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Mar. 11, 2020

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Issue 11

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

**MOMENT OF LEVITY:** Enjoying a laugh during the discussion following the screening of *The Gender Lady: The Fabulous Dr. May Cohen* on Sunday night are panellists, from left, midwife and researcher Sharyn Carroll, registered nurse Jenny Redpath and Dr. Hannah Webb, ND. The event was co-sponsored by Islanders Working Against Violence and SWOVA Community Development and Research Society to mark International Women's Day.

## INFRASTRUCTURE

# Safety enters harbour walk talk

Committee discusses design options

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Ganges Harbour Walk Steering Committee is looking forward to potential next steps while still waiting to hear if a right-of-way application is successful or not.

Speaking during a meeting held Monday morning, committee member Peter Grove asked that Ganges safety concerns be added to the agenda. He observed some people are already reluctant to go into town at night and a new structure like the extended boardwalk could add to the places where drinking and other behaviours take place, which might impact future fundraising efforts.

"We're not going to sell it to anybody with what's going on in Ganges right now," Grove said. "It's out of control and somehow that has to be addressed, because Ganges seems to be steadily going downhill and

people aren't going to want to invest in this."

Other committee members agreed that safety concerns would need to be incorporated into planning but could be met to some degree with design factors like good lighting and sight lines. Putting on more events in parks and having more community members use the amenities would help change the demographics, some said.

"Obviously it needs to be considered," said committee chair Matt Steffich. "Does that stop us in our tracks, does it work against us, or is it seen as something that will improve downtown Ganges? You know, this could be the thing that starts that movement."

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation manager Dan Ovington confirmed that funds are in place to complete environmental and archaeological impact studies of the upland

area if the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development approves the right-of-way request over property owned by Ganges Marina. Ovington recommended waiting until both steps were completed before starting work on a fundraising feasibility study. The committee does not have an estimate on how much the project might eventually cost at this time.

Ovington mentioned that a structural report determined some pilings in the existing boardwalk may only have 10 years of life left, so the project will most likely mean tearing down and rebuilding that structure as well as completing the missing gaps (if that becomes possible). The project as a whole would likely incorporate pathway and park improvements in the upland area.

**HARBOUR WALK** continued on 4

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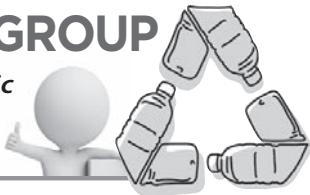
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Instead, to seal bowls or wrap pieces of fruit or vegetables, use beeswax-coated cloth wraps. These include brand name products, which are available in stores or online (high quality wraps are available from Saltspring Island Beeswax wraps) or homemade beeswax-coated cloths. Reusable silicone stretch lids are also a good alternative. However, one could simply place leftovers in reusable glass, metal, or ceramic containers that come with lids or place plates on top. This works fine if the leftover is expected to be used in the next few days.



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## GANGES VILLAGE

# Historical landmark gets a lift

McPhillips Avenue building renovations that include elevator addition now underway

#### SUBMITTED BY SSI COMMUNITY SERVICES

An iconic landmark in downtown Ganges, designated as one of the few scheduled heritage buildings by the Islands Trust, has been undergoing some noticeable activity in the last two months.

Beginning in the middle of January, demolition of the exterior steps and excavation around the building site began construction of an addition housing an elevator, internal staircase and lobbies for each floor, as well as an external staircase on the north side reaching the third floor and providing egress. The building previously had a wooden fire escape staircase to the second floor only. A number of interior improvements are also planned to accommodate more programming and a wider range of services.

"It is the final, and largest, step in what has been the steady evolution of 134 McPhillips Ave. into a one-stop resource centre for youth in the community and to provide a truly accessible location," said Rob Wiltzen, operations manager at Salt Spring Island Community Services. "The proposed project will transform the first and third floors into quality youth programming spaces, and will launch a refreshed and improved youth development program."

The only three-storey building in the Heritage Conservation Area in the heart of Ganges village, the building for decades known as the "Garner House" was built by Joe Garner and his family in 1922. At the time it was a farmhouse in a field and in later years served many functions for the community, including housing a barbershop, restaurants, pool hall, rooming house, antique store, record store and more through a succession of many owners.

By 1993 the Garner House had changed to community-based institutional use, and became The Core Inn, owned by The Core Inn Youth Project Society. In 2007, that society dissolved and merged with SSICS. Since that time the building has continued to be home to the Core Inn Youth Drop-In available to all youth on the island as a safe, drug- and alcohol-free environment for after school hours. Youth counselling takes place on the second floor where the Options for Sexual Health clinic has also been operating once a week.

