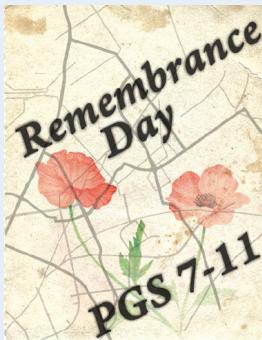


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- Canadian Tire
- Country Grocer
- King Canada Tools
- Lifestyle Markets
- Pharmasave
- Thrifty Foods



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Wednesday, Nov. 6, 2024

Driftwood

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PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

SPARKING SKIES: Fireworks over Ganges Harbour as photographed during the Salt Spring fire department's annual Halloween night display. For a story about the event and photographer David Borrowman's advice on how to shoot fireworks, see page 16.

ISLANDS TRUST

Trust pulls meeting recording

Civility, safety concerns reignite 'conduct' topic

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Citing a "respect for safe workplace concerns," Islands Trust staff have been directed to remove recordings of the September Trust Council meeting from the body's official website — and to fast-track plans for a trustee education session on meeting conduct.

Near the end of a wide-ranging Executive Committee (EC) agenda that included several in-camera discussions, trustees agreed the audiovisual record of the most recent public meeting of Islands Trust Council (ITC) should no longer be offered online.

Without elaborating during the public sessions, the EC voted unanimously, directing staff to remove nearly 14 hours of recordings. By the next day, links to videos of three days of sessions Sept. 24-26 were gone from the meeting's

page, although at press time the recordings themselves were still accessible to any who had saved the link.

Minutes for that meeting were not yet available, although delays for official minutes — particularly for larger, longer meetings — are common; draft minutes for Trust Council's Sept. 25 and Oct. 3 Committee of the Whole meetings were online at press time.

Trustees spent much of the Oct. 30 meeting discussing an approach to a growing incivility noted in meetings, pointing to the September ITC meeting as particularly onerous — if not necessarily unique — and pondering plans to revisit a code of conduct discussion before the next meeting slated for December.

"Some action is needed," said Gabriola Island trustee Tobi Elliott. "A way to address the conduct from September's Trust Council in the

December meeting is necessary, because if we don't, then it looks like that behaviour is OK — and it's not."

Committee members had previously called September's meeting a particularly toxic one between side chatter, disrespect for the chair, speakers and staff — and what Elliott characterized as "tearing it apart and then asking 'why does it not function properly?'"

EC also unanimously directed staff to continue to investigate a facilitated code of conduct session for a future Trust Council meeting — an issue ironically deferred from the September meeting — "as soon as practicable," and committee members discussed whether to make time during the upcoming December ITC meeting or to host a special session in the spring.

TRUST continued on 3

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BROKEN MOUND



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Celebrating the breaking of ground at Windsor Plywood's new building on Friday, Nov. 1 are ownership group members, from left, Jessica Harkema, Mike Stefancik and Adam Geddes. The main building on the Rainbow Road site of the longstanding business was destroyed by fire on June 1, 2021. Harkema and Stefancik gave thanks to staff for their hard work and community members for their support since that time. Local company Diggin' It Excavating has the contract for excavation, Windsor reps told Friday's crowd.

HEALTH INFRASTRUCTURE

Hospital plans shelved

Imaging suite upgrade and long-term care project not Island Health priorities

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Two anticipated healthcare projects for Salt Spring Island have been knocked off the 10-year plan, as regional officials shifted in response to "reprioritization" at Island Health.

A special meeting of the Capital Regional Hospital District Board (CRHD) was held Wednesday, Oct. 30 to discuss that body's 10-year capital plan. It's an annual exercise that lays out CRHD's financial support for capital projects and healthcare equipment — a list that came from Island Health's priorities, explained Kevin Lorette, the Capital Regional District (CRD) general manager of planning and protective services.

Removed from this year's list were two projects previously planned at Lady Minto Hospital: a second phase of redeveloping the emergency department's imaging suite — budgeted at \$5 million, with a CRHD share of \$1.5 million — and a 50-bed long-term care project also at the hospital, budgeted at \$50 million with a CRHD share of \$15 million.

CRHD typically contributes 30 per cent of the funding for major capital projects, according to staff reports. That contribution over the next 10 years — technically from 2025 to 2034 — for "planned or possible" Island Health projects is \$412 million. That's \$29 million less than the CRHD board approved in March, which staff said was the result of the health authority's reprioritization of projects.

At the Oct. 30 meeting, Island Health's capital management executive director David Boychuk characterized the removal of the 50-bed long-term care project particularly as a "long-term temporary" deferral for Salt Spring.

"The reasoning there, to be quite frank, is that we currently have three long-term care projects in planning," said Boychuk. "We don't foresee the ability for the province to approve a project in the near term in the South Island [region], given that we have 753 beds' worth of long-term care projects in the planning phase now."

Boychuk added that while Island Health was looking to match projects to "areas of greatest need," they also were looking to support projects they felt the B.C. government would greenlight.

"At this time, we don't feel that we'll get support bringing a long-term care facility [on Salt Spring Island] forward to the province," he said. "We believe we have a low probability of success, in terms of securing provincial approval; we don't want it sitting on the 10-year plan until such time as we think it has a reasonable prospect of success."

Funding for the creation of 50 long-term care beds at Lady Minto was anticipated in last year's version of the 10-year plan to begin funding in 2029; Phase 2 of the imaging suite was slated for 2028.

Salt Spring's CRD director Gary Holman bristled at the changes, noting that of three projects removed from the 10-year plan, two had been on Salt Spring. Holman asked if a recently discussed needs assessment from Island Health staff had been completed, and if it supported the rationale that additional long-term care beds on the island were not necessary.

Boychuk said that needs assessment remained "underway," noting the requirement to consider needs across all of Island Health's communities.

"I don't think I would share the view that it's not necessary," said Boychuk. "It's simply that we do have to balance demand for services with scarce capital."

While Lady Minto Hospital's 29 current extended care units might be showing their age — the most recent review by Accreditation Canada took place in 2014 — there's little question Salt Spring's growing population is trending older.

Last year the Islands Trust contracted with Statistics Canada to localize census data, finding that as the island's population grew — 49.9 per cent between 1991 and 2021 — 7.2 per cent of Salt Spring residents were people age 85 and over, up from 3.8 per cent in 2016. In addition, nearly 35 per cent were at least 65 years old — up from just over 30 per cent.

Salt Spring's median age during that same period shifted from 55.4 to 56.8.

Holman later said he has requested a meeting with CRHD, Island Health and Lady Minto Hospital Foundation representatives to discuss the issue.

SOCIAL ISSUES

Violence trends concerning

Executive directors share sobering information

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A difficult subject was given its due at a Salt Spring Forum event on Friday, Nov. 1 when Angela Marie MacDougall of Battered Women's Support Services (BWSS) in Vancouver was the guest at Mahon Hall.

In introducing MacDougall, forum board chair Michael Byers said he had learned so much from her when she was an online event guest during the pandemic that he wanted to bring her to the island for an in-person discussion.

Gender-based, intimate-partner violence is both endemic and an epidemic, said MacDougall, who is executive director of BWSS.

"It is, I believe, one of the most pressing social issues of our time," she said.

In 2018, Statistics Canada found that 44 per cent of women aged 15 and up had experienced intimate partner violence, whether physical, sexual or emotional.

Alicia Herbert, executive director of Islanders Working Against Violence (IWA), moderated and contributed to the discussion. She shared that in 2023, IWA fielded 600 crisis line calls from women experiencing some form of violence, and provided shelter for more than 50 women seeking safety. Ten per cent of those women identified as Indigenous.

"Those are big numbers," said Herbert, "and I think it's important to say those numbers out loud, because people often think that we're an idyllic community that maybe is insulated from these issues."

MacDougall said the root of gender-based violence is the belief that women are the property of men — their fathers, brothers or husbands — a practice that was brought to North America by European colonizers.

RECREATION

Daffodil Point trail reopens

All reported dogs not found, but CRD efforts continue

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A weeks-long public safety closure of a popular Salt Spring Island trail has been lifted, according to officials, who have re-opened the Daffodil Point area of Burgoynes Bay Provincial Park to visitors.

A trail there had been subject to a BC Parks closure notice since Oct. 11, after reports of off-leash dogs sent bylaw, parks and RCMP officers to the area in search of a pack of at least five animals reportedly being aggressive toward hikers and dog-walkers.

Mark Groulx, chief bylaw officer for the Capital Regional District's (CRD) Bylaw and Animal Care Services, said over the weekend that while three dogs were collected by responding officers and brought to the CRD's animal shelter, the rest of the five had not been seen again since the initial encounter.



ANGELA MARIE MACDOUGALL

"We often look to other parts of the world and see how gender inequity and sexism and misogyny and violence against women is happening there, and forget that it

is a reality right here for so many and for so many generations, and it's something that we continue to unpack and want to address and redress."

MacDougall reported that the Covid lockdown period led to increased incidents of domestic violence due to the resulting isolation and stress. As well, it accelerated the number of men and boys accessing high-profile individuals online who presented themselves as helping males concerned about livelihood, intimate partner, health and fitness issues.

"I think it's important to say those numbers out loud, because people often think that we're an idyllic community that maybe is insulated from these issues."

ALICIA HERBERT
Executive director, IWA

"But you don't have to scratch very far beyond that to see that a lot of it has to do with mistrust of women, and a real dehumanizing and objectifying kind of messaging about women," said MacDougall. "That has always been there, but it's kind of on steroids right now in particular circles. And so we're seeing more and more boys that are saying really horrible things about girls. I mean, I think it's been like that, but we had a moment in time where it was changing, but

it's gotten much worse."

