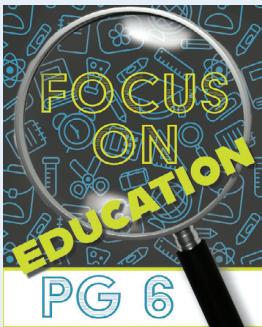


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• Country Grocer
• Home Hardware



ISLANDS TRUST

Trust role limited in Baker Beach project

Shoreline application now in province's hands

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Bylaws passed by local officials to streamline their own agendas may have had unintended consequences, as Salt Spring's Islands Trust representatives revealed they had

first learned about a controversial project planned at Baker Beach through an online effort to halt it.

"People assume that the Local Trust Committee (LTC) was aware and about to make decisions in regard to Baker Beach," said trustee Laura Patrick, telling attendees at the LTC meeting Thursday, Nov. 14 that she, perhaps like many there, had become aware of the Crown land application first through

opponents' social media campaign — and that trustees' role is limited, since the province holds final authority over decisions there.

"These provincial referrals can be quite of interest to the public," said Patrick, "[but] when we aren't part of the process, we're not part of the process."

BAKER BEACH continued on 2



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BAKER BEACH continued on 2

Zen Master Wolfgang says:
"The universe consists of protons, neutrons, electrons and morons."

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PARKS & REC

Portlock plan gets LTC nod

Sound mitigation mulled as pickleball courts shift to Rainbow Road site in future

BY ROBB MAGLEY
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The track stays, pickleball is moving, and senior ball players are getting a field.

After four rounds of public feedback, months of staff and stakeholder workshops, hundreds of survey responses and countless trips back to the drawing board, Salt Spring's Local Community Commission (LCC) unanimously approved the draft Portlock Park Site Master Plan, concurrently revising the existing Rainbow Recreation Centre Site Master Plan and outlining the basic configuration for both properties going into the future.

Development of a master plan for Portlock Park began as a priority with the island's Parks and Recreation Strategic Plan back in 2019. The current plan relocates some park amenities from Portlock to the Rainbow Recreation Centre site to allow more playing fields — most notably a senior-sized baseball field for youth at Portlock.

Among those moves came a shift for pickleball from Portlock Park to the Rainbow Road site, with dedicated courts for the sport planned at the latter. Commissioners heard 11th-hour concerns from members of the public worried about light and noise, as pickleball has a storied history elsewhere in recent years of causing neighbourhood conflicts.

PORTLOCK continued on 3

No permit yet issued, say staff

BAKER BEACH

continued from 1

The Ministry of Water, Land and Resource Stewardship is considering an application to modify a 560-metre strip of provincial Crown land fronting six Booth Bay waterfront parcels between Quarry Drive and Baker Road to protect against erosion — a project opposed by an island group worried about public access at the popular beach and potential environmental impacts.

The period for public comment to the provincial ministry closed Nov. 13, although several islanders spoke against the project at the LTC meeting the following day, and a proponent representing the applicants spoke in favour.

But while the Islands Trust intersects with the proposal through a ministry referral for its comments, the licence of occupation itself that would allow the project to advance is granted — or denied — through a decision by the province.

Trust regional planning manager Chris Hutton explained the referral from Crown Lands was received over the summer, and staff at that time — as a matter of course, he said — provided a response indicating that the proposal generally met regulations within the Islands Trust.

"[Such referrals] can be numerous," said Hutton, "and they are by and large mundane."

The Baker Beach proposal lies within the Trust's marine shoreline development permit area (DPA), he added, which requires the Trust to issue a permit — and applications for development permits for each of the four properties involved were received and have been under review "for some time."

But trustees themselves were not in the loop, largely because they voted two years ago not to be.

The authority for marine shoreline DPA permit issuance fell to staff under a 2022 bylaw passed by the current LTC, delegating the issuance of several kinds of development permits to staff in efforts to "improve process efficiency, reduce the size of LTC agendas and provide greater certainty to the applicants," according to a contemporary staff report.

The delegation of permit approvals to staff was a recommendation in the Islands Trust's governance review report; indeed, the Islands Trust Council had lobbied the Ministry of Municipal Affairs to amend the Trust's regulation to give trustees the ability to shift such development permits' issuance to an administrative level.

Hutton said staff in their decisions are reliant upon reports

from qualified professionals — in good standing with their professional organization, with demonstrated relevant experience acting within their abilities and expertise — to present application proposals to staff on behalf of the applicants.

"At this time, for each of those four proposals, we have not issued a permit," said Hutton.

"If staff determines they are in line with the development permit guidelines, then the application — from the perspective of the Islands Trust — would essentially be approved, and Crown Lands has to make a determination on the tenure."

If staff reject a development permit because it does not meet the guidelines, he added, the applicant has the option to request the LTC reconsider that decision.

But trustees were noticeably uncomfortable with the notion that the provincial process — and possibly their own legislation — had seemingly left them with little role to play in an application with so much public interest.

"What power do we have to actually do something here?" asked trustee Jamie Harris. "I'd like to know how far we can go with halting this."

Patrick suggested a review of the current letter of understanding on Crown lands

between the Islands Trust and the ministry — penned in 1994 and possibly out-of-date, she said — and the LTC passed a resolution Thursday directing staff to forward all the public correspondence they'd received on the Baker Beach proposal as "additional information" to provincial regulators.

Trustees also passed resolutions that may bring them back into the loop on such applications in the future, tasking staff to "directly" provide Crown land lease referrals to the LTC and add them to the applications report "with sufficient time for consideration of response," although it's unclear how that may ultimately mesh with their 2022 bylaw.

"I think there's a certain level of expectation from the public that the LTC should be at least well informed about these," said LTC chair Tim Peterson. "And in some cases, providing input into a response beyond the technical staff end of things. That's the intent of this motion."

Details for the proposal, now in review, can be viewed at comment.nrs.gov.bc.ca/applications?clidDtid=1415573; a petition outlining opponents' concerns is still up at org/p/save-baker-rd-beach-its-rare-midshipman-fish-habitat-sign-this-petition and the applicants have developed a website in response at bakerbeach.ca.

LABOUR

Mail halts as Canada Post workers strike

Ganges, Fulford post offices remain open

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

After a year of negotiations failed to produce an agreement, Canada Post workers are striking — and despite post offices remaining open on Salt Spring for now, the effects of halted mail flow will likely be felt almost immediately.

Some 55,000 postal workers represented by the Canadian Union of Postal Workers (CUPW) went on strike across the country just after midnight Friday, Nov. 15, comprising workers in its urban, rural and suburban mail carrier bargaining units.

Post office workers are part of a different bargaining unit from carriers; at Fulford, postmaster Andrea LeBorgne confirmed the front counters there would be open to customers, and Ganges postmaster Heather Adshead said people should feel welcome to come pick up their packages, despite the halt of service.

"We're at the counter, and handing out parcels," said LeBorgne Friday morning. "Our doors are open, so people can come down to pick up parcels that are here."

CUPW members are asking for "reasonable fair wages, safe working conditions, the right to retire with dignity, and the expansion of services at the public post office," according to an early-morning statement from the union.

Canada Post in its statement said no new items would be accepted at post offices, and customers should expect delays as mail and parcels will not be processed or delivered for the duration of the strike.

Gulf Islands Driftwood publisher Nancy Johnson said if the strike continues, subscribers should stop by after 9 a.m. Wednesday, Nov. 20 to pick up their copies in person at their office at 241 Fulford-Ganges Road.

The free Extra edition and its flyers would be available there as well, with additional copies of the Extra to be available at Country Grocer, Thrifty's, Salt Spring Coffee, TJ Beans, Switchboard Cafe, Rock Salt Restaurant, Salt Spring Mercantile, Windsor Plywood, Mouat's Trading, Canco Gas, Mid Island Co-op Gas, Pharmasave, Embe Bakery, Barb's Buns and at ferry terminals.

LCC

Commissioners' pay will rise in '25

Measure reduces CRD director's remuneration

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A reapportionment of salary will see Salt Spring's Capital Regional District (CRD) director getting a smaller paycheque starting next year, reducing annual remuneration by \$10,000 to add \$2,500 each to that of four remaining members of the Local Community Commission (LCC).