For the last several years, the building has also been host to the Friends program of SSICS, a day program for developmentally disabled adults and, more recently became even more of an active hub with the Harvest programs headquartered there. The Second Harvest food recovery program provides ingredients to the Har-



PHOTO COURTESY SSICS

Heritage building at 134 McPhillips Ave. with former staircase removed, and Grad '75 class graffiti revealed.

vest Kitchen for preparing food and the Harvest Kitchen Café open to the public.

While all other programs have been relocated during construction, the Harvest Kitchen remains with the café operating out of a front window of the building in lieu of a shipping container in the back courtyard.

Options for Sexual Health is now located at 129 Hereford Ave. on Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m., previously the Seniors' Wellness program location of SSICS. Seniors Wellness now operates out of the main SSICS building on Ganges Hill at 268 Fulford Ganges Rd. The Core Inn Youth Drop-In can be found at the GIFTS building at 152 McPhillips Ave. on Mondays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, and on Tuesdays at the library and Fridays at 129 Hereford.

The project was kickstarted by a BC Gaming capital grant, soon matched by a generous private donor. The project has also seen contributions from the Heritage Legacy Fund, Victoria Foundation, Rick Hansen Accessibility Grants and a federal government accessibility fund through Employment and Social Development Canada.

"There has been overwhelming support by funders to maintain and improve this building so important to the Salt Spring community," said Wiltzen. "It is going to allow us to offer a broad range of youth and other programming for years to come in a sound, healthy and accessible building."

## CRIME

# Bylaw ticket reveals stolen trash mystery

CRD advises precautions against identity theft

#### BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A 90-year-old islander was surprised and displeased last month to receive a bylaw infraction ticket for garbage dumping at Centennial Park.

Lois Hale lives in the north end of the island and pays for garbage collection. When she left a bag in a metal can outside her home in February, she assumed it would be taken to the transfer station as usual. To hear that it had somehow ended up in the men's washroom of the downtown park was "dumbfounding," to say the least.

Bylaw enforcement officials with the Capital Regional District originally handed Hale a \$50 ticket because her name was attached to some of the

refuse found. They have since overturned the ticket after investigating, having no doubt determined that Hale is an upstanding citizen of many years.

The incident itself continues to be alarming, though, since whoever took the garbage bag removed it from a secure container and then carried it some 10 kilometres before dumping it. Garbage is a prime target for people engaging in identity theft.

Hale said she usually blacks out her name from any material she might throw away but this time she let some flyers go by, which is how bylaw enforcement connected her to the dump.

"I've learned my lesson now," Hale said. "I was using a black pen. Now I have my magic scissors and I'm cutting the whole thing out."

Fraud prevention experts warn not to assume that recycling is any

safer than garbage disposal. The CRD offers recommendations to prevent curbside scavenging of recycling materials in its island municipalities. They suggest papers containing personal information be shredded before recycling, and further recommend putting materials out as close to pick-up time as possible on collection day. While Salt Spring lacks curbside collection, the recommendation to shred or destroy documents with personal information is still relevant.

Hale happened to have put her garbage bin out early on the occasion when the contents went missing. If it hadn't been found, she would still believe the bag had been collected by the service provider.

"That's the first time I ever put it out early before," Hale said, adding she has learned from that mistake as well.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Restorative Justice talk

A free public presentation on the Salt Spring Restorative Justice program is taking place at Lions Hall this Friday, March 13 at 6:30 p.m.

"Responding to crime on Salt Spring has been a community focus in the past year," the group notes. "The Restorative Justice program offers a way to deal with crime using the lens of repair rather than punishment. It works with both victims and offenders to find out what harm has been done, and together those involved decide the best ways to repair that harm. The community at large is also impacted by crime and has a role to play in finding responses that make us all stronger and more connected."

Those who may consider volunteering with the RJ program can get more information or register for a March 14-15 workshop by emailing [rjustice@ssics.ca](mailto:rjustice@ssics.ca).

### Ferry survey

Islanders are encouraged to take advantage of a public engagement process about the future of coastal ferry service taking place now.

