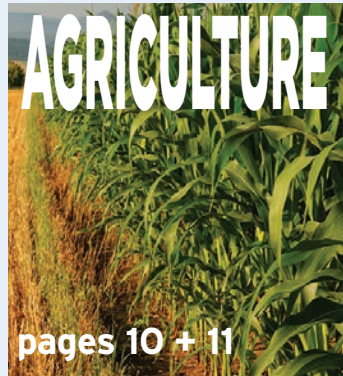


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## FIRST NATIONS

# Wet'suwet'en protest hits island



PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

Drew Sim leads a chant at a demonstration held in the Ganges RCMP detachment parking lot last Tuesday. About 120 people attended the event to show support for the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs of northern B.C. in their attempts to stop construction of a Coastal GasLink natural gas pipeline through their territory.

Solidarity with  
northwest B.C.  
First Nation shown

BY MARC KITTINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring activists took to the streets in solidarity with the Wet'suwet'en people last Tuesday, when around 120 people demonstrated outside of the Ganges RCMP detachment against the RCMP's use of force at the Unist'ot'en camp in northern B.C.

The demonstration coincided with protests around the country, including one at the B.C. legislature building as MLAs were arriving to hear the NDP government's speech from the throne on Tuesday. Some individual islanders have been supporting the cause off-island, but this was the first event held on Salt Spring.

Organizer Tina Taylor told the crowd she is friends with a Wet'suwet'en family and seeing their struggle has caused her to want to act. Demonstrators held signs, chanted and spoke in a talking circle on part of the RCMP parking lot.

"They are an amazing family and I have been watching the mother, who is seven months pregnant, having to come out every day and fight for her beloved people and land," she told the crowd. "I am here because I am disgusted that B.C. Premier John Horgan and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau will, with this pipeline, be destroying the sacred home and rightful land of this family."

People of the Wet'suwet'en First Nation have been protesting the Coastal GasLink pipeline, which is slated to be constructed through their unceded land in the northern part of the province. The camp was set up in 2010 by the hereditary chiefs, whose positions are passed down through generations. In contrast, a number of elected band councils in the region have expressed support for the pipeline.

A checkpoint was established at the Unist'ot'en site to ensure visitors have consent to access the territory. A 2020 injunction was granted by the Supreme Court of B.C. to allow access to the area for construction crews. RCMP enforced that injunction on Feb. 10, arresting Wet'suwet'en matriarchs and chiefs, as well as other supporters.

PROTEST continued on 2



**Zen Master Wolfgang says:**  
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## TIDE TABLES

### at Fulford Harbour

**FEBRUARY 2020** PST (UTC-8h)  
When using Daylight Saving Time, one hour must be added to the predicted time in the table

DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET	DAY	TIME	METRES	FEET
<b>19</b>	0358	3.3	10.8	<b>23</b>	0615	3.3	10.8
	0902	2.8	9.2		1138	2.4	7.9
	WE 1216	3.0	9.8		SU 1600	2.9	9.5
ME 2021	0.7	2.3	DI 2300	0.8	2.6		
<b>20</b>	0440	3.3	10.8	<b>24</b>	0637	3.3	10.8
	0956	2.7	8.9		1209	2.3	7.5
	TH 1319	2.9	9.5		MO 1649	2.8	9.2
JE 2106	0.7	2.3	LU 2334	1.0	3.3		
<b>21</b>	0517	3.4	11.2	<b>25</b>	0657	3.2	10.5
	1034	2.7	8.9		1242	2.1	6.9
	FR 1417	2.9	9.5		TU 1740	2.8	9.2
VE 2148	0.7	2.3	MA				
<b>22</b>	0548	3.3	10.8	<b>26</b>	0006	1.2	3.9
	1106	2.6	8.5		0715	3.2	10.5
	SA 1510	2.9	9.5		WE 1316	2.0	6.6
SA 2225	0.7	2.3	ME 1833	2.7	8.9		

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# Protests continue across Canada



PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
Some of the islanders supporting the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs hold signs at last Tuesday's rally in Ganges. For more photos and video coverage of the event, see the [gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://gulfislandsdriftwood.com) website.

## PROTEST

continued from 1

Protests spread across the province, with demonstrators blocking the B.C. Parliament buildings on Tuesday, Feb. 11 and overshadowing the throne speech, which is the annual start of the legislative session. Highway 19 in the Comox Valley was also blockaded in support of the Wet'suwet'en people. On Friday, protestors took to the streets in Victoria to "shut down the B.C. government." A national response also spread, forcing the CN and VIA Rail companies to stop operations due to blockades.

MLA Adam Olsen was at the throne speech on Tuesday. He posted online that the event was "overwhelmed by the well-publicized protests that nearly shut down the British Columbia legislature," adding that "Unfortunately, it appears the BC NDP are still invested in the 1950s 'British Columbia Dream.'"

Olsen addressed the demonstrations during his time to speak during the legislative session. He told the Legislature, "It is important that people understand that what we see across Canada and on the steps of our legislature was neither inevitable nor unavoidable. Every member in this chamber, with the exception of the B.C. Greens and our independent colleague, voted to ignite the tragic situation that we face. They voted for it over and over and over and over and over again — 14 times." He continued, saying that reconciliation is not dead, "because when it dies, our dignity dies with it."

In a press conference held Feb. 12 in response to the blocking of access to the legislature, Premier John Horgan said, "It's unacceptable to me. It's unacceptable [to] the vast majority of British Columbians. Peaceful demonstration is fundamental to our success as a democracy. But to have a group of people say to others you are illegitimate; you are not allowed in here; you are somehow a sellout to the values of Canadians is just plain wrong. I want to underline that."

On the morning of Tuesday, Feb. 18, members of the Extinction Rebellion group blockaded Horgan's home.

Last week's demonstration on Salt Spring lasted roughly an hour and was peaceful with no traffic disruptions. Other speakers included Myna Lee Johnstone, Christine Hunt and Brenda Guiled, among others.

A number of community members expressed their opposition to the protest on the Driftwood's Facebook page, following posting of a preliminary report and photos. A webpage commenter noted: "The pipeline issues have been going on for three years. The democracy has made a decision. Proceed! You may not like it but to resist makes resistance undemocratic!"

## GREEN TRANSPORT

# E-bike charger numbers get a boost

Riders can charge at multiple locations thanks to Island Pathways

BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

E-bike riders can now charge their bikes at various island locations, thanks to the recently completed Island Pathways Electric Bike Charging Outlet Project.

Island Pathways encouraged businesses and organizations to install e-bike charging stations to make it easier for people to leave their cars at home. According to press material, Island Pathways is working to encourage the "electrification" of Salt Spring and to "support lowering our island's greenhouse gas emissions."

CRD director Gary Holman provided the project with a grant-in-aid to help with the installation. Funding also came from the 100+ Women Who Care group, as well as the Salt Spring Seniors Centre.

Outlet locations will be included on the new Island Pathways cycling map of Salt Spring, which is scheduled to come out in June 2020. Eight outlets have been installed, most in the Ganges area. Locations include the power outlet, bike racks and signage. One location doubles as a mobility scooter charging station.

The group plans to install a larger charging station, which would allow for multiple e-bikes to charge at the same time and in the same location.



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# NEWS BRIEFS

## Educator encourages fashion action

Transition Salt Spring is inviting community members to attend a fascinating presentation by Vivienne Challandes on Thursday, Feb. 20 called *My Clothes, My World: How Fashion and the Climate Crisis Are Linked*.

Challandes is an administrator and educator with SD64 who teaches student workshops on the topic. Her presentation will show how the Fashion Takes Action program is taught in local schools and how the program can change students' attitudes regarding fashion and climate. A fun part of the presentation will be hands-on audience participation in one or more activities from the *My Clothes, My World* program.

"Whatever your fashion for the evening, you'll enjoy this exploration into climate/fashion connections," the organizers state.

The event is set for 7 p.m. at the Salt Spring Public Library.

## Climate Action Plan input time offered

Transition Salt Spring's Climate Action Group is overseeing an update of its Climate Action Plan to be completed in May 2020. The updated plan — CAP 2.0 — will present a comprehensive approach for islanders to address the climate emergency with a 10-year strategic action plan.

While the Climate Action Plan is not yet ready for public release, a community meeting being organized by the Community Alliance for Monday, Feb. 24 promises to provide a chance to learn about the major themes and recommendations emerging, and to discuss the best ways to ensure decisive action is taken immediately to address the planetary emergency.

Ideas to be discussed include the quickest path to a 50 per cent reduction in local green house gas production by 2030; how to prepare the community, island ecosystems and islanders for mounting climate risks like forest fire, drought, storms, heavy rainfall, seawater inundation and interrupted transport of essential supplies; and how to best mobilize enough Salt Springers to create a clear mandate from which politicians can act boldly and decisively.

The meeting will takes place at the Lions Hall starting at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

## CHILD CARE

# Early Learning Centre salutes aid

Salt Spring Foundation and other donors fund roof repairs

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A Ganges childcare facility is undergoing an important makeover that will ensure it remains available to island families for many decades to come.

Roof replacement is taking place at Early Learning Centre on Drake Road, which is operated by the Gulf Islands Early Learning Society. The centre has been providing families with play-based learning and care since 1978. Currently it has 16 children registered because of a staffing shortage, but with the recent hiring of a new early childhood educator they will shortly be back up to a full complement of 24. The facility represents around one quarter of all licensed childcare spaces on the island, serving children ages three to five years old.

GIELS was given the opportunity to move to its current location in 2012, when the Drake Road property owners donated most of the value of a century-old character house, plus an additional lot for year-round outside play.

"Unfortunately, the old roof of the centre started to leak two years ago," said GIELS chair Anna Pugh. "It is made of old cedar shakes —

**"We didn't want to take on debt to do it, because that's just so risky for a non-profit daycare."**

ANNA PUGH  
*Chair, Gulf Islands Early Learning Society*

offcuts from an old mill — and the shakes have buckled and warped over time and years of snow and rain."

The roofers estimate the shakes were put on in the 1980s or '90s.

"It was definitely really old, and it had started to leak in a few places, so that's when we became really concerned post-windstorm, mostly. But the shingles were lifting and the amount of decay in them was just too much," Pugh said.

The board of directors chose metal sheeting for the replacement roof, which should be good for the next 45 to 50 years. They were only held up by needing to find the funds — a difficult task.

"We couldn't just dump money into it and we didn't want to take on debt to do it, because that's just so risky for a non-profit daycare," Pugh said. "This fall we were able to get three different grants, so that's got us three-quarters of the way to the cost, which is great."

Though there are many projects with high needs on the island and elsewhere in B.C., this fall the society successfully applied for two grants of \$10,000 each from the Victoria Foundation and the Childcare BC Maintenance Fund. They were able to privately fundraise another \$3,000 from Salt Spring Garbage Services and other private donors, and then were thrilled to find out that they were the recipients of a further \$10,000 from the Salt Spring Foundation.

In addition to being one of the major funders, Salt Spring Foundation has been a key supporter by helping the daycare society modernize its outdated bylaws and providing grant-writing advice.

"We would like to thank the generosity of Salt Springers for continuing to support the Salt Spring Foundation, which really made this project possible. We are still hoping we may be able to obtain additional grants in order to cover the remaining costs, but we are ever so thankful that the worry of further damage from the leaking roof will be over," Pugh said.

Grants come with deadlines for use attached, but since not all the grants share the same timelines this posed another challenge.



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Smythe Roofing employees tackle the Early Learning Centre's main building on Feb. 12. Two outbuildings on the property, including one seen to the left of the house, have already received new metal cladding thanks to a number of different grants.

Smythe Roofing in Victoria came to the rescue because they were able to start the job in the winter. Roof replacement on two outbuildings used for storage started in January before the major rainstorms, and the main building is being completed now that the rainy period is over.

Since the society was not successful getting a BC Gaming grant they had hopes for (and were waiting on word of before starting the project) the last \$10,000 or so for the project still needs to be located. Anyone interested in donating can contact the director at [ssidc@saltspring.com](mailto:ssidc@saltspring.com).

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PHOTO COURTESY MAIRI WELMAN  
**WOBBLY LOAD:** A Seaspan tug tows a chip barge near Russell Island last Wednesday morning. The crew encountered strong tides near Turn Point early in the morning and lost some of the chip cargo into the sea. The Coast Guard said it had been made aware of the incident but was not taking any action as there was no hydrocarbon pollution. There were no injuries or reports of anyone in the water related to the incident.

EDUCATION

# Middle school need questioned

Declining population and program availability could affect configuration

BY MARC KITTINGHAM  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A former school board trustee, teacher and administrator has urged the current board to strongly consider whether or not a separate building for the middle years is needed as the board starts the work of combing through feedback on its reconfiguration process.

Nancy Macdonald was one of the first trustees to start talking about configuration when she noticed a declining population among students in the Gulf Islands. The board of education moved to start the process of thoroughly examining its operations, programs and facilities during their October 2018 meeting, which took place before new trustees were elected to the board the following month.

Macdonald spoke as a delegation during the board meeting held last week. Her discussion centered around the middle school and its future viability. She urged trustees who are part of the reconfiguration committee to look at the school from an objective point of view and ask whether it is fulfilling the role it was originally intended to do.

Macdonald has some history with middle schools. In addition to being principal at Gulf Islands Secondary School and a school superintendent in Saanich, she was a Grade 6-7 teacher and also worked on some middle school accreditations in the past. She believes the Salt Spring Middle School system has not worked as intended.

"I never once in my accreditation program saw a middle school doing what middle schools were intended to [do]," she said. "I say that with trepidation because I was all gangbusters and excited when we opened our middle school. I was a Grade 6 and 7 teacher for a long time. It's a tough level to teach. And yet it wasn't really playing out in the way I thought it would. That's just a fact. It's sort of gave me pause at times to wonder why it wasn't becoming what we originally intended it to be.

"This isn't a criticism of anybody, teacher or system in that way. It's just a grouping that I feel creates other issues that we didn't think would happen when we designed the notion of middle schools," she added. "I understand that the answer could be to do nothing because it's the best way for all of us."

Students numbers are also a factor to consider, she said. Over time, the district has been seeing decreased enrollment numbers, with class sizes currently below the provincial average across all age levels. Macdonald explained that roughly one cohort (of about 30 students) has been dropped from each grade at the high school, which would provide enough room for one additional grade level to

attend GISS.

With fewer students in the halls, the high school is unable to maintain a level of programs that it once did when the population was higher. Lower student populations lead to classes that do not fill, and are dropped from timetables as a result. For example, the English Literature class went unfilled at the end of the 2019 school year, and was subsequently dropped from the schedule for the 2019/2020 year.

"Sometimes we need to make hard decisions and we have to look at all of our programs and say that we can't afford things anymore, we just don't have the numbers," Macdonald said. "I would love to see consolidation of services; more specialists in larger educational environments, more kids, more dynamic environments, more electives in the high school, because they're crashing because there are just not enough kids."

Losing specialized classes can also lead to specialized teachers losing hours and finding work in other areas of the province. Cut teacher hours has also been an issue in the district, particularly with the middle school music program, which also came up at the end of the 2019 school year.

"When I was principal of the secondary school, it was hard to run certain electives because we didn't have the numbers," she said. "We brought in international stu-

dents, and that was fantastic and they filled up lots of our programing, but it worries me that specialists [are spread around] into other schools and other areas because of not having the full programming. I think adding grade 8s would help with that."

Middle years are some of the most interesting and difficult for educators and students, Macdonald explained. The importance and special attention needed for students in these years should still be a priority, but the physical building in which the students are located is not as important.

Approximately 1,440 local students are expected to enroll in Gulf Islands classes next year, which is among some of the lowest rates of the last three decades. Some 65 international students are expected to be in the district next year. Since 1991, student numbers have fluctuated between the low 1500s to the 1800s,

which includes international students and students at campuses out of the district's geographical area.

"Since 1991, we've had two years in the 1,500s, five years in the 1,600s, 14 in the 1,700s, eight years in the 1,800s," said secretary treasurer Jesse Guy. "We're going to hit the 1,500s again. We are definitely into some of our lowest points."

Funding is provided by the provincial government on a per-student basis, and while the funding model is expected to change in March, the district has to operate on the current funding formula until that is announced.

**"Sometimes we need to make hard decisions and we have to look at all of our programs and say that we can't afford things anymore, we just don't have the numbers."**

NANCY MACDONALD  
*Former school board trustee, administrator and teacher*



## RCMP

# Stolen truck found in harbour

Speed contributes to second vehicle call

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring RCMP were called to the Fulford area for two vehicle-related calls last Wednesday that included the discovery of a missing truck in the waters of Fulford Harbour.

The local detachment said police responded to a report of a possible vehicle submerged in the water approximately 200 feet from the roadway near the 400 block of Isabella Point Road. Shortly after receiving the report, there was an additional report of a vehicle being stolen sometime overnight from the same general area.

A community Facebook post that Blaze Fullbrook made last Wednesday morning identified the truck as a 1980s model Toyota Land Cruiser belonging to the family.

Police who visited the scene determined the partially submerged truck was in fact the vehicle that had been reported stolen. Isabella Road was closed to traffic for 30 to 45 minutes while Johnson's Automotive Service's towtruck and operator performed the difficult recovery operation.



PHOTO BY BLAZE FULLBROOK

A Toyota Land Cruiser stolen last week and located in Fulford Harbour once the tide started going out on Feb. 12.

The investigation into the theft is ongoing. Anyone with any information is asked to contact the Salt Spring RCMP or CrimeStoppers.

Shortly after responding to the submerged vehicle, RCMP, along with Salt Spring Fire and BC Ambulance, attended a single-vehicle incident in the 2700 block of Ful-

ford Ganges Rd., near St. Paul's Church.

"Evidence gathered to date indicates that speed was a likely cause of this collision, as the driver appears to have lost control as he rounded a corner," the RCMP report stated. The male driver was uninjured.

## EDUCATION

## System in place for SD64 school closures

Bus for staff to run on Salt Spring during inclement weather

BY MARC KITTINGHAM

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

What happens at schools during days of inclement weather will be more easily understood after the district implements a new procedure introduced at committee meeting day last week.

The procedure clarifies how days of inclement weather are treated at the island level. A new category system will be used where the superintendent of schools can quickly decide how schools respond to bad weather. The four categories will be category 1, where schools are open and buses are running on major routes; category 2, when schools are open without buses; category 3, when schools are closed but with essential staff still working to prepare the school to be open as soon as possible; and category 4, for when all staff and students are asked to stay home. The fourth category will only be used rarely, such as in the case of the 2018 windstorm event.

District secretary treasurer Jesse Guy explained that using categories would clarify what is done at an operations level "so there's less confusion about who is expected at work or what students are supposed to be doing."

The new categories would apply to individual islands and be re-evaluated each day during the weather event.

"I should clarify that it's island specific. We might have that issue on Salt Spring when Saturna has no snow, or maybe Galiano has snow and Pender doesn't," Guy added. "The idea also is day specific. If you have a three-day weather event, each day is looked at differently."

District superintendent Scott Benwell explained that in the case of an individual school being cut off by weather, staff had considered making the policy school-specific, but decided that in that case they would make an appropriate decision at that time.

"This brings greater clarity," Benwell said. "We're trying to find a balance in policy and not 'what-if' everything. If we do encounter a situation like that, then we would make the decision on the fly. This gets us closer to a standardization. We know we're always going to have to make the



FILE PHOTO BY MARC KITTINGHAM

Snow clearing work at the Country Grocer parking lot on Jan. 15, when Gulf Islands schools and many businesses were closed.

one-off decisions given the circumstances."

Discussion around power outages had also taken place, but it was decided that the new procedure would only encompass inclement weather events.

On Salt Spring, teachers will also be able to take a bus to work on days of inclement weather, as the district will provide specific buses for teacher pick-up if they cannot make it to school with their own vehicles. The service will be cost effective if only one teacher uses it, as the district would not have to pay for a replacement teacher, and the CUPE agreement ensures all bus drivers have the same hours regardless of routes.

"If schools are open and driving conditions on getting to work are bad . . . we actually have two bus drivers and two buses that would be in the yard. We're going to run those two buses, one north and one south, and have a staff-only service," Benwell explained. "If the main roads are open and buses are running for kids, we're going to run this for staff."

The bus would run earlier than student buses to ensure teachers are at the school in time to receive the kids. A separate bus also allows for more flexibility since teachers do not necessarily live in the same areas as students, and a fixed route may be more difficult to manage.

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EDITORIAL

Middle ground

E

ducation theories and practices are always evolving, as with any discipline.

School District 64’s configuration review, initiated in the fall of 2018, provides an opportunity to examine the status quo and consider what might be changed in future years.

Whether or not Salt Spring Island Middle School should be maintained in its current state — serving approximately 300 students in grades 6, 7 and 8 — has been a major topic of discussion during the review process.

A significant number of contributions to an online Thought Exchange board, which has been used to gather public input for the configuration review, addressed the middle school, with many of those suggesting it be closed. Anecdotally we’ve heard that some parents have dreaded sending their children to the middle school due to reports of bullying and other harmful behaviours, or reported lack of academic rigour. (Many families have had positive experiences at the school, of course.)

When the new Gulf Islands Secondary School building was opened in 1995 and the former GISS became the middle school, it seemed desirable to use the campus for a new middle years program. At that time, students in Grades 6 and 7 were deemed too old for elementary school, and students in Grade 8 were deemed too young for high school. It was thought that keeping youth of that age together would be beneficial for their social and emotional health. But almost 25 years later, times have changed and so has the thinking.

As a former Grade 6-7 teacher, high school principal and school superintendent who has also done middle years accreditation, Nancy Macdonald pointed out at a school board meeting last week that the promise of middle school helping young adolescents thrive has not been fulfilled as first imagined way back when.

It turns out that other factors may come into play in making a decision about SIMS. In an age of declining student numbers and financial challenges, it only makes sense to seriously consider closing the middle school, adding Grade 8 to GISS and shifting Grades 6 and 7 students to the island’s elementary schools.

THE ISSUE:

SD64 configuration review

WE SAY:

Closing middle school makes sense



Dark underbelly showing

BY CAM ROBINSON

Over the weekend, while enjoying the facilities at Centennial Park with my grandson, I witnessed a man urinating on a police officer’s car as the peacekeeper was engaging a rough-looking crowd drinking in public.

How do I describe my reaction? I leave it to you good citizens to decide. My five-year-old grandson would have the opinion that it was at very least a poor performance. I can draw no conclusion other than it was a symbolic act, an insult to both the constabulary and the community. Another observer remarked to me that our island home will never be the same. I hope not.

I have always believed that how we treat the least fortunate members of our community is a direct reflection of who we are. I am very happy to see my tax dollars support those in need. I am, however, becoming increasingly concerned over the challenge of determining who are the worthy candidates versus those who are opportunists, capable but unmotivated to contribute to the common weal. To me this issue is amplified in an island microcosm, where spaces, housing, human and financial resources are literally finite. As I have witnessed the “dark underbelly” of the homeless population increase, i.e., those who are preying upon our good will, property and quality of life, I recognize that an equal proportion of those most deserving of our support are more likely to be displaced and tarnished by this metastasizing cancer. What to do?

VIEWPOINT

So how do we identify the miscreants from the meritorious in our homeless population?

The homeless question: Is there a solution? The words question and solution have a somewhat sinister ring to them, but cannot be ignored for the sake of propriety. So how do we identify the miscreants from the meritorious in our homeless population? I don’t think it’s as difficult as you might imagine, because as I witnessed at Centennial Park, they seem to identify themselves. The problem I observed in that particular example is that there appeared to be no ticketing, detention or arrest of the individuals acting in contravention of the law. I suspect this is a consequence of an ongoing and overwhelming battle of attrition, as police officers tire of endless paperwork and a revolving door at the courthouse.

There must be consequences for criminal and antisocial behaviour; those who escape them are otherwise emboldened by their experience, and thus we are on a slippery slope in their absence. Here I will assert that prison, though appropriate for many, is an expensive and counterproductive means of rehabilitation for those who require a hand up by means of correction for their desultory citizenship. Let’s not send them to crime school.

Would it be too draconian to suggest repeat offenders be sent to work camps where by their own sweat and toil they may be instilled with a sense of self worth and purpose for their contribution to the common good, as well as the insight that such industry on the “outside” is preferable to the alternative?

THIS WEEK’S POLL QUESTION:

Should SD64 consider closing the middle school?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION:

Do you support the Wet’suwet’en protests?

136 243

YES NO

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Tuesday at noon or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 4:30 p.m.



# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"I never once in my accreditation program saw a middle school doing what middle schools were intended to [do]."**

NANCY MACDONALD, RETIRED EDUCATOR AND TRUSTEE

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *What struck you about the Against the Current exhibit and storytelling event?*

**AMANDA MCQUARRIE**



A lot of it was meaningful, especially the charts with the orcas' family trees. I'm from Halifax so I wasn't aware of it before.

**DAVID BORROWMAN**



I think it's the poignancy and the fragility of the SRKW population. We're really on the brink now.

**SERENA PICCA**



For me, I haven't been exposed to native culture, so it was the storytelling talking about [First Nations] culture and everything attached.

**GIULIO**



The storyteller's message: Don't take too much.

**Yael WAND**



[With the Against the Current show] it's such a variety of people all responding to one thing that's so close to us. That makes it a really accessible and powerful exhibit.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Valid points

Regarding Deborah Nostdal's Education Funds Lacking Viewpoint in last week's paper, Deborah's points are extremely valid.

I would urge parents and all concerned to ask their trustees where they stand on these issues.

Our students deserve better!

**IAN MITCHELL,**  
GULF ISLANDS TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION  
ALTERNATE REP

### Where are the cans?

Regarding the Feb. 12 Vandals Cause Washroom Closure story, I have a couple of ques-

tions for you all.

Why are there 12 garbage cans around the park in the summer time when the tourists are here, but only two garbage cans in the winter for the locals to have access to?

We, the hobos, try our hardest to keep the park clean, but you take away all the garbage cans. Where is it that we are supposed to put garbage in the winter time? We all live here year-round.

I myself have been here over a decade, but by taking away all the garbage cans and complaining about garbage piling up outside the two cans left that cannot hold that much garbage, where do we put the rest of it? Do we leave it spread across the park where it would be if we

Letters to the editor are welcome, but writers are requested to keep their submissions to 350 words or less. Letters may be edited for brevity, legality and taste. Writers are also asked to furnish a telephone number where they may be reached during the day, and to sign their letters with their full name. Thank you letters will not normally be considered for publication. Send your letters to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com)

didn't clean it up ourselves? Where do we put the bags of garbage, CRD?

**ADAM EASTER,**  
SALT SPRING

### No Teck

I am writing to protest the building of Teck Frontier mine, which will go against Canada's current climate targets.

Our world is already experiencing traumatic weather occurrences due to climate change. The establishment of this mine could only make matters worse.

We have only one world to live on and we need to protect it.

**DELAINE FAULKNER,**  
SALT SPRING

### Meatballs

In the Feb. 8 Globe and Mail there is a paragraph that reads: "Last month, Canada played host to a workshop titled: Space Debris and National Security on Salt Spring Island, with funding from the Department of National Defence. Thirty international experts from universities, governments and industry drew up 20 recommendations."

Although the public was unaware of this meeting, a server at Moby's confirmed the delegates dropped in for lunch. I wonder . . . did they all order meatballs they called Sputniks?

**ROGER BRUNT,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 9

## Core issues not being discussed in land dispute

By **MAGGIE ZIEGLER**

The images recently emerging from Wet'suwet'en territory could be from anywhere or anytime in Canada's history.

Unarmed chiefs in colourful regalia on a snow-covered northern road face militarized police. Drawn guns, dogs, handcuffs, surveillance helicopters and heavy machinery pushing its way through. Water is thrown on a ceremonial fire and blood-red dresses, a reminder of the missing and murdered indigenous women, are removed from the bridge railing where they were hung. The long history of colonial dispossession of First Nations land is visible in these images if we choose to look.

And yet the questions formulated by mainstream media too rarely reference history, colonization or justice. How questions are framed and how language is used influence the direction of both public and private discourse. They are not neutral.

As an example, a recent CBC call-in show asked whether callers supported the Wet'suwet'en or if they were worried about the economy. In the apparent irreconcilable dichotomy of this question, the Wet'suwet'en are outliers to progress, stuck on aboriginal title and refusing to see the benefit of a fracked gas pipeline crossing the territory on which they still live and hunt.

"Economy" means the free-market economy, pipelines for bitumen and fracked gas, government subsidies to corporations and the necessity of growth at all costs. During years of discussion with Coastal Gas, the Wet'suwet'en proposed alternative routes, but these were rejected because of technical challenges, the need for more environmental assessments, time delays and cost. One route was deemed to pass too near to non-Indigenous communities. In short, Indigenous concerns were trumped by money and settler community protection.

Another media question about the rights of the bands who have signed agreements with Coastal Gas unfairly polarizes the signed-on bands against those standing in the snow and disappears the limited choices emerging from ongoing dis-

### GUEST COLUMN

empowerment. Some bands chose to join the extractive economy, assuming that saying no wasn't really an option. Why not get something from the inevitable? The benefit agreements offer an easing of the pain on impoverished reserves. That's easy to understand; it's a path to survival.

Others stepped outside the system to protect title and the earth. These Wet'suwet'en chiefs and clans might have made a different choice if government and industry had agreed to an alternate route. If title had been respected, and serious commitments made to land protection and climate targets, rather than being stuck on pipelines and fracked gas. If talk of reconciliation included the question of stolen land. If instead of subsidies to the fossil fuel industry, which then buys consent from the bands, massive investment could build a path forward that benefits the people, the territory and future generations.

Two Wet'suwet'en chiefs have filed a claim in federal court to force action on climate change, because they see global warming as "a threat to their identity, their culture, to their relationship with the land and the life on it, and to their food security." But in divisive public discourse, the relationship between First Nation land defenders and climate is invisible. Recently and repeatedly, the national media has labelled demonstrators "pipeline protestors," erasing the Indigenous nature of this uprising. There's then no room for questions of justice, which require seeing the interwoven web of Indigenous rights, environmental destruction and mainstream economic and political actions. It is only the insistent presence of First Nations demonstrators across the country, speaking of their experiences and demanding that the RCMP leave Wet'suwet'en territory, that is forcing the conversation back to rights and justice.

But aren't the Wet'suwet'en break-

ing the law? Doesn't the RCMP have the right to enforce the injunction? A wider perspective comes from asking why Premier John Horgan repeatedly invokes the B.C. court ruling while ignoring the Supreme Court of Canada's 1997 Delgamuukw decision, which acknowledged that Wet'suwet'en and Gitksan title had never been extinguished. That decision galvanized corporations and governments into brainstorming how to extinguish these rights. FOI documents reveal how, after Delgamuukw, industry lobbied government to use treaties as a doorway to surrender of title and to give them certainty. The documents reveal how provincial government officials considered fighting land rights with legal challenges, ways to curb direct action and litigation, and even floated an idea to use federal money intended for the healing of residential school survivors to make treaty negotiations more attractive (though there's no evidence this happened). Our questions should take us into an exploration about the selective use of Canadian law as well as an understanding of aboriginal law.

Finally, the word "inconvenient" has been taking a lot of airspace, with accompanying questions of how to balance the right to civil disobedience with the inconvenience it causes. This polarization sidelines the question of why people protest: to bring attention to an injustice. First Nations have been "inconvenienced" for centuries; maybe the rest of us should just manage it, allowing for negotiations to lift blockades in situations of serious hardship and emergency.

The Wet'suwet'en are protecting their legal title, their land and the environment (that we all depend on). To move forward together, we need dialogue between people of diverse opinions and backgrounds, but framed in a way that enables discussion of the core issues of colonization, reconciliation and justice. Without this dialogue, we are headed into a future that none of us should want.

*The writer is a Salt Spring resident.*



# Anchored ships prompt air quality concerns

BY PETER OMMUNDSEN

Record numbers of commercial cargo ships recently have been observed anchoring in the southern Gulf Islands, with some 27 ships anchored simultaneously, including 11 anchored around Salt Spring Island. A new report on air quality raises questions regarding this practice.

The Gulf Islands area is used as overflow for ships awaiting loading at terminals in the port of Vancouver, mostly for bulk grain and coal. Ship congestion is caused in part by delays in commodities arriving by train, and adverse weather conditions such as the January rains that postpone grain loading.

There has been a 10-fold increase in ships anchoring in the Gulf Islands over the past decade, despite only a 15 per cent increase in arrivals of bulk freighters at Vancouver. Export of bulk commodities from Vancouver has risen about 50 per cent, with larger ships becoming the norm. How do we explain the progressive increase of anchoring ship numbers in the Gulf Islands? How can bulk freighters now be widespread at anchor in our islands on a regular basis? The argument has been made that logistics at port are outdated and the scheduling of arrivals of incoming ships is inefficient and does not reflect modern methods.

A new report submitted to the Salt Spring Island Climate Action Council reveals that large commercial cargo ships anchored in the Gulf Islands can have a significant but largely unseen impact on our environment. While anchored, ships operate auxiliary diesel engines and boilers to provide energy for crew accommodations, instrumentation, heating, refrigeration, light-



PHOTO COURTESY PETER OMMUNDSEN

Cargo ship anchors off Welbury Bay on Salt Spring Island as it waits for space to pick up cargo at the Port of Vancouver. A report submitted to the Salt Spring Climate Action Council states that emissions from the vessels are negatively impacting local air quality.

ing and other uses. On a daily basis, a single anchored ship may burn two to three tonnes of fuel and emit 10 or more tonnes of carbon dioxide and other pollutants, including sulfur oxides and diesel particulate matter.

Exhaust from anchored ships undermines local clean air initiatives, including efforts at climate change mitigation. For example, carbon dioxide released during one day from a single anchored ship cancels out the greenhouse gas savings of driving an electric rather than gasoline vehicle for five years, or a family of four recycling plastic, glass, newspapers, food cans and magazines for a 10-year period.

Rising emission levels are also a concern for making our local ocean waters more acidic, with detrimental effects on marine life, in addition to stress by underwater noise and effects of anchor chains. The submarine coastal zone surrounding the shallow Ganges terrace on which ships anchor is designated as environmentally sensitive as shown on maps 10 and 20 of the Salt Spring Official Community Plan. The planning objectives for this zone include protection of "tidal waters that surround Salt Spring Island" and protection of "fish and wildlife habitat."

Why are large polluting industrial

ships being sent into an environmentally sensitive island archipelago that is supposedly protected by Section 3 of the Islands Trust Act? Inefficiencies at port causing this excessive demand for anchorages also create economic damage, as Canadian farmers must absorb the cost of tens of millions of dollars in demurrage paid to vessels sitting idle and delayed from loading grain.

Alternatives exist. Not only are upgrades needed for terminals and railway infrastructure, but there is a need for systems to schedule ship arrivals, and better management of limited anchorages at port. Ship congestion can be reduced by "just-in-time arrival" contracts. Adjusted lower speeds of incoming ships can translate into lower fuel consumption per kilometre, reducing air pollution overall, and eliminating the need for Gulf Islands anchorages.

Recent high numbers of anchored ships are a sign that cargo ship presence and pollution among our islands may continue if there is no public input. The Government of Canada Anchorages Initiative program could well designate yet more anchorages among the Gulf Islands.

Concerned citizens may consider contacting the federal ministers of transport, environment, and fisheries to request closure of the Salt Spring anchorages and request government support and oversight in synchronizing ship and commodity scheduling.

Further information, including the air quality report, can be found at [ptis.info](http://ptis.info).

*The writer served on the climate action council and contributed to the 2011 climate action plan.*

## Wet'suwet'en issue: What does reconciliation look like?

BY LESLIE WALLACE

In 1997, the Supreme Court of Canada ruled in *Delgamuukw v British Columbia* (1997) 3 S.C.R. 1010 that the Wet'suwet'en people, as represented by their hereditary leaders, had not given up rights and title to 22,000 square kilometres of northern British Columbia.

Hereditary chiefs of the Wet'suwet'en did not consent to the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline currently under construction in their territory, and yet Coastal GasLink and the RCMP are currently operating within Wet'suwet'en territory, without consultation with or permission of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs. Is this what reconciliation looks like?

Unarmed Wet'suwet'en people, including Chiefs and Elders, have been forcibly removed from Wet'suwet'en lands by heavily armed RCMP officers. Unarmed Wet'suwet'en people have been arrested for peaceable standing and speaking in defence of their legal rights under both Canadian and Wet'suwet'en law.

Premier John Horgan was quoted in mainstream media last year referring to systems of hereditary governance as "emerging," as if these traditional systems of Indigenous governance were something new.

In fact, elected chiefs and councils, which the premier referred to as "traditional," were imposed on Indigenous nations when the Indian Act was proclaimed in 1869. Lawyer and Indig-

enous activist Arthur Manuel (Secwepemc), in *The Reconciliation Manifesto*, says that "Indian Act chiefs are problematic because they receive their power and authority from the Canadian government. So in representing the people, they are, at best, serving two masters who are in direct conflict with one another. And one of these masters, the federal government, pays their salaries and funds virtually all the programs they administer. Indian Act chiefs are further limited because their authority is specific to their reserve — the 0.2 per cent of Canada where the Indian Act devolves them their powers. Indian Act chiefs are very clearly defined in Canada's legal and constitutional framework as being a local delegated authority with the powers to deal with such trivial matters as bees and dogs within the very limited territory of the reserve. How, then, can they suddenly represent nations off the reserve on their peoples' traditional territories, which is clearly outside the purview of the Indian Act that created them?" He goes on to say that "the hereditary chief system avoids many of these pitfalls. Their traditional territories are distributed throughout the national territory, comprising all of the tribal lands. They receive their authority from tribal custom, and not the imposition of the Indian Act on their peoples by a foreign government."

Incomplete information about the history of Indigenous governance

undermines clarity and, thereby, fair practice when it comes to relationships with First Nations. A recent newspaper article reported Coastal GasLink expressing "pride" in having conducted agreements with elected chiefs and councils along the LNG pipeline corridor when, in fact, "Indian Act" chiefs and councils lack the authority to enter into such agreements for the Wet'suwet'en Nation as a whole. That is the prerogative of the Wet'suwet'en hereditary chiefs, as confirmed by Canadian law in *Delgamuukw v British Columbia* (1997) 3 S.C.R. 1010.

**Incomplete information about the history of Indigenous governance undermines clarity and, thereby, fair practice when it comes to relationships with First Nations.**

Reconciliation with the Wet'suwet'en or with any Indigenous Nation will not take place at gunpoint. Dozens of academics and lawyers from across Canada have signed an open letter urging the provincial and federal governments to

meet directly with the Wet'suwet'en Hereditary Chiefs to open a nation-to-nation dialogue in the hopes of peacefully resolving the matter.

The UN Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination called on Canada "... to immediately halt the construction and suspend all permits and approvals for the construction of the Coastal GasLink pipeline in the traditional and unceded lands and territories of the Wet'suwet'en people, until they grant their free, prior and informed consent, following the full and adequate discharge of the duty to consult."

Please join the hundreds of Canadians who care about justice for Indigenous Canadians. Sign the "Canada to respect our Wet'suwet'en hereditary system as the ONLY governance of Wet'suwet'en" petition at: <http://chn9.it/tQN9bJ9fbH>. Actions are taking place around the world in support of the Wet'suwet'en and meaningful reconciliation,

"There is room on this land for all of us, and there must also be, after centuries of struggle, room for justice for Indigenous peoples. That is all we ask. And we will settle for nothing less." Arthur Manuel, *Unsettling Canada*, page 12.

To find out more, go to <https://www.facebook.com/events/221856442184296/>

*Leslie Wallace is a writer-researcher-activist living on Salt Spring Island.*





## Roses

• A big heartfelt bouquet of musical notes to community members and businesses that contributed to our GISS Music fundraisers for our talented music students heading to Cuba in March. Thank you for your

generosity and your support of our musical youth.

• The Salt Spring Island Foundation gratefully sends bouquets of roses to all of the generous donors who supported our 2019 annual appeal. Over the past 35

years the foundation has granted over \$3.3 million to our local charities, largely thanks to those who share our vision of a healthy and caring community. Together, we will continue to work to make Salt Spring Island an even better place to live.

• I am sending bouquets to Christie Doyle of Haywards Funeral Service for providing us with the warmth and kindness that gave us time to say goodbye to our dear friend Ann Richardson over the long weekend. Rosamund Dupuy

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 7

## Campaigner advocates for free contraception program

Prescription contraception is expensive.

An intrauterine device can cost between \$75 and \$380, pills as much as \$20 per month, and hormone injections \$180 per year. These costs make contraception difficult or even impossible to access, particularly for young people and those with low incomes.

I have often heard about the challenges that people from all walks of life face when trying to access contraception in B.C. Students deciding between paying their rent or paying for their prescription. Young people facing a loss of privacy and potentially safety if they use their parents' health plans for contraception. Or people in abusive relationships who are discreetly trying to protect themselves from unwanted pregnancy.

When cost is a barrier, people turn to less reliable methods, with predictable, life-changing, and expensive results. Unplanned pregnancies can derail life plans, are at higher risks for negative health impacts for the mother and infant, and come with high personal and societal costs.

A program for universal no-cost prescription contraception is not only good for individuals; it would actually save the government money. A 2010 Options for Sexual Health study estimated that such a program would save the province more than \$90 million annually because the cost of providing prescription contraception is considerably lower than the costs associated with unintended pregnancy.

Such programs also increase equality. While free condoms are readily available, the high costs of prescription contraception fall disproportionately on women and people with uteruses, as do the costs of unplanned pregnancy.

It's time for B.C. to tear down barriers to contraception. I encourage people to write a letter to their MLA and ask them to support universal no-cost prescription contraception.

**TEALE PHELPS BONDAROFF,**  
CHAIR AND CO-FOUNDER,  
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# AGRICULTURE

## FARMING PRACTICES

# Local growers share strategies for adapting

Integrated uses and water storage help close system

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Three expert panelists convened at the Farmers' Institute on Feb. 9 for a talk about climate-conscious approaches to

farming on Salt Spring Island and in the Cowichan Valley.

"Since the last Area Farm Plan, climate has become a much more important factor to take under consideration," explained moderator Anne Macey. "Lots of people are already doing work with regenerative farming, so we thought we'd take a look at what is happening."

Panelists included DeLisa Lewis on integrating livestock with mixed vegetables systems at Green Fire Farm, Megan McEachern on diversifying the landscape at Stowel Lake Farm and Bastien Simoneau, who spoke about his regenerative practices in the Burgoyne Valley.

Recommendations from the 2008 Area Farm Plan for building resiliency are in fact guiding some of McEachern's decisions at Stowel Lake Farm, where she has been working for the past five years and managing production for three years. The 110-acre farm includes around 10 acres of cultivated area protected by deer fencing, as well as residences, a retreat business, wet areas, orchards and forest.

Some of the farm plan recommendations they are implementing are creating a root cellar on a north-facing slope for the passive cooling of farm-stand vegetables and winter storage; employing water catchment at an outdoor vegetable washing station to re-use for irrigation and fire fighting; and reducing their off-island inputs by using compost teas and biochar for soil improvement.

"These are some things we're experimenting with and I really just wanted to highlight them so we can start really talking about what's working and what's not," McEachern said. "I'm new to this

game, but I really believe what we're doing is going to create some amazing change on this scale of agriculture."

All three panelists are working to reduce the need to rely on imported operational items like compost, to supply their own food needs from their farms, and in two cases, to make a living by supplying food to others. A question from the audience about what items the panelists had to bring in from elsewhere yielded a variety of responses.

Lewis was lead instructor for the UBC Farm Practicum in Sustainable Agriculture from 2011-2014. Her teaching, research and consulting focus is on soil nutrient management, farm planning and new farmer training. Since completing her PhD she's gone back to full-time farming with a new place in the Cowichan Valley.

"Some of the first things that we brought in were weaner piglets as part of building the system," Lewis said. "In 2014 we didn't have a pond; we didn't have enough water to raise vegetables."

Lewis and her partner introduced the piglets as part of building their integrated system, which would eventually include grass-fed Angus cattle, vegetables and flowers after they achieved farm status and could dig a pond.



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In photo left to right: Bev Cartwright (WI), Connie Cudrak (WI), Margaret Reid (WI), Kerry Lee (FI) and Marguerite Lee (FI)

**SALT SPRING FARMERS' INSTITUTE**  
*Celebrates 125th Anniversary (1895-2020)*

**SALT SPRING WOMEN'S INSTITUTE**  
*Celebrates 100th Anniversary (1920-2020)*

In 1937 the BC Farmers' and Women's Institutes were given, by the Department of Agriculture, "Coronation Oak", or "Royal Oak" but more correctly "British Oak" seedlings to promote the ascension to the Throne and Coronation of King George VI and Queen Elizabeth. Three came to Salt Spring Island; two still stand; one in front of Salt Spring Elementary which is a designated heritage tree and one of two planted in front of the Anglican church, now Star of the Sea, in the Burgoyne Valley. British oaks can live for over 1,000 years and are considered a symbol of great strength and endurance. The oak tree planted today in the Farmers' Institute orchard is from one of these original trees found in Slocan, BC and is to honour the 125th anniversary of the Farmers' Institute and the 100th anniversary of the SS Women's Institute.





# to climate change with Seedy weekend panel



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO BY MARC KITTERINGHAM  
Bastien Simoneau looks over one of the ponds he has dug as part of his regenerative farming project in the Burgoyne Valley, which he discussed during a Feb. 9 panel event.

Soil improvers such as lime and fish bone meal come from Vancouver Island sources. Lewis named seed, plastic irrigation infrastructure and seed trays as some of the farm's most critical imports. Using plastic water storage tanks also helps the farm to reduce its reliance on mechanized tillage for an energy-saving, climate-positive outcome.

Simoneau has transformed his dry Burgoyne Valley fields into a productive space

with both cultivated and natural areas. He has dug multiple ponds, some of which are left open to local wildlife, and constructed swales to keep water active in the landscape. Another strategy that all three panelists agreed on is to have crops planted closely together and to use cover such as clover on open areas not needed for planting.

"My goal is to make sure it's full," Simoneau said of the landscape, noting his ponds are surrounded by plants and trees. "Because if the sun doesn't hit the soil, the soil doesn't dessicate, and if the soil doesn't dessicate the microbiology is always rich. And you lose less water throughout the year if the soil is always covered."

Livestock manure from their on-site animals is a good way to put nutrients back into the soil. Simoneau keeps some sheep, whose waste does not require composting before it can go on the fields.

"A big thing for us has been trying to figure out how to incorporate animals into our system," McEachern said during her presentation. "I think the key is listening to our landscape and realizing if we want to harvest lettuce in March through November, we don't have time for a cow and it's going to cause so much damage to our fields."

Stowel Lake Farm does keep some chick-

ens and alpacas, and has experimented with raising rabbits for meat in the past.

Having a wide variety of plants to grow is another way of building local resilience, while growing more specifically to meet local market needs is a strategy for keeping a tighter loop between producer and buyer.

At Stowel Lake Farm, much of the production is aimed at their farm store, where

80 per cent of their produce is sold. The production team is also pursuing partnerships such as one they have with the Mateada lounge, which uses lots of herbs for its tea blends.


"That's been a neat little niche, realizing there's a lot of businesses on Salt Spring that are buying things off-site, so [thinking about] how we can start using these things," McEachern said.

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT



**CELEBRATING THE 60<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALT SPRING ISLAND PUBLIC LIBRARY!**

**1960 - 2020**

**Saturday, February 22, 10am - 1pm**  
**'Sixty Years of Reading' Children's Tile Making Workshop**  
for 8 to 10 yr. olds. Limited spaces – register at 10am. Lunch provided.

**Saturday, February 22, 12-1pm**  
**Drop in Drawing Contest**  
of your favourite reading place. Win a chance to design a tile for the library display.

**Saturday, February 22 • 2-4pm**  
**Teen Movie Matinee: X-Men: First Class**  
Free movie & pizza for teens.

**Saturday, February 22 • 7-10pm**  
**Library 60th Anniversary Gala**  
Dance in the main library with Doug & the Thugs. Free refreshments, cash bar. Dress 60s style! Suggested \$10 donation.

**EVENTS AT SALT SPRING LIBRARY**

## ART REVIEW

# Against the Current honours orca

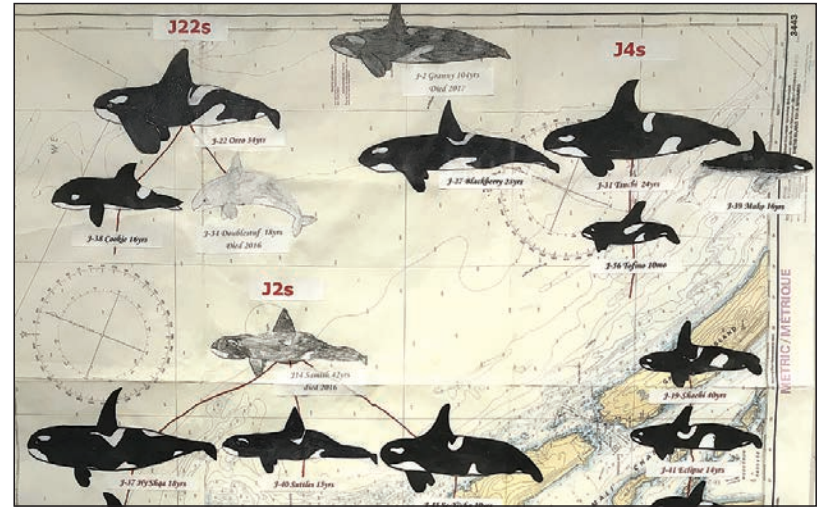


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Left: Tsuchi and Tofino sculpture by Paul Burke with whale bones and Superpod by Natasha Van Netten visible in the background, part of the Against the Current show at Mahon Hall. Right: Part of a family tree for J pod created by Fulford Elementary students with Jane MacKenzie and Karin Beviere.

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## Showing at Mahon Hall through Sunday

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

If anyone was in need further convincing that killer whales are an impressive species and local orcas need immediate help if they are to survive, the multi-media show underway at Mahon Hall leaves absolutely no doubt.

Against the Current: Orca + Salmon is a moving homage to the southern resident killer whale population, whose three member pods combined are down to just 73 animals. While the Salt Spring Arts Council show celebrates the orca for its many interesting attributes — the importance of community and family, its communication abilities, its sheer size — this is no gushing tribute to a favourite charismatic mammal. It is a sombre and thoughtful exhibition that mixes scientific material with artistic expression, and a powerful statement about what we stand to lose if we continue to fail this population.

Serious art pieces by some of the region's most accomplished creators stand beside more whimsical, but no less committed, contributions by local children. These include a stream of brightly coloured salmon that swim across an entire wall, with students and gallery visitors working on stencils created by Coast Salish artist and educator Quentin Harris. Glazed ceramic whale tails created by Salt Spring Centre School students under the guidance of Tracy Harrison are another lovely addition.

But perhaps most moving are the family trees for J, K and L pods made from individual whale drawings collaged onto nautical charts. The project made by show curator Jane MacKenzie with Karin Beviere and Fulford Elementary students gives the viewer an instant understanding of each pod group, its family branches and members shown with their different sizes and ages. These family trees bring home how few of the whales there

actually are, and with ghosted versions of the recently deceased, their vulnerability is magnified.

This project also includes the scientific names and the nicknames for each individual, a motif that is repeated throughout the show. This action means something more than anthropomorphizing. Award-winning author Mark Leiren-Young has argued we should know the SRKW by the adoption names given to them by The Whale Museum, as this creates an invitation to care.

"Jane Goodall changed the world by naming the animals she studied," he observes.

Marine environment activist Alexandra Morton, as quoted in exhibition materials, meanwhile warns, "If we lose the southern residents, it will be the first extinction where every individual's name was known."

Artists who have employed naming in their work include Anna Gustafson, who has several different groupings of work in the show. In one area, Ghost Nets are filled with plastic litter shrouded in raw linen. They hang from the ceiling and cast their shadows on encaustic works of swimming fish. Another installation features a series of translucent panels painted with the ghostly shadow of a huge orca passing through fish. The names of all the SKRW are inscribed in flowing script across the panels like rippling waves, shining with natural backlighting from the nearby window.

Paul Burke is another artist to demonstrate the importance of naming. An impressive sculptural work on the stage in painted wood shows just the backs and dorsal fins of a mother whale and calf, as if they are skimming along the surface of the water. The pair is identified as Tsuchi and Tofino.

A different installation features orca cutouts made by Burke and their names on sign posts, which have been carried by islanders at a variety of protests, including Orca Soundings events. This immersive art/activism project pairs human champions with



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

You Are What You Throw Away, a mixed-media installation that includes beach garbage, made by Tracy Harrison.

individual SRKW members by their names.

Superpod is an installation by Natasha Van Netten with delicate twisted wire sculptures representing each of the 73 remaining whales. Separated from the pod group is an individual identified as L-41 or Mega, an important breeding male who was missing and presumed dead as of January 2020. On the opposite side, a single baby calf made from 14K gold fill wire represents the shining hope of a new birth.

Also moving are pieces like Tracy Harrison's Splash, a mixed-media piece that includes a newspaper story from 2008 warning the SRKWs were likely starving to death, and a print by WSANEC artist Charles Elliott that depicts man apologizing to the orca, with a promise to try to do better in the future.

The kid-friendly exhibition includes majestic orca bone and teeth specimens and documentary footage running in the rear room.

The show continues to Sunday, Feb. 23. See ssartscouncil.com for details about adult and family art workshops happening at the hall this weekend.



## CONCERT

## Diouf at ArtSpring



PHOTO COURTESY ARTSPRING

Juno and Félix award-winning performer Élage Diouf.

## Élage's live performances considered special events

The ArtSpring Presents season continues with a performance by Élage Diouf from Montreal on Friday, Feb. 21.

Master percussionist, Senegalese-born singer-songwriter and performer Diouf moved to Canada in 1996 to pursue a musical career that continues to grow and flourish today. A renowned star in his native Senegal, he officially made a name for himself in Canada in 2010 with his first solo album, Aksil ("welcome" in wolof). The album received numerous accolades, including a Juno and a Félix award, both for best world music album. Diouf is also known for innumerable collaborations with a range of artists and companies, including a role as a featured performer in the world tour of Cirque de Soleil's Delirium in over 200 shows around the world.

"My music is for the whole world to enjoy," he says in press material. "It touches the heart, whatever the

language. With upbeat songs that combine many cultures' influences, sounds that are warm, with good dancing rhythms, sounds that make you want to move and feel great. This is what I want for myself, my family, my planet."

According to an ArtSpring press release, his music — a blend of folk, pop, world, blues and asiko — thrives at an artistic crossroads well-travelled by renowned artists like Carlinhos Brown, Peter Gabriel and Andres Cepeda. The musicality of the wolof language explains his choice to sing mainly in his mother tongue.

"His live performances are special events thanks to his knack for inciting public participation: dancing, singing, and inviting folks up on stage to dance with him. The warmth and quality of Diouf's voice, his uniquely diverse sound and his irresistible rhythms ensure he never has to ask twice."

The music begins at 7:30 p.m.

Also taking place on Friday is the opening of Birgit Freybe Bateman's exhibit called Mindful Vision in the gallery from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m.

## Our Library in Poetic Life

*Editor's note: Part of the Salt Spring Public Library's 60th anniversary celebrations included a poetry contest with submissions invited on the topic of loving one's library. The following is one of the shortlisted entries, with others to be published as space permits.*

*The overall contest winner will be announced this Saturday, Feb. 22 at the library's anniversary gala and dance, which begins at 7 p.m. See the What's On calendar on page 14 for details of all anniversary events taking place this week.*

The Library's Gift  
By Dimitri Georges

I sat in the old library,  
A pile of books on the hard wood table.  
It must be antique, I thought, all of it.  
The copper finished corners of the massive desk  
resembled nothing of their old splendor.

I had chosen several books, somewhat randomly,  
as my mind wandered endlessly through  
the silent corridors of colossal shelves.  
The dust, asleep on the ancient volumes,  
made for a beautiful winter coat;  
Covers turning into jolly sheep, as  
Time danced through the halls of the Library.

Lights were dim, and  
Silence reigned like a great king  
sitting proud on his golden throne,  
As he observed the trembling flutters antediluvian tomes.  
Shadows playing hide and seek like chaotic youth  
Little daemons of mythic stories.

I must have been alone except for the ghosts  
who made this place their home.  
Still the space was echoing with my thoughts,  
each alive in its own right, each with  
a voice louder than the other.  
Memories rushed my delicate skull,  
bouncing like rubber balls on concrete walls.

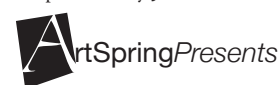
I remembered times past, when as a young  
innocent moppet, I pranced and danced  
spreading Love and Joy, a honeybee in disguise  
On a mission given by Lords hidden in star-filled skies.

How did it all get so complicated?  
No books found hidden in the dark caves  
of old crones, taught that life is to be  
a tangled mess, a knotted wool ball  
after fierce battles with a Nip drunk kitty.

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**TUESDAY**  
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355 Blackburn Road

**WEDNESDAY**  
All levels  
9:00am – 10:30am  
Gatehouse, Stowel Lake Farm  
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**THURSDAY**  
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# what's on this week



**What's On - the go!**  
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**Wed. Feb. 19**

## ACTIVITIES

**CIBC Ganges 50th Anniversary Celebration.**  
At the Ganges CIBC branch. 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

## Human Beings and Their Microbes.

Presentation by Dr. Claire Cupples at Salt Spring Seniors. 2 p.m.

## Yoga Nidra — A Meditation on Deep Rest.

Guided visualization meditation, led by Celeste Mallett Jason at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. Participation is by donation and registration is not required.

## Insight/Mindfulness Meditation.

A guided session of meditation in the Buddhist tradition by Heather Martin at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice. 7 to 8:30 p.m.

## Music Bingo.

Every Wednesday with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.

**Best of the Fests: If You Could Read My Mind.**  
Salt Spring Film Festival presentation of a film about legendary Canadian performer Gordon Lightfoot. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.



**Thu. Feb. 20**

## ACTIVITIES

**Open Mic & Jam.**  
Thursdays at the Legion. 7 to 9 p.m.

## My Clothes, My World: How Fashion and the Climate Crisis Are Linked.

Transition Salt Spring hosts SD64 administrator/educator Vivienne Challandes for a presentation on the Fashion Takes Action program, which changes the lives and attitudes of students regarding fashion and climate. Salt Spring Public Library. 7 p.m.

**Fri. Feb. 21**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

## ArtSpring Presents Élage Diouf.

Sensational Sengalese-Canadian soul rocker performs at ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.

## The Regulars.

At the Legion. 7:30 p.m.

**Morien Jones Trio.**  
Folk rock band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.



## ACTIVITIES

## ASK Salt Spring: Neighbours Helping Neighbours Find Answers.

Volunteers listen to and address community concerns from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at the Thrifty Florist Shop (upper level). Islands trustee Laura Patrick joins in starting at 11 a.m.

**Fri. Feb. 21**

## ACTIVITIES

**Opening Reception: Birgit Freybe Bateman.**  
Opening reception for Bateman's photo show Mindful Vision, which will be seen for the first time since being at the Russian Museum. ArtSpring. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Show continues from Feb. 24 to March 8.



**Sat. Feb. 22**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

## Library 60th Anniversary Gala.

Dance in the main library with Doug & the Thugs. 7 to 10 p.m. Free refreshments, cash bar. Dress '60s style! By donation.

**Mark Crissinger Band.**  
At the Legion. 8 p.m.

**Ryder Bachman Band.**  
Rock band at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

**Sixty Years of Reading Tile-Making Workshop.**  
Workshop will see kids create a permanent installation of tiles for the library. SS Public Library Program Room. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. To pre-register, call 250-537-4666, or email info@saltspringlibrary.com

## Drop-in Drawing Contest.

Draw your favourite reading place and win a chance to design a tile for the library display. Salt Spring Public Library. 12 to 1 p.m.

**Sat. Feb. 22**

## ACTIVITIES

## Workshop: Mixed-media Accordion Book.

As part of the Against the Current: Orca + Salmon exhibit at Mahon Hall, Joyce Majiski, SSAC Artist in Residence for 2020, offers a two-day workshop on making a mixed-media accordion book for ages 16 and up. 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Info/registration at ssartscouncil.com.

## Willow Sculpture Family Workshop.

Learn to make a 3D structure from willow, then weave in beach-combed plastics. Willow salmon created will be displayed in the gallery. A free family drop-in workshop for ages six and up. Mahon Hall. 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Free. RSVP at wor@ssartscouncil.com or 250-537-0899.

## Teen Movie Matinee — X-Men: First Class.

Free movie + pizza for teens. Salt Spring Public Library Program Room. 2 to 4 p.m.

## Salt Spring Forum: Bill Rees.

UBC professor emeritus Bill Rees is the forum's guest, speaking on From 'Eco Footprint' to 'Ecological Overshoot' -- What Chance a Sustainable Planet? ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.



**Sun. Feb. 23**

## ACTIVITIES

## Ometepe Celebration.

Featuring Ometepe-themed dishes, an Ometepe honey-tasting bar and coffee cupping, art, music, poetry, door prizes and more. El Loco Taco. 3 to 7 p.m. Learn about Salt Spring's 30-year sister island in Nicaragua where Ometepe Coffee comes from.

## Workshop: Mixed-media Accordion Book.

See Saturday's listing.

**Mon. Feb. 24**

## ACTIVITIES

## SSI Transportation Commission Meeting.

Public welcome to observe regular business meeting. Salt Spring Public Library. 3 to 5 p.m.

## Community Alliance Meeting: Climate Action Plan.

Meeting topic is the updated Salt Spring Climate Action Plan being overseen by Transition Salt Spring's Climate Action Group. Lions Hall. 7 to 9 p.m.



Crowd at the Feb. 14 opening of the Thrust exhibit at the Salt Spring Gallery. The show continues to March 18.

**Mon. Feb. 24**

## ACTIVITIES

## Sacred Song Circle.

Led by Barb Slater and Kevin Wilkie at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m.

## SSI Fire Protection District.

Board of trustees meeting. Ganges Fire Hall. 7 p.m.

**Tue. Feb. 25**

## ACTIVITIES

## Trivia Tuesday.

Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.

**Wed. Feb. 26**

## LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

**Open Mic at the Mateada.** At the Mateada lounge. 7 to 10 p.m.

## ACTIVITIES

## Salt Spring Garden Club.

Gary Lewis from Phoenix Perennials in Richmond will speak on Hellebores: Jewels of the Winter and Spring Garden. Meaden Hall. Meeting opens at 6:30 p.m. for the parlour show, followed by the presentation.

**Wed. Feb. 26**

## ACTIVITIES

## Mental Health & The Road Not Taken.

Naturopathic Physician Rigobert Kefferputz gives a free presentation on mental health-related topics, including the polyvagal theory and how the autonomic nervous system acts as the foundation of all our experiences; the reasons that we call our guts the second brain and the importance of healthy digestion; the connection between hormones, stress and neurotransmitters (brain chemicals) and more. Lions Hall. 5:45 p.m.

## Yoga Nidra — A Meditation on Deep Rest.

See last Wednesday's listing.

## Insight/Mindfulness Meditation.

See last Wednesday's listing.

## Music Bingo.

See last Wednesday's listing.

IF YOU HAVE AN EVENT FOR THE EVENTS CALENDAR EMAIL:  
**news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com**

## THE FRITZ CINEMA

• **Little Women** shows Friday, Feb. 21 to Tuesday, Feb. 25 at 7 p.m. each night plus a Sunday matinee at 3 p.m. Little Women draws on the novel and writings of Louisa May Alcott, as Jo March reflects on her fictional life. Rated G. 135 minutes.

• **For more movie info, visit The Fritz website at www.thefritz.ca.**

## EXHIBITIONS

• **Birgit Freybe Bateman** shows the **Mindful Vision** exhibition of photographs at the **ArtSpring gallery** beginning with an opening reception on Friday, Feb. 21 from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. and continuing to March 8.

• **Against the Current: Orca and Salmon Exhibit** runs at

**Mahon Hall** through Sunday, Feb. 23, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, plus associated events run on several days.

• **Thrust: A Visual Celebration of Human Sexuality** by multiple artists runs at the **Salt Spring Gallery** until March 18.

• **Brushstrokes & Bookshelves**, a juried exhibition of work in celebration of the **Salt Spring Public Library's 60th anniversary**, is in the library program room for the months of February and March.

• **Looking Up** - a joint show of **Bill Underwood's** photographs and **Suzanne Prendergast's** art is in the ArtSpring lobby until Feb. 28.

• **The Group of Six Photographers** — **Simon Henson, Larry Citra, Bruce McPhee, Kahsia Hartwell, Ross McLeod and Judy McPhee** — exhibit at **Fernwood Road Cafe** through mid March.

## 21st Annual Salt Spring Film Festival

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# ISLAND LIFE

- Where is This?
- Star of the Week
- Remember When

## DOCUMENTARY CINEMA

# Visiting filmmakers welcomed

Salt Spring Film Festival kicks off with Feb. 28 gala

BY STEVE MARTINDALE

SS FILM FESTIVAL SOCIETY

Filmmakers from across the country will be in attendance to present their documentaries at the Salt Spring Film Festival from Feb. 28 to March 1.

Toronto-based filmmaking team Patricia Marcoccia and Maziar Ghaderi will be here to present their controversial film *The Rise of Jordan Peterson*, about the divisive University of Toronto psychology professor who provoked a firestorm of backlash with a series of YouTube videos decrying political correctness, particularly concerning the use of preferred personal pronouns. Marcoccia and Ghaderi will also be discussing the polarizing effects of the digital age in a State of the Arts workshop at the Salt Spring Library on Feb. 28, moderated by local filmmaker Ian MacKenzie.

National Film Board producer Selwyn Jacob will be returning to Salt Spring to present two films: Baljit Sangra's harrowing *Because We Are Girls*, about three Indo-Canadian sisters seeking justice for the childhood sexual abuse they endured; and Haida filmmaker Christopher Auchter's *Now Is the Time (Waaydanaa)* — recently featured at the Sundance Film Festival — which celebrates the 50th anniversary of master carver Robert Davidson creating the first totem pole raised in almost a century in Old Massett.

Also returning to the festival are Leigh DaSilva and Marianne D'Souza, family members of filmmaker Jason DaSilva, whose earlier film *When I Walk*, about his struggles with muscular sclerosis, screened here in 2014. The sequel to that film, *When We Walk* — which Leigh produced and in which Marianne appears — follows Jason as he valiantly treks back and forth between New York and Texas in order to continue co-parenting his son with his recently estranged ex-wife.

Emmy Award-winning journalist Fred Peabody, formerly with the acclaimed CBC investigative program *The Fifth Estate*, will be here to present his provocative documentary *The Corporate Coup d'État*, exploring the impact of failed neoliberal policies which have brought economic ruin to vast swaths of the United States.

Anyone who attended November's screening of *nipawis-tamâsowin: We Will Stand Up* at ArtSpring will remember Victoria-based Indigenous scholar Nikki Sanchez, who



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING FILM FESTIVAL

Patricia Marcoccia and Maziar Ghaderi will be in attendance at the Salt Spring Film Festival this weekend to discuss their film *The Rise of Jordan Peterson*.

interviewed filmmaker Tasha Hubbard onstage. Sanchez has been invited back to present two powerful documentaries at the festival: Sophie and Clément Guerra's *The Condor & The Eagle*, on the resistance of Indigenous activists throughout the Americas to the violence and environmental destruction of the fossil fuel industry; and Kim O'Bomsawin's *Quiet Killing*, on the shameful Canadian epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous women.

Salt Spring's own Briony Penn is featured along with local MP and former Green Party leader Elizabeth May in Peter Smoczynski's *E-Day Canada: When Voter Suppression Came Calling*, an exposé on underhanded and under-investigated election tampering, in which automated phone calls — or "robocalls" — were used to mislead and annoy voters. An award-winning author and educator, Penn will be on hand to present the film along with audio engineer Frank Antonsen, visiting from Sooke.

The Salt Spring Film Festival runs next weekend at Gulf Islands Secondary School. Festival passes can be purchased either at the door or in advance from the ArtSpring box office.

## GARDEN CLUB

# Hellebores in spotlight

Phoenix Perennials' Gary Lewis gives Feb. 26 presentation

Gary Lewis from Phoenix Perennials in Richmond is the Salt Spring Garden Club's first meeting guest of 2020.

He will speak on Hellebores: *Jewels of the Winter* and *Spring Garden* on Wednesday, Feb. 26 at Meaden Hall.

Lewis holds a Master of Science degree in Plant Ecology and has an extensive knowledge of horticulture. He is the vice president of Planta - The Plantlife Conservation Society, an organization that works to conserve plants and their habitats in Cuba and other tropical regions. He is on the advisory committee for E-Flora BC,

an online atlas of B.C. native plants. For several years, Lewis was the Canada region director for the Perennial Plant Association and presently he serves on the Perennial and Bulb Selection Committee for the Miller Botanical Garden in Seattle.

Lewis is a regular guest on CTV Morning Live, City TV's Breakfast Television and Gardening 101 with Jeff de Jong on CFAX AM 1070 radio, and has also appeared on CBC radio shows. He writes for various gardening magazines and is presently writing *The Timber Press Encyclopedia of Groundcovers*.

Members and non-members are welcome to the meeting, which opens at 6:30 p.m. for the parlour show, followed by the presentation.

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## Remember WHEN

### Five years ago

• Road repairs were underway for the second time in as many years on North Beach Road. The Pineapple Express storm that hit the West Coast during the first week in February produced a washout near the Hudson Point boat launch, which was just up the road from a similar washout the year before. Another factor making the repairs more complex was the road cut through an ancient aboriginal site. Shell midden could be clearly seen at the edges of neighbouring properties and a consulting archeologist had been on site, along with Harold Joe, a representative of the Cowichan Tribes.

### Ten years ago

• A 2.9 magnitude earthquake off the southern coast of Vancouver Island was strong enough to leave an impression on at least one Salt Spring resident in the wee hours of Saturday morning. "It sounded like a tree falling down and the window rattled," said Dan Dickmeyer of Roland Road. John Cassidy, a seismologist and research scientist at Sidney's Pacific Geosciences Centre, said the quake took place 46 kilometres below the earth's surface and lasted only a few seconds.

### Twenty years ago

• At a time when B.C. real estate was considered a cautious play, at best, Bryce Chapman was betting the other way. Chapman announced he had purchased the entire 589-hectare (1,472-acre) Channel Ridge development and said industry naysayers had got the timing wrong about coastal land. "I think it will be 18 to 24 months before there is a turnaround (in B.C.) — for political reasons — but within five to seven years there will be a wave of Baby Boomer retirees here like you've never seen."

### Thirty years ago

• After 14 years of discussions, the Islands Trust and the Ministry of Highways were close to an agreement on road standards for the islands. The ministry had insisted province-wide standards be applied to island roads. The Trust maintained that to preserve and protect the rural nature of the islands, lesser standards should be applied. Salt Spring trustee John Stepaniuk said he wanted to avoid "super highways going nowhere," but added, "We might not be as different as we'd like to be from a small town on Vancouver Island."

### Forty years ago

• An 80-year-old Mayne Island man was found sitting alone in the woods on a Monday morning almost 16 hours after he went missing from the acute care ward of Lady Minto Hospital. Patients saw the man, who was wearing one slipper and a set of street clothes, leave the hospital through a fire exit at 6:30 on Sunday evening. It wasn't until 10:30 the next morning that John Bennett was found near Upper Ganges and Churchill roads.

### Fifty years ago

• Mouat's scored another first. The Salt Spring merchandizing company was the first island company to institute its own credit card system. Credit customers were encouraged to use the credit cards in an effort to simplify the keeping of accounts. Cards were white with the name of the company printed in green.



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## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Business Opportunities

### JOSEPH "JOEE" VICTOR (BROWN) FELLNER

May 26, 1981 - January 17, 2020



Joe Fellner, 38, passed unexpectedly in Mill Bay, BC. He was born, in Edmonton, Alberta. He leaves behind good friends, family & beloved children in London, ON, Milestone, SK & Victoria / Salt Spring Island, BC.

Joe was extremely talented at anything he put his mind to. He worked as a grain elevator operator for many years, did roofing & handyman jobs, worked in the serving industry for over 20 years, and enjoyed various sales jobs through the years, where he excelled. Joe had an infectious personality that affected anyone who met him. Joe liked to make an impression, whether it be by looking his best, rolling up his sleeves to show off his tattoos, playing loud music and driving fast cars or driving cars fast. Joe always had music playing, whether it be from the ear buds around his neck, resident stereo system or car stereo. Joe loved feeling alive and he was good at loving the people around him, unconditionally.

Joe will be greatly missed by his close friends and family on Salt Spring Island and in Victoria, BC. He spent the first 6 months of 2019 on Salt Spring, where he made many good friends and became part of their families. With a quick smile, an easy laugh & large hazel eyes, Joe was a charismatic & charming character. He leaves behind the many supporters & friends in the recovery community of Salt Spring, Monty, Darren & Addie Potvin - Wesley, David Phillips, Deb Osmanich & Letitia Lane of Salt Spring Island.

The last 6 months of Joe's life, he spent with Claire Sarginson & her son Ari Sigvaldason of Victoria, BC. Joe was excited about this new chapter of his life, worked hard, and enjoyed a quiet many months before his passing. Joe will be remembered for his love of animals & children and being a highly intelligent, fun, generous, loyal, enthusiastic, determined, quick-witted, inspiring & loving man.

A Celebration of Life will be held at 2pm February 22, at All Saints by-the-Sea, Anglican Parish on Salt Spring Island - Priest Gyllian Davies will officiate.

Contributions in memory of Joe Fellner, may be made to the AA Community of Salt Spring Island, BC.

### ANTHONY C.J. DESBOTTES

Nov. 18, 1964 - Feb. 10, 2020



Tony died at the Lady Minto Hospital after a long battle with cancer.


Pat & Nigel Desbottes would like to thank Doctor Kalf, Doctor Beaver and the nurses and staff who looked after Tony during his short stays in the hospital.

He returned to Saltspring seeking peace and quiet. We thank the generosity of Nancy & Jim Macleod for letting Tony enjoy the quiet of their waterfront home on the ocean.

Tony will be greatly missed by his loving wife Gaby and daughters, Shannen & Fiona who live in Hillsburgh Ontario, and his parents Pat & Nigel and sister Sandra and her husband Marc.


## In Memoriam

## Information

 Salt Spring Hospice

**Salt Spring Hospice Society**  
**AGM on Wed, March 25**  
**6:30-8:30pm**  
**@ Seniors Centre**  
To vote at AGM, members must pay dues by March 11 (2 weeks prior, as per Bylaws)

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*Words are few,  
thoughts are deep.  
Memories of you  
we will always keep.*

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

### SHARON HAWKE

July 3, 1954 - February 14, 2020



Sharon always wanted to be a farmer. One of five daughters born to Reginald and Hellen Hawke in Sweetsburg, Quebec, she grew up in Ontario. After earning a degree in Agriculture from the University of Guelph, she went prospecting in the Yukon where she met Gene Drzymala, the man with whom she would spend the rest of her life.

Together, they built a love-filled life of their own choosing for 40 happy years on 10 acres near Fulford Harbour.

Sharon's legendary volunteer efforts supported the good work of Salt Spring Island Women's Institute, Island Comfort Quilts, Burgoyne United Church Women, Salt Spring Island United Church, Saltspring Island Sailing Club, and more.

Sharon is survived by her husband Gene, sisters Heather (Doug), Bettyann (Steve), Darlene, and Linda (Jim); nephew Mitchell; Gene's three children whom Sharon treated as her own - Mitchell (Carrie), Julie (Cindy), and Suzanne (John); grandchildren Lydia, Hannah, Merlin, Bowen, Harper, Riley, Cash, Sephira; and great-grandchild Norah.

A celebration of Sharon's life will be held at Salt Spring Island United Church, Saturday February 22 at 1:30 pm. A tribute page for Sharon has been set up at [www.earthsoption.com](http://www.earthsoption.com).

The family suggests that donations in lieu of flowers be directed to Burgoyne United Church, C/O Salt Spring Island United Church.

### MADALEINE PATRICIA JORDAN

April 13, 1937 - January 17, 2020



Madaleine Patricia Jordan passed peacefully on January 17th, 2020 in Victoria, surrounded by loving family. Madaleine suffered a long battle with Alzheimer's and spent her last years under the wonderful care of the Oak Bay Lodge staff in Victoria.

Madaleine was born in Springfield, Massachusetts on April 13th, 1937. Within her life, Madaleine went to secretarial school, lived in New York City, engaged in major social and political movements, and took a once in a lifetime backpacking trip around the world. She became a nurse, lived on both of Canada's coasts and eventually made a home living close to family on Salt Spring Island. Salt Spring provided friendships and a real sense of community while being close to nature.

Madaleine will be greatly missed by: her daughter Beth (nee Macdonald) and her husband Colin Drummond, her sister Susan (nee Jordan) and her husband Doug Chaffee, and her step sister Marsha Francis. Her granddaughters and their partners: Katie (nee Proctor) and Sam Hannah; Meghan Proctor and Kaimon Grasky; Camille Drummond and Megan Henshaw; Rachel Drummond and Corey Francis; and great granddaughters Lucy and Emme Hannah. Nephew Craig and Marybeth Chaffee, grand nephews Ben, Jack and grand niece Sara Chaffee. Niece Danielle Barger, grand nieces Delaney, Teah and grand nephew Dylan Barger.

A special thank you to the Salt Spring community who embraced Madaleine when she moved here to join our family in 2003. From Pioneer Village, to the amazing AA group who was very dear to her, and the wonderful folks at Braehaven and Oak Bay Lodge- you have all played a very special part in Madaleine's final years.

A funeral mass will be held at 10:30 am on February 29th on Salt Spring Island at St. Paul's Catholic Church, followed by a celebration of life/reception at 12:30 pm at the Hart Bradley Hall. Her many friends and associates are welcome to attend.

In lieu of flowers, the family suggests donations in Madaleine's name to Salt Spring SPCA.

  
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### Dominica Sweet (nee Konken)

OCTOBER 1969 - JANUARY 2020



It is with great sadness that we inform you of the passing of Dominica Sweet (Konken). For many years she journeyed courageously and gracefully with Hodgkin's Lymphoma. She was a source of light, joy and compassion, and lived her life fully until her passing on January 30th, with her family at her side.

Dom is survived by her husband, Derek; children Jackson (Tianna), Harrison; parents Frank and Ruby Konken; siblings, Stefanie (Peter) Zaytsoff, Frank (Brenda) Konken, Jamie (pre-deceased Anita) Konken; father-in-law, Norman (pre-deceased Maida) Sweet; sisters-in-law, Laurie (Bobby) Sweet, Allison Sweet, Cindy (Bryan) Shier; her cats, Betty and Veronica; and dog, Roxy. Dom will be lovingly remembered and deeply missed by family, friends and relatives.

Dominica was a Halloween baby, born on October 31, 1969 in Grand Forks, B.C. to proud parents, Frank and Ruby Konken. Dominica lived in the community she loved through graduation from Grand Forks Secondary School after which her path continued in Victoria B.C.

Dom's career began in '94 after attaining her B.Sc at UVIC and RT certification at SAIT. Her entire career as a Respiratory Therapist was spent at the Royal Jubilee and Vic General Hospitals, until illness forced her to focus her energy on health.

Dom first met her soul-mate Derek Sweet in 1995 and they were married a year later in Victoria where they resided for a number of years before choosing to move to Saltspring Island. There Dom embraced the community and it embraced her, with open arms. Not long after, in 2000, Dom's and Derek's first son Jackson was born, followed by Harrison, two years later. Her two sons were always at the centre of Dom's heart; she often volunteered to help in school events and fundraisers, and could always be found in the bleachers at any of their sporting endeavors. Dom's other passion was fitness and seeking natural alternatives in health as well as encouraging others on their own journeys. As a result, she founded Dom's Deodorant, which became a way for her to help others attain their natural health goals. There are so many fond memories of various celebrations, parties and gatherings with friends, family and co-workers during their many years together, memories that will always be cherished.

A graveside memorial service will be held at Sion Cemetery in Grand Forks, BC on February 29 at 12:00, followed by a luncheon at the Grand Forks USCC Community Centre. A celebration of life will be held on Saltspring Island, BC at the Community Gospel Church on March 7 at 14:00.

Sincere appreciation to all those who have relayed kindness and support in so many ways.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Dom's memory may be made to Hodgkins Lymphoma Society of Canada at [www.lymphoma.ca/lymphoma/hodgkin-lymphoma](http://www.lymphoma.ca/lymphoma/hodgkin-lymphoma).

Condolences may be offered to the family at [www.mccallgardens.com](http://www.mccallgardens.com).



McCall Gardens of Victoria, BC



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Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

**Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)**  
Pisces time often comes with the urge to retreat or escape for a while for you. This stands to be especially true this year. However, other factors suggest just the opposite. At worst, this can produce something of an inner conflict within you. Positively, you will be able to strike the balance and be both industrious and take sufficient time out.

**Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)**  
Sweet dreams are made from influences such as these. All on their own, dreams can be worthwhile. They may lean in the direction of very real goals or be relegated eventually to the fantasy file. All of the above are fine because having a dream at all is... well, dreamy. Yet, your earthy nature is probably not so inclined to such whimsical attitudes. If not, get going!

**Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)**  
For you, dreams and realities share a very close relationship. It may be that you see that reality is something of a dream and that making dreams a reality is what keeps things interesting. The twist in the plot of dreams is the imagination factor involved. As wonderful and powerful as imagination is, it can be your worst enemy when it over-functions...

**Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)** Some cycles leave us feeling a little lost, or like we have entered a thick fog. This stands to be one of those. If so, it will begin to clear in about a couple of weeks. So, perhaps rather than try to forge ahead, focus on completing existing projects. Another good idea includes focusing to strengthen existing relationships that really matter.

**Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)**  
You have entered a deep and transformational phase. It will likely continue until Spring Equinox. Your best response is to cooperate and focus on some form and measure of transformation. This can occur by changing your diet or loosening rigid self-concepts or breaking free of habitual pattern or opening your mind to powerful new ideas.

**Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 22)**  
Engaging with significant others in creative expressions and projects is now in focus. Yet, there is a complex woven within this plot and it includes your willingness to give according to what is fair. As much as you may want to, you may have a hard time yielding your creative license and authority. Aim for the middle ground where you both give and receive.

**Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)**  
Your health is a main focus now. Keeping it simple, take a closer look and see if you need to make any adjustments or changes altogether. For the sake of harmony on relationship fronts, either you or a close family member may need to dig-in deeper than previously. In some respects, you or they may have to go hard.

**Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)**  
You have entered a creative, if complex, cycle. The complexity includes Mercury retrograde. A part of the challenge is to speak your truth and avoid saying what you think others want to hear. Positively, your energy levels are running high. You are willing to give more, but you are also determined to get your fair share in return.

**Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)**  
Go big at home! There is no or in this statement. Sometimes the best way to go out is to go in. This may include going within for the real mystics and deep divers. Yet, the focus may be as simple as going into your home office or get into whatever excites you now or what you feel you must or should... do. Maybe you should read a good book or some other delectable dalliance.

**Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)**  
At rarer intervals along the way something happens without or lights go on within activating new perspectives and realizations. Such moments could manifest as rude awakenings as well as grand epiphanies. How you respond to either is the other part of the equation. Keeping it short, work to realize that life is happening for and not to you.

**Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)**  
The Sun in Pisces and especially with Mercury there too and retrograde will serve to ignite your focus to realize your dreams. These may be practical objectives; however, larger cycles underway in your life do not support attachment to material possessions. You are learning that you truly are a spiritual being having human experiences.

**Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)**  
Mercury retrograde in one's own sign can actually prove to sharpen our focus. This may not be entirely true for Pisces, though. It could be a good time to gather new ideas and inspirations too, but acting on them with deliberate determination is more likely when the Sun enters Aries and especially after the New Moon in late March.

**TIP OF THE WEEK:** Pisces time has begun (Feb 18, 11:57 PM EST) with Mercury Retrograde. Neptune is there too. The next New Moon occurs at 4 Pisces 28 on February 23rd. The most mystical sign of the Zodiac, the sign of the disembodied soul in its sojourn between lives, suggests why Pisces is so often misunderstood. Ironically, understanding is what Pisces wants most. Materialistic paradigms cannot compute the sublime mystery of the 12th Sign, symbolic of the profound perspectives the subconscious mind merits. As it is, many have come to assume that our subconscious exists somewhere in the brain. This is like saying the internet exists somewhere in the computer processor. The mysticism of Pisces refers to the realities of no divisions and of non-separation. Pisces is the sign of the state of communion one experiences via deep meditation, sacred rituals and mind-altering substances that intercept one's usual modes of perception. Reality without Pisces would be like life without a soul or imagination.

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Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District invites qualified individuals to apply for the position of Finance/Human Resources Specialist. The Finance & Human Resources Specialist reports directly to the Chief Administrative Officer and supports the Salt Spring Island Fire Rescue in the performance and delivery of a variety of duties categorized by financial, human resources and administration.

The work is comprised of supervisory support functions and of a confidential nature concerning staff, policy, personnel and budget matters. This position exercises a high degree of independent judgement and initiative in processing assignments. Policy or financial related matters or unusual circumstances are referred to the Chief Administrative Officer and/or the Fire Chief.

**We are looking for someone who has:**

- Ability to provide efficient confidential administrative support to CAO and Fire Chief
- Ability to lead, mentor, delegate, coordinate and schedule the work of support staff.
- Ability to prepare clear written materials
- Ability to prepare complex financial spreadsheets
- Effective oral communication skills, including probing and active listening.
- Ability to take initiative and exercise independent thought and good judgement within the scope of the position's responsibilities.
- Ability to investigate, research, evaluate and develop solutions within District guidelines
- Strong organizational skills and ability to adapt to a dynamic and diverse environment and retain focus on priorities and deadlines, adapting to changing priorities, as required.
- Works well under pressure; deals with stressful situations with professionalism.
- Ability to work effectively as part of a team and motivate one's self to work under minimal supervision
- Ability to process payroll, administer employee benefits programs, prepare financial reports, assist with the preparation of budgets, assist with audit preparation, maintain tangible capital asset management files, submit required legislative reports

**Position Requirements:**

B.A. in Financial Administration, Business Administration and/or Human Resources supplemented by accounting courses and/or at least second year CGA or CMA, or an equivalent combination of education and experience. Minimum 3 years' experience with full-cycle Canadian payroll administration with an extensive knowledge of payroll and accounting principles. Minimum 5 years' experience with general ledger, budgets, accounts payable and receivables. Thorough knowledge of legislation affecting the work (e.g. Employment Standards, CRA, WorkSafeBC, Municipal Pensions, Local Government Act etc.) Knowledge of PSAB standards and Tangible Capital Asset Management Planning are an asset.

Interested individuals are asked to submit a cover letter, resume, proof of education, and references in confidence to the undersigned. A job description is available upon request, as well as is the opportunity to discuss this position with the CAO prior to the posting deadline. The successful candidate can expect a competitive compensation package, the opportunity to work with a professional management team, dedicated employees, and the lifestyle of a lovely small community in BC.

**Applications will be accepted until Friday, February 21, 2020 at 4:00 pm.** We thank all applicants for expressing an interest; however, only those being considered for interview will be contacted.

Laurie Taylor, CAO  
Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District  
105 Lower Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island BC V8K 2T1  
Phone 250-537-2531  
Email ltaylor@saltspringfire.com

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS

Ometepe event set for Sunday

El Loco Taco the spot for Nicaraguan celebration

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

A co-founder of the Ometepe Gulf Islands Friendship Association is hosting a celebration of all things Ometepe at El Loco Taco this Sunday, Feb. 23.

Set for 3 to 7 p.m., the event will feature a honey-tasting bar, coffee cupping, art, displays, music, poetry and door prizes, as well as Nicaraguan-themed dishes.

Ron Pither, a well-known Gulf Islands farmer, was recently on Ometepe Island in Nicaragua, where he was brought up to date on the challenges faced by farmers there: primarily the advent of the coffee rust disease, which has devastated the crops in some parts of the island, but also the loss of lucrative plantain crops due to Hurricane

Nate in 2017 and the impacts of political unrest, including a drop in income from tourism.

Pither returned from his trip with several samples of honey from Nicaraguan beehives and other sharable goods.

Nedjo Rogers is the current OGIFA president. OGIFA is not organizing Sunday's event, but is supportive of Pither's contribution to increasing the profile of OGIFA, Ometepe Coffee and the sister island relationship between Salt Spring and Ometepe.

Both Pither and Rogers would like to see the next generation of islanders, and especially local farmers, connect with the farmers in Ometepe.

"The current interest is to do some outreach in the farming community here," explained Rogers.

Ideally that would see exchanges between Salt Spring and Ometepe farmers for the purposes of sharing

knowledge and experiences.

"That's what farmers do," said Pither. "We share over the fence and are collegial, as much as possible."

OGIFA has also contributed to the hiring of an agronomist to provide advice to the farmers' co-ops there, with diversification of crops being one of the prime recommendations.

OGIFA always welcomes more volunteers to do from one to four shifts per summer brewing and selling coffee at the Saturday market and at community events like the fall fair and the Salt Spring Film Festival. Other volunteer opportunities include grinding and bagging coffee at "the can," the converted shipping container in Ganges where OGIFA processes its coffee.

Anyone interested in finding out how to get involved can contact Marlene Rice, OGIFA membership coordinator, at mricessi@icloud.com.

Where is it?



**WHERE IS THIS FOUND ON SALT SPRING?**

Email your answer to [news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com](mailto:news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com) or look for the photo on our Facebook page.


**Last Week's Answer:**

Rosamund Dupuy was the first person to recognize the Grad 75 graffiti as being on the Core Inn building now under renovation.

SALT SPRING

Star

of the WEEK



**Rhonan Heitzmann**

As a key member of Salt Spring Solutions, Rhonan is passionate about increasing the amount of affordable housing on Salt Spring. Rhonan spent his formative years on the island as a youth and returned as an adult to contribute to the community.



# MONEY MATTERS

THIRD IN A FOUR-PART SERIES

## BUSINESS

# Cost Plus pricing has clear benefits

## Credit card rates explained

BY MARC WEBER

SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

Credit card processing rates are dropping significantly for restaurants and retail this spring, but will you see the savings?

Merchants on transparent Cost Plus pricing — where interchange fees are passed through directly and you pay a single fixed markup — will automatically benefit from the VISA and Mastercard card-present rate reductions coming in April and May.

As your rates are tied to cost (interchange), the savings are straight into your pocket.

But for the many merchants whose rates are still tied to a teaser base rate (otherwise called a “credit rate,” “discount rate” or “qualified rate”), what will happen instead is your processor’s profit margin will see a healthy increase.

Let’s look at a slightly over-simplified example.

Say you are a restaurant with a current “discount rate” of 1.50 per cent. When you accept a basic Mastercard today, it has an interchange rate of 1.30 per cent.

Your processor is making 0.20 per cent on that transaction, plus whatever other markups they have worked into your agreement.

But as of this spring, that particular Mastercard will have an interchange rate of just 0.87 per cent, an unprecedented reduction of almost half a per cent. If you aren’t on Cost Plus pricing, your rates continue to be anchored by the 1.50 per cent “discount rate” and your processor triples their profit on that transaction.

So, while you might not see your rates increase this spring, they effectively will if you aren’t on Cost Plus pricing.

The good news is that our industry’s Code of Conduct allows merchants to get out of contracts penalty free for 90 days after a processor fails to pass along an interchange decrease in full. It is viewed the same as a rate increase.

Make sure your next agreement is a Cost Plus agreement. For transparency, simplicity and savings, it is always in your long-term best interest.

For more straight talk on payment processing, visit [marcweber.ca](http://marcweber.ca).

## MONEY & RELATIONSHIPS

# Talking about money is sexy

## Ways to ensure finances don’t ruin your relationship

Financial health — or rather, the lack of it — can be a romance killer. Financial issues are among the biggest reasons why couples split up. In fact, it’s been estimated that money problems are the prime cause of 90 per cent of divorces.

So, if you’re entering a relationship, already in one, or newly married, how do you talk about what could be the biggest elephant in your emotional room: your personal finances as they are now and as you want them to be through your life together?

The experts tell us that communication, building trust and honesty are vital keys to healthy relationships. And that’s why talking about money is sexy, because it’s a very good way to be open and honest with your partner while taking necessary positive steps for building your relationship and a solid financial future together. Here are some tips for successfully integrating your financial lives fairly and in ways that match your shared lifestyle.

- Never keep big or small financial secrets! Each of you should disclose assets, financial commitments (such as loans) and credit history. Full disclosure is a must because if you’re considering sharing a credit card or applying for a loan together, your partner’s bad credit history could lead to some unpleasant surprises.
- Recognize your

differences. You may be a saver; your partner may be a spender. Create a financial framework and budget that suits both of you.

- Decide if it’s best to maintain separate bank accounts, credit cards and investments or to merge some or all of these financial items to eliminate duplication and enhance financial benefits. (For example, by pooling your investments you may enjoy a more robust portfolio.) Make your decisions with a clear understanding of tax and legal implications.

- Decide who will manage day-to-day finances — paying the bills and so on — and who will manage your overall financial affairs. If one or both of you brought personal assets into the relationship — a car or home, for example — should you keep them or sell them?

- Have a frank discussion about how you are going to achieve your financial goals such as buying a home or starting a family. Talk about your finances and financial goals regularly.

- A marriage contract or prenuptial agreement isn’t the most romantic notion. But they’re especially impor-

tant if you want to exclude certain assets from an equalization of family property upon relationship breakdown, like a business or family cottage, or to protect assets for children from a prior relationship. Don’t wait for irreconcilable differences to arise before speaking with a family lawyer.

- Plan to save on taxes. Although couples must file separate individual tax returns, there are many tax-planning strategies that can reduce your total tax bill now and in the future. Take advantage of all your deductions and income-splitting opportunities including, where appropriate, pension income-splitting and/or spousal Registered Retirement Savings Plans (spousal RRSPs), both of which can deliver tax savings.

- Arrange life, disability and other insurance coverage to ensure each of you is protected if one partner becomes disabled or dies.

Yes, talking about money is sexy and necessary for the good health of your relationship and financial future together. Your professional advisor can help you build the right financial plan for your shared future.

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## The numbers don’t lie

*It pays big dividends to have a reliable accountant*

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# MONEY MATTERS

THIRD IN A FOUR-PART SERIES

## RETIREMENT

# Magic number needed for retirement planning

Poll indicates people not saving as much money as they need to

A recent Scotiabank Retirement Survey revealed that while 68 per cent of Canadians are currently saving for retirement, 70 per cent are worried that they are not saving enough.

According to the findings, the average Canadian expects to need \$697,000 in retirement savings, less than the average amount of \$753,000 expected back in 2017.

Findings from the 2019 Scotiabank Investment Poll also suggest that retirement planning has taken a back seat due to more immediate financial priorities. Only 23 per cent of Canadians considered saving for retirement a top priority, down nine points from 2017. As well, 66 per cent of Canadians are concerned that they have underestimated how much money they will need in retirement and nearly half (47 per cent) are concerned they will need to rely on family for financial assistance.

"We're encouraged to see that 68 per cent of Canadians are currently saving for their retirement, but it's clear from the results of our survey that they don't know whether they're saving enough," said D'Arcy McDonald, SVP, Retail Deposits, Investments, and Payments for Scotiabank. "As we approach the RRSP contribution deadline, we encour-

age all Canadians, whether you have a high-performing portfolio or are setting up your first RRSP, to connect with a financial advisor who can help chart a path to reach your retirement goals."

Of the 32 per cent of Canadians who are currently not saving for retirement, almost half (45 per cent) are between the ages of 18 and 35.

McDonald added, "We know that younger people have different priorities at this time in their lives as they strive to get momentum in their careers, pay down student loans, and save for their first homes. The best advice we can give young Canadians is to start saving early for retirement. Even if it's not much, a small amount that's made through an automatic contribution is a great way to establish habits that will pay off in the long term as a critical part of your financial plan."

Half of the Canadians saving for retirement have not visited a financial advisor in the last 12 months (50 per cent) and 39 per cent don't think they have enough money for a professional advisor to be interested in helping them.



### SCOTIABANK'S THREE TIPS FOR RETIREMENT PLANNING:

#### 1. KNOW YOUR NUMBER: HOW MUCH SHOULD YOU SAVE?

Many financial advisors suggest that \$1 million might be the threshold for a safe and secure retirement, significantly more than the roughly \$700,000 the average Canadian thinks they need to save for retirement. According to the 2019 Scotiabank Investment Poll, 58 per cent of Canadians expect their retirement income to come from government pension programs, 47 per cent to come from personal savings in RRSP/RRIF, 37 per cent from personal savings help outside RRSP/RRIF and 34 per cent from personal employer sponsored pension plans.

While there's no hard number for retirement savings — so much will depend on

your individual spending habits and lifestyle goals — now is the time to assess what you've saved so far and how much you'll have by the time you retire at your current contribution rate.

#### 2. THE OTHER MAGIC NUMBER: HOW MUCH WILL I SPEND?

Many retirement experts suggest that prospective retirees should expect to spend about 70 to 80 per cent of their pre-retirement budget. If you're like most Canadians and haven't been in the habit of keeping a budget, take some time to review your current expenses. Factor in all your fixed costs (rent or mortgage, utilities etc.) and then review your credit card records and bank statements to track your discretionary spending.

The nice thing about tracking your expenses is that you'll probably identify key areas where you can eliminate spending and ultimately put away more money for retirement.

#### 3. VISIT A FINANCIAL ADVISOR

One common misconception among Canadians is that they require a minimum amount of money saved before meeting with a financial advisor. Not true. Anyone can meet with a Scotiabank advisor and receive advice from a trusted expert.

The recent Scotiabank Financial Worry poll illustrated that lack of knowledge (47 per cent) and time constraints (31 per cent) are part of what is holding Canadians back from making decisions that could change their financial future. Utilize the expertise of your financial advisor to increase your financial literacy, create a long-term financial plan, and to gain piece of mind.

## RRSP or TFSA

### Which one is best for you?

Choosing the right registered savings plan, or combination of plans, depends on your financial situation and goals.

**Both RRSPs and TFSAs are tax-efficient ways to save for your retirement and other goals. But, there are some important differences:**

**Tax Deductibility** – RRSP contributions are tax deductible and can help lower your taxable income for the year in which you make the contribution.<sup>1</sup> TFSA contributions on the other hand, are not tax-deductible but any amount contributed, as well as any investment returns earned, is generally tax-free.

**Contribution Room** – RRSP contribution room depends on earned income, while TFSA contribution room does not. The TFSA contribution limit is \$6,000 in 2020 for Canadians aged 18 and older.<sup>2</sup>

RRSPs and TFSAs each have their merits, but to maximize their effectiveness, your personal circumstances and goals must be considered.

**Withdrawals** – While both RRSPs and TFSAs allow you to carry forward unused contribution room, if you withdraw funds from your RRSP, you will lose the contribution room forever. With TFSAs, any withdrawals will be added back to your unused contribution room in the following year.

**Maximum Age** – While RRSPs must be converted to income in the year that you turn 71, TFSAs can continue indefinitely to house new deposits and grow your savings, tax-free.



Let me help you make the decision that's right for you.



#### Brian Young, PFP

Investment Specialist  
and Financial Planner

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#### Did you know?

March 2, 2020 is the RRSP contribution deadline for the 2019 tax year.

**Scotiabank**

<sup>1</sup> Everyone's tax situation is different. Speak to a qualified tax advisor to discuss your personal situation. Your allowable RRSP contribution room is reported on your Notice of Assessment from CRA.

<sup>2</sup> If you have never contributed to a TFSA, \$69,500 is the limit for an individual in 2020. Contact the Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) to confirm the amount of contribution room available to you.

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# SPORTS + RECREATION

**D.W. Salty** is looking for material for his column, **Streets of Salt Spring Island**

If you have information on any of our streets, please contact us at: 250-537-9933 or [dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com](mailto:dwsalty@driftwoodgimedia.com)



## YOUTH SOCCER

# U15s win season's cup



PHOTO COURTESY SS UNITED

Salt Spring United U15 girls silver team get focused during half-time in 5-1 victory.

## Next challenge the district cup in April

The Salt Spring United girls U15 silver soccer team ended their regular season by winning the Tim Satterford Cup.

Salt Spring beat the Peninsula Turnbull team 5-1 on Feb. 8.

Team manager Cheryl Roehlig said the girls "played beautifully both defensively — holding their opponents to only one goal — and offensively, scoring five goals against a pretty formidable defence."

Up 3-0 at the half, the girls bound together at half-time as a team, determined to secure the win for themselves and to bring the trophy back to Salt Spring.

"Each and every player on this team

contributed to this win," said coach Chris Jason. "They should be enormously proud of the way they played out there."

Team members are Asia Stevenson, Nina DeRoo, Mia Kerrigan, Emilie Bevan, Maggie Nephtali, Quinn Nickels, Patricia Griffiths, Yuli Roehlig, Ana Sophia Marshall, McKenna Jason, India Hayden, Miranda Bantel, Sonya Richardson and Olive Goddard.

The Tim Satterford Cup competition is facilitated by the Lower Island Soccer Association. It is a single elimination competition that starts in October for teams in their respective leagues and plays out during the first half of the season. The Salt Spring girls U15 silver team will also compete in the district cup, which takes place in April.

## SWIMMING

# Davison holds swimathon as Heart and Stroke fundraiser

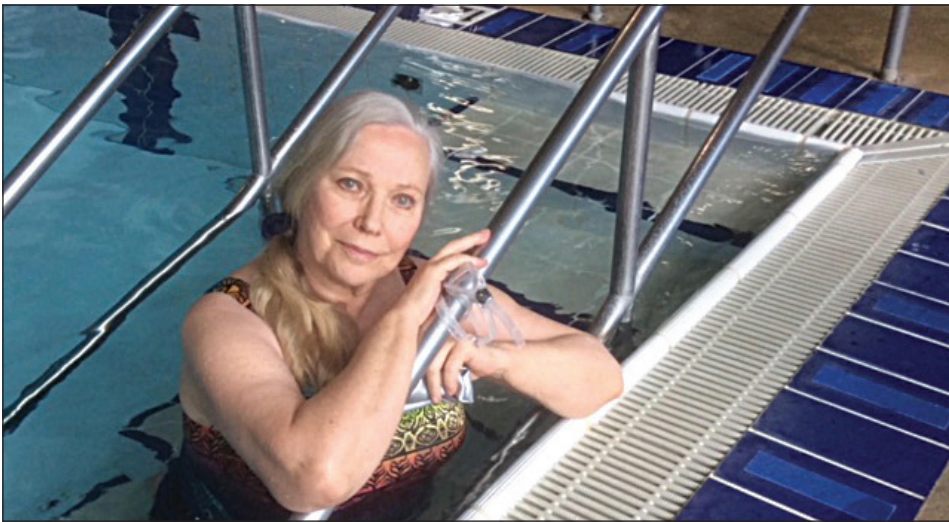


PHOTO COURTESY HELANI DAVISON

Long-distance swimmer Helani Davison, 76, at the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre. Davison will do laps continuously for five hours on March 5 and raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation by collecting pledges for her efforts.

## Swimming Mindfully event takes place March 5

*Island resident Helani Davison is undertaking a swimathon at the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre to raise funds for the Heart and Stroke Foundation. Dubbed Swimming Mindfully, it runs from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Thursday, March 5. Davison will swim as many lengths as she can doing the front crawl non-stop. Pledges for her efforts can be made at [support.heartandstroke.ca/goto/helani](http://support.heartandstroke.ca/goto/helani) or people can contact Heart and Stroke directly through Zoey Wells: 250-410-8095 or [zoey.wells@heartandstroke.ca](mailto:zoey.wells@heartandstroke.ca).*

### BY HELANI DAVISON

#### SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

I am 76 years old and I am a long-distance swimmer.

I have always been a water baby, but I didn't start to take swimming seriously as a form of exercise until I was in my 40s. Even then, it was an on-again-off-again activity for years. Then in my 70s, swimming became a passion. Without any real effort on my part, I gradually started swimming longer and longer distances.

When the Heart and Stroke Foundation fundraiser was announced for 2020, my daughter encouraged me to enter a swimathon for pledges and to put my love of swimming to good use. Inspiring people to pursue good health while raising awareness of the benefits of swimming seemed like a good idea.

Swimming is a great all-round exercise that activates the entire body: cardiovascular components, stretching, lung expansion and muscle toning. Repetitive swimming motions also keep the joints lubricated, which is particularly important as we age. For me, swimming has been especially beneficial for my arthritis, diabetic foot neuropathy, and mild-to-moderate COPD lung disease. I discovered that I am more comfortable in the water than on land. In the water, I don't feel any pain, so I can exert myself more.

I actually think of long-distance swim-

ming as more of a mental feat than a physical one. It's mind over matter — a deep meditative practice often referred to as water yoga. I begin each swim with an intention to be fully present in the water. I avoid lapsing into autopilot. I am very aware of my thinking processes as I swim and focus on training my mind. This is the ultimate stripped-down moving meditation, which has proven more effective for me than sitting meditation. The discipline of mind training while swimming is a practice that I can transfer to other areas of my life. With regular practice I become calmer and less reactive.

Speed is of no real importance to me. I am more adept at distance and keeping a steady pace. After swimming 60 lengths some time ago, I decided to try for 100 and found I could achieve this with ease. From there, I have kept adding more lengths. So far the farthest I have swum is five miles, which is 320 lengths of front crawl, non-stop. It took me 4.5 hours to do this.

The first 30 to 40 lengths require that I get my mind and body aligned and set into the right gear. Repetitive counting of lengths keeps me on track. The sunlight streaming into the bottom of the pool delights me. I entertain myself by blowing bubbles out my nose and watching them surround me. It's like doing a graceful water ballet. At this point, swimming has become deeply intimate. All sights and sounds of the world are blocked out and I am alone with myself.

My swimming gives me confidence in myself. It reminds me that if I set my mind to something, I can accomplish it by keeping my thoughts on success. And I hope that I can be an inspiration to others, especially seniors. I don't know from one day to the next what I will accomplish in my exercise routine, but I remind myself of my motto, "just trying is winning."

I am happy to draw attention to the Heart and Stroke Foundation and to raise funds for it through pledges. Your pledge of \$5, \$10, \$20 or more per mile will support my swimathon on Thursday, March 5, beginning at 8 a.m.

**Jim Pattison**  
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