The proposal came from the current CRD director himself; Gary Holman had originally brought forward the idea in August, and had been working with CRD

staff since to formalize the process of shifting remuneration in a way that he said reflected shifting responsibilities.

Holman told the CRD's Electoral Area Committee (EAC) Wednesday, Aug. 13 that he felt changing the distribution made sense given the apportionment of responsibilities to the "new" LCC.

"After a year and a half of experience with the LCC, there's been a clear and significant shift in responsibilities of the director," said Holman, "so that the LCC has now replaced four volunteer committees."

Prior to the LCC, he added, there was one elected official responsible for engaging with Salt Spring Island's community, now about 12,000 people.

"There was just one person the commu-

nity could come to," said Holman. "Now they can come to five."

Notably, the EAC was unconvinced, and with a split vote there the motion to recommend the proposal to the broader CRD Board failed.

But hours later, an amendment to implement the change — brought by Holman at the CRD Board meeting — was approved by that body, with nearly all directors approving.

"I think that director Holman is noble, although he doesn't like that term, in his assessment of this," said Juan de Fuca Electoral Area director Al Wickheim.

"In sharing the responsibilities," he added, "there should be shared remuneration."



LCC

Master plan 'significant' upgrade for sports

PORTLOCK PARK

continued from 1

It was indeed pickleball enthusiasts themselves who broached the topic, worried that noise complaints could tarnish the growing sport's standing.

But the LCC agreed that those concerns could be mitigated; acting senior manager Dan Ovington said there was an engineered barrier material available, as well as other construction techniques to mitigate noise — ones that didn't necessarily require something as drastic as digging the courts below grade. Shifting the pickleball courts to Rainbow was the only way to "squeeze in" everything else between the two properties, he added, pointing particularly to the playing fields and oval track.

"And it allows them to have six courts," said Ovington. "They had four courts in the last revision, and the feedback I received was that [the pickleball players] were not supportive of four."

LCC member Brian Webster thanked staff for the work they had put in to find compromise, and noted the new master plan "significantly" upgraded outdoor sport activity on Salt Spring for a wide range of user groups.

"There's a point at which we either make decisions knowing that not everyone will be 100 per cent satisfied — and not every question can be fully answered today — or we just have an endless consultation process going on for years and years," said Webster. "I think staff have done a pretty good job; they came back with a solution that made it work."

Commissioners agreed the noise and light concerns were legitimate, and that there was more work to be done — but that would come at the next stage.

"Concerns about how implementation is going to be sensitive to the needs of both the user groups and the neighbours, that is all going to be part of the ongoing process," said Webster.

LEGEND - OPTION 3

1. Existing Portable Removed & Staff Parking Added With EV Stall
2. Existing Track Repositioned - Approx. 0.4km
3. Existing Soccer Field Repositioned - Approx. 196' x 320'
4. New Senior Ball Field in Grass Infield - 300' Outfield, 15' Backstop
5. Existing Ball Court Repositioned - 75' x 15'
6. New Paved Parking - 58 Stalls
7. New Practice Soccer Field - 98' x 160' play area
8. New Practice Soccer Fields (2) - 70' x 80' play area each
9. New Concession Stand - Approx. 70' x 120'
10. New Playground For School-Age Children Within Perimeter Fence - Approx. 3,480sqft.
11. Existing Water Storage Tank Repositioned - 10' x 15'
12. New Water Storage Tank - 20'
13. New Storage Shed for Soccer/Baseball - 10' x 20'
14. New Playground For Toddlers With Perimeter Fence - Approx. 39' x 49'
15. Existing E-Bike Charging Station
16. Existing Tennis Courts
17. New Bike Lane Connecting to Roadside Bike Lane
18. New Swale / Raingarden at Base of Embankment

NOTES

1. Tennis courts relocated to Rainbow Recreation Centre
2. Existing park office to include upgraded concession, additional washrooms, change room, and showers

TREE LEGEND

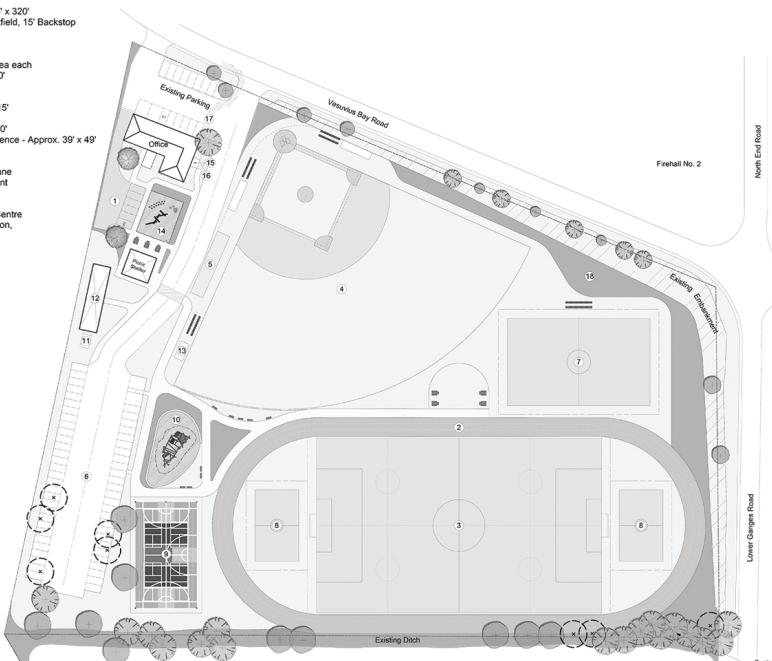
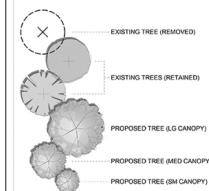


ILLUSTRATION COURTESY SALT SPRING LCC

Portlock Park conceptual plan shows relocated oval track and new senior ball field, with court sports moved to Rainbow Road.

EDUCATION

Board ending program

International program saw fewer numbers, homestays

BY ROBB MAGLEY

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Gulf Islands School District (SD64) is ending a long-running program that had welcomed international students to Salt Spring's Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS), citing both financial pressures and declining enrolment.

At its meeting Wednesday, Nov. 13, a clearly conflicted school board voted nonetheless unanimously to end the Gulf Islands International Program (GIIP), effective June 30, 2025. The board considered its options as a report from SD64 secretary treasurer Jesse Guy outlined an enduring pattern of rising costs, fewer interested international students and a declining number of islanders making their homes available for those students to stay.

The GIIP had been in operation for 25 years, and trustees noted enrolment in such programs had decreased throughout the province as attitudes toward international travel shifted globally.

The program, they said, did provide additional diversity to the district, and one or two additional teachers at the high school — as well as a modest amount of homestay revenue to the community who opened their homes.

But since the onset of the pandemic, the program had yet to return to the 55 to 65 students per year that kept the program financially stable, according to Guy, adding that the current numbers sit at 35 to 40 each year.

"This was not an easy report to write," said Guy, agreeing the number was restricted not just by slowing demand but by fewer

available homestays. Trustee Rob Pingle said he knew of at least one household that had not planned on offering a place for international students that year, but took on several "out of a benevolence" to allow them to come.

"I benefitted from the international program, so I don't dislike it," said Pingle. "It's just that the writing's on the wall; it's been operating at a loss for a number of years."

Further, Pingle noted, with the recent configuration change to fold Grade 8 into GISS, that facility itself is more or less at capacity.

"Thirty-five fewer students in that building means our students will have more room to breathe and move," he said. "We have to realize what size we are as a district, and work within our means."

Guy said just four applications had been received for the cancelled program, and no tuition had been accepted yet.

In an announcement issued the next day, SD64 superintendent/CEO Jill Jensen extended the board's "heartfelt appreciation" to all of the program's staff for their contributions over the years — particularly program manager Sheri Wakefield — and to the families who had provided homestays.

"For 25 years, the international program has been a cornerstone of pride in our district," wrote Jensen, "fostering dynamic and diverse learning environments and enhancing cultural awareness. As this program concludes, we celebrate its enduring legacy of cultural exchange, lifelong friendships and global understanding, which will continue to inspire us to broaden our worldviews and perspectives."

*Editor's note: For more about the GIIP, see a story in the current *Aqua – Gulf Islands Living* magazine, which went to press before news about the program's cancellation was shared.*



NOTICE

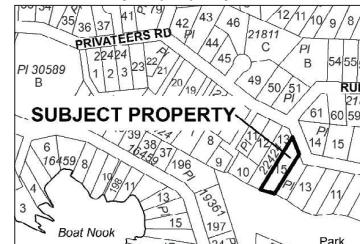
NP-TUP-2024.6
North Pender Island Local Trust Committee

NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 494 of the Local Government Act that the North Pender Island Local Trust Committee (LTC) will be considering a resolution allowing for the issuance of a Temporary Use Permit. The proposed permit would apply to Lot 15, Section 10, Pender Island, Cowichan District, Plan 21811 (PID: 003-343-405). This property is located at **3745 Privateers Road**, North Pender Island.

The purpose of this temporary use permit would be to permit a **Short Term Vacation Rental** use within the Dwelling Unit.

The establishment of these uses would be subject to the conditions specified in the attached proposed permit. The permit would be issued for three (3) years and the owner may apply to the LTC to have it renewed once for an additional three (3) years. The use has been permitted by a previous Temporary Use Permit that was issued in 2019 and renewed in 2020.

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



A copy of the proposed permit may be inspected at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. V8R 1H8 between the hours of 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding statutory holidays, commencing **November 8, 2024** and continuing up to and including **November 20, 2024**.

For the convenience of the public only, and not to satisfy Section 499 (2) (c) of the Local Government Act, additional copies of the Proposed Permit may be inspected at various Notice Boards on North Pender Island.

Enquiries or comments should be directed to Phil Testemale, Planner 2 at (250) 405-5170, for Toll Free Access, request a transfer via Enquiry BC: In Vancouver 660-2421 and elsewhere in BC 1-800-663-7867; or by fax (250) 405-5155; or by email to: southinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca before 4:30 p.m., **November 20, 2024**.

The North Pender Island Local Trust Committee may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the permit during the regular business meeting starting at **10:00 a.m., November 29, 2024** at the **St. Peter's Anglican Hall, 4703 Canal Road, on North Pender Island**.

All applications are available for review by the public with prior appointment. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

OPINION

Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Giving gratitude

Anyone attending the 40th anniversary celebration of the Salt Spring Island Foundation (SSIF) on Saturday would have left with a full tummy and warm heart.

Titled 40 Years of Giving, the celebration saw the ArtSpring gallery spaces literally overflowing with guests at one point as they enjoyed delicious food and beverages, socializing with fellow islanders and hearing about the incredible story of the foundation and its positive impact on the community.

Salt Spring Island's Briony Penn, the executor of Nancy Braithwaite's estate, gave a charming talk about the humble woman she said "felt that everything, even philanthropy, is about community" and whose bequest to SSIF is expected to reach the \$6-million mark.

Instrumental people such as the late founder John Lees was acknowledged, as were longtime board members and chairs Bob Rush and Carol Biely, with the latter also speaking at the event. Representatives from a dozen of the many charities supported by the foundation gave three-minute talks about what was achieved due to SSIF grants, bringing the impact of those funds alive.

SSIF chair Walter Stewart said that when he joined the foundation board in 2021 the endowment was at about \$7 million. He told Saturday's crowd — to wild applause — that by the end of 2025 the foundation expects that figure to reach \$21 million.

As SSIF executive director Shannon Cowan explained in a Nov. 6 Driftwood article, with such a healthy endowment fund, the group can consider ways to have even more impact. Stewart reiterated that message on Saturday, noting, "It gives us an opportunity to go several steps further, sustaining what we do, and being able to go a whole lot further."

As evidenced by donations and the rising number of bequests, people clearly see the foundation as a responsible agency that does much good for the community. They feel confident in donating to the organization and connecting their legacy to it through estate bequests.

The SSIF event showed that Salt Spring Island is a much richer, healthier and cohesive community because of the foundation. Contributing to it is a surefire way to ensure we can continue to nurture the best things about our island home.

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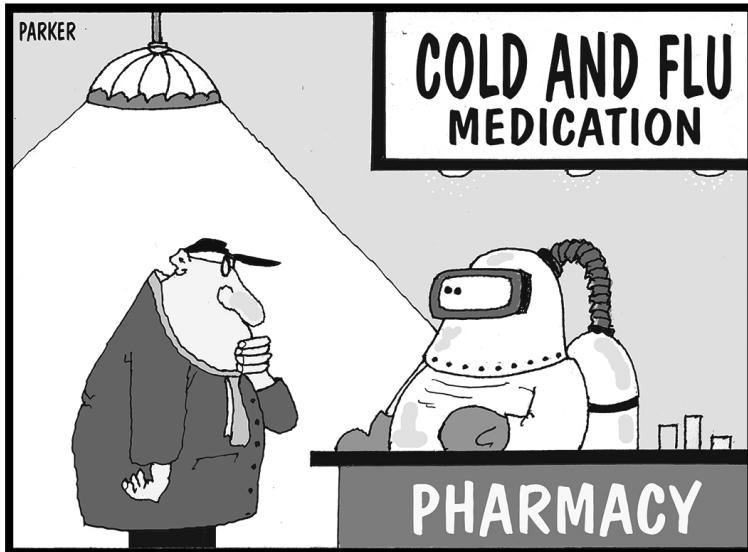


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2023 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)
Bronze - Best All Round | Bronze - Best Front Page

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



Nature singing saddest song

BY FRANTS ATTORP

Anyone who doubts the pending demise of the Islands Trust need only examine the public engagement process for amending our official community plan (OCP): no mention of Salt Spring as a protected area, no mention of growth limits and no mention of population at build-out (when all lots are developed). The focus is on "community aspirations" and it's as if the Islands Trust doesn't exist.

This did not happen suddenly or by accident. The future of Salt Spring, and possibly the entire Trust Area, was largely decided during eight months of private meetings in 2020 when Salt Spring Island trustee Laura Patrick and lobbyists introduced a new planning concept called "integrated solutions."

According to the group's final report, "integrated solutions" will work like a silver bullet to simultaneously address the climate, housing and forest crises. But the catch phrase glosses over the downsides: massive upzoning of private land, gutting of policies that limit development, and juicing up of the real estate market, particularly with respect to tourist accommodation.

None of the targeted crises will be solved by the new approach. In fact, allowing for open-ended population growth will actually make the climate and land-use crises much worse, while adding only minimally to the long-term rental stock. Giving trustees almost unfettered upzoning powers goes against everything the Islands Trust stands for.

This deregulation has never been discussed by the community and it appears it never will be. By designing a "targeted

VIEWPOINT

update" process that affects the whole but allows for discussion of only part, trustees have effectively cut the Islands Trust out of the picture.

Planning reports assure us that amendments will be "consistent with the Islands Trust Policy Statement" which covers all the islands. But that is cold comfort given that trustees, including those from Salt Spring, have been working long and hard to make the document as toothless as possible.

The two-pronged attack on the Trust — at the local and Trust Council levels — has been anything but transparent. In addition to the private, undocumented meetings on Salt Spring, we have witnessed Trust Council's 2023 in-camera meeting which resulted in a reinterpretation of the Trust mandate that was so outrageous it prompted 34 former trustees to write an open letter of concern.

In 2020, Salt Spring Solutions produced a promotional film that revealed their true feelings about the Islands Trust Act: "It was a radical and visionary model for the 1970s, but times have changed . . ."

But that is only their opinion! Many local residents still cherish the Islands Trust dream and want housing solutions that respect long-term principles of conservation. Such solutions can never be found by people who are intent on tearing down the institution.

Nature is singing her saddest song. If it speaks to your heart, please participate in upcoming public engagement events relating to our OCP and make one simple request: maintain existing growth limits. The biggest threat to the islands is the belief that someone else will save them.

THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you impacted by the postal strike?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you pleased with the U.S. election result?

39 152

YES NO

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

ISLAND VOICES

LETTERS to the editor

Accents, signals and words annoy

The doctors in this place have told me repeatedly that I will not be released until I deal with all the negative crap rattling around my cranium.

"Talk about it," they say. Talking about it would involve interaction with other people and that never ends well for me. I often talk to myself, but only because I'm such a good listener. I will write about it.

Please note that since the jacket they gave me has the arms tied in the back I am typing this with a pencil held in my teeth. It will take a long time to write, and obviously that means it will take a long time to read.

Here is a partial list of the things driving me ever closer to the brink. First on the list is British accents. No, not real ones. The real British accent is an affliction affecting an alarming number of people and Mom said it isn't nice to make fun of those less fortunate. No, it's the fake ones I'm talking about here. It is commonly used in advertising to

give the impression that whatever they are flogging is fit for the king. One classic example is the clown I heard on TV selling precise replicas of Princess Diana's ring, in 24-carat plastic. I assume the diamonds used to be Coke bottles. This guy sounded like he'd just been pushed out of a second-floor window at Downton Abbey and had a mouth full of marbles and razor blades. My ring has not arrived yet.

Second is words like "scrumptious." What the hell does that mean, and who decided it should have a place in the English language? The word I find most offensive is "eclectic." It is one of those words that someone will use in the hope that the listener won't know what it means, making one appear smarter than they really are. One thing I know for sure is I will never stick my tongue on an eclectic fence again.

Signal lights . . . where to start? Please note that I have reached the age at which I am legally permitted to leave my signal light on for up to two miles (3.21868 km) after negotiating a turn. Why do so many drivers feel that the signal should be turned

on when they are halfway through a turn? Or how about the guy on the highway who makes one flash when he is midway between lanes? I am convinced that many BMWs are not even equipped with signals.

Okay, that's it for now. I must admit I feel a bit better now, but that may be because of whatever it was they just jabbed in my arm. Right now I have to tidy the place up a bit before Charles and Camilla arrive for tea.

MIKE STACEY,

DAISY HILL HOME FOR THE CRIMINALLY INSANE

Ratchet down rhetoric

Paul McElroy's latest column, "Americans reject decency and common sense," is a prime example of someone who is infected with "Trump Derangement Syndrome."

He has drunk the Kool-Aid, taken the blue pill and gone down the rabbit hole.

His article is nothing more than trashy propaganda. The Driftwood is complicit in spreading mis- and disinformation by printing it.

It is time to ratchet down the rhetoric. Most, if not all, leading Democrats have not said a word about Fascism/Nazi/dictator since the election. There will be a mostly peaceful transfer of power, and life will go on.

The issues important to U.S. citizens are different and most Canadians cannot understand why Trump was elected. Inflation, illegal migration, crime, housing and loss of hope for a better future were more important to U.S. citizens than the candidate's personality. Some 75 million U.S. voters decided to elect the candidate who they felt has the best chance of turning things around, bringing back hope and a strong economy, and a strong U.S.A.

And in four years, if Trump fails, the Democrats will get another chance to prove they can do better.

WILLIAM STEINER,
SALT SPRING

QUOTE OF THE WEEK:

"Salt Spring is known as an artist island and I think this goes a good way to help encourage that concept and that idea."

ETHAN WILDING, WILDING FOUNDATION, ON SSNAP CATALYST GRANTS PROGRAM

With Community Services AGM in the books, it's time to open up

By GAIL SJUBERG

The much-anticipated annual general meeting of the Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society — aka Island Community Services (ICS) — took place on Nov. 14, and achieved its goal of being non-controversial — at least during the 35-minute meeting.

ICS held the meeting via Zoom and muted everyone except board members who were making and voting on basic motions or giving statements, and executive director Rob Grant when he gave his report, which was an abbreviated summary of the annual report contents. That report can be read on the saltspringcommunityservices.ca website, and it illuminates all of the important work done by ICS.

Approximately 40 little boxes appeared on the AGM Zoom meeting screen, many representing individuals who had applied to be society members in recent months but whose applications had not yet been accepted. A number of staff also attended.

ICS board chair Jennifer Lannan clarified near the beginning of the meeting that in addition to herself and four fellow directors — Jody Hawley, Gary McNutt and, to be confirmed at the AGM, Jenny McClean and Darryl Martin — the only other society members were Tisha Boulter and Cathy Patel. They are two past board members who resigned before their terms were up and whose membership

renewals were accepted. As such they were the only two non-board members allowed to ask questions.

Boulter asked why the board chose to hold the meeting by Zoom, to which Lannan replied, "We felt that it was a great way to be inclusive to all types of participation . . . we thought we could actually see more people in their homes and on their devices, and we felt that was best practice. We thought it was as inclusive as we could be."

I doubt the irony of citing inclusivity at a meeting where discussion is prohibited was lost on anyone.

One other bizarre moment saw a former board member, Margaret McKenzie, asked by Hawley to comment on the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities process, undertaken every three years, which ICS points to as proving it does a good job. At the time it felt like McKenzie was a public relations plant in the meeting, but it turns out she was apparently not expecting the question. (As a side note, Hawley is the past ICS chair who left the board last year but was asked to return after director resignations this year resulted in only Lannan and McNutt remaining, with three directors being the minimum required by ICS bylaws.)

And then there was the visual of two people frantically waving their hands to be recognized, with Lannan having to reiterate that

EDITOR'S VIEW

questions would only be taken from members. Maxine Leichter was one of those people. She later told me she wanted to ask when her membership would be approved. Here's the answer provided to me by Lannan:

"The board has struck a committee and we will have the work done as soon as we can, allowing for best practice: proper research, consultation and legal review. Modifications and evolution of the society's bylaws are only in the best interest of the organization. Changes that will be made are commonplace in our very own community already and in bigger societies in larger centres alike."

Lannan did also say in her AGM remarks that the board would be "working on welcoming new members to the society in the coming weeks."

Christian Tatonetti and Jennifer Campbell — two individuals who have publicly shared negative experiences with ICS in recent months, encouraged people to become ICS members and have applied themselves — said they were not provided with the Zoom link upon request, though received it from a third party and were allowed to join the meeting.

Most not-for-profit societies want members: for energy and ideas, to spread the good word about their group and its activi-

ties, and to give volunteers an extra stake in the organization. That ICS members have for years essentially been only the board of directors contributes to its image as a closed shop.

ICS has stated that it is responsible to the people it serves and to its funders, not the rest of us; and that workplace grievances can be handled by the employees' union. But as an organization it touches so many aspects of Salt Spring life; other agencies rely on its cooperation and it has an enormous budget: \$8.3 million in its 2023-24 fiscal year; almost identical to what Salt Spring ratepayers paid to the Capital Regional District in 2024. That's up from \$4.5 million in the 2019/20 fiscal year, and \$1.7 million back in 2006. A small group of people are responsible for what is largely public money, even if most of it doesn't come directly from Salt Spring pockets. The society owns eight properties worth approximately \$20 million.

ICS board members and senior staff can tell themselves that the spotlight has hit them only because of a few disgruntled individuals or busybodies, or because former MLA Adam Olsen uttered some stinging words about ICS as he left his position. But that is not true, and on some level they must know it.

However, the coping strategy at this point seems to be to climb into the bunker with some extra provisions, wait for the storm to

pass, and work on releasing some good news stories while finding legal ways to determine who can and cannot be a society member.

We all understand that ICS deals with vulnerable individuals, and that requires special consideration and extreme discretion. We get that there's a certain amount of interpersonal conflict and personnel matters that can't be discussed publicly. We get that a "takeover" of the society by angry people would not be a good thing; nor is erosion of frontline staff or volunteer morale.

But the controversy and desire for people to be society members or more involved with ICS needs to be accepted by the current board of directors, not as a public relations challenge but as a reality. The organization needs to step outside of itself to learn how it is perceived by others. Lannan did stress at the AGM that people can email agm@ssics.ca with questions or concerns and that the board does want to hear from people.

On Saturday, the Salt Spring Island Foundation marked its 40th anniversary at ArtSpring in what was a fantastic, fun, feel-good celebration. ICS marks its 50th anniversary next year. Will the organization truly be able to celebrate its successes and important role in the community, or will that milestone be celebrated with a few tepid words offered at another Zoom meeting with most of the participants muted?

FOCUS
ON

EDUCATION

PASSION
PROJECTBy ROBB MAGLEY
Driftwood Staff

The Gulf Islands School District will be offering a new teacher-designed course for Grade 12 students, intended to help them get more perspective on how actions taken during one historical era affected the modern world.

Renaissance Studies 12 is the brainchild of Gulf Islands Secondary School (GISS) teacher Ray Colleran, who presented its framework template to the SD64 Board of Education Wednesday, Nov. 13. Trustees voted unanimously in favour of approving the new course, through the Board/Authority Authorized Course pathway.

Colleran described the course as a “passion project,” born out of a keen interest he holds in the Italian Renaissance, the era which emerged in that country in the 14th century and spread throughout Europe for 200 years. It was a significant period of cultural, artistic and intellectual “rebirth,” he said, from a Western perspective. At the outset of the pandemic, Colleran began to explore the notion of whether that perspective was supported by the evidence, and whether there were deeper connections to be made.

“My other passion is English literature, and teaching that at our school,” said Colleran. “I chased this idea of how what Michelangelo does on the ceiling of the Sistine Chapel becomes what Shakespeare does on the stage 100 years later — this celebration of human capability and progress.”

FROM ‘REBIRTH’
TO COLONIZATION,
NEW GISS
COURSE TO HELP
CONTEXTUALIZE
RENAISSANCE
PERIOD

Renaissance Studies 12 is designed to help students understand the period as foundational for modern society, and how its influences continue to be exerted upon notions of societal norms, race, empire, colonialism and democracy.

Colleran said he had noted what he described as an “Italian Renaissance-shaped hole” in the middle of the existing ministry documents in the month of genocide studies; for the course he developed, he said, it’s as much about the perspectives as the content — particularly in context of what effect the European perspective of progress meant and means to Indigenous people around the world.

Even as the Renaissance period gave rise to great works of art and literature, seafaring countries — especially Spain, Portugal and England — moved beyond their boundaries during that time, and began to stake colonial claims and assert their imperial intentions, according to the course framework.

“When you get to this so-called age of discovery, the age of exploration, that is the European perspective,” Colleran told trustees. “The course ends up with colonialism, imperialism and how the Western/European mentality of ‘progress’ is incompatible with the First Nations history in these lands.”

Part of the course involves cause and consequence — examining how the classical age of Greece and Rome influenced the philosophical, political and intellectual developments of the Renaissance, and how the religious beliefs and attitudes of the Christian colonizers affected the culture of Indigenous peoples.

“It’s a course that hits across several levels,” said Colleran. “There are opportunities for cross-curricular approaches, and connecting to other subject matters in the building. The range of possibilities is really quite exciting.”



Bust of Michelangelo's David in the classroom of Gulf Islands Secondary School teacher Ray Colleran, who has designed a Renaissance Studies 12 course that will be offered next year.

These dedicated individuals help make our schools inspiring places to learn and grow.

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Sheri Wakefield
Cathy Walker

25 YEARS

Katja Korinth
Sonia Langer
Tony Marshall

20 YEARS

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Ray Colleran
Tony Copeland
Jason Donaldson
Pieter Hofmann
Jennifer Hughes
Donna Kirkpatrick
Jane Sinclair
Bryce Woolcombe

15 YEARS

Ciaran Ayton
Donal Duncan
Andrea Hollingsworth

10 YEARS

Myriah Michaux
Lisa Stafford
Erin Anderson
Michelle Davies
Allison Dutcher
Michelle Fox
David Gloag
Rosamund Henbrey
Roland Kerr
Emily Raichura
Nikita Yuswack

5 YEARS

Katja Bernninger-Dobie
Sara Bowles
Lyle Brown
Chelsea Burch

5 YEARS

Carrina Gordon
Jesse Guy
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ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

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CONCERT PREVIEW

African musical heritage on tap



From left, musicians Joshua Zubot, Meredith Bates, Peggy Lee, Sarah Kwok, Kofi Gbolonyo, Curtis Andrews and Kurai Mubaiwa in a past African Chamber Music event.

Innovative project showcases reflective side of African music

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

A Salt Spring audience can enjoy a groundbreaking concert series — African Chamber Music: Zimbabwean, South African, and Ghanaian Traditions Reimagined with Strings — co-presented by Time Will Tell Arts Society and Caravan World Rhythms.

The unique performance will take place on Saturday, Nov. 30 at ArtSpring beginning at 7:30 p.m.

This innovative project aims to showcase the lesser-known, reflective side of African music, moving beyond its famous rhythms and dances. By presenting traditional African music in a chamber setting with a string quartet, we're expanding the way audiences experience these rich cultures. This concert not only celebrates African musical heritage but also invites a rethinking of the string quartet's role, addressing its historical ties to colonialism and promoting a more inclusive musical landscape.

The repertoire features the soulful mbira songs from Zimbabwe's Shona people, the enchanting vocal traditions of Ghana's Ewe community, and the ancient, rare bow music of South Africa's Xhosa culture. Our talented artists include Kurai Mubaiwa (mbira, voice, percussion) from Zimbabwe, Kofi Gbolonyo (voice, percussion) from Ghana and Dizu Plaatjies (uhadi, umrhube, percussion, voice) from South Africa. Each

has an impressive background, performing on stages around the globe and deeply rooted in their musical traditions.

The vibrant pieces are arranged by Curtis Andrews, a seasoned musician who has dedicated over 20 years to studying and performing African music in North America and in various African countries. The concert will also feature a skilled string quartet, including Meredith Bates (viola), Peggy Lee (cello), Pamela Attarwala (viola) and Joshua Zubot (violin).

Of special note is the presence of Dizu Mzikantu Plaatjies, who is coming all the way from Cape

Town, South Africa for this project under the auspices of a Canada Council for the Arts grant. Plaatjies has been a mainstay of traditional African music in Southern Africa for over 40 years and has been instrumental in promoting various indigenous musical bows and their performers.

People will discover the captivating sounds of the mbira, an ancient instrument with a rich history in Zimbabwe, traditionally used to connect with ancestral spirits. Once nearly lost due to colonial suppression, the mbira is now experiencing a powerful revival.

Audience members can delve into the mesmerizing vocal music of the Ewe, known for its complex rhythms and profound cultural significance, and explore the rare bow music of the Xhosa, highlighting the rich heritage of these instruments, which are primarily played by women in their communities.

The concerts let people experience African music in a fresh and inspiring way. Join us for a celebration of culture, history and creativity that promises to engage and delight.

Tickets are available through ArtSpring, online and at the box office.

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Driftwood **Salt Spring Island**
chamber of commerce

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!

Driftwood www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

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CRAFTS

Festive workshops for all ages

Holiday cards, decorative items, wreaths and more at five sessions

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

This winter, Salt Spring Arts invites community members to embrace the magic of the holidays through enriching and creative workshops led by local artists.

Hosted at Mahon Hall during the Artcraft Winter season, these hands-on sessions provide opportunities for both kids and adults to learn new skills, connect and explore the joy of artistic expression.

Kicking off the season are two collage workshops led by paper artist Rosie Schinners. The first, on the evening of Dec. 4, provides a supportive space for adults to tap into their inspiration through timed prompts. On Dec. 6, kids aged six to 12 are invited to follow a festive scavenger hunt, gathering materials to create a mixed-media Winter Wonderland artwork. Later that afternoon, Camille Schmah from Foxglove Farm & Garden Supply will lead a wreath-making workshop for youth aged eight to 13 using organic materials.

On the morning of Dec. 14, local artist Talia Peckel will lead a multigenerational workshop encouraging individuals and families to bring light into the darkest season. Participants will hand-craft whimsical menorahs or candelabras using branches and decorate to their heart's desire. That afternoon will complete the winter workshop season, with the Salt Spring Island



PHOTO COURTESY SS ARTS

Menorah/candelabra like those to be made at a Dec. 14 Salt Spring Arts workshop led by local artist Talia Peckel.

Printmakers offering a session for adults to create holiday cards using monoprinting techniques.

These workshops are part of Salt Spring Arts' ongoing commitment to building and nurturing the creative capacity of our community. Winter is the perfect time to nurture new skills, make memories and celebrate the season through art. Workshop registration rates are available on a sliding scale to ensure Salt Spring Arts programming is accessible for parents and community members.

Space is limited. People should visit saltspringarts.com today to secure a spot and explore the full details of these workshops.

what's on this week

Wed. Nov. 20

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SOLD OUT: ArtSpring Presents: O-Celli.

ACTIVITIES

Knit Purl Community. All knitting/crochet levels are welcome every third Wednesday of the month. Library program room. 5 to 7 p.m.

Rotary Bingo Night. Meaden Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m., games start at 6:30. Must be 19 to play.

Solar Roof Energy System Webinar. Michael Ayotte from Shift Energy speaks about the solar roof project for Mid Island Co-op on Salt Spring. 7:30 p.m. Free sign-up and link at tinyurl.com/2z8akuen.

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

Thur. Nov. 21

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Salt Spring Island Local Community Commission Meeting. SIMS Boardroom. 9 a.m. to noon. To attend virtually, see Microsoft Teams meeting link in the agenda, which is available on the CRD website.

Thursday Lunch. Delicious lunch and conversation at the Seniors Centre. 11:30 a.m. Call 250-537-4604 to reserve seats.

Fri. Nov. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Karaoke. Legion. 7 p.m.

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

Fri. Nov. 22

ACTIVITIES

ASK Salt Spring. Guests are from local media outlets. SIMS. 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Friday Games Night. For ages 13 to 19 at the Salt Spring library. 7 p.m.

Sat. Nov. 23

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Jim Raddysh & the Usual Suspects. Legion. 7:30 p.m.

ArtSpring Presents: World After Dark. Multi-media dance presentation. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

Sugar. Irish Times' house band performs at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Anglican Parish Christmas Bazaar. Baking, needlework, crafts, jewellery, treasures and a delicious lunch will be served. All Saints Church. 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Salt Spring Historical Society: Hawaiian History on SSL. With Cathy Roland. Salt Spring library program room. 2 p.m.

Getting To Know Your Neighbours. Guests are Chris Levan and Ellen Versterdal, speaking on Solidarity and Sourdough in Cuba. SS United Church. 2 p.m. Doors at 1:30 p.m.

Salt Spring Forum: Philip J. Currie. Paleontologist and dinosaur expert is the guest. Beaver Point Hall. 4:30 p.m.

Sun. Nov. 24

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Swing Shift & Bandemonium. Songs of Land & Sea. Fulford Hall. 2 p.m.

Nov. 22

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

Makana Youth Choirs Concert. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Complete Communities Assessment Engagement Session. Hosted by the Salt Spring Islands Trust. Meaden Hall. 2:30 to 4:30 p.m.

Mon. Nov. 25

ACTIVITIES

Workshop: Leadership as Practice. Led by Shannon Litzenberger. 7 p.m. Register through artspring.ca or the box office.

Tues. Nov. 26

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

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

ACTIVITIES

Workshop: Strategies for Creation through Embodied Movement & Voice. Led by Shannon Litzenberger and creative contributor Marie-Josée Chartier. 5 p.m. Pre-registration required through artspring.ca or the box office.

40th Annual Celebration of Light Advent Ceremony. Salt Spring Centre. 6 p.m.

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

Wed. Nov. 27

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

SS Baroque Music Society Presents Iestyn Davies & Fretwork: Lamento. ArtSpring. 7 p.m.

Nov. 24

CINEMA

• **Thelma** runs Friday, Nov. 22 through Tuesday, Nov. 26 at 7 p.m. each night, plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. AND **National Theatre Live: Nye** runs on Thursday, Nov. 21 at 7 p.m. See thefritz.ca for more movie info.

ART EXHIBITIONS

• **Artcraft Winter** opens at Mahon Hall on Friday, Nov. 22, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Dec. 24. Reception and members' discount night on Nov. 22 from 5 to 7 p.m.

• **Impressions 9:** Annual exhibition of new works by the Salt Spring Island Printmakers runs at Salt Spring Gallery until Nov. 27.

• **Sam Barlow, Raven Fox and Margaret Westaway present Imagine the Possibilities** in the library program room through November.

• **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.

• **Denise Johnson** has artwork at the Salt Spring Laundr-o-mat and TJ Beans this month.

Salt Spring Forum Guest is paleontologist

Philip J. Currie

Saturday, Nov. 23

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ARTS SUPPORT

Catalyst Grants to spur 16 regional artists

Wilding Foundation provides grant funds

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The first 16 winners of an innovative new arts granting program funded by the Salt Spring-based Wilding Foundation — the Catalyst Grants — were announced on Friday, Nov. 15.

Administered in partnership with the Salt Spring National Art Prize (SSNAP) Society, the foundation has committed \$100,000 per year to the program for at least the next three years. First announced in August, some 45 applications from the Southern Gulf Islands and area First Nations were received by the Oct. 1 deadline.

Winners are: Margaret August,

Leo Chan, Veronica Classen, Anna Gustafson, Eli Horn, Ari Lazer, Bob Leatherbarrow, Cheryl Long, Liljana Martin, Terri Potratz, Lexane Rousseau, Andrea Russell, Jeannette Sirois, Anna Karolina Szul, Satya Underhill and April Winter.

Jurors were Helga Pakasaar, Sophia Burke, Camille Georges-Usher and Jesse Birch, along with the foundation's Ethan Wilding, a Salt Spring resident for the past five years. He explained that he wants the grants program to give artists the funds they need to complete artworks.

"I was getting quite a few requests for just little donations here and there to help people finish their art projects, and so I thought, 'Let's do this on a much larger scale and get money into the hands of many more artists,' and that's what we're on the path to doing."



PHOTO COURTESY ETHAN WILDING
Ethan Wilding of the Wilding Foundation.

Wilding said the aim is "to close that gap between great ideas being mostly finished to great ideas being fully finished and produced, so that artists have something to showcase, can expand their portfolio, and hopefully from there, continue to make more art or get commissions."

He also hopes some grant recipients will be able to use the funds to help complete submissions for the biennial SSNAP and Parallel Art Show competitions.

"Salt Spring is known as an artist island and I think this goes a good way to help encourage that concept and that idea," he said.

SSNAP Society chair Janet Halliwell said, "The SSNAP Society is delighted to have partnered with the Wilding Foundation in developing this new opportunity to foster contemporary arts in our region, and to build on our reputation as a creative, arts-oriented community."

The Wilding Foundation also provides significant funds to other local programs related to technology and creativity, such as the FabLab makerspace at the Salt Spring Public Library, with equipment like 3D printers, scanners and a Cricut

machine available to use for free to the public. Even staff costs for the space are covered by the foundation.

Technology classes for kids at the library are supported to ensure cost is no barrier to those wanting to attend, and the Gulf Islands Secondary School robotics team benefits hugely from the foundation. Salt Spring Arts and Graffiti Theatre have also received Wilding Foundation grants.

Wilding said the motivation for the Catalyst Grants and other funded programs is the same.

"Let's support the arts and get people out there building and making and actually finishing projects, and making those resources available for people."

For more information about the Catalyst Grants and SSNAP, see saltspringartprize.ca.

LITERARY EVENTS

Two poets' chapbooks celebrated

Launch event Nov. 29

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Raven Chapbooks is launching two new titles in their Indigo Series and inviting the community to celebrate on Friday, Nov. 29 at 7 p.m. in the Salt Spring library's program room.

Diana Hayes of Salt Spring's Raven Chapbooks and authors Susan Alexander (Berberitzen) and Lorraine Gane (If I Have Known Beauty) will be in attendance.

Alexander is the author of two collec-

tions of poems, *Nothing You Can Carry* and *The Dance Floor Tilts*, Thistledown Press. Her poems have won awards and appeared most recently in *The Southern Review* as well as anthologies and literary magazines in Canada, the U.K. and the U.S.

Terry Ann Carter describes Alexander's work in Berberitzen as "a masterful braiding of language and image that leaves a bodily impact; these pages are filled with a scent and taste of desire."

Gane is the author of five books of poetry. Selections from her first book,

Even the Slightest Touch Thunders on My Skin (Black Moss Press, 2002), were short-listed for the Canadian Literary Awards in 1997 and the League of Canadian Poets chapbook contest.

Wendy Donawa writes that "Gane's beautifully designed chapbook, *If I Have Known Beauty*, charts the poet's journey through the loss of her beloved mentor and friend, Phyllis Webb. Each poem is a step through the Bardo of her own grief. Her poems, plain-spoken and lyrical, are as delicately woven as Webb's treasured gift of a peacock scarf."

BAROQUE MUSIC

Lamento genre in focus at concert

Fretwork group performs with Iestyn Davies at ArtSpring

SUBMITTED ARTICLE

On Wednesday, Nov. 27 at 7 p.m. at ArtSpring, Salt Spring Baroque welcomes U.K. viol consort Fretwork with internationally acclaimed countertenor Iestyn Davies in an exploration of exquisite and deeply spiritual 17th-century German repertoire.

The musicians will perform a program entitled Lamento. A beloved genre in the Baroque era, the lamento's origins lay in early 17th-century Italian opera, before finding its way into sacred music. It was quickly embraced by German sacred composers, who used its expressive nature to depict the sorrow of mankind's sin and the tragic Passion of Christ.

Johann Christoph Bach's Ach, dass ich Wassers gnug hätte, his best-known work that laments the sinfulness of humanity, forms the foundation of this program that traverses across Baroque Germany. In 17th-century Germany, the violin was slow to arrive and dominate the musical landscape, so the sweet sound of the viol family was the instrumental texture of musical life, in the home, the court and church. The program features music from three Saxon friends with similar-sounding names, who came from the same neck of the woods: Schein, Scheidt and Schütz; and the great Buxtehude, in the north.

Davies, widely recognized as one of the world's finest singers, is the recipient of two Gramophone Awards, a Grammy Award, an RPS Award for Young Singer of the Year, the Critics' Circle Award and recently an Olivier Award Nomination. He was appointed Member of the



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING BAROQUE
British viol consort Fretwork performs on Salt Spring Nov. 27, along with acclaimed countertenor Iestyn Davies.

Order of the British Empire in the Queen's New Year's Honours List 2017 for services to music.

The Independent wrote: "Iestyn Davies sings with rapturous virtuosity and uncanny beauty."

Fretwork has been setting the standard for the viol consort performance for over 35 years. In 2026, Fretwork celebrates its 40th anniversary. In these last decades, they have explored the core repertory of great English consort music from Taverner to Purcell, made classic recordings against which others are judged, and commissioned an entirely new repertory of music for viols.

"Fretwork is the finest viol consort on the planet," declared Stephen Pettitt in *The London Evening Standard*.

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Obituaries

Obituaries

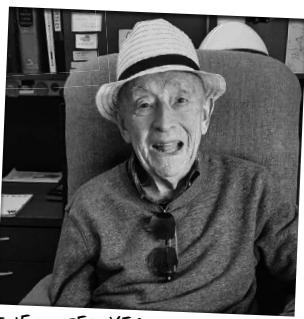
Obituaries

In Memoriam

In Memoriam



THE YOUNGER YEARS



THE WISER YEARS
PHILIP DUDLEY MASON
JULY 10, 1926 –
OCTOBER 23, 2024

Phil passed away peacefully at Sunrise Senior Living in Victoria, B.C. He was the beloved husband of the late June Mason. Born in London, England, Phil immigrated to Canada, settling in the Niagara Region of Ontario. In 1961, he married June, having reconnected with her in Canada after her own immigration. Phil enjoyed a successful career as a photographer and was the author of two published books about the Niagara area.

In 1992, Phil and June retired to Salt Spring Island, B.C., where they embraced the beauty of nature. Phil was an avid bird watcher and a keen sailor who cherished his two sailboats, both named Toad Hull and Toad Hull II. He also had a passion for skiing and tennis, hobbies he pursued with great enthusiasm. During the winter seasons, Phil and June traveled extensively across the U.S. in their Airstream, creating many lively adventures and cherished memories along the way.

Phil was deeply loved and appreciated by his family and friends. His kindness, generosity, and fun-loving nature touched all who knew him. He enjoyed his weekly gin martini with three olives and his nightly brandy nightcap, pleasures he continued to indulge in even during his final days.

The family extends heartfelt thanks to the dedicated nurses and caregivers at Sunrise Senior Living in Victoria, who provided Phil with comfort and care in the later years of his long life. Special thanks are also given to Dr. Harley Syyoon and Dr. Zul Nathoo for their excellent medical care, as well as to Rick Alexander for his compassionate support.

Phil is deeply missed by his sister-in-law Anne, his nieces and nephews, and many friends. Respecting Phil's wishes, there will be no funeral service. Please remember Phil in your own special way and treasure the good memories.

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HOROSCOPE

WEEK OF
NOVEMBER 17 TO 23, 2024THE LUCKIEST SIGNS THIS WEEK:
LEO, VIRGO AND LIBRA**ARIES**

Communication may be difficult this week. You won't be able to reach certain people. However, suddenly they'll be the first to contact you, and your phone will be ringing off the hook.

**TAURUS**

You'll be quite popular this week, and you'll have a lot to share. Your social life will be very active, whether in person or online. Expect your partner to spoil you with acts of kindness.

**GEMINI**

Shopping will take up some of your time this week, and you'll be inspired to redesign your home. You might even be tempted to buy some early Christmas decorations.

**CANCER**

Your imagination will know no bounds this week! However, you might get into a bit of a slump. You'll immerse yourself in creating a work of art or indulge in binge-watching a TV series. Creativity is key.

**LEO**

You may not always thrive in crowds, but you'll come across inspiring individuals who'll motivate you to take on new challenges. Expect to develop meaningful new friendships.

**VIRGO**

You may procrastinate this week, but your loved ones will help you get your priorities straight while keeping things light. You may have a new lease on life after this experience.

**LIBRA**

A spontaneous trip is on the horizon, even if you think it's unrealistic. On the job, you'll work with a diverse clientele that will bring you abundance. Keep an open mind when opportunities arise.

**SCORPIO**

You'll need to take on many responsibilities at work and home. Your hard work will be acknowledged, and you'll be rewarded for your efforts. Recognition and gratitude are coming your way.

**SAGITTARIUS**

Change is coming! Go with the flow, and your worries will fade away. Sentimental projects will happen faster than expected. Be open to opportunities.

**CAPRICORN**

You must address financial, professional or personal matters; negotiations may become tense. You must strike the right balance in all aspects of your life to find peace.

**AQUARIUS**

Love will take up a big part of your week. Prepare to be romanced! Expect an awkward, perhaps unexpected and unreciprocated confession of love from a colleague.

**PISCES**

Take some time off to recover from a cold. Spend a few days at home and bring some work home with you over the weekend to catch up. The moon will boost your imagination, inspiration and intuition.

40th Annual
Celebration of Light

"Advent Ceremony"

6:00 pm Tuesday, November 26, 2024

Salt Spring Centre of Yoga
355 Blackburn Road

If you wish to walk the spiral path:
RSVP info@saltspringcentreschool.ca
(for apple-candleholder safely prepared)

Thank You



A heartfelt thank you to everyone for making my 90th birthday such a memorable one. The cards, gifts & kind words were all much appreciated. It was great to see so many old & good friends. Cheers!

Sam Tarasoff



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TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

| When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table | | | | | | | |
|--|-------|------|--------|-----------|-------|------|------|
| DAY | TIME | FEET | METRES | DAY | TIME | FEET | |
| 20 | 1:19 | 0.6 | 0.18 | 24 | 4:51 | 4.8 | 1.46 |
| | 10:05 | 11.4 | 3.47 | | 12:44 | 10.6 | 3.23 |
| 21 | 2:08 | 1.5 | 0.46 | 25 | 19:55 | 6.1 | 1.86 |
| | 10:54 | 11.3 | 3.44 | | 0:47 | 7.2 | 2.19 |
| 22 | 2:59 | 2.5 | 0.76 | 26 | 5:54 | 5.9 | 1.8 |
| | 11:38 | 11.1 | 3.38 | | 13:06 | 10.3 | 3.14 |
| 23 | 3:53 | 3.6 | 1.1 | 27 | 20:16 | 5.1 | 1.55 |
| | 12:15 | 10.9 | 3.32 | | 2:41 | 7.8 | 2.38 |
| | 19:47 | 7 | 2.13 | | 6:56 | 6.9 | 2.1 |
| | 22:16 | 7.1 | 2.16 | | 13:22 | 10.1 | 3.08 |
| | | | | | 20:38 | 4.2 | 1.28 |
| | | | | | 3:57 | 8.6 | 2.62 |
| | | | | | 7:55 | 7.7 | 2.35 |
| | | | | | 13:32 | 9.9 | 3.02 |
| | | | | | 21:00 | 3.2 | 0.98 |

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ISLAND LIFE

TRAIL FOR BRINKWORTHY



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING LCC
Salt Spring's latest pathway – the Brinkworthy Trail – is officially opened with a ribbon-cutting event on Nov. 14. Developed in collaboration with Partners Creating Pathways, the Capital Regional District and the Salt Spring Local Community Commission's Parks, Arts, Recreation and Culture department, the trail is part of a longstanding goal to improve walkability and provide a connection for Brinkworthy residents to the existing pathway on Lower Ganges Road.

ISLAND HISTORY

Hawaiian pioneer history shared



PHOTO COURTESY SSHS

Cathy Roland during a past Hawaiian pioneer history talk at St. Paul's Church in Fulford.

Cathy Roland at library Nov. 23

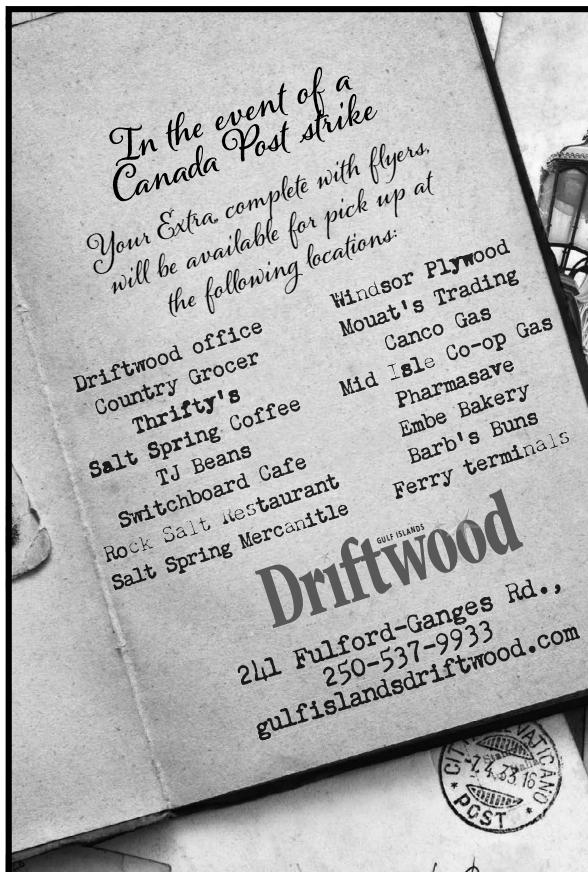
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

The Salt Spring Historical Society (SSHS) is pleased to welcome back — by popular demand — singer and family historian Cathy Roland (aka Auntie Kate) to

speak about Hawaiian history on Salt Spring Island and the B.C. coast. As a child, Roland listened deeply to the stories of her uncle Paul Roland, sparking a lifelong interest in her Hawaiian-Salish family lineage. Her great-great-grandfather Naukana (aka "John Coxe" Naukana) came to the West Coast from Hawaii in 1811 with American and British fur traders who were setting up colonies here at that time. These Hawaiian men were sent by Hawaiian King Kamehameha with a contract to help establish the early trading posts and they became some of the earliest settlers in B.C. — and the rest is truly fascinating history.

The event is on Saturday, Nov. 23 at 2 p.m. in the library's program room.

It's time to purchase or renew SSHS memberships, which are open to all and cost only \$15 per year. Paying online is a preferred option with e-transfer to internal@saltspingarchives.com, but payment of cash at the door is also available.



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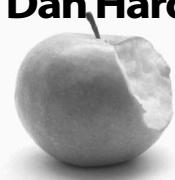
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Photos by Gail Sjuberg



Salt Spring Island Foundation (SSIF) executive director Shannon Cowan gives a heartfelt territorial acknowledgement to open the program part of the foundation's 40th anniversary celebration at ArtSpring on Saturday Nov. 16, with event MC Kate Nash seen behind. The afternoon included past and present foundation speakers, reps from grant-receiving groups giving short presentations, live music, trivia questions, food and refreshments.



StageCoach Theatre School student Abby Bouchard looks at a slide from the school's 2022 Alice in Wonderland production which helps illustrate her presentation about how SSIF grants have supported the long-running youth theatre program, with the school's artistic director Christina Penhale seen behind.



A full ArtSpring gallery crowd applauds SSIF board chair Walter Stewart.



Carol Biely, a past chair of the foundation who was involved for many years beginning in 2003, shares some of the history.



Tim Slaney of the Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue group describes SSIF impact.

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: November 24, 2024

Time: 2:30 PM – 4:30 PM

**Place: Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92
120 Blain Road, Salt Spring Island**



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

HOLIDAYS

Seasonal events begin



PHOTO COURTESY SSI UNITED CHURCH

Scene from a past Winterfaire fundraiser at the United Church.

Advent, Winterfaire, craft fairs and more

BY DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Seasonal celebrations kick off with a special advent ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 26, followed by island fairs at the turning of the month.

The 40th Annual Celebration of Light event runs at Salt Spring Centre on Tuesday beginning at 6 p.m. People wanting to walk the spiral path of stars and cedar boughs as songs of light and peace are sung are asked to RSVP to info@saltspringcentreschool.ca.

On Saturday, Nov. 30, Salt Spring United Church's biggest fundraiser — Winterfaire — runs from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the church's Herford Avenue location in Ganges. It features shopping upstairs and down, for "handicrafts, tasteful treasures, jewelry, winter greens, Christmas cakes, baking and preserves," all surrounded by live festive music and with light from the stained glass windows created by the late longtime islander Jack Clements.

A silent auction and all-day cafe, for a

hot cuppa and muffin or treat, plus lunch of authentic tourtières or vegan/gluten-free chili, highlight the Winterfaire, proceeds of which enable the church to continue its work on Salt Spring and beyond.

That weekend sees craft fairs galore: on Saturday-Sunday, Nov. 30 and Dec. 1, there's the Holiday Market at SIMS, the Fulford Artisan Christmas Fair and the Beaver Point Christmas Craft Fair, with another at Lions Hall from Friday, Nov. 29 through Sunday, Dec. 1.

To get a jump on your holiday spirit, Salt Spring's Little Red Schoolhouse will hold a fundraising Holiday Fair event at Beaver Point Hall from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Sunday, Nov. 24, and the Anglican Parish Christmas Bazaar is this Saturday, Nov. 23 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at All Saints by-the-Sea.

And if lights are your thing, don't miss Gan-ges' official light-up at Centennial Park Friday, Nov. 29, from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. — with live music from Viva Chorale! and a magical performance by some Christmas With Scrooge cast members.

Visit gulfislandsdriftwood.com for more details about holiday events happening on all of the islands.