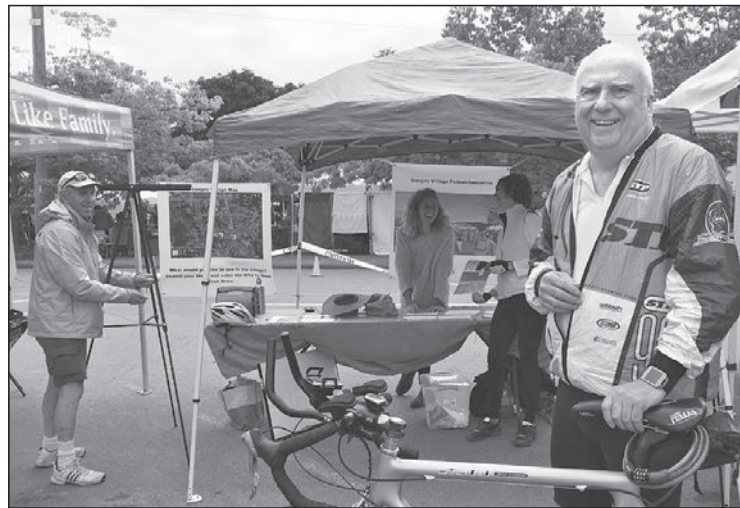
A questionnaire is open for public feedback until March 20 at 4 p.m. It can be found online at <https://engage.gov.bc.ca/coastalferries>.

"The development of a vision was one of the recommendations made by Blair Redlin, who conducted an independent review of coastal ferry services in 2018," explains a Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure press release.

Following the close of the survey, the results will inform the development of a provincial vision to guide the future of British Columbia's coastal ferry service.

## TRANSPORTATION

# Groups call for more walkable town



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Island Pathways member Bob MacKie, right, tries out a car-free zone on Fulford-Ganges Road during a Bike to Work Week event in 2017, while Peter Lamb helps set up. MacKie is among those working to make Ganges a more walkable village.

### CRD, Island Pathways explore ideas

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The call for a more pedestrian-friendly experience in Ganges is being heard around Salt Spring with local community organizations presenting several options for exploration over the past months.

The Salt Spring Transportation Commission voted on Feb. 24 to endorse a petition calling for a reduced speed zone throughout Ganges village. The petition, which was started by commissioner Myna Lee Johnstone as a private citizen's initiative, calls for 30 km/hr speed limits on Lower Ganges/Fulford-Ganges roads from the intersection of Brinkworthy to Alders roads.

As confirmed at the Feb. 24 meeting, the commission's top priorities for 2020 are completing the first phase of a safe pathway on Lower Ganges Road, from Central to Baker Road, and the North Ganges Transportation Plan network.

The commission is additionally working on pedestrian/cycling improvements on Ganges Hill as part of a ministry repaving project. While the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has committed to a paved 1.2-metre shoulder on both sides of the road, the commission is looking into whether there could be an extension on the one side to make things easier for cyclists.

"On the uphill side it would be useful and that's what staff are

negotiating with MoTI: a., is it feasible, and b., if there's an incremental cost, what that would be," CRD director Gary Holman told the commission. "That will be over to us, and I've already indicated to the ministry and to staff that I'm willing to provide some gas tax funding to support those incremental costs."

Another item on the commission's priority list is starting to facilitate low-cost/no-cost fixes to address things like crosswalk painting and mobility ramp access. A new committee to work on GASP — the Ganges Accessibility and Safety Plan — has already created a report identifying many of those issues downtown. The members now intend to get to work asking private business owners to fix problems that are on their properties, and to make recommendations for ministry repairs in areas that are clearly on its right-of-way.

These initiatives fit well with the future Ganges envisioned by Island Pathways, a group that frequently works with SSITC under the Partners Creating Pathways umbrella.

Member Bob MacKie gave a presentation at Island Pathways' annual general meeting in February on Walkable Ganges, a project he has been working on with Elisa Rathje. Walkable Ganges is a visioning document that asks the community to imagine a future downtown village with fewer cars, and maps out a scenario for getting there.

Stated objectives of the project are to improve the Ganges village experience; increase retail sales

and restaurant business; encourage cyclist, boater and ferry walk-on visitors; encourage locals to shop and spend time in the village; and deal with parking and traffic issues during the summer.

The proposal includes closing some throughways to cars and creating one-way traffic in the Thrifty/Mouat's area, creating new parking lots just outside the downtown core and a bus/shuttle loop in the parking lot directly in front of the fire hall (which is projected to have some other community use once a new fire hall is built). The plan also calls for a pedestrian-only zone on the roads to either side of the fire hall on market Saturdays at first, but gradually extending to full time and to cover a greater area.

CRD manager Karla Campbell has previously reported that MoTI would consider road closures if

proponents could demonstrate full support from the community, including local business owners who would be impacted. A proposal to close part of Fulford-Ganges Road on market Saturdays in 2018 failed to gain that support.

MacKie noted in his presentation that a pedestrian-friendly Ganges is supported in Salt Spring's official community plan, which also names a completed seaside boardwalk as part of a desirable network.

Holman reported at the Feb. 25 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting that the Capital Regional District is hoping to hear good news soon regarding a statutory right-of-way application over private harbour lands that will facilitate the harbourwalk project. The RoW will be needed to launch a new construction project.



### SALT SPRING ISLAND FIRE PROTECTION DISTRICT

### NOTICE OF NOMINATION TWO TRUSTEES

Notice is hereby given to the owners of land within the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District that nominations for two trustees will be received between:

**9:00 a.m. Monday March 16th, 2020  
and 4:00 p.m. Friday March 27th, 2020**

During which period the nomination documents shall only be received during the office hours of Monday through Friday from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road, or arrangements may be made to file nomination documents by phoning Anthony (Tony) Kennedy at (250) 537-8815.

The Trustee positions are for a three-year term commencing at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held on April 27th, 2020 and terminating at the end of the Annual General Meeting to be held in the year 2023.

The Election to be held on **Monday, April 27th, 2020** at the **Ganges Fire Hall, 105 Lower Ganges Road** from **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Advance Voting will be held at the **Salt Spring Island Public Library, 129 McPhillips Avenue** on **Wednesday, April 22nd, 2020** from **9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.** Only persons who are qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District may hold the office of Trustee. Qualified candidates must be nominated by two duly qualified electors of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District. Nomination forms may be obtained at the Ganges Fire Hall or from Anthony (Tony) Kennedy, Returning Officer (250) 537-8815.

Those persons eligible to vote at this election will have the following qualifications:

1. Be a Canadian Citizen
2. Be eighteen years of age or older
3. Be a resident in the Province of British Columbia for at least six months prior to the election day
4. Be an owner of land located within the boundaries of the Salt Spring Island Fire Protection District
5. One vote is also allowed for each board or corporation that owns land within the Fire Protection District. The Board or Corporation must designate one person in writing to act as an authorized agent to vote on its behalf.

If more than one person is registered on title as an owner of land, then all the owners may vote providing they meet the qualifications set out above. No person may vote more than once with the exception that they may vote as an authorized agent and personally if they own land on a personal basis.

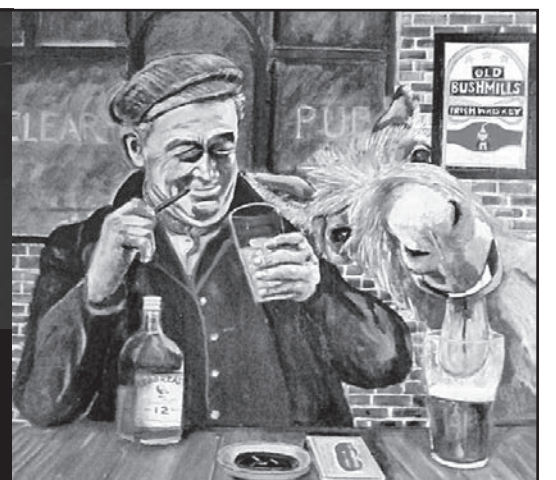
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## ENVIRONMENT

# Galianoites eye climate change

Key concerns highlighted  
by advisory group

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Galiano Island Advisory Planning Commission has advised against pushing development into denser village areas as one of its recommendations to the Galiano Local Trust Committee on meeting climate challenges.

Acting on direction from the Galiano LTC, the advisory committee started looking into climate change adaptation and mitigation strategies last fall. They reviewed two reports on the topic by Islands Trust administrative staff, as well as a number of discussion papers and presentations on subjects from wildfire risk to groundwater resources.

As the committee found, many of the necessary policies are already laid out in the island's official community plan but have yet to be developed within the land use bylaw.

"Clearly the real threat of climate change before us now and in the future heightens the importance of all the work done in the past to protect the land, the natural ecosystems, plant and animal diversity, and the human community here on Galiano and elsewhere in the Trust Area," the committee states in the report, which the LTC formally received on March 2.

"We encourage the LTC to keep the

work of addressing the climate change emergency a top priority and apply yourselves to the work of activating existing and new policies that could improve our community's mitigation of and adaptation and resilience to climate change."

The report puts emphasis on solutions that would protect natural areas such as shorelines, places with erosion risk and forest connectivity, and that would reduce wildfire risk. Supporting groundwater protection and management in the face of increasing drought is perhaps the greatest area of concern, however, with five recommendations directly related to the issue and others connecting to the same theme.

Encouraging a settlement pattern that clusters homes together rather than seeing many smallish acreages cleared is a common strategy in environmental-based land use planning. The Galiano APC says that would not benefit their home island, though, where existing areas of higher density are the same ones that have experienced water supply concerns.

Since much of Galiano's development has taken place along the waterfront, saltwater intrusion is another potential threat to aquifers. Sea-level rise with climate change would only exacerbate the problem, the APC states.

"We have a narrowing window of opportunity to change the fate of Galiano's groundwater and manage it wisely for future generations and our community today."

Recommendations to protect groundwater include voluntary installation of water meters on wells across the island, which the Islands Trust would be permitted to monitor to establish baseline use and plan long-term management. Protecting large tracts of land in natural forest ecosystems is recommended to enhance groundwater recharge and reduce run-off. Expanding development permit area boundaries around ponds, streams and wetlands would also help. The APC further recommends implementing regulations around road-building to avoid diverting flow or contaminating waterways.

Maintaining forest cover and connectivity is recommended for providing a large number of climate-related benefits. To do so, the APC recommends requiring new development on large forested parcels be clustered on the site and take up no more than one quarter of the property, and that road policies minimize impact to forest lands and sensitive ecosystems.

Continued advocacy to the provincial government to permit more local control of forested properties is also on the list. Galiano has around 1,350 hectares of private managed forest land, where local land-use bylaws are not permitted to restrain forestry practices.

"Allowing local bylaws and regulations to apply to more of Galiano's forest cover gives greater ability to manage for climate adaptation and mitigation," the APC observes.

# Completed harbour walk costs unknown

## HARBOUR WALK

continued from 1

Eventual fundraising needs were top of mind for committee members Monday morning with a presentation by Richard Walker of Global Philanthropic starting the meeting. Walker said that to attract high-level donors, the project coordinators would need to determine what might be possible to raise from government grants and from the community through a feasibility study.

They would also have to ask, "Is your case for support valid, do you have the bodies to pull this off and is your target doable?" Waker said, stating the argument for support would need to be compelling and convey urgency.

Walker added that it takes 32 months on average to fundraise the \$6 million required for a \$5-million construction project. Walker was only using that amount as an example since the project parameters are still unknown.

TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour							
MARCH 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>11</b>	0620	<b>3.4</b>	11.2	<b>15</b>	0254	<b>2.5</b>	8.2
WE	1221	<b>1.5</b>	4.9	SU	0815	<b>3.1</b>	10.2
ME	1823	<b>2.9</b>	9.5	DI	1550	<b>0.8</b>	2.6
<b>12</b>	0009	<b>1.3</b>	4.3	<b>16</b>	0002	<b>3.0</b>	9.8
TH	0647	<b>3.4</b>	11.2	SA	0426	<b>2.7</b>	8.9
JE	1311	<b>1.2</b>	3.9	MO	0850	<b>3.0</b>	9.8
	1938	<b>2.9</b>	9.5	LU	1648	<b>0.8</b>	2.6
<b>13</b>	0056	<b>1.7</b>	5.6	<b>17</b>	0121	<b>3.2</b>	10.5
FR	0714	<b>3.3</b>	10.8	SA	0641	<b>2.7</b>	8.9
VE	1402	<b>1.0</b>	3.3	TU	0934	<b>2.8</b>	9.2
	2059	<b>2.9</b>	9.5	MA	1751	<b>0.8</b>	2.6
<b>14</b>	0149	<b>2.1</b>	6.9	<b>18</b>	0223	<b>3.2</b>	10.5
SA	0744	<b>3.3</b>	10.8	WE	0821	<b>2.6</b>	8.5
SA	1455	<b>0.8</b>	2.6	WE	1044	<b>2.7</b>	8.9
SA	2230	<b>2.9</b>	9.5	ME	1854	<b>0.9</b>	3.0

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## PUBLIC HEALTH

# COVID-19 on forum agenda

Discussion at  
ArtSpring on Friday

The Salt Spring Forum has organized an event focusing on the novel coronavirus (COVID-19), with guest speaker Dr. Kevin Patterson.

Set for Friday, March 13 at 7:30 p.m. at ArtSpring, the evening will explore how serious the virus situation should be considered, if a vaccine will become available, what people can do to protect themselves and whether or not public health services can cope with the epidemic. Audience questions will also be fielded.

Patterson will be joined on stage by Aletha Humphreys, the executive director of Greenwoods Elder-care Society, who will be on the front line if cases start appearing on Salt Spring.

Patterson is a physician specializing in general internal and critical care medicine in Nanaimo and on the west coast of Hudson Bay. He also practices general medicine here on Salt Spring. His fields include the promotion of health



PHOTO COURTESY PENGUIN RANDOM HOUSE

Dr. Kevin Patterson is the Salt Spring Forum's guest on Friday.

and prevention of disease.

He is also a writer of memoir and fiction, winning the Rogers Writers' Trust Fiction Prize and the City of Victoria Butler Book Prize in 2003 for his collection of short fiction called Country of Cold. His 2006 novel Consumption focuses on diseases amongst the Inuit.

Patterson is currently writing about the COVID-19 epidemic for The Walrus magazine.

Tickets for Friday's event are available from Salt Spring Books and ArtSpring.

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## COMMUNITY PLANNING

# Mental health initiative launched

## Overseeing stewardship group envisioned

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders who attended ASK Salt Spring last Friday to talk about mental health issues, service gaps and potential solutions heard that community groups are spearheading potential action.

ASK Salt Spring is a weekly event held in the Thrifty Foods community room where islanders can ask volunteers, elected officials and other experts questions about how things work in the community. Mental health professional and Salt Spring Health Advancement Network co-chair David Norget was guest speaker at the March 6 session. He gave an overview of the mental health issues that local youth and adults may be facing, and how they might access support services.

Norget reported SSHAN is currently exploring how to improve accessibility and overall mental health along with four key players: Island Health's adult mental health team, Salt Spring Community Services, the Salt Spring chapter of the Rural and Remote Division of Family Practice, and the Gulf Islands School District. The one-year mental health initiative just getting started aims to find "how we can better coordinate and augment mental health in our community, recognizing the status quo isn't working."

"Part of the intention is to make sure all the right voices are at the table, so this is front-line people, those with lived experience — those who are using mental health services — and decision makers, ensuring that

healthy working relationships are being grown amongst all of those," Norget said.

Mental health concerns that were discussed included the increased incidence of anxiety and breakdowns in school-aged children, including self-harm and suicide attempts; the number of suicides across the population; drug and alcohol abuse and the lack of local detox beds; and the prevalence of sexual assault and domestic violence and the failure of the courts to deal with it. Poverty and insecure housing are among the social determinants that can negatively impact mental health, Norget said.

**"There is more of an impetus for coming together and starting to work together and what that means."**

DAVID NORGET  
*Co-chair, Salt Spring Health Advancement Network*

Along with a general need for more funding support and resources, Norget suggested the way community members respond could also change. He is a strong believer in listening, building relationships and outreach to people who are in need. Bringing the different players together to cooperate and collaborate is another important step.

"There are people and groups doing really good work, volunteer or

otherwise. There is more of an impetus for coming together and starting to work together and what that means," Norget said. "This is where SSHAN and the health network was born. It's a community health model: nothing for the community without the community, and bringing the various parties together to discuss health and wellbeing."

The new mental health initiative is focused on bringing the key people together to mine their collective intelligence. The coordinators are currently applying for several different grants and expect a stewardship group can get started assembling information in May or June. They ultimately hope to convene a mental health summit with broader participation in November to propose concrete action steps that can be started.

"This isn't a quick fix, but to even get to some of them would be very valuable," Norget said. "Our longer-term intention is that there would be this stewardship or overseeing occurring to keep attending to the issues and keep sharing the data, because it is a dynamic process."

The Salt Spring Community Health Society is working closely with SSHAN in a parallel effort, as society vice-president Martha Taylor explained to the meeting.

The group published a needs assessment last fall that found accessing mental health services was the number one health challenge island residents are experiencing. One of the things they are working on now is to establish a community health centre where all health services, including mental health, could be accessed together.

## HOUSING

## Point-in-Time Homeless Count date on March 24

### Volunteers needed to help with project

Tuesday, March 24 is the date set for the 2020 Salt Spring Island Point-in-Time Homeless Count.

The last PiT count, held in 2018, counted 131 homeless individuals on the night of March 13, which was a steep increase of 48 individuals (or 58 per cent) over the preceding count of Feb. 10, 2016.

The event is coordinated locally by Salt Spring Island Community Services, which hosts the Housing First program on the island, in collaboration with Islanders Working Against Violence, Copper Kettle and other community partners on the front lines of delivering homelessness programs.

According to SSICS, 2018 PiT homeless count data found the number of homeless as a percentage of population on Salt Spring at 1.25 per cent is among the highest in the country and many times the percentage in Vancouver or Victoria. Salt Spring also has a disproportionate number of homeless individuals classified as "unsheltered." The 2018 count identified 63 unsheltered, or 48 per cent of the total. The count identifies the number of homeless in three distinct categories: unsheltered, sheltered and provisionally accommodated.

PiT counts are coordinated with communities across Canada through the federal government's Reaching Home program, and more broadly within the province by BC Housing.

"We are not one of the funded communities

for the PiT [homeless count] on Salt Spring," said SSICS executive director Rob Grant. "We do it anyway without funding because it is important to be part of the national survey and to highlight the level of need."

Following all protocols and standards for the national count, SSICS says local PiT coordinators ensure that Salt Spring data is accurate with the same methodology used elsewhere. It results in comparable data to other communities across the province.

The count includes an anonymous survey component to gain valuable data to help strategize how to address issues leading to the high local rates for homelessness.

Volunteers interested in helping with the effort can contact SSICS at 250-537-9971. Although all data is with regard to one point in time, March 24, efforts will be taking place over several days.

Capital Regional District

CRD

### Notice of Meeting

## Capital Regional District Board 2020 Financial Plan Bylaw Approval

A meeting of the Capital Regional District Board, including budget discussion for 2020, will be held:

**Date:** Wednesday, March 18, 2020  
**Time:** 1:30 pm  
**Place:** CRD Headquarters, 6th Floor Boardroom  
625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

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# OPINION



**2019 CCNA Awards**  
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Sjuberg)  
Bronze - Best News Story (Elizabeth Nolan) | Bronze - Community Service

**2019 BCYCNA Awards**  
Gold - Best Arts & Culture Writing (Elizabeth Nolan) | Silver - Best Environmental Writing (Gail Sjuberg)  
Silver - Best Multimedia Feature (Marc Kitteringham)  
Silver - Community Service | New Journalist of the Year (Marc Kitteringham)



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### EDITORIAL

## Elusive equality

**W**omen's lives have improved dramatically in the western world in the past century and especially since International Women's Day was instituted as March 8 by the United Nations in 1977.

But a look at statistics reveals that gender parity is still a long way from being achieved by any measure in Canada. For example, Canadian women earn only 84 cents for every dollar earned by their male counterparts, putting our country at 31st spot out of 36 Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development countries in that category.

Today, Canada's House of Commons consists of only 29 per cent women MPs, and the Northwest Territories is the only territory or province with a female premier.

### THE ISSUE:

#### International Women's Day

### WE SAY:

#### Still vital and valid

And statistics related to violence against women are alarming. According to the Canadian Femicide Observatory for Justice and Accountability, rates of partner and domestic homicide have declined in Canada over the past 30 years, which is good news. But still, 118 women and girls were murdered in Canada in the first 11 months of 2019. Fifty-seven per cent of those were killed by their intimate partners. Indigenous and racialized women are at greatest risk of being killed in Canada.

International Women's Day serves to keep those sorts of facts in the spotlight, while also honouring women who have worked and continue to work to change them.

On Salt Spring, trailblazing Canadian women were featured in films shown by local organizations over the weekend. On March 8 at ArtSpring, SWOVA and IWAV teamed up to screen *The Gender Lady: The Fabulous Dr. May Cohen*, a documentary about a pioneer in the women's health field, followed by a wide-ranging panel and audience discussion. The day before at the library, the local chapter of the Canadian Federation of University Women and the library co-sponsored 20th Century Gals, a "docudramedy" by island resident Sylvia Spring that looks at a century of progress and roadblocks for Canadian women as they've attempted to achieve equality in politics, the workplace, family responsibilities and sexuality.

Conversations that occur on International Women's Day remind everyone that "equality" is still elusive and that much work needs to be done — by people of all genders — which makes it a vital day in the Canadian calendar.

PARKER



## Abandon TUP Bylaw 471

BY MAXINE LEICHTER

Our elected Local Trust Committee is considering an ill-advised and harmful bylaw that would create a gigantic loophole poised to negate our current zoning rules.

Bylaw 471 would allow trustees now — and likely forever — to issue an unlimited number of temporary use permits for an unlimited number of suites, cottages, trailers, tiny homes and other wheeled residences for full-time occupancy almost everywhere on the island, including parklands.

In reality, "temporary" almost always means "permanent." My experience, based on 16 years of watching Salt Spring Island local government, has shown that trustees are unlikely to remove people from their homes and that privileges once granted are rarely withdrawn.

Bylaw 471 relies on neighbours to object to applications for additional residences in locations or under circumstances that are problematic.

### VIEWPOINT

for fear of offending their neighbours and they should not be put in that position.

Proposed Bylaw 471 places the trustees in the inevitable position of making decisions with long-term impact for Salt Spring on a case-by-case basis rather than depending upon analysis, planning and vision.

**Bylaw 471 relies on neighbours to object to applications for additional residences in locations or under circumstances that are problematic.**

Our official community plan requires that growth be tailored to our island's carrying capacity. By making

decisions on a case-by-case basis, cumulative effects are rarely considered. There is not even data available to evaluate the adequacy of services such as hospital space, doctors, road maintenance, ferry capacity, power and water supply . . . and the list goes on.

The Islands Trust has not been empowered by the province to provide affordable housing, or any services. The Capital Regional District is the agency that provides services. In fact, right now over 200 units of affordable and seniors housing are under construction in Ganges through collaborations between the CRD and various non-profit organizations. This is a model that works, not ill-planned, haphazard increased density, dispersed around the island, far from population centres, public transit and other services.

Bylaw 471 has already both a first and second reading and is near to becoming a reality. Hopefully voices will be raised to object to this flawed bylaw!

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Are you stocking up to prepare for coronavirus impacts?**

☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Will you use the laundromat/shower facility/soap exchange?**

47 YES 108 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: }

**"We're not going to sell it to anybody with what's going on in Ganges right now."**

TRUSTEE PETER GROVE ON THE GANGES HARBOUR WALK

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *What item would you want to be stocked up on in an emergency?*

**ANN HEGGELER**



If my power was out it would be water and canned food.

**PETER WYPKEMA**



Wine — or is it whisky?

**RUTH ANNE TAVES**



Milk.

**REUBEN KAUFMAN**



My son tells me toilet paper.

**SUZANNE ROUGER**



It depends, but potable water would be useful in all scenarios.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Boundaries

I note in the March 4 "Mountain Bike Trails Proposed" story that Sean Mulligan remarked that Mount Erskine, being "very popular with hikers," would make it "not a great place for bikers."

Mulligan also said that "spots we wouldn't encourage mountain bikers to go" would include Mount Maxwell, "obviously," since it "has a watershed and a park above." It is good to hear that it seems agreed that such places need protection from mountain biker use. However, the same article quoted Mulligan as saying that "Channel Ridge happens to be one spot that mountain bikers agree there is potential there."

It is to be hoped that the footpaths along Channel Ridge that are within the Salt Spring Island Water Preservation Society's watershed reserve lands beside and above St. Mary Lake are also well known to be

"obviously, spots we wouldn't encourage mountain bikers to go" (being in watershed and with a park above).

SSIWPS has been in collaboration with BC Parks to ensure that the signage on the trails makes clear that these footpaths are not for horse riding or cycling. The Channel Ridge trail system has trails that lead to the SSIWPS footpaths (designated for pedestrian use only, to protect the quality of St. Mary Lake's drinking water).

The "number of unofficial trails that riders have made over the past decades" Mulligan mentions have included areas within the watershed lands. Disregard for "trail closed" signs have required WPS volunteers to physically block access, which has sometimes been removed by the persistent. It is to be hoped that Cycling Salt Spring can ensure that education helps all bikers know the boundaries of the proposed bike trails, and why this is of importance

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)

to the reserve, and to the North Salt Spring Waterworks District community.

**USHA RAUTENBACH,**  
SSIWPS FOOTPATHS VOLUNTEER

### Consult on middle school

The Feb. 19 editorial states, in reference to the inception of the middle school, that "it seemed desirable . . ." and "students in grades 6 and 7 were deemed too old for elementary school." The words "seemed" and "deemed" were well-chosen words as they suggest a lack of consultation and process — the decisions of a very few. The statements now sound like rationalizations.

I was the special needs teacher at Fulford school at the time and remember a suspicion that facilitating the enrolment of more Grade 6s and 7s in the French Immersion and band programs, currently offered at SIMS, was an underlying goal of the "deem-

ers." I think these are great programs, but anybody only need observe a Grade 5 class at the end of the year to realize that so many of these children (average age 10.5 years) will not be too old for elementary school in two months time. Grade 7s? Very mixed. Parents and teachers were not consulted; children had no input. Many people were outraged.

Maybe now is the time to go back to just elementary and high schools. The high school is a beautiful building and has room; Fulford school (ironically enlarged to contain a K to Grade 7 population very soon after the middle school opened) is a beautiful building and has always had room. I presume Salt Spring and Fernwood elementary schools are good, too. It is expedient to change back but there must be sound educational reasons for all students and an inclusive process this time.

**JACQUELINE THOMAS,**  
SALT SPRING

## Let's evolve with grace towards succession reality

BY JEREMY MILSOM

Accolades to columnist Helen Hinchliff for her Aging with Grