the other parties' and why you think those differences are important.

Our B.C. healthcare system is in crisis. The Conservative party is proposing a new Patients First Healthcare Model: Universal healthcare for everyone under a system that delivers care through both public and non-government facilities. We will stop ER closures, get people attached to a family doc-



DAVID
BUSCH

tor, end wait times, expand access to care, and support and protect front-line staff by directing funding to hire front-line healthcare professionals. We will also implement a zero-tolerance policy on illicit drug use in hospitals and increase security in emergency rooms.

The Conservative Party will provide the Rustad Rebate — a real solution to help families stay in their homes, support the middle class, and provide relief to those being squeezed by high housing prices and rents.

2. Tell us about a personal strength you have that you feel will make you an exceptional MLA, and give an example of when that strength has served you or another person/organization well in the past.

My main personal strength is my unwavering commitment to community. It's my innate abilities, learned skills, and the genuine desire to listen and assist in improving the lives of the people in my community. As a former critical care nurse, I was on the front lines helping to save lives. Seeing the relieved look of elation on a parent's face when you tell them their child is now stable and can now go see them stays with you. As a lawyer, I have stood fast, delivering rational and compelling arguments to secure funding for health authorities, held municipal governments to account and ensured injured citizens receive the compensation to which they are entitled. As well, I have extensive experience advising governments on policy (regardless of their affiliation). I want to continue to advocate for all citizens.

3. How will you build relationships with your Gulf Islands constituents? Will you commit to participating in the existing multi-agency Southern Gulf Islands Forum?

I have had the pleasure of meeting and building relationships with Gulf Islands constituents over the years. I am aware of the ongoing issues, such as inadequate healthcare services (for example, workforce housing), the Islands Trust, ferry transportation and road infrastructure, and water shortages.

I look forward to continuing my town halls on the Peninsula and the Gulf Islands and seek to continue working with the Southern Gulf Islands Forum as it gives an opportunity for the representatives of all levels of governance — local, First Nations, regional districts, provincial and federal — to meet and address ongoing and emerging issues affecting our constituents.

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BRING BACK COMMON SENSE

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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THE DRIFTWOOD

AND SALT SPRING FORUM

SARAH RIDDELL - NDP

Sarah Riddell is a Central Saanich council member with a master's degree in public and health administration and 15 years of experience in the field. As a councillor her priorities have been affordable housing, climate action and active transportation. She lives in Brentwood Bay.

More info: sarahriddell.bcnep.ca

1. Please describe two of your party's policies or beliefs that are different from the other parties' and why you think those differences are important.

Healthcare: I believe in a strong, publicly funded health system that's

there for you when you need it. The BC NDP government made good strides — hiring more than 800 new family doctors to B.C. and thousands of nurses, tripling the program to credential internationally trained physicians, expanding our existing medical school and residency spaces, with more on the way — but there's still more to do. Unlike the Conservatives, we won't cut \$4.1 billion from the health system, increase hospitals' administrative burden, divert resources away from the public system, or add profit to the province's healthcare bill.

Housing: Affordable and attainable housing remains a huge challenge, and the BC NDP are the only party that has a serious plan to move the needle, with policies that



SARAH
RIDDELL

target both supply and demand, that reduce barriers to building, and provide relief for folks who have housing but are struggling to pay the rent. We need to do more, especially when it comes to Salt Spring and the other islands, to address local challenges within the context of a conservation area. You have my personal commitment to work together on more creative solutions. Take workforce housing, for example: it is desperately needed, but building it in ecologically sensitive areas, like the Gulf Islands, needs to be managed very thoughtfully.

2. Tell us about a personal strength you have that you feel will make you an exceptional MLA, and give an example of when that strength has served you or another person/organization well in the past.

I am a positive, collaborative, action-oriented leader and community builder. As a municipal councillor, I have worked hard to build relationships with residents, businesses, community leaders, staff, my council colleagues, First Nations and other elected officials. I regularly visit homes, meet for coffee, volunteer and attend community events to connect and learn from our community. This helps me work with people to solve one-off problems, propose and build support for

solutions to bigger ones, make balanced decisions, and bring people together to work through contentious issues to arrive at an acceptable solution.

3. How will you build relationships with your Gulf Islands constituents? Will you commit to participating in the existing multi-agency Southern Gulf Islands Forum?

I will build and nurture relationships with Gulf Islands constituents just like I have in Central Saanich — by showing up, listening and getting involved. I will collaborate with community to move things forward. I also have strong family connections and a history here, which I will build on. If elected, I commit to participating in the SGI Forum.

AMY HAYSOM - INDEPENDENT

Amy Haysom has lived on both the Saanich Peninsula and on Salt Spring Island for more than 20 years. She has been involved with education, small business, youth programs, adult recreation and land stewardship.

More info: aimforamy.ca

1. Please describe two of your policies or beliefs that are different from the other parties' and why you think those differences are important.

As an independent candidate, I advocate for direct democracy, where constituents have a direct link in sharing their voice related to issues in this riding. I haven't seen any other candidate take such a direct approach to engaging the community in having their voices integrated into platform and policy development. Policies and platforms should be



AMY
HAYSOM

dynamic, participatory and evolving with the needs of the riding and the province. "Our Voice" is an initiative featured on my website where constituents' feedback is steadily solicited and used to frame the political agenda.

Further, I don't hear other parties prioritizing the need for small-scale farming, particularly in rural remote communities. The longevity of protection of biodiversity and sustainable resources in the province relies on supporting small-scale farming practices and the infrastructure to prioritize this in rural remote communities.

2. Tell us about a personal strength you have that you feel will make you an exceptional MLA, and give an example of when that strength has served you or another person/organization well in the past.

I have been described as an excellent listener and a "unifier." I believe these are exceptional skills that serve in the role of MLA, both on the ground within the riding, AND at the legislative level. As an independent, I can listen to perspectives from all political "stripes" and, in that vein, can be a strong, level-headed voice within a divided legislature.

I have a professional and personal history that gives me the skill set to achieve this connection and leadership. I worked with the Centre for Global Studies and the Canadian Commission for UNESCO, and was able to connect organizations and government to activate initiatives related to sustainability and development. Having lived in this riding for a long time I have an excellent understanding of the unique communities in the wider riding. I love to travel, so I look forward to travelling within the beautiful expanse of the riding to meet the constituents of Saanich North and the Islands regularly.

3. How will you build relationships with your Gulf Islands constituents? Will you commit to participating in the existing multi-agency Southern Gulf Islands Forum?

I have mentioned the "Our Voice" initiative I have launched currently on my website, where constituents can give their feedback on issues that concern them. I've already received many contributions, and am sharing your voice in our all-candidates debates and in community forums. I intend to evolve this initiative by leveraging blockchain and/or app technologies to poll constituents often on various issues that affect this riding, and in turn can share this in the legislature.

I'd like to launch a youth advisory group, as the youth voice is pertinent and important. I absolutely commit to active participation in the Southern Gulf Islands Forum, an excellent best practice of community agencies working together. I intend to support these kinds of best practices.

THE WINNING PROGRESSIVE VOTE

ENVIRONMENT

The future is dependent on a healthy environment. We need to end oil and gas subsidies, protect at-risk species and provide long-term stable funding for environmental protections.

HEALTHCARE

Accessible healthcare is built through publicly funded options. By eliminating paperwork and establishing community healthcare centres across Saanich North and the Islands, we will ensure you get the care you need, when you need it.

HOUSING

Affordable housing starts with non-market solutions. We will strengthen tenant protections, and make a historic investment in affordable housing such as coops and senior housing.

A HEALTHY COMMUNITY

Vibrant communities thrive on good government policies. From protecting the environment to tackling the affordability crisis, Rob will be your voice in the Legislature.



Rob Botterell
SAANICH NORTH & THE ISLANDS

Vote BC Greens on October 19
BC greens
vote.botterell.ca

AUTHORIZED BY MOLLY MCKAY, FINANCIAL AGENT, 888-873-3686

Vote
**Sarah
Riddell**
BC NDP

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North and the Islands

We're taking
action to
strengthen
healthcare.

Authorized by Dan Stronks, financial agent, fadsstronks@gmail.com



VOTE IN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

The 2024 Provincial General Election is on Saturday, October 19, 2024. There are many ways (and many days) to vote.

WHO CAN VOTE
You can vote in the 2024 Provincial General Election if you are:

- 18 or older on October 19, 2024
- a Canadian citizen, and
- a resident of British Columbia since April 18, 2024

VOTER REGISTRATION
Register now to save time when you vote.
You can register or update your voter information at elections.bc.ca/register or by calling 1-800-661-8683.

Registration online and by phone closes at 11:59 p.m. (Pacific time) on October 7.

After October 7, you can still register when you vote, but voting will take longer. Remember to bring ID when you go to vote.

VOTE IN PERSON
Vote at a District Electoral Office
Voting at district electoral offices is available now during office hours until 4 p.m. (Pacific time) on Final Voting Day.

Vote at Advance Voting
There are six days of advance voting: October 10 - 13 and 15 - 16, from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (local time).

Advance voting places will be closed on October 14 (Thanksgiving).

Vote on Final Voting Day
Final Voting Day is Saturday, October 19. Voting places will be open from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. (Pacific time) on Final Voting Day.

VOTE BY MAIL
To vote by mail, request your voting package as soon as possible. Visit elections.bc.ca/votebymail or call 1-800-661-8683.

WHERE TO VOTE
Visit wheretovote.elections.bc.ca to find voting places near you and when they are open.

NEW ELECTORAL DISTRICTS
There are new electoral districts for the 2024 provincial election. To see a map of your new electoral district, enter your address at elections.bc.ca/mydistrict.

WHERE AND WHEN TO VOTE

Voting Places for Cowichan Valley

Advance Voting Places (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time on the dates listed)	Open Dates						
	Thu, Oct 10	Fri, Oct 11	Sat, Oct 12	Sun, Oct 13	Mon, Oct 14	Tue, Oct 15	Wed, Oct 16
Cowichan Comm Centre 2687 James St, North Cowichan, BC	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Crofton Comm Centre 8104 Musgrave St, Crofton, BC			✓	✓			
Lake Cowichan Centennial Hall 309 South Shore Rd, Lake Cowichan, BC	✓	✓					
Royal Canadian Legion Branch 191 9775 Chemainus Rd, Chemainus, BC						✓	✓

Election Day Voting Places (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific time on Saturday, October 19, 2024)			District Electoral Office
Bench Elem School 1501 Cowichan Bay Rd, Cowichan Bay, BC	Honeymoon Bay Comm Hall 10022 Park Dr, Honeymoon Bay, BC	Thetis Island Comm Hall 292 North Cove Rd, Thetis Island, BC	Cowichan Valley 13-354 Trunk Rd Duncan, BC (250) 737-4090 Hours of Operation (local time) Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Advance voting days 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Cowichan Comm Centre 2687 James St, North Cowichan, BC	Lake Cowichan Centennial Hall 309 South Shore Rd, Lake Cowichan, BC	Vimy Comm Hall 3968 Gibbins Rd, North Cowichan, BC	
Cowichan Tribes Dining Hall 5574 River Rd, Duncan, BC	Penelakut Band Office 11330 Clam Bay Rd N, Penelakut Island, BC	Youbou Comm Hall 8550 Hemlock St, Youbou, BC	
Crofton Comm Centre 8104 Musgrave St, Crofton, BC	Queen of Angels School 2085 Maple Bay Rd, North Cowichan, BC	École Mount Prevost School 6177 Somenos Rd, North Cowichan, BC	
Halalt First Nation Gym 7973 Chemainus Rd, North Cowichan, BC	Royal Canadian Legion Branch 191 9775 Chemainus Rd, Chemainus, BC		

Candidates for Cowichan Valley

Candidate's Name:	Financial Agent:	Official Agent:
Jon Coleman	Leanne Bauer 8728 North Shore Rd PO Box 704, Lake Cowichan, BC, V0R 2G0 (250) 893-0487	Stephen Housser 2300 Renfrew Rd, Shawnigan Lake BC, V8H 2E8
Eden Haythornthwaite Independent	Eden Haythornthwaite 6134 Lakeview Dr, Duncan, BC, V9L 2G4 (250) 709-7975	
John Koury Conservative Party	Grant Nulle PO Box 19062 RPO 16, Delta, BC, V4L 2P8 (250) 929-7836	
Cammy Lockwood BC Green Party	Cammy Lockwood 102-481 Trans Canada Hwy, Duncan, BC, V9L 3R7 (250) 597-7336	
Debra Toporowski BC NDP	Evelyn Scott 6838 Mays Rd, Duncan, BC, V9L 6A6 (250) 746-7761	

Irrelevancy and failure nothing to be proud of

BY STEVE WRIGHT

After five decades of operating under the banner of “preserve and protect” and millions of dollars spent to keep the organization alive, it is obvious to anyone who has lived in the Trust Area for any length of time that the Islands Trust has not fulfilled its mandate. Not by a long shot.

Granted, there have been some successes in setting land aside, but that is a credit to the Trust Conservancy, provincial and federal parks. What began as an unprecedented and visionary piece of legislation, to “preserve and protect” the rural and natural character of the islands, and the fragile and unique ecology of the terrestrial and marine environments within the Trust Area, has devolved into a mediocre attempt by those who did not have the skill set, or those not suitably trained or qualified, to do the job.

In spite of pronouncements from the provincial government about the importance of this area for all residents of B.C. and, in particular, future generations,

there was no thought to change the way these islands were to be developed any differently than anywhere else in the country.

Regulations regarding the scale and style of development to “preserve” the rural character were not implemented. No consideration was given to new subdivisions where lot configuration continued to be based on minimum parcel size rather than on the topography of the land to limit disturbance to ecosystems and groundwater. No examination was undertaken on private properties, prior to subdivision applications or construction, to determine whether endangered or at-risk species needed protection. Planning staff and trustees failed to recognize the changing trends in real estate and tourism which might have slowed growth to manageable levels instead of being overwhelmed by it.

More importantly, there was an absence of information by the Islands Trust and the province to inform the public about the ideals and purpose of the Trust Act. That alone would have provided an

INDEPTH

understanding of the difference between the conservationist approach of the Islands Trust and that of local governments geared for “urban” development.

Council has managed to find any number of reasons why it couldn’t act, but never finds the single reason of why it should.

Over the years, Trust Council has shown it is unable or unwilling to challenge the status quo and it is afraid to stand up to criticism, which continues to compromise the mandate in favour of development. Without the imagination to create a model for sustainable development which

“preserved” the rural character and “protected” native ecosystems and resources, successive councils followed a well-trodden path towards urbanization, with no clue or care where it would end up. Several warning voices were ignored, leading us to this place of chaos and confusion about what the Trust is and what it stands for.

Provincial governments, responsible for its legislation, cast the Trust aside as though giving birth was the totality of provincial responsibility. Council often complained it did not have the “tools” or the “authority” or the “funding,” but it had enough to do far more than it did. What it lacked was a commitment to the principles of the mandate and the guts to carry them out. Council has managed to find any number of reasons why it couldn’t act, but never finds the single reason of why it should.

The question now is whether it is too late. Public attitudes are changing. The environment seems not as important a value as the notion of property rights, even in the face of climate change. Current political views are leaning towards more conservative, libertarian and populist thinking. There is a greater desire for wealth and an expectation that we deserve whatever we want. And that is more: more space, more comfort, more services, more stuff and more younger people to do the work we prefer not to do ourselves.

The Trust has had countless opportunities to alter this course. Its job was relatively simple; to ensure these islands maintained their rural character, where the charm, resilience and independence of small communities and their way of life evolved from their natural environment. Where a simple life was not only feasible, but desirable. For the Islands Trust, irrelevancy and failure is not a legacy it can be proud of. Nor should we be.

The writer is a long-time resident of South Pender and served several terms as trustee beginning in the early 1980s.

VOTE IN THE PROVINCIAL ELECTION

Voting Places for Saanich North and the Islands

Advance Voting Places (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. local time on the dates listed)	Open Dates						
	Thu, Oct 10	Fri, Oct 11	Sat, Oct 12	Sun, Oct 13	Mon, Oct 14	Tue, Oct 15	Wed, Oct 16
Community Gospel Chapel 147 Vesuvius Bay Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC	✓	✓	✓			✓	✓
Mary Winspear Centre 2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney, BC	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
Pender Islands School 5714 Canal Rd, North Pender Island, BC			✓	✓			
Stelly's Sec School 1627 Stellys Cross Rd, Central Saanich, BC	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓

Election Day Voting Places (open 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Pacific time on Saturday, October 19, 2024)

Bayside Middle School 1101 Newton Pl, Central Saanich, BC	Gulf Islands Sec School 232 Rainbow Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC	Pender Islands School 5714 Canal Rd, North Pender Island, BC
Community Gospel Chapel 147 Vesuvius Bay Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC	Holy Trinity Church 1319 Mills Rd, North Saanich, BC	SHOAL Centre 10030 Resthaven Dr, Sidney, BC
Deep Cove Elem School 10975 West Saanich Rd, North Saanich, BC	Mary Winspear Centre 2243 Beacon Ave, Sidney, BC	Saturna Island Rec Centre 104 Harris Rd, Saturna Island, BC
Fernwood Elem School 150 Fernwood Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC	Mayne Island Comm Centre 493 Felix Jack Rd, Mayne Island, BC	Stelly's Sec School 1627 Stellys Cross Rd, Central Saanich, BC
Friendship Comm Church 7820 Central Saanich Rd, Central Saanich, BC	North Saanich Middle School 10400 McDonald Park Rd, North Saanich, BC	Tsawout First Nation Gym 7728 Tetayut Rd, Central Saanich, BC
Fulford Comm Elem School 203 South Ridge Dr, Salt Spring Island, BC	Panorama Rec Centre 1885 Forest Park Dr, North Saanich, BC	
Galiano Lions Hall 992 Burrill Rd, Galiano Island, BC	Peace Lutheran Church 2295 Weiler Ave, Sidney, BC	

District Electoral Office

Saanich North and the Islands
1528 Stellys Cross Rd
Central Saanich, BC
(236) 475-4576

Hours of Operation (local time)
Monday - Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Saturday 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Advance voting days 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Candidates for Saanich North and the Islands

Candidate's Name:	Financial Agent:	Official Agent:
Rob Botterell BC Green Party	Sharon Forrester 104-10030 Resthaven Dr, Sidney, BC, V8L 3G4 (778) 817-0241	Patricia Pearson 104-10030 Resthaven Dr, Sidney BC, V8L 3G4
David Busch Conservative Party	John Giesbrecht 1918 Ferndale Rd, Victoria, BC, V8N 2Y3 (778) 587-4644	
Amy Haysom Independent	Amy Haysom 150 Douglas Road, Saltspring Island, BC, V8K 2J2 (250) 538-8927	
Sarah Riddell BC NDP	Dan Stronks 6785 Greig Crt, Brentwood Bay, BC, V8M 2G4 (519) 564-2855	



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ECOLOGY

Volunteers needed for nest birds

Hope for bluebird revival
despite overall cavity
nesting species decline

SUBMITTED BY SSI CONSERVANCY

Old-timers on Salt Spring may remember the western bluebird, once a common breeding bird in southwestern British Columbia.

Populations began declining in the 1950s and they disappeared from Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands in the early 1990s. Experts suspect that loss of Garry oak meadows, cutting down of old trees used for nesting, climate change, declines in their insect prey due to pesticides and competition for nest holes with the introduced house sparrow and European starlings all contributed to the declines.

Seventeen years ago, western bluebirds were reintroduced onto San Juan Island, and 10 years ago, several more were released in and around the Cowichan Garry Oak Preserve near Maple Bay. Since then, small breeding populations have established. However, it was not until late October last year that western bluebirds were seen again on Salt Spring. A group of seven individuals, that were colour-banded near Maple Bay, was spotted foraging in farmland and inves-



PHOTO BY REN FERGUSON

Female western bluebird. Seven bluebirds were seen on Salt Spring last year.

tigating some nest boxes. This is exciting news that bodes well for the recovery of the species on our island.

The Salt Spring Island Conservancy works to conserve many of our declining bird species. In 2009, the conservancy started erecting nest boxes throughout the southern part of the island in Garry oak and farmland habitats, in recognition that adding nest boxes has reversed some bluebird popula-

tion declines in Oregon, Washington and the interior of B.C. Our primary goal was to provide nest boxes for bluebirds that might disperse here from reintroduced populations. Our secondary goal was to provide boxes for other native species such as violet-green swallows, tree swallows and house wrens. All these species use cavities in trees, created by woodpeckers, to nest, but will nest readily in boxes. Swallows, which take their insect prey on the wing, are part of a group of birds called aerial insectivores. This group declined by 59 per cent between 1970 and 2016 in Canada.

Volunteers now monitor over 200 nest boxes on private land and in conservation areas from the slopes of Mount Tuam and Mount Maxwell to the Fulford and Beaver Point valleys. So far, we have not had any bluebirds nesting in them. The boxes are used primarily by violet-green and tree swallows and house wrens.

Unfortunately, we have observed some disturbing long-term trends that reflect the noted widespread decline in aerial insectivores: the occupancy of our nest boxes by swallows declined from 42 per cent in 2009 to 25 per cent in 2022. In addition, during the heat dome in late June of 2021, breeding success plummeted from an average of 66 per cent of nests fledging young, to only 49 per cent. Many of the chicks overheated and died in the nest. SSIC is researching methods to help nest boxes stay cooler, such as reorienting the direction the box faces, painting the box white or shading the box with a larger lid.

We are looking for volunteers to assist in monitoring and cleaning nest boxes. This is done in the fall and volunteers must be fit (some boxes are on steep slopes) and interested in a long-term commitment. If you are interested, please contact Debra Cobon at debra@saltspringconservancy.ca.

Capital Regional District



Cedar Lane Water Service Commission

Notice of Annual General Meeting

Pursuant to Bylaw No. 3505 (Cedar Lane Water Service Commission Bylaw No. 1, 2008), residents within the Cedar Lane Water Service Commission Local Service Area are invited to attend a hybrid in-person/virtual meeting:

Cedar Lane Service Commission Annual General Meeting

Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024
Time: 10:00 am – 12:00 pm
Place: Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) Boardroom
124 Rainbow Road, Salt Spring Island, 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. 3505, real property owners or residents in the Cedar Lane Water Local Services 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 (3 resident or owners of real property within the Cedar Lane water service area; or a person who is prepared to represent the service area). There are two (2) 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. 3505 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 Cedar Lane Water Local 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

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Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Robert "Bob" Edwin Conlon



Robert "Bob" Edwin Conlon, 81, passed away peacefully at Greenwoods Eldercare, attended by his close friend Donna, on September 16th, 2024.

Bob was born on May 5th, 1943 to parents Nellie (Bawden) and Thomas Bede Conlon in Perth, Australia.

As an adventurous young man, Bob travelled by ship to the west coast of Canada in the late 1960's "to see what is was like over there". Here, he met and married his love, Joan (Kay), who had also immigrated to Canada from England. They shared a deep love. Together they enjoyed skiing at Mount Baker, and travelling to various other countries. A talented professional upholsterer, Bob artistically upholstered all the chairs and sofas in their home. He was an enthusiastic player of golf, cricket (for which he won awards), and darts at the Salt Spring Legion. He loved jokes and comic banter, and liked to make people laugh.

Bob leaves behind his loving sister, Julie Bechelli. He is predeceased by his wife Joan (2015), his brothers, Peter and Tom, and their parents, Nellie and Thomas.

Heartfelt thanks to the staff of Greenwoods Eldercare for their understanding, compassionate care. Deep gratitude also to the kind staff of Heritage Place, and also to the doctors and nurses of Salt Spring.

In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Greenwoods Eldercare.

In spite of his health challenges, Bob lived his life on his own terms, always. He will be missed.

"See you on the flipside!"



Elspeth Crickmore
October 31, 1957
- August 23, 2024

It is with love and sadness to announce the passing of Elspeth Crickmore, resident of Tsawwassen, at the age of 66 yrs old after a long-fought battle with cancer. Elspeth grew up in West Vancouver with her mother Mary, father Eric, sister Jane and brother Gavin. After working as a legal assistant, Elspeth entered the BCIT RN Nursing program in 1981. After graduating in 1983, Elspeth worked in Penticton, New Westminster, and on the cruise-ships travelling to the Caribbean and Alaska. Elspeth finished her career by retiring after working for 30 years at St. Paul's Hospital ER.

Elspeth had a zest for life. She had many passions including: curling, kayaking, cooking, baking, gardening, traveling, hiking, walking and spending time with her friends. In retirement, Elspeth lovingly cared for her mother Mary until she passed away on May 25, 2024.

Elspeth's absence will leave a profound void in the hearts of those who knew her. Yet, her memory will continue to inspire and guide them. The world isn't a little dimmer now, it's brighter with whom she touched while she was here.

A burial service was held on August 28, 2024, at the Salt Spring Island Natural Cemetery. A recognition of Elspeth will be held at the Salt Spring Island Natural Cemetery, 2100 Fulford-Ganges Road, SSI, BC V8K1Z7 on October 19, 2024, at 2 pm. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to the Canadian Cancer Society.

Coming Events

Coming Events

Salt Spring United Soccer Club
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Thursday October 17th,
6:00pm
PORTLOCK PORTABLE
All Welcome

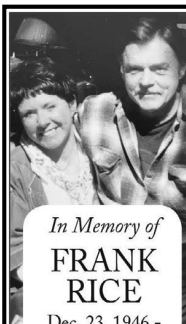
TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

OCTOBER 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
9	2:37	2.1	0.64	13	6:32	2.4	0.73
	11:07	9.8	2.99		15:01	10.4	3.17
	16:03	8.7	2.65		21:44	6.8	2.07
10	18:56	8.9	2.71	14	23:46	7.9	2.41
	3:24	2.1	0.64		7:37	2.7	0.82
	12:21	9.9	3.02		15:31	10.4	3.17
11	18:27	8.9	2.71	15	21:27	6.8	2.07
	18:41	8.9	2.71		1:48	8	2.44
	4:19	2.2	0.67		8:35	3.1	0.94
12	13:29	10.1	3.08	16	15:56	10.3	3.14
	21:06	7.7	2.35		21:56	5.6	1.71
	23:46	7.9	2.41		3:22	8.4	2.56
	5:23	2.3	0.7		9:27	3.9	1.19
	14:22	10.3	3.14		16:18	10.3	3.14
	21:27	6.8	2.07		22:30	4.2	1.28

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Oct. 12, 2001

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Zoe Sikora

left us Wednesday evening and we are having a memorial service for her at the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints chapel on October 12, at 2:00pm.

All are Welcome.

HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF OCTOBER 6 TO 12, 2024

THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
AQUARIUS, PISCES AND ARIES



ARIES

This week, you'll have promising opportunities at work and may receive a long-awaited promotion. You'll be able to balance your professional and family commitments effectively and expand your network of customers and collaborators.



TAURUS

To make progress, you must step out of your comfort zone and overcome your fears. When you achieve your goal, you'll increase your self-esteem and self-confidence.



GEMINI

A planned trip with your loved ones will pave the way for dynamic and inspiring new friendships. Spend quality time with your partner to strengthen your relationship and have a bright future together.



CANCER

An internship will help you advance your career by clarifying confusing information and illuminating perplexing messages. You'll be guided in this quest for knowledge.



LEO

After a disagreement, you can restore peace by being open to compromise. You'll break bad habits, promoting more decisive personal growth.



VIRGO

Participating in your friends' activities naturally inspires you to move and compete, contributing to your overall well-being. You'll take advantage of these moments to get back into shape.



LIBRA

You'll take on new professional responsibilities that require updating your wardrobe. Wearing appropriate clothing can help you make a lasting impression on your clients.



SCORPIO

You may want to spend more time at home with your family this week. Be mindful of maintaining balance and not letting others abuse your generosity.



SAGITTARIUS

As the cold season approaches, it's important to protect your respiratory tract to avoid a sore throat. Adopt basic preventive measures, such as washing your hands frequently, to protect yourself from germs.



CAPRICORN

This week's atmosphere may be confusing but also inspiring. Ask questions and express your thoughts freely to obtain reassuring answers on delicate subjects. The artist in you will be creative!



AQUARIUS

This week will bring a lull after a turbulent period. Reflect on your professional future and take steps to adjust your career path to meet your expectations. Good friends know how to bring out the best in you.



PISCES

Shop around and adopt a new look. Take inspiration from friends to discover new trends. Explore a new spiritual universe to unlock enriching experiences.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam

Celebration of Life for
Susan Davidson
Sunday, October 20th, 1pm-3pm(ish)
Bullock Lake Farm, Salt Spring Island

In loving memory of this Superstar!
We will be in the Barn, so please dress warmly.

There will be an open mic for you to share your most fond memories of Susan. In lieu of flowers, those who wish may donate to the Lady Minto Hospital.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



Salt Spring Island
NATURAL CEMETERY

2100 Fulford-Ganges Road
Salt Spring Island, BC V8K 1Z7
250-653-9884
saltspringcemetery.ca



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

DANCE

Tribe bends bodies, minds



Scene from Tentacle Tribe's Prism show, which comes to the ArtSpring stage on Oct. 18.

Visual feast promised at innovative show

BY KIRSTEN BOLTON
FOR ARTSPRING

Visionary Montreal-based dance company Tentacle Tribe is returning to ArtSpring on Fri-

day, Oct. 18 with its most recent production — Prism — a piece that uses visual distortions to ask questions about perception and physicality.

The production comes from the imaginative minds of Tentacle Tribe's co-founders, choreographers and artistic directors Elon Höglund and Emmanuelle Lê Phan, both of whom are nota-

bly Cirque du Soleil alumni as well as dancers.

Over the last 12 years, the company, whose signature style blends hip-hop, martial arts and contemporary dance, has created a series of increasingly transformative duets and group pieces to become one of Canada's most sought-after touring dance companies.

Prism is Tentacle Tribe's most ambitious production to date with an extensive stage set-up created from mirrors, for what Le Nouvelliste calls "a visual feast."

Five dancers move fluidly between a reflective floor and movable mirror panels that are manipulated from different angles. Multiplied tenfold, their bodies seamlessly unite and intermingle to create a single organism in synergy with Höglund's original music.

Prism is meant to create a mesmerizing kaleidoscopic dream, distorting perspectives and deconstructing movement into infinite combinations of colourful images. Limbs, reality and illusion intertwine, leaving audiences to question what is real.

Wanting to challenge audiences to see dance in new and innovative ways, Höglund and Lê Phan's artistic vision is to create performances that engage not only the body but also the intellect. They have toured and performed extensively in Canada, Europe, South Korea, the U.S. and the Middle East.

Tickets, available through the box office or online, are selling quickly. Limited Theatre Angel Program tickets (only \$15) are available from the box office until Oct. 11.

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MASTERS OF PAPER & PAINT



PHOTO BY RICK NEUFELD

Garry and Bly Kaye host guests at their Paper & Paint show and sale opening at Steffich Fine Art on Oct. 5, featuring Garry's acrylic paintings and Bly's tissue collage works. The show runs in the gallery's new Ganges Alley location through October.

FINE ART

Exquisite Surreal auction raises SSNAP funds

Art pieces and special events at Mahon Hall

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A captivating fundraiser and art auction is on at Mahon Hall this week, with the Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) group hosting Exquisite Surreal through Oct. 15.

The event that opened Monday, Oct. 7 features an exquisite corpse art auction and artwork sale by local artists.

Attendees can view and bid on surrealist art pieces daily from 10

a.m. to 5 p.m., with the auction closing at 7 p.m. on the 15th.

Special related events include The Exquisite Poetic, an evening of poetry featuring Brian Day, Shirley Graham, Peter Levitt, Murray Reiss and Chris Smart, with a GISS Improv appearance as well on Thursday, Oct. 10 from 6 to 8 p.m.

Then on Sunday, Oct. 13 from 1 to 3 p.m., a Surreally Special Drop-in and Draw Event with artists Mel Williamson, April Mackey and Sal Wiltshire takes place at the hall.

For a complete list of the 60 artists who have contributed work to the auction, visit the saltspringartprize.ca website.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS PRESENTS

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October 25th to 27th

10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Farmers' Institute

More than 20,000 gently used books across more than 30 different genres, as well as a large display of new and gently used designer, vintage, and costume jewelry - for all ages - is for sale.

All proceeds go to the Salt Spring Literacy Society, which provides literacy support to youth, adults and seniors.



Nayana Fielkov
Underbelly

ArtSpring Presents

**Fri Oct 25
7:30PM
\$35 | \$5**

artspring.ca
tickets.artspring.ca
250.537.2102

CONCERT PREVIEW

Bach in focus at chamber concert

Luchkow, Schaufele and Case at All Saints this Friday

SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING BAROQUE

Having appeared as concertmaster and soloist with the Bach on the Rock chamber orchestra and performed twice in Salt Spring Baroque's concert series, versatile violinist Paul Luchkow is well known to Salt Spring Islanders.

Luchkow's next appearance comes with his string trio on Friday, Oct. 11 at 7 p.m. at All Saints by-the-Sea in a concert called JS Bach Through the Lens of Transcription.

A regular feature of Western Canada's early music scene, Luchkow is a long-time member of the Pacific Baroque Orchestra and performs regularly with Victoria Baroque, Victoria Symphony and the Early Music Society of the Islands. He is also the concertmaster of Alberta's Juno award-winning baroque ensemble Rosa Barocca. The group won the 2023 Juno award in the category of best Classical Album of the Year – Small Ensemble. Luchkow will be joined by two of his Alberta colleagues, Ronelle Schaufele on viola and Andrea Case on cello, for this beautiful all-Bach chamber concert. Their string trio will explore Bach's music through the lens of transcription.

Transcription is the adaptation of a composition for an instrument other than that for which it was originally written. This was a widespread practice in the 18th century and is still used today. Bach himself regularly transcribed pieces, such as Vivaldi and Telemann concertos for violin and oboe into works for keyboard, and his own works to be played on a variety of instruments.

The concert will demonstrate how flexible and transportable the art of transcription can be. Works include a Trio Sonata originally written for organ; a selection of keyboard fugues from the Well-Tempered Clavier transcribed for strings and preceded by Mozart's own newly composed adagios; and a beautiful transcription of the keyboard monument: the Goldberg Variations. These works provide a refreshing window onto the

works of J.S. Bach, allowing them to appear in a new light, recognizable but transformed.

Tickets can be purchased online through Salt Spring Baroque's website or the ArtSpring ticket centre; in person at the ArtSpring box office, or at the door the night of the performance.



salt spring arts

DRUM-MAKING DEMONSTRATION & CULTURAL TEACHINGS

WITH VIRGIL SAMPSON

Friday, October 25
1 – 4pm
Mahon Hall

Register at saltspringarts.com




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OCTOBER 3-30 2024

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what's on this week

Wed. Oct. 9

ACTIVITIES

B.C. Election Candidates Debate. Saanich North and the Islands candidates give statements and answer your questions. ArtSpring. 5 to 6:30 p.m.

Thur. Oct. 10

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Banff Centre Mountain Film Festival. Nine short films from the festival's world tour. ArtSpring. 7 p.m. Check for ticket availability.

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

ACTIVITIES

B.C. Election Advance Voting. Advance poll open at Community Gospel Chapel. 8 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee. Regular business meeting held online. 11 a.m. Watch live via Islands Trust website.

SD64 Board of Trustees Meeting. Held via Microsoft Teams. Link at sd64.bc.ca. 1 p.m.

Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission (LCC) Regular Meeting. SIMS board room. 5 to 7 p.m. To attend virtually, see Microsoft Teams meeting link in the agenda on the CRD website.

The Exquisite Poetic. Evening of poetry featuring Brian Day, Shirley Graham, Peter Levitt, Murray Reiss and Chris Smart, with GISS Improv. Part of the SSNAP Exquisite Surreal exhibition and auction at Mahon Hall. 6 to 8 p.m.

Fri. Oct. 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Baroque: JS Bach Through the Lens of Transcription. Paul Luchkow, violin, Ronelle Schaufele, viola and Andrea Case, cello perform at All Saints. 7 p.m.

Karaoke. Legion. 7 p.m.

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

ACTIVITIES

B.C. Election Advance Voting. See Thursday listing.

ASK Salt Spring. LCC members Ben Corno and Earl Rook. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Sat. Oct. 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tyler James Johnson. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

Subdude. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

B.C. Election Advance Voting. See Thursday listing.

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

Salt Spring Fire Rescue Open House. For Fire Prevention Week. Ganges Fire Hall. 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sun. Oct. 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Sun. Oct. 13

ACTIVITIES

B.C. Election Advance Voting. See Thursday listing.

Spinning Demonstration. At the Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild show at ArtSpring. 12 to 4 p.m.

Surreally Special Drop In and Draw Event. Three artists host drop-in drawing session at Mahon Hall from 1 to 3 p.m. Part of SSNAP Exquisite Surreal events.

Tues. Oct. 15

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

B.C. Election Advance Voting. See Thursday listing.

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

Wed. Oct. 16

ACTIVITIES

B.C. Election Advance Voting. See Thursday listing.

Islands Trust: Complete Community Assessment. In-person engagement session to share ideas about what's important as a Salt Spring Island resident. Library program room. 1:30 to 3 p.m.

Clothing Swap Donation Drop-off Day. SIMS. 3 to 6 p.m. See transitionsaltspring.com for details.

CINEMA

• **Alien: Romulus** is the movie from Friday, Oct. 11 to Tuesday, Oct. 15 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. See thefritz.ca for more info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

- **Salt Spring Weavers and Spinners Guild Annual Show and Sale** from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at ArtSpring, Oct. 11 to Oct. 14.
- **Paper & Paint: Art showcase & sale** featuring Garry Kaye, acrylic paint, and Bly Kaye, tissue collage. All October at Steffich Fine Art in Ganges Alley.
- **Exquisite Surreal: SSNAP Auction and Fundraiser.** Daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Mahon Hall. Auction closes at 7 p.m. on Oct. 15. Plus an Art Jam exhibit and events as noted on Oct. 10 and 13 above.
- **Deon Venter presents Chrysalis and Kathy Venter presents Echo/Reflection/Entrance** at Gallery 8 through Oct. 20.
- **Artifacts: Archaeography of the Great Rift Valley 2016-2023,** Michael Gooblar, at Salt Spring Gallery through Oct. 16.
- **Members of The Headhunters portrait group** — Ojima Clark, Mary Pennell and R M Dupuy — display in the library program room through October.
- **The League 181 group** of Judith Borbas, Peter Eyles, Don Hodgins, Wendy Wickland and Dulcy Wilson shows in the ArtSpring lobby in October.
- **Hazel Gardner portrait art** at Country Grocer Cafe for the month of October.

SSI Fire Rescue Open House

Saturday, Oct. 12
Ganges Fire Hall
11 am to 2 pm

THRIFTY FOODS

Ganges, Mouat's Centre 7:30am to 9pm
Customer Service 250-537-1522



SPORTS + RECREATION

BASKETBALL

Weekend basketball camps offered on island

Goal-setting coach hopes to build life skills alongside play

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Basketball camps have returned to Salt Spring, as has head coach Yoni Marmorstein, who brings a program designed to improve skills both on and off the court.

The InVision basketball camps this year are similar to several Marmorstein organized on the island before Covid, with monthly weekend sessions for grades 6 to 12. He hopes the skills training he and his coaching team offer will help grow the game on Salt Spring — and through a goal-setting segment, grow the players.

"The idea is that you can put your goals into your vision for what you want to do," said Marmorstein. "For example, if your goal is to play basketball in college, we can set out a schedule — what you have to work on, when you'll have to do it during each day of the week. You can learn how to hold yourself accountable."

Marmorstein said basketball plans can become a framework, an age-appropriate, relatable way to look at goals; kids might



PHOTO BY HANNAH SPRAY

Young basketball players in the Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) gym at an earlier season of GISS alumnus Yoni Marmorstein's InVision basketball camps. The next one is on the Oct. 26-27 weekend.

not know what they want to do with the rest of their life, he said, but many times they know what they want to do with basketball.

"A basketball goal is pretty straightforward," he said. "You decide, 'I want to be a starter on my high school team next year,' or 'I want to make seven out of 10 jump shots when I shoot.' When you get out in the world and do something other than

basketball, you can translate that skillset."

Marmorstein speaks from experience. He grew up on Salt Spring, and has been coaching and training basketball players for the last decade, after a transformative — if brief — career as a player that took off later in life than he'd originally planned.

"When I was 18, I had no idea how to get to the college level of basketball," laughed Marmorstein. "I knew that's what

I wanted to do with my life, but I was so afraid to even tell friends and family about it — because I thought it was kind of a ridiculous goal."

At a self-assessed "five-foot-nine, on a good day," Marmorstein said it was difficult to get noticed by coaches as a youth; at 25, he returned to the game he knew he loved, and sought out training on his own.

"Once I was getting mentored, I started improving quickly," he said. "I was able to walk on at Capilano University as a red shirt, and kept improving."

Eventually Marmorstein was able to walk on with the Vancouver Knights at age 29, and was offered some play with the Vancouver Dragons.

"It wasn't always glamorous," he laughed, "but it was a lot more than I thought I would be in, and a lot more than a lot of people thought I would do. I felt like it showed me you could achieve a lot with the right approach — setting a goal, and planning how to get there — and that players could achieve more than I did if they start that approach earlier."

Marmorstein said the next camp is forming for Oct. 26 and 27. For more information or to be notified when signups are posted, visit coachyoni.com/saltspringisland.

COMPETITIVE SAILING

Junior sailors compete at Victoria Fall Dinghies event

Best times, top finishes and capsizes

BY SSI JUNIOR SAILING TEAM

A record number of Salt Spring Sailing Club junior sailors attended the Fall Dinghies regatta, recently held at Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

With stronger winds than many of the sailors had previously experienced, spectators on shore saw lots of brave work for the boats to stay upright, along with a couple of spectacular capsizes.

Louis Demandre, Phil Pugh Aucoin and Lochlan O'Dwyer had their first regatta experience in the Opti Green fleet, a group for first-time racers. Each sailor put in a consistent effort on the first day of sailing, where they raced

multiple heats over a modified version of the competitive course. On the second day, high winds forced the Green fleet further into the more sheltered waters of Cadboro Bay.

Meanwhile, Luci Pugh Aucoin and Aoi Otsu raced in the Opti Championship fleet. Both had several good races against 47 other boats, and each showed confidence and improvement from previous regattas. The high winds and large number of competitors created challenging conditions. Luci Pugh Aucoin had a personal best, coming in 11th place in her second race of the regatta.

In the Club 420 class, Malika Clement and Maeve FitzZaland had a great first day on the Saturday, with consistent finishes in the top three out of a field of

17 boats. The other 420 team of Izzi Pugh Aucoin and Reuben Sol were sailing well, but an unfortunate disqualification in one race left them needing to have a strong second day of racing. On Sunday, in very high winds, Pugh Aucoin and Sol managed first and second place finishes in every race, and ultimately won the regatta for the second year running. Clement and FitzZaland suffered a collision and capsized in their final race, leaving them in fourth place overall.

After the awards ceremony, the 420 sailors expressed their appreciation for their coach, John Hillier, along with guest coaches Douglas Woolcock and Stephanie Aucoin. The Opti racers received support preparing for the regatta from junior coaches Izzi Pugh Aucoin



PHOTO BY DOUGLAS WOOLCOCK

Salt Spring junior sailors Malika Clement and Maeve FitzZaland under sail at the Fall Dinghies regatta hosted by the Royal Victoria Yacht Club.

and Reuben Sol, and the whole junior team has benefitted from the ongoing support of the Salt Spring Island Sailing Club.

Next up for the 420 teams is the Pumpkin Bowl at the end of October, in the frigid waters of the Salish Sea.

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 <p>JAMIE HOLMES FIRE CHIEF IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 1996</p>	 <p>DALE LUNDY DEPUTY CHIEF IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 1992</p>	 <p>MITCHELL SHERRIN ASSISTANT CHIEF IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2003</p>	 <p>KEN AKERMAN CAREER CAPTAIN IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 1994</p>	 <p>CODY HUNSBERGER CAREER CAPTAIN IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2009</p>	 <p>WARREN NUYENS CAREER CAPTAIN IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2011</p>	 <p>CLAYTON AKERMAN CAREER CAPTAIN IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2010</p>	 <p>PATRICK BYRNE CAREER FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2016</p>	
 <p>DOUG PONSFORD PLATOON CHIEF IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2003</p>	 <p>DOMINIQUE GAUDET CAPTAIN IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2005</p>	 <p>COLBY SAWCHUK CAPTAIN IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2007</p>	 <p>PETER ANDRESS PLATOON SUPERVISOR IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2008</p>	 <p>ERIC TAYLOR LIEUTENANT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2008</p>	 <p>ABE HOHN LIEUTENANT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2012</p>	 <p>CHANTELLE NICKEL LIEUTENANT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2012</p>	 <p>CAMPBELL JACKSON LIEUTENANT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2014</p>	 <p>GRANT GUSSIE FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2006</p>
 <p>JODI BANFORD FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>MYSHA DEWAR-MCCLELLAND FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>RYAN SHEPARD FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>JOVIAN WIEFELSPUETT FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>IVAN ROSSMAN FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>ADAM EVANIK FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>PETER VERHEUL FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>ALEX HASENFRATZ FIELD INCIDENT TECH. IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>MICHAEL BIRKETT FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2023</p>
 <p>EWAN HOLMES FIREFIGHTER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2023</p>	 <p>LEWIS MUIRHEAD FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2024</p>	 <p>DANIEL PACHKOWSKY FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2024</p>	 <p>GRAY WARDLE FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2024</p>	 <p>HAYDEN CHURCHILL FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2024</p>	 <p>NOAH LOGAN FIREFIGHTER RECRUIT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2024</p>	 <p>CHRIS JOYNSON ASSISTANT IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2002</p>	 <p>RODNEY DIELEMAN CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2022</p>	 <p>NO PHOTO AVAILABLE COLIN MEDHURST FIELD INCIDENT TECH IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE 2023</p>



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GORDON FRASER

CAREER
FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2016



JOSH LINDSTROM

CAREER
FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2017



DAN SMITH

CAREER
FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2018



CAMERON PROUDFOOT

CAREER
FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2015



KRYSTAL CAPRANOS

CAREER
FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2018



STEVE LEICHTER

FIT
TEAM LEAD

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2007



JIM POHL

FIELD
INCIDENT TECH.

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2009



NANCY PURSELL

FIT
TEAM LEAD

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2010



NEIL MARTIN

FIELD
INCIDENT TECH.

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2014



BREE STURDY

SENIOR
FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2018



CYRUS ANDRESS

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2018



DAVID BUNKOWSKI

FIELD
INCIDENT TECH.

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2019



DAVID DEMNER

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2019



HAYATO TANAKA

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2019



IAN PATTENDEN

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2023



ERIC CORLISS

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2023



STUART MASON

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2023



JESSICA CARON

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2023



BEN SHUGAR

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2023



MAX AKERMAN

FIREFIGHTER

IN THE FIRE SERVICE SINCE

2023



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