In answer to an audience member's question about the impact of pornography, MacDougall first noted that young women and men are accessing online porn in equal numbers, and said she has seen a huge increase in reports of strangulation used in sexual acts, which can be traced to its use in pornography.

"For many youth, their first kind of exploration on sexuality is to see that violence and so there are lots of impacts around that, in the sense of how people can have healthy sexuality. Nobody's talking about it. It's something that's absolutely not discussed now, and so we don't have a pathway to help change that right now."

MacDougall told the forum audience that part of the BWSS mission is "a recognition that battering doesn't happen between two people in isolation, but happens in a social context, where some groups of people are able to oppress others; and that is such an important framing, because it puts the people in it also in a context. It's not just about two people; it's also about a whole bunch of other things. And that is, I think, a very vital way of looking at the problem and therefore looking at solutions."

"The elimination of violence" was also installed in the BWSS mission when it was formed in 1979 by its founders, including Salt Spring's Maggie Ziegler, who MacDougall acknowledged at the event.

"They were clear that it was important to have that as a mission, so as to be not just about social service, but also about social change."

She said that in addition to services provided to survivors, her group's work "is also about getting at the roots of violence and digging up those roots, in the sense of looking at them and saying, 'What can we do to make this a healthier place?'"

The next Salt Spring Forum guest is former Alberta premier Rachel Notley, who will speak and take questions from the audience at Fulford Hall on Saturday, Nov. 16 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Decorum in focus

TRUST

continued from 1

"There are risks associated with [delay]," said ITC chair and Thetis Island trustee Peter Luckham. "I think we need to acknowledge that there are people that feel these meetings are unsafe, and that there's a lack of respect."

Staff noted a packed December agenda, and the reality that despite the EC's responsibility for training trustees, given their already busy schedules it could prove difficult to find a date for a special session all could attend.

"I can see both sides," said Mayne Island trustee David Maude. "A standalone session, I think, would be way more valuable. But I also understand logically that you might get a lot of trustees not attending because of that."

In a roundtable review at the EC's Oct. 9 meeting, Legislative Services director David Marlor had warned trustees that name calling or otherwise attacking staff was a violation of provincial workplace rules, and the risk existed that staff could begin an action against the Islands Trust for allowing bullying or intimidation in that workplace.

"We need to raise the bar with how we conduct ourselves, the language that we use," said Elliott Oct. 30, "[realizing] what effect some of our behaviour is having on the workplace."

Elliott added that if there were complaints coming forward, a review committee struck, and "whatever disciplinary action or mediation" is required, she would support a standalone workshop over some statements at the beginning of December's ITC meeting.

"We can send a strong message," said Elliott. "And I would be prepared to be a personal bearer of the message, of the impact that poor behaviour, poor use of language and poor workplace practices are having on me as a trustee — and staff could perhaps speak to it as staff."

Ultimately the EC agreed Luckham should address code of conduct expectations at the beginning of December's ITC meeting — where Luckham may, as Maude put it, "read [trustees] the riot act," although the agenda item will be along the lines of "conduct that supports better decision-making."

"At the very start of it is the very best time," said Lasqueti Island trustee Tim Peterson. "And then run a tight meeting."

Luckham agreed, saying putting off at least addressing the problems to March's ITC meeting would be "far too late."

"If we survive December Council," added Luckham. "I'm sure we will, but whether or not all of us survive is the question in my mind — and that's at a staff level, as well as at a trustee level."

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McKimm & Lott is very pleased to welcome two new family law lawyers: Julia Tcheganova has been practising for 10 years as family law lawyer in a collaborative manner, appearing in both provincial and supreme court, and Julia is also a licensed mediator for resolving family disputes. Naomi Stevens is a junior associate who also takes a collaborative approach to family law, including cohabitation and separation agreements, and related estate matters.

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OPINION

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EDITORIAL

Course of conduct

Given global events, it's indeed quite a time to tender a call for civility.

But here we are; and with the Islands Trust's Executive Committee (EC) now echoing the Governance Committee's concerns about the way trustees choose to interact with one another — and with staff — during public meetings, one might ask how many warning flares need to hit the skies before we send in help.

September's meeting of the Islands Trust Council might have had its particularly toxic moments, but they were nothing if not predictable; the glide path down from respectful dialogue into quarterly harangue has been well-charted for months, if not years — and by trustees themselves.

THE ISSUE:
Trustees' uncivil
discourse

WE SAY:
Facilitated
discussion
could help

The proposal to bring in a professional facilitator and all island trustees for what is essentially an education session on civil behaviour will have its detractors; knowing each day of a Trust Council meeting costs about \$10,000, one might argue the money is better spent elsewhere.

And the mere act of lamenting the state of public discourse can be an indiscriminate cudgel, with a long history of being used dishonestly to tamp down unpopular opinion under the pretense of promoting civility.

But that does not seem to be what is going on among trustees. They truly need help, as one trustee put it, with the practice of speaking to issues rather than personalities.

The ability to respectfully disagree is a critical skill for all elected representatives — a muscle that needs exercise, lest it atrophy. And if our local body needs a professional tune-up, we support a special facilitated session to get them back on track.

Who knows — the outcome or results may end up acting as a model for all of us as we try to buck the unfortunate trend towards uncivil and disrespectful behaviour in person and online.

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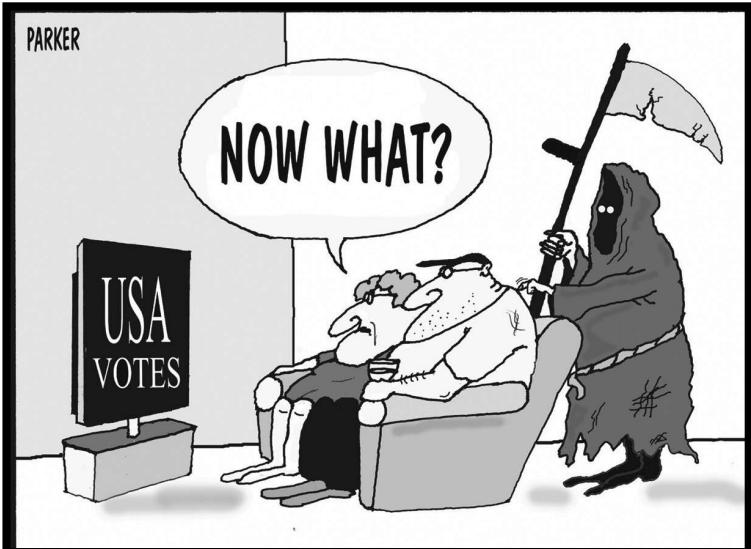


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2023 BCYCNAA Awards
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)
Gold - Community Service Award



NSSWD risks backfiring

BY DAVID J. RAPORT

In its laudable effort to "build resilience" in our community, North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) seems to have taken a wrong turn. It is considering a partial easing of its moratorium on new hookups based on a report by hydrological engineering consultants, which projects water balances for Maxwell Lake (ML) and St. Mary Lake (SML) monthly to the end of this century. As I first argued in the Driftwood on Oct. 16, in my view, the report's projections are not solidly grounded. Here I expand on my concerns.

The model in the consultant's report uses historic climate data to project likely future scenarios. This assumes that our current climate regime is much like that which prevailed between 1950 and 2020. Quite the opposite: the impacts of climate change are increasingly unpredictable — what with previously unheard-of phenomena such as atmospheric rivers, heat domes and fire infernos generating their own unique weather systems — and that means we are living in a world of growing uncertainty.

The moratorium NSSWD imposed in 2014 reflected a precautionary approach to water management in the context of uncertain future water availability. Considering that the more extreme climate impacts we are witnessing worldwide have dramatically increased the level of uncertainty, one would expect an even more strongly precautionary approach today, rather than, paradoxically, a propensity to ease the moratorium.

Furthermore, the model used for the report's projections is not based on "worst-case" scenarios, which in my opinion makes it singularly ill-suited to

VIEWPOINT

examine a world of increasing uncertainty. According to the worst-case scenario in the most recent assessments by

the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, by 2100 the average temperature of the earth's surface might have risen by 5.7 C degrees above the pre-industrial average. Given what we are already experiencing, with an average temperature increase in the order of 1.1 to 1.3 C degrees, it is unimaginable what an increase to 5.7 C would mean for water bodies here and around the world — including whether they might vanish altogether. Far better for the purposes at hand would be to adopt a game-theoretic approach, in which the goal is to avoid the worst possible outcomes.

Importantly, the lack of solid grounding in climatology is not, in my view, the only fault in this report. Reliable estimates of future water availability for ML and SML require major input from stress ecologists, as what happens with the health of our watersheds crucially affects the quantity and quality of available water.

Finally, should the partial lifting of the moratorium make it possible for 300 additional family dwellings to be connected to ML water, that alone might result in an increase of our island's population by nearly 10 per cent (with four-member families). At a time when watersheds are already in declining health due to local anthropogenic stress, this additional population growth would only make matters significantly worse.

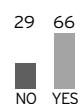
In my opinion, for NSSWD to continue along this path risks increasing the uncertainty of future water availability and is likely to undermine, rather than build, our island's resilience.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should Halloween fireworks be maintained as an island tradition? Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should B.C. look at a proportional representation voting system again?



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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

SIMS space for all

Recently, Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) has heard from community members concerned by plans to rent space in Salt Spring Island Multi Space (SIMS) to the Chuan Society.

The society has proposed a short-term pilot project to create a place where community members can gather, work on creative projects, participate in workshops and talking circles and have a warm place to connect with other members of the community during colder months.

The concerned community members may not be aware that space in SIMS was used for a similar purpose just last year, when Classroom 2 was rented by the Green Ground Community Design Society as a "maker space," serving the same community members as the Chuan project aims to serve. During the time this was operating, there were no significant conflicts with other users and no incidents raising concerns for the safety of community members, including children.

SIMS is a community centre managed for the benefit of the entire community — all ages, all abilities and all socio-economic groups. All user groups are required to take appropriate care of the space, follow all facility rules of use and carry insurance. Any group that fails to abide by the rental agreement is liable to lose its ability to use the space.

While staff are still working through the details of the Chuan proposal to determine any additional requirements, we are hopeful that this pilot program will help meet an

immediate need in the community with a goal to foster longer-term solutions.

The LCC welcomes input from the community, while working to make balanced decisions and provide services that meet the needs of all community members.

GAYLE BAKER, BEN CORNO, GARY HOLMAN, EARL ROOK, BRIAN WEBSTER,
LOCAL COMMUNITY COMMISSIONERS

Passionate, not calm, about beach

Thank-you for your Oct. 30 "Foresore plan raises concerns" article.

I'm quoted a few times, sounding concerned, but open to suggestion. While I'd like to be thought of as calm and thoughtful, I'm in fact passionately wanting to keep this beach wild, not covered in a berm of soil attached to the four landowners' properties. There are other excellent solutions to their problems: drainage, netting, planting and pullback, which would not impinge on the public enjoyment of the beach.

As the petition confirms, there are hundreds of people who love and enjoy Baker Road Beach as it is. We are simply asking for a "hold" to be placed on the foreshore lease application until more information is understood and approved by the Salt Spring Island community. The petition is at change.org/p/save-baker-rd-beach-its-rare-midshipman-fish-habitat-sign-this-petition.

DIANA THOMPSON,
SALT SPRING

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

Visibility important for road safety

In light of the recommendations put forth in the Rescue Watch column provided by Salt Spring Island Search and Rescue in last week's issue of the Driftwood, I wish to reiterate the importance of visibility for all individuals who walk, run, or cycle on our roads and pathways during this season of dark, rainy conditions.

Even on brighter days, the glare can significantly impair a driver's ability to see pedestrians and cyclists. Consequently, the absence of high-visibility clothing or accessories may lead to blending into the shadows, heightening the risk of accidents. Therefore, I encourage all users of our roadways to prioritize their visibility to enhance their safety.

"As the weather changes and daylight hours decrease, pedestrians become more vulnerable. Nearly half (42 per cent) of crashes involving pedestrians happen between October and January." — ICBC Statistics 2023

Several years ago, I initiated the "See Me Salt Spring" campaign, aimed at encouraging members of our local running club to don highly visible clothing and reflective gear. While these options may not always align with current fashion trends, the impact on safety is significant. Enhanced visibility allows drivers to notice runners and walkers from much greater distances, affording them the necessary time to slow down and assess oncoming traffic.

The tredz.co.uk website provides a comprehensive explanation of the differences between high-visibility and reflective clothing, highlighting that they serve distinct purposes. Additionally, it features side-by-side comparative photographs of individuals dressed in black versus those in safety yellow, effectively illustrating the importance of visibility.

The issues we face on Salt Spring Island include inadequate street lighting, blind hills and curves, instances of aggressive driving, and a scarcity of bike and pedestrian pathways. It has come to my attention that many individuals are disregarding the established speed limits within town and are exceeding these limits, particularly when navigating crosswalks, despite pedestrians actively crossing the street.

I propose that our local businesses, along with the fire and safety departments, consider participating in the #SeeMeSalt-Spring initiative. This could involve launching a public awareness campaign aimed at enhancing visibility and safety, which might include the distribution of reflective arm bands and stickers for those in need of increased visibility.

I wish to extend my gratitude to all drivers who exercise extra caution during this season, paying special attention to pedestrians and cyclists. Lastly, I would like to reiterate the vital reminder: please drive responsibly and soberly.

SUSAN GORDON,
COACH, SALT SPRING SNEAKERS RUNNING CLUB

MORE LETTERS continued on 6

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"For the first 20 to 30 years, we were building endowment, and now we're building community. There's been a mindset shift, although the heart is the same."

SHANNON COWAN, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, SALT SPRING ISLAND FOUNDATION

Improved sight a boon, except on the sidelines of a football field

I'll be seeing you.

Oh, do calm down! Before you hang out the bunting to celebrate my imminent departure, I WILL be seeing you! And I'll be seeing the far-off mountains and sunrises, other cars on the road, pedestrians taking their chances on the mean streets of Ganges, children straying from their mothers and floating out to sea, dear little deers wandering into the hedgerow instead of under my wheels and the fit young women in leotards who are in my Aquafit classes.

I've got new eyes and the difference is staggering. In truth, I've had my cataracts sorted and if every medical procedure were as efficacious, we'd all live to be at least 200 years old. Dodgy heart? No problem, give me 20 minutes while I stick in a better one! More than slightly tubby? Not to worry, take this pill and no need to pass on the pasta. Tango not up to scratch? There's a couple of new knees in the post.

For the past 10 years or so and without recognizing or resenting it, I've been living my life in a mild fog. Everything was just slightly fuzzy

round the edges and colours were somehow less colourful. Of course, at my advanced age I needed glasses to make life manageable. TV, for instance, works so much better when you can actually see what the hell is going on, while driving without my glasses was to risk careening down the road and ricocheting off the oncoming traffic before dispatching elderly ladies on the crossings. But today, ah, today I have 20/20 vision and that's official. I can now actually read the optometrist's chart without taking a wild guess, which is little short of a miracle. D-E-F-P-O-T-E-C! L-E-F-O-D-C-T! EASY-PEASY!

But as with most things in life, or at least, in MY life, nothing is entirely perfect, everything has a catch. While I now have the eyesight of a bald eagle and could spot a vole from a thousand feet, the downside is that, much like a bald eagle, I can no longer read a book. Not without glasses, anyway. So while anything beyond arm's length is pin-sharp and radiant, I've discovered that checking the calorific content of a Hobnob in Country Grocer has



Paul McElroy
+ANOTHER
THING

become a trial, but I can live with that. Now the chief challenge is keeping track of my glasses. Previously, before I was endowed with the eyesight of a space telescope, I only occasionally needed my glasses, or rather, I could get by without them. Now, in a futile effort not to lose or misplace the reading glasses I'm obliged to wear to see my watch, I've taken to keeping them on a string around my neck like a Victorian librarian.

The thing is, I was never warned there would be some kind of quid pro quo when I was offered the opportunity to see clearly, to see all the way across the strait to White Rock or wherever it is I've been viewing through a mild haze for all these years. It seems churlish now

to complain but, god, it's annoying having to reach for my glasses every two minutes for just about everything.

On the other hand, I can now watch my grandson play football and focus on his every move, which, it being American football, doesn't happen very often. If there were a prize for the world's most tedious pastimes it would be a toss-up between competitive knitting and American football.

What's the point of it? A player in enough armour to survive a collision with a bus gets in the way of another player equally kitted out, people cheer — and then everyone on the field stands around for what feels like a lifetime, doing nothing. I swear to God, I've been watching my eldest grandson (whom I'm reliably informed is a seriously good player) for three or four years and I'm still waiting to see him TOUCH a ball, let alone kick one. And when the ball does need kicking, they wheel out a weedy-looking guy in lightweight armour who kicks the ball about 20 feet from right under the goalpost and then cheer him off

like Caligula's favourite gladiator.

Each time I watch a game I wonder at the mad enthusiasm it engenders in the crowd on the sidelines. I get hockey and baseball. I certainly get rugby and I can even tolerate soccer (football to the rest of the world), but this game with its small army of interchangeable and forever rotating players is beyond me.

I've tried watching the professionals, the football giants, the high-stepping showoffs who are paid vast amounts of money for not doing very much beyond occasionally throwing or catching a ball or getting in the way of someone throwing or catching a ball, and I am none the wiser. American football, with the exception maybe of sumo wrestling and pie eating, is the single sport where big fat men are feted. I've nothing against big fat men per se, I'm one myself, but I'm not paid a squillion dollars for being a lardass. Not that I'd want to get in the way of one, but there must be a better use of their time than running around in pantyhose and beating up the little guys.

paulmcelroy@shaw.ca

MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

Baker Beach already nourished

I am writing to oppose the plan for fortifying Baker Beach.

While I understand the property owners' perspective, Baker Beach is more than just a platform for properties. It exists as an entity of its own, and one which is not in need of "nourishment."

If ecosystem nourishment were needed, we would be framing the proposal with an environmental slant. To describe gravel as "nourishment" is fundamentally and semantically wrong.

Who are we kidding? We will destroy the beach for the sake of a few houses.

Baker Beach has been a tremendous source of nourishment for my family. We find many crabs, lovely blue chiton shells, flapping fish, bumpy starfish and a sense of peace when we go there. Let us think of what an untouched ecosystem can do for us, and what will be lost if we carelessly fill it with unnatural materials.

We know it is the wrong thing to do, so why are we considering it at all? When faced with a difficult choice, we want to be the one person who does the brave thing. Let's do that now.

GENEVIEVE MASER,
SALT SPRING

Legion 
Branch 92
Salt Spring Island
"Veterans"

Please join us at the Veterans' Luncheon on Wednesday, November 6th, 2024

- 12:00pm Meet and Greet
- 1:00pm Luncheon served
- 2:30pm Depart to ArtSpring for viewing of the Veterans' Portrait Project

All veterans and spouse or guest are welcome.
Legion membership not required.

RSVP to Drew Underwood at
info@saltspringlegion.ca



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**



NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION
Vesuvius Bay/
Sunset Drive Intersection

Commencing Nov 18, 2024, work is underway by Coastal Wolf Construction to replace an aging section of watermain in the vicinity of Vesuvius Bay Road and Sunset Drive. The **work is anticipated to take approximately 3 weeks to complete.** To ensure limited traffic interruption, one lane alternating traffic along Vesuvius Bay Road and a traffic detour for Bayview Road to Langley Road is required.

Further information including a detailed scope of work and traffic management plan is available online at Projects – North Salt Spring Waterworks District or by contacting our office at 250 537 9902.

**THANK YOU FOR YOUR
UNDERSTANDING AND COOPERATION.**

NSSWD responds to moratorium concerns

BY BRIAN PYPER

The North Salt Spring Waterworks District (NSSWD) is receiving feedback regarding our moratorium review, and I'd like to respond to some questions that have emerged from our month-long public engagement. I want ratepayers and the community at large to know that we actively encourage their input and strive to provide full transparency regarding this work. Among current staff and trustees, our efforts are driven by concern for our future water supply and health of the Maxwell Lake and St. Mary Lake watersheds.

First, concerns regarding "mixing" water between systems (e.g., invasive species) suggest that somewhere in our public communications or consultant's report ("St. Mary Lake and Maxwell Lake Reliability Assessment" by KWL Engineering), it was implied that raw water would be moved from one lake to another. That is not the case. The proposed combining of the systems refers exclusively to the distribution of treated water. For historical reasons, water service for the two systems has been kept separate in terms of connections, except in emergency conditions. Once the Maxwell treatment plant is completed, and hence water quality is similar between the systems, we can service connections within either system from either lake where pressure allows. There is zero concern here regarding mixing pathogens, invasive species, etc., between the two systems. Instead, there is a big opportunity to benefit water supply, as I note below.

Second, we expect that Rippion Creek diversions will have little impact on overall watershed health. We are licensed to divert 100 per cent of that water into Maxwell Lake, but only from Nov. 1 through March 31 (the rainy and cool "winter" season). No diversion occurs from April through October. During the winter diversion period, the vast majority of diverted water would end up in the ocean. However, we've rarely been able to divert more than 50 per cent of Rippion Creek water (closer to five per cent in recent years) due to high turbidity and phosphorus concerns. We're addressing these concerns in two ways: (1) reducing road run-off as part of the CARL project (a key initiative we're

supporting for ecosystem integrity and fire reduction in the Maxwell watershed through Ruth Waldick and Transition Salt Spring); and (2) designing the future Maxwell treatment plant so that all diverted water enters the plant and not the lake.

Regarding climate projections, this modelling work will always have a wide range of uncertainty (and criticism). Compared to previous KWL reports, the current analysis is much improved because it provides results based on monthly temperature and precipitation projections across a range of climate models that are recommended by the Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium from the University of Victoria. We have also tried to ensure that the recent KWL report (a) displays results to clearly characterize the high variability (uncertainty) in model outcomes, (b) acknowledges the key assumptions underlying the hydrological models, and (c) limits recommendations to the hydrology assumptions and not to potential water availability (that's the job of NSSWD staff and board).

So we are now at the decision-making stage, working with the following findings from Phase 1 and 2 of our work. (1) There is available water supply at Maxwell, now and 60 years from now, to reliably support additional connections. The moratorium in 2015 was extended to Maxwell Lake because of concerns over recharge, but results of the hydrology modelling clearly indicate that there is available supply. (2) The St. Mary side does not have available supply, and will be worse off in a warmer future, which is not a surprise. In most summers, the lake is drawn down close to our provincial limit due to demand and evaporation (St. Mary has a much larger surface area than Maxwell). (3) An opportunity to improve both systems: raising the weir at St. Mary Lake and building the Maxwell treatment plant to handle full-system operation and receive direct Rippion Creek inflows. (4) A recommendation to combine the two distribution systems so Maxwell can support the St. Mary side during the critical summer period, and St. Mary can assist Maxwell refill during the winter period (when in most years a huge volume of water is leaving St. Mary via Duck Creek to the ocean). These are first steps for developing a long-term vision for a reliable water supply.

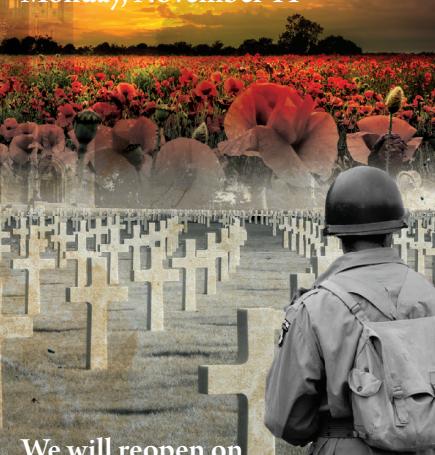
The planned system improvements will also include a new water conservation and demand management strategy planned for 2025.

Ultimately, this decision-making process will be sufficiently formalized and documented to be transparent to ratepayers and hopefully establish strong guidance for future boards. The proposed partial lifting of the moratorium was not an easy decision and not taken lightly, and certainly not due to any development interests. We want the best available science guiding this process, recognizing that there is only so much a relatively small agency can spend to refine that science.

We greatly appreciate the feedback received from residents in October to help the board with our decision-making process. We will review the comments received at our November and December meetings, and your feedback will be welcome at these meetings as well.

The writer is chair of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District board of trustees.

**The Driftwood will be closed
for Remembrance Day
Monday, November 11**



**We will reopen on
Tuesday, November 12 at 9 am**

Driftwood

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Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2K7
www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Remembrance Day

November 11th We Will Remember Them



1. Sapper Charles Austin Buckley of the Royal Engineers was called up in April 1940 and later served in West Africa and the Middle East and Italy, and was a prisoner of war in Italy. Charles and his wife Joan ended up living on Salt Spring Island.

2. Salt Spring Islander Terry Byron served, along with his brother Ken, in the 13th Platoon of the Canadian Scottish Regiment (Princess Mary's) and was appointed Regimental Sergeant Major.

3. Ken Byron was a member of the 13th Platoon of the Canadian Scottish Regiment in WWII and was part of the June 6, 1944 D-Day operation, along with his brother Terry. A 40-year career in the army followed.

4. Former Salt Spring resident Vera Payne at far right with friends at Wallis House in Ottawa, headquarters of the Women's Royal Canadian Naval Service (or Wrens) in 1944. Payne, who died last year in Saskatchewan, was born in England but emigrated to Canada after marrying Canadian army officer Fred Payne, who she met while he was serving in England in WWII.

5. Bill Hoag, second from left in a photo taken in Durban, South Africa in 1942.

6. Leonard Guy Cunningham of Salt Spring volunteered for military service on Aug. 4, 1940 and served in northwest continental Europe and the U.K. until Nov. 5, 1945, achieving the rank of Bdr. (L/Sgt) Motor Mechanic. He was awarded the France and Germany Star and the Distinguished Conduct Medal.



Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS

We Will Remember Them

REMEMBRANCE

Veterans' photographs anchor exhibition



PHOTOS BY ALAN BIBBY

From left, Ken Byron helps his father, World War II veteran Terry Byron, place a wreath at the cenotaph in Ganges during the 2016 Remembrance Day ceremony; veteran Nils Christensen carries a wreath during the 2013 ceremony. Both veterans, now passed, are part of Alan Bibby's *What These Eyes Have Seen: Witness to War* exhibition at ArtSpring from Nov. 6 to 12.

At ArtSpring this week

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's annual Remembrance Day ceremony

continues to attract large crowds every year, even as the number of veterans in attendance has declined.

That so many people take time to watch the parade, listen to speakers and music, and honour

the two minutes of silence at 11 a.m. is a testament to the desire to not forget the sacrifices made by individuals, families, communities and countries in past wars.

Now, an exhibition of photography highlights the poignancy of

the local ceremony and veterans from a broad time period.

What These Eyes Have Seen: Witness to War features a collection of large colour portraits of veterans taken over the course of 14 local Remembrance Day events

by Salt Spring Island photographer and filmmaker Alan Bibby, along with photographs from veterans' years of service and other memorabilia. The exhibition will be in the ArtSpring gallery from Wednesday, Nov. 6 through Tuesday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

"It's a debt of thanks to those who have passed and current vets who are still in the parade or sitting at the benches, plus those who are still serving," Bibby explained as he was in the final stages of gathering material in late October.

He first started taking the Remembrance Day photos in 2009, thinking he would create a documentary record of the events and participants. But as time went on he realized he should narrow his gaze, "so I went from wide angle to close-up, or ECU — extreme close-up" — and felt strongly moved by his photo subjects.

"What I saw over the years was, I thought, etched in their faces. You know, their experience, especially in their eyes."

EXHIBIT continued on 9

Remembering
Jesse Bond
and his service
with fellow Canadians
in WW1

The Bond Family

Bonacres

300 Le Page Rd.



PRIVATE JESSE BOND,
February 1918, age 21

"Please join the
Hedgers on this day
of remembrance of those who
offered their services and lives for
the preservation of freedom for
Canada and countries of distant
lands. The positive act of honouring
these individuals surely is in living,
defending and promoting the
freedoms of our land, speech,
religion and travel.
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Laurie Hedger (baby!),
Agnes Hedger
and Alan Hedger.

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We Will Remember Them

Families, archives and museum contribute



PHOTOS BY ALAN BIBBY

From left, Anne Garneau, her father-in-law John McMahon, the World War II veteran whose wartime experience was documented in his Almost a Lifetime book, and his son Jim McMahon at the 2016 local ceremony, five months before John McMahon died.

EXHIBIT

continued from 8

He said it wasn't hard to imagine what those eyes had witnessed, even if the individuals had not been immersed in heavy-duty combat.

Veterans photographed have served not

only in World War II but in more recent conflicts too.

"They've been stored away all these years, and it was very recently when I thought, 'This cannot just sit in boxes or on a hard drive.'"

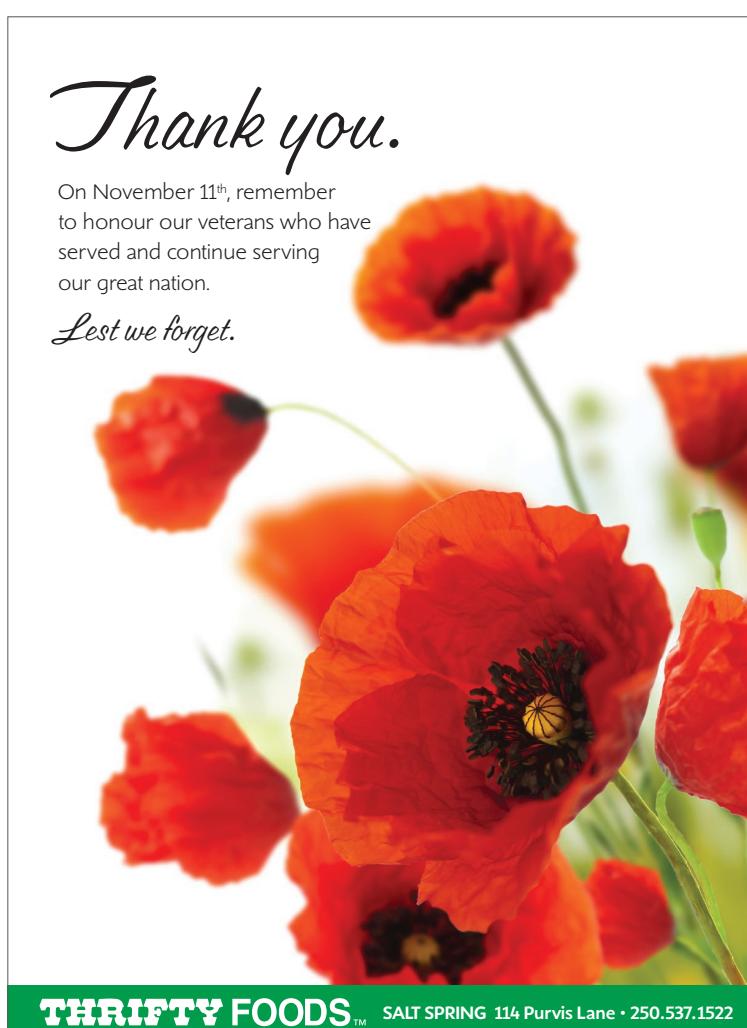
Bibby had a natural interest in the project because his father and extended family members served during the Second World War,

and he has done extensive reading about military history. As well, among Bibby's many films created in the past four decades is War in the Mind, about veterans and post-traumatic stress disorder. The film includes interviews with high-profile military personnel such as Lieutenant-General Roméo Dallaire (retired), who led the tragic United Nations peacekeeping mission during the Rwandan genocide of 1994, and other vets in Canada and the U.S.

Bibby is grateful for exhibition assistance

provided by Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 members, the Salt Spring Island Archives, the Salt Spring Island Museum and veterans' family members. The compilation will include a number of physical items along with the photographs. World War I Memorial Plaques, also known as the Dead Man's Penny, uniforms and medals are among pieces that will help tell the stories.

A book of the photographs is also in the planning stages.



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We Will Remember Them



Bob Hickman photographed in Burma as he was sending a marriage proposal to his future wife Elisabeth.

Bob Hickman honoured

BY SHERI HICKMAN

On Aug. 4 this year, we lost one of Canada's oldest (103 years of age) surviving heroes of the Second World War. My father-in-law, Bob Hickman, served with the Royal Canadian Air Force in South East Asia as Captain of a Liberator aircraft, dropping supplies and guerrilla resistance fighters behind enemy lines.

We, his Salt Spring family, are proud to say he was awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross for his services. He continued to serve Canada as trade commissioner in Switzerland, Greece, the Netherlands, Denmark and Washington, D.C., finishing as superintendent of economic development for the department of what was then called "Indian Affairs."

Although he retired in Vancouver, Bob spent as much time as possible on Salt Spring Island. His first grandchild, Sonya, was born on the island in 1969, and since then step-grandchildren and great-grandchildren have been added to the full complement of 11. Bob took great pleasure in overseeing the various projects his sons were working on around Salt Spring: Whether they were building houses, roads, driveways or septic fields, he would add his advice and support. He was always there in the time of need or for special occasions and family accomplishments until age limited his travel.

He might be a World War II hero, but to us he is just "Dad!" And it is an honour and a privilege to be his daughter-in-law."



Chief Petty Officer Gordon D. Litster of the Canadian Navy, circa 1943. Daughter Elaine Hunt of Salt Spring said her father signed up for duty in Victoria soon after he turned 17. He served on the HMCS Mimico and the HMCS Prince Henry. The ship he was on was an escort for the supply ships supporting the ground forces on D-Day. Litster participated in Remembrance Day services prior to his death in 2015.



Salt Spring Islander Kris Pillay's father, Det. Sgt. V.M. Pillay, is seated on the right in the above photo. He enlisted a year or two after 1939, serving in North Africa – Egypt in particular – and also in Palestine. He was later shipped to India. At the end of World War II, he was sent from India to his hometown of Durban in South Africa in the converted troopship Capetown Castle. Pillay's older brother has a vivid recollection of the ship docked in Durban Harbour. "At some stage Dad suffered a bullet wound to his knee," said Pillay. "He had a very slight limp for the rest of his life."



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REMEMBRANCE DAY

Monday, November 11th 2024

Salt Spring Island joins Canadian communities worldwide to pay homage to those who have served, to observe a moment of silence, to mark the sacrifice of so many who gave their tomorrows for our todays, to reflect and remember ...

Ceremony at the Cenotaph in Centennial Park. Conducted by Royal Canadian Legion Branch #92 starting at 10:30 am. All participants should be in place by 10:20am to avoid roadblocks.

Dedicated seating for Veterans, elderly, and disabled people with access at entrance to Harbour Authority office's parking lot.

Free shuttle bus from the Legion departing at 10:00am.

We will be live-streaming the Ceremony on the Legion Facebook page.

There will be an **Open House** at the Legion after the ceremony.

Wreaths can be ordered until noon Nov. 10th
- online at our website www.saltspringlegion.ca
- in person at the Legion after 3pm
- by calling 250-537-5822 and leave a message

Most wreaths will be placed on the Cenotaph by the Legion ahead of the ceremony, with donors being formally acknowledged during the ceremony.

LEST WE FORGET

We Will Remember Them

PERSONAL STORIES

One veteran's reflection on Remembrance

The late Lewis Pitman on war's impact on families and beyond

Editor's note: The following piece was written in 2014 by Lewis Pitman, a Salt Spring Islander who died in 2021, a month before his 95th birthday. It was recently found at the Driftwood office and had not been previously published.

BY LEWIS PITMAN

A century is a long time, but the First World War, which began 100 years ago, won't go away. It lives on in the minds of many people who have heard of its horror, and there are enough older people like me who recall tales of relatives who died and those who survived the devastating conflict.

On my bedroom wall, I have framed pictures of six soldiers: four joined the army at the outbreak of the Great War, and two, not to be outdone, followed in their footsteps later. The faded photographs are postcards of my uncles sent to my grandmother before each of her sons embarked for service overseas. All of them are dressed in ill-fitting

drab uniforms. The portraits, such as they are, are taken in studios with backgrounds of rustic fences and false balustrades. No doubt that these young men, like thousands of others, were full of a sense of adventure and caught up in the tide of nationalism and patriotism that swept all the countries involved in the war.

I knew each uncle by name, and met two of them, or what was left of them, when I was a small boy in the 1930s and, during the 1940s when, perhaps ironically, I wore the same drab khaki uniform. One had been with the Medical Corps and was half blind after being injured at the Battle of the Somme. He later committed suicide. The other was so badly shell-shocked that any loud noise left him unable to control his shaking body. The other four brothers were all damaged.

One came back from the war and then simply disappeared. Another died of tuberculosis. The youngest was killed at Gallipoli in 1915 a few weeks after his 18th birthday, and another died after drinking poisoned water when he set out to avenge his younger brother's death.

For years after the war was over, my grandmother, together with



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

World War II veteran Lewis Pitman in the 2018 Salt Spring Remembrance Day parade.

other mothers, turned up at the local cenotaph on Nov. 11, all trying to cope with the unbearable loss of sons. I went with her once and wondered what the mothers must have been thinking when the emotive selections from Elgar's Enigma Variations were played and as the bugle's haunting notes of The Last Post echoed off nearby houses. Did the few Latin words

— Dolce et decorum est pro patria mori — inscribed on the memorial, and many other memorials for that matter, mean anything to them? If they knew what they meant, were the words of any comfort, or had they already heard the poet/soldier's definition as "that old lie?"

This year, during the week before Nov. 11, I sold poppies because the money collected is for a good cause, and because I want people to remember, if only for a short time, the hundreds of thousands who died, not only in both world wars, but in all other conflicts.

On the saddest of all days, Remembrance Day, I made my way to the local cenotaph, aware of what appears to be a growing military presence. The few remaining ex-servicemen from the Second World War were there, medals proudly displayed on blazers, a little embarrassed, hearing aids adjusted, arthritic joints protesting as they shuffled off in response to the barked-out orders. I asked myself if there will be a commemorative service in the fall of 2039, the 100th anniversary of the outbreak of the Second World War.

For me, these gatherings are profoundly moving. I thought not

only of my friends who died or were injured in the Second World War and whose comradeship I will never forget, but also of my uncles' sacrifices in the ironically named "the war to end all wars." Yes, I remembered them and tried to recall their faces and their voices; how they looked when I last saw them. But I can't help feeling that remembering, joining a huge collective heartfelt mourning that was echoed across the country, is often too close to emotional indulgence, particularly when it is without commitment to strive for a more peaceful world.

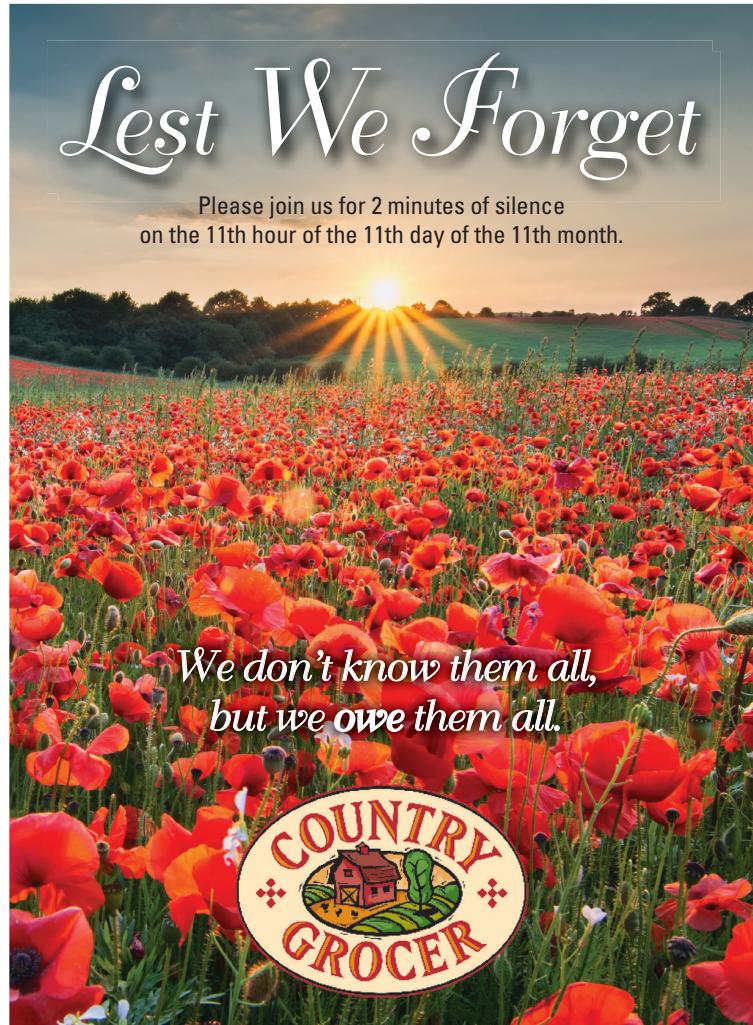
However small their efforts might be, those who died, those whose lives were irrevocably damaged, surely expected more from us. They fought for a world where they expected people would dedicate themselves to peace, where alliances would not be covert preparations for more conflicts, and nations would not be producing more and more armaments and preparing for more wars. I'm sure that if the collective debt from both world wars could shout to us from across the Great Divide, their message would be that it is never sweet and noble to die for one's country.



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ISLAND LIFE

COMMUNITY

Island foundation celebrates 40 years of giving



PHOTOS AT RIGHT AND LEFT COURTESY SSIF; DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO IN MIDDLE

A tiny slice of the Salt Spring Island Foundation's 40 years is represented by, from left, the Corona Creative art and environment project that received a Neighbourhood Small Grant in 2020; MP Elizabeth May speaks at the foundation's 30th anniversary celebration in Centennial Park in 2014; Quw'utson artist Charlene Johnny works on the Indigenous mural on the Salt Spring library building, a project that received support from the Indigenous Priorities Fund.

Special event at ArtSpring on Nov. 16

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Whenever something positive takes place on Salt Spring, there's one group that likely

played a part in making it happen.

It could be the purchase of a 10-acre parcel of land for the Stqeeye' Learning Society's Coming Home campaign; a major contribution to an off-road trail; and donations to causes as diverse as choral music workshops and youth sports subsidies.

Then there are the Vital Signs surveys and reports undertaken every five

years; the Living Wage reports; its Foundation of Youth program; and reconciliation with Indigenous peoples through specified funds.

The group is the Salt Spring Island Foundation (SSIF) and it is arguably connected to more groups and impacts more individuals than any other body on the island.

It's an organization that grew from a single \$10,000 bequest from islander John C. Lees, who died just days before SSIF was created as a trust with co-founders Colin Mouat, Alan Pierce and Richard Toynebee, to having an endowment of more than \$18 million, 150 different named funds and a software program to help manage them.

The remarkable SSIF story will be celebrated at a 40 Years of Giving anniversary event at ArtSpring on Saturday, Nov. 16 from 1 to 3:30 p.m. In addi-

tion to live music and delicious food, it will provide a colourful picture of the projects the organization has funded through more than 1,000 grants totalling some \$5.9 million and see some recipient groups share the impact of those grants. Briony Penn will talk about one islander – Nancy Braithwaite – whose estate provided \$4 million to SSIF last year, with more to come in future. (That bequest, along with \$2,588,200 from the Marianna Middleberg Estate, has elevated the foundation to a new level of capacity.) Bob Rush, who led the foundation during a critical period in the 1990s, is also scheduled to speak.

Shannon Cowan is the foundation's executive director, who says it's an exciting time to be involved with SSIF.

"For the first 20 to 30 years, we were building endowment, and now we're building community. There's been a mindset shift, although the heart is the same."

Cowan said it's hoped that revenue from the SSIF endowment "will continue to be able to put a million dollars a year out the door into the community. Then we're also freed up to do more with flow-through funds and campaigns and fundraising and build ourselves to a point in capacity as an organization where we can be more responsive and do what we did in Covid, on the regular."

Cowan is referring to how SSIF stepped up big time during the pandemic with a campaign that quickly raised more than \$250,000 in "emergency" funding for urgent community needs, including providing Country Grocer gift cards to families in need.

In light of the recent major bequests, Cowan said, "I think we're going to see more cause-based and quick spend actions from the foundation. It is going to be a leverage point for some of the really tough challenges on Salt Spring right now."

The whole community is invited to the Nov. 16 celebration to learn more about the foundation's role on Salt Spring Island and how to contribute to it.

NOTICE

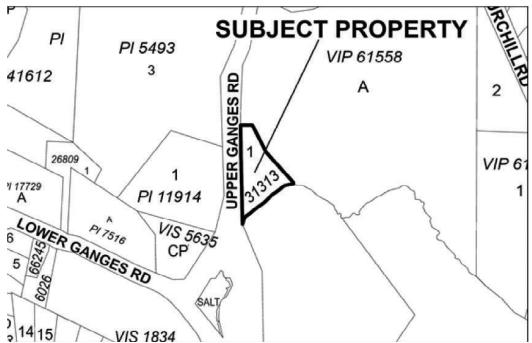
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SALT SPRING ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the Local Government Act that the Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would allow a commercial retail use within an existing building on the commercial accommodation zoned marina lot as part of a commercial operation.

The property is located at **126 Upper Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island** and is legally described as **LOT 1, SECTION 3, RANGE 4 EAST, NORTH SALT SPRING ISLAND, COWICHAN DISTRICT, PLAN 31313 (PID: 001-165-291)**.

The general location of the subject property is shown on the following map:



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street Victoria, BC V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday, excluding statutory holidays, and on the Islands Trust website <https://islandstrust.bc.ca/island-planning/salt-spring/current-applications/>, commencing **November 1, 2024** and continuing up to and including **November 13, 2024**.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Bruce Belcher, Planning Technician at (250) 537-9144, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC; In Vancouver (604) 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., **November 13, 2024**.

The Salt Spring Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the business meeting on **November 14, 2024** starting at 12:30 p.m. at the **Salt Spring Legion, Meaden Hall, 120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island**.

Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Rob Pingle, Deputy Secretary

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Obituaries

Obituaries



Robert (Bob) William Joseph Cooke
August 2, 1940 - October 30, 2024

Robert (Bob) William Joseph Cooke was born on August 2, 1940, in Edmonton to Gladys and Murray Cooke, the first son of a family of six children. He loved the outdoors from a young age, often telling stories of chasing giant pollywogs in the slaughterhouse runoff creek. As a young teen, he ran a trap line northwest of Edmonton, catching ermine and mink to sell to the furriers. Early "jobs" included helping the milkman deliver milk on his block (earning him a small pint of chocolate milk as payment) and driving the bread delivery wagon, where he was one of the few who wouldn't jump off when the horses bolted.

Bob met his future wife, Judy, in junior high. He was active at Vic Composite High School, participating in football, student government and track. After high school, he graduated with a degree in Chemical Engineering from the University of Alberta, where he also played varsity football for the Golden Bears and briefly joined the semi-pro Edmonton Wildcats. He spent summers working at uranium mines in Eldorado near the Arctic Circle and as a surveyor near Medicine Hat.

Upon graduation, he and Judy married and headed east to Sarnia, Ontario, in their VW bug, where he took his first engineering job in petrochemicals. Later, the call of the sea led him to the University of Rhode Island for graduate studies in Oceanography. Their first daughter, Janice, was born in 1965, followed by Jillian in 1969.

The family moved west to Issaquah, WA, where Bob led a pioneering ocean mining project with INCO, raising valuable manganese nodules from the Pacific Ocean seabed. Certified for SCUBA while on board, he cherished diving among California's kelp beds with otters. When the project ended, Bob shifted his focus to art, becoming a self-taught bronze sculptor with pieces in private and public collections worldwide, often depicting nature and wildlife.

Bob was also an avid skier, recalling heliskiing in the Bugaboos, New Year's at Whistler, and patrolling at Alpental east of Seattle. Driving back to Edmonton for Christmas and summer holidays, he earned the nickname "Joe Edmonchuk" for his ability to drive 14 hours straight through Rocky Mountain storms.

As part of an ocean expedition, Bob helped locate the sunken WWII Japanese submarine I-52 in the Pacific, rumored to be filled with gold bars. This endeavor later became a National Geographic TV special and the book 'Operation Rising Sun'.

Bob and Judy built a cottage on Salt Spring Island, BC, spending their retirement years between there and Green Valley, AZ, enjoying camping, bird watching, racquetball, golf, tennis, hiking, and even kayaking whitewater rivers. Their travels took them to places as diverse as Iceland, Malta, Japan, Portugal, Australia, the Galapagos Islands, and beyond. Known to friends, family, and colleagues as a man with vision, Bob lived true to himself, embraced great adventures, and walked to his own drumbeat. Facing health challenges, he and Judy moved to assisted living in West Vancouver in 2021 to be closer to family. He passed away on October 30, 2024, at the age of 84 after a long battle with vascular dementia.

He is survived by his beloved wife of over 62 years, Judy; daughters Jillian and Janice; granddaughters Kate, Elizabeth, and Sarah; brothers Ken (Karina), Alan (Vicky), and Don (Jill); and sister Lynne (Jim).

Celebrations of life details to follow. In lieu of flowers, donations to Alzheimer's or Dementia research foundations are welcomed. May he sail smooth waters and ski deep powder forevermore.

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



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Obituaries

Obituaries



**Donald George
Mellor**

Donald George Mellor, (Don) 81, dedicated partner, beloved brother, favorite uncle, great uncle, and friend, passed away suddenly September 9, 2024 due to a severe stroke. Don was born in Montreal and grew up in St. Eustache. He was the first-born son of Donald James Mellor and Nancy Mellor (nee Agnes Coupar).

An adventurous soul, with a dream in his heart he moved to the BC coast in his 20s. He was a master sailor and fulfilled his dream by building a beautiful 42-foot yacht, L'Orenda. Don was well known on Salt Spring Island as he had a successful touring business where many enjoyed the pleasure of sailing with Captain Don through the Gulf Islands. He was always active, biking, walking, and sailing, a disciplined spiritual person who meditated daily. Intelligent, generous, a thoughtful creator of beautiful poetry, his presence had a special quality we all appreciated. Don's commitment to peace work was a central part of his life. He would talk about how peace wasn't just an emotional, social, or intellectual concept but was a fundamental feeling underlying everything we do, from taking a breath to helping others. Don was co-founder of the SSI Peace Class.

He will be deeply missed by his partner, Jessica Garceau, his brother David, sisters Wendy and Laurie, his nephews and nieces, Jessica, Emilie, Etienne, Jasper, Katherine, James and many friends.

As Don requested, his ashes will rest with his parents Don and Nancy Mellor, on Mount Royal, Montreal. A celebration of Don's life will take place in Montreal in the spring, and on Salt Spring Island in November.

**Celebration of life on
November 16 All Saints by the Sea 3-4 pm**



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Coming Events

Coming Events



The Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District will be holding a Special General Meeting to appoint an Auditor for Financial Services.



WHEN:
November 18, 2024 at 6:30 p.m.

WHERE:
Ganges Fire Hall Training Room,
105 Lower Ganges Road

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TIDE TABLES
at Fulford Harbour

NOVEMBER 2024 PST (UTC-8H)

When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	FEET	METRES	DAY	TIME	FEET	METRES
6	1:02	1.2	0.37	10	4:41	3.2	0.98
	9:51	10.7	3.26		12:49	10.8	3.29
7	1:49	1.4	0.43	11	19:28	6.5	1.98
	10:45	10.8	3.29		23:29	7.3	2.23
8	2:41	1.8	0.55	12	5:45	4.2	1.28
	11:34	10.8	3.29		13:16	10.8	3.29
9	3:38	2.4	0.73	13	19:57	5.1	1.55
	12:15	10.9	3.32		1:30	7.7	2.35
10	19:12	7.5	2.29		6:49	5.3	1.62
	20:45	7.6	2.32		10:29	10.7	3.26
11					3:04	8.5	2.59
					7:48	6.4	1.95
12					14:02	10.7	3.26
					21:05	2.1	0.64

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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



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DOCUMENTARY FILM

Music-themed film first in series

Beethoven's Nine: Ode to Humanity screens Nov. 13 at ArtSpring

BY STEVE MARTINDALE
FOR SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

The Salt Spring Film Festival's annual "Best of the Fests" series begins with a remarkably powerful film about how people around the world continue to be deeply inspired by Beethoven's Ninth Symphony, featuring a live performance of Ode to Joy by Cicela Månnsson and Don Conley.

Screening at ArtSpring at 7:30 p.m. on Wednesday, Nov. 13, Beethoven's Nine: Ode to Humanity is considered one of the best of 300 films previewed by the festival's screening committee. You don't have to love classical music to thoroughly enjoy this globe-trotting documentary by award-winning Canadian filmmaker Larry Weinstein.

Beethoven's Ninth was the first symphony to be accompanied by words — words about love and freedom, hope and peace — created both as a love letter to the world and as a powerful piece of protest music.

A joyful celebration of Beethoven's music, but also a gripping exploration of war and resiliency, Beethoven's Nine follows nine individuals as they struggle to fully appreciate the legacy of Beethoven's genius, the deaf composer's personal challenges and how humanity continues to look for hope even in the darkest of times.

From a stirring performance by the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra, which



PHOTO BY KARPATI ZAREWICZ

Keri-Lynn Wilson conducting the Ukrainian Freedom Orchestra in a scene from Beethoven's Nine: Ode to Humanity.

comprises musicians fleeing the war in Ukraine; to legendary American conductor Leonard Bernstein, who famously performed the Ninth Symphony after the fall of the Berlin Wall; to beloved cartoonist Charles M. Schulz, who introduced generations of children to Beethoven via his "Peanuts" comic strip, Weinstein travels around the world to meet people whose lives and perspectives have been enriched by the German composer and the world-famous symphony he wrote over 200 years ago.

Global events unexpectedly pull the filmmaker into the story in heart-wrenching ways, shining a light on the impossibility of separating art from life, and making Beethoven's hope for humanity a personal quest for Weinstein himself.

If the horrific and enraging news of the day leaves you wondering why so

many people seem so intent on causing one another harm, this uplifting and profoundly moving reminder of our shared humanity will convince you that only music and art can save us from ourselves.

All screenings in the "Best of the Fests" series are at ArtSpring on Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m., including two films in December (Any Other Way: The Jackie Shane Story, the astonishing profile of a largely forgotten blues singer, on Dec. 4; and Us, Our Pets and the War, featuring courageous Ukrainians evacuating animals from the war zone, on Dec. 11).

Tickets are \$14 each and are available online at artspring.ca; in advance by phone (250-537-2102) or in person when the ArtSpring box office is open (Tuesday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.); or at the door starting an hour before each film.

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LIVE MUSIC

Theatre, song and dance merged



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Viva Chorale! director Caroni Young and her choir at a past Canada Day performance. The group's next show is a collaboration with the Vancouver-based Illiteratty group.

My Sense of Sin(g) debuts next weekend

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

With singers, a meta-folk band, a theatre actor and a pair of tango dancers — the upcoming presentation of My Sense of Sin(g) is far more than a typical Viva Chorale! performance, according to artistic director Caroni Young.

The storied Salt Spring Island community chorale is collaborating with the Vancouver-based jazz/folk/more band Illiteratty, helmed by founder and composer Earle Peach. Young had contacted Peach early on about Viva Chorale possibly using some of his compositions in

upcoming shows, and a collaboration was floated almost immediately.

Set entirely during a choir rehearsal, My Sense of Sin(g) follows the story of Mr. Anxiety — "Mr. A," to his friends — who uses all his courage to attend a community choir rehearsal, where he has a "traumatic yet transformative" experience, according to chorale publicity materials, learning about "the power of music to bring people together, create community and foster an atmosphere of joy."

Young said Mr. A is based on a real-life character, an acquaintance Peach made in Vancouver; the prolific composer found him inspiring.

"Music really helped bring Mr. A out of his shell," said Young. "He joined a ukulele and song group, and at first hardly talked to anybody, but gradually became more open and confident."

Young said it's a surprisingly common experience among community musicians — of finding that band or choir where it finally feels comfortable to "put yourself out there." Island actor Clark Saunders plays the part of Mr. A, bringing a theatre component to the stage.

"It's been really neat to have the input both from Earle and from Clark, on how to tie this all together," said Young. "The goal has been to have it be a collaborative approach; it was a fluid project where all the members are part of the whole intertwined experience."

Also featured will be two dancers from the Salt Spring tango group, Young said, as well as the debut performance of newly minted (but also familiar to islanders) Viva Chorale! accompanist Patricia Flannagan.

Performances are at the ArtSpring theatre Saturday, Nov. 16 at 7:30 p.m. and Sunday, Nov. 17 at 2 p.m. For information visit vivachoralesaltspring.com and illiteratty.com.

Cookies & Carols
We'd love to print your favourite Christmas cookie recipe!
(Featuring cookie recipes and your favourite carols. Publishing November 20.)

Email your recipes to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
DEADLINE TO SUBMIT NOVEMBER 13, 2024

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Send event emails to:
news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

what's on this week

Wed. **Nov. 6**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Tea à Tempo: Peter Prince. Salt Spring singer-songwriter performs at All Saints by-the-Sea. 2:10 p.m. Followed by optional tea and treats.

The Legendary Don Ross With Jule Malischke: World-class guitar masters. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

Thur. **Nov. 7**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

ArtSpring Presents: Snotty Nose Rez Kids: ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m. Check with ArtSpring for ticket availability.

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

ACTIVITIES

Ganges Sewer Local Service Commission AGM: In the SIMS board room. 10 a.m. Get a Microsoft Teams link in the meeting agenda on the CRD website.

Beddies Water Service Commission AGM: In the SIMS board room. 1 p.m. Get a Microsoft Teams link in the meeting agenda on the CRD website.

Fri. **Nov. 8**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Karaoke. Legion. 7 p.m.

Sutureself. Comedy that will leave you in stitches. One-act plays, comedy sketches and more by Sid Filkow. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

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

Fri. **Nov. 8**

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring: This week's guest is Emcon area manager Andrew Gaetz. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Salsa/Bachata: Dance lessons at Meaden Hall beginning at 6:30 p.m., followed by a social dance from 8:30 to 10 p.m.

Friday Games Night: For ages 13-19 at the library program room. 7 p.m.

Sat. **Nov. 9**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Sutureself. See Friday listing.

Doug and The Buds: Legion. 7:30 p.m.

Noche Cubana: Jose Sanchez and friends bring Cuban music to Mahon Hall. 7 to 11 p.m.

Sun. **Nov. 10**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Peace Through Music: Open mic of song, music, poetry and storytelling. A Peace Works! event at Lions Hall. 2 p.m.

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

Sunday Sessions With Guest Artists: Moby's Pub. 5 p.m.

Mon. **Nov. 11**

ACTIVITIES

Remembrance Day Service: Centennial Park. Begins at 10:40 a.m. Followed by an open house at the Legion.

Nov. 8

ACTIVITIES

Ganges Community Cemetery Open House: See Salt Spring veterans' graves marked with Lest We Forget stakes. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Tues. **Nov. 12**

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Country and Folk Singers and Songwriters Night: With Sherry Leigh Williams. Legion. 7 to 10 p.m.

Trivia Tuesday: Moby's Pub. Games at 7:30 and 8:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Virtual Author Talk: The BC Libraries Present online series features Jessica Johns, author of Bad Cree, in conversation with Selina Boan. 6:30 p.m. Register through crowdcast.io/bclibraries-present.

100 Women Who Care Meeting and Vote: ArtSpring. 6:30 p.m.

Wed. **Nov. 13**

ACTIVITIES

Best of the Fests: Beethoven's Nine: Ode to Humanity: Salt Spring Film Festival presentation at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Music Bingo: Moby's Pub. 7:30 p.m.

Nov. 11

ART EXHIBITIONS

Impressions 9: the annual exhibition of new works by the Salt Spring Island Printmakers, runs at Salt Spring Gallery from Nov. 8 to 28, with an opening reception on Saturday, Nov. 9 from 5 to 7 p.m.

What These Eyes Have Seen: Witness to War: Remembrance Day portraits honouring Salt Spring veterans presented by Alan Bibby. ArtSpring. Wednesday, Nov. 6 to Tuesday, Nov. 12, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. daily.

Sam Barlow, Raven Fox and Margaret Westaway: Imagine the Possibilities is in the library program room this month.

Salt Spring Island Foundation: 40 Years of Giving – In Pictures: Exhibit in the ArtSpring lobby from Nov. 2 to 30.

Dulcy Wilson is showing paintings at Salt Spring Coffee Cafe through November.

Michael Wall is showing a new set in his continuing series of Italian Photographs at Pasta Fresca.

Denise Johnson has paintings and stained glass artwork at the Salt Spring Laundromat this month, and glass artwork at TJ Beans Cafe.

Poetry Open Mic
With featured poet Lorna Crozier

Thursday, Nov. 14, 7 p.m.
Salt Spring Library Program Room

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COMMUNITY EVENTS

Fireworks tradition continues

Behind the scenes with firefighters at the Halloween fireworks show

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The downpour held off just long enough for a great Halloween fireworks show on Salt Spring Island Thursday, Oct. 31, put on through a partnership between the Salt Spring Fire Protection District and the Salt Spring Fire Fighters Association.

A robust community turnout for the show — and hot dogs and cocoa at Fire Hall #1 after — delighted organizer Capt. Peter Andress, who said the early forecast had many in the department worried.

"About 10 days ago, with the way the weather was, they were saying maybe another atmospheric river was staging to come right over on Halloween," laughed Andress. "At that point I'm going, 'well, I guess it'll be a pretty good New Year's show then.'"

But the weather cooperated right up to showtime, and the event went off smoothly. Andress estimated just over 100 kg of fireworks were set off via electronic ignition, based on the shipping manifest, from lower-altitude two- and three-inch mortars to bigger fireworks — and the longer they are, the higher they go.

"Our high-altitudes are the four-inch," said Andress, "which are the ones that go really high and make the big bangs."

Also set off were a few big "cakes" in rapid-fire off the dock — "the ones with all the sparkles and glitter," he said.

A big part of the job is cleaning up; Andress said for safety reasons, firefighters on fireworks detail have to count every launch from each mortar.

"So if a rack has 10 shots in it, and we count eight, then someone has to go in there and manually light them," said Andress. "And at the end of the show, when everything as far as we can see has fired, we'll give it a half hour to cool down before we start cleaning up, just in case there's something with a real slow burn still happening."

And who is lucky enough to get the job of checking unexploded fireworks?

"Usually I go down," said Andress. "It's usually pretty obvious



PHOTO BY DAVID BORROWMAN

Light streaks from the 20-minute fireworks show over Ganges Harbour on Halloween night. The evening was cloudy with occasional light showers.

that something hasn't fired, you can see the wick hanging out."

Robin Williams, chair of the fire board's communications committee, said the 20-minute show costs about \$10,000, including \$800 for insurance this year. The fire district contributed approximately \$6,500 of the total.

Holiday Story Writing Contest
Enter by December 6th!

- Write a story of 500 words or less whose topic relates to Christmas or the holiday season. The deadline for our annual writing contest is December 6. Win a Salt Spring Books gift certificate for a story of up to 500 words.
- All Gulf Islands youth in Kindergarten to Grade 12 are eligible.
- Stories will be judged on quality of writing, clarity of presentation and originality of theme.
- Winning entries will be published in the Driftwood in December.
- The name, age, address and telephone number of the writer must be written on the back of each entry.
- Mail or drop off entries to the Driftwood, 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2K7; email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com.
- For more information, call 250.537.9933.
- **TEACHERS:** Classes with the highest participation level are eligible to win a donation of \$100 made on behalf of the class to the charity of their choice!

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PHOTOGRAPHY

Photographer shares tips for cool night sky shots

Lots of creative effects possible

BY DAVID BORROWMAN
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Here is your chance to do everything you should not do with a camera.

Night sky photography of fireworks requires the camera to be rigidly fixed on a tripod. Right? Nuts! Try hand-held instead. And no one would zoom the lens in a middle of a long exposure. Right again? Try doing exactly that. While the shutter is open, slip the lens from wide angle to telephoto, or the reverse. Or, hold the zoom ring rigid and rotate the whole camera while the lens stays fixed. Blurred photos a no-no? Try wiggling the whole camera body while the shutter is open, maybe in little circles.

Frame the photo perfectly in the viewfinder and keep the composition constant? Surely a fundamental principle.

Or, forget the viewfinder, keep your eye on the subject while pointing the camera as best you can in the right direction. Think shotgun. If you need some practice before the July 1 fireworks, try photographing birds while shooting from the

hip. You will soon be adept at literal point and shoot. Then try it at your longest zoom. More challenge, more reward.

One pro tip that does survive the anarchy is this one: when the fireworks are launched from the barge in the harbour, there is a bright little rocket trail which you can follow from ground to sky. Follow it with the camera, and open the shutter before the bang. That way you get the bright burst followed by the supernova effect. Once the shutter is open, try the zoom effect, wiggling, rotation and so on. If prone to dizziness, do all of the above while sitting down.

Use the highest light sensitivity possible? We are talking night photography here. Wrong again. Set the camera to its lowest ISO. My fireworks shots were done at 100, at F14, with shutter set on bulb. (It stays open as long as your finger is on the shutter.) I used about two or three seconds of exposure. But it doesn't matter much. The black sky is never going to overexpose, and you are allowing the fireworks to paint themselves into the camera with their own light.

I am still working with the raindrops on the lens, but expect that somehow they fit the zen of the thing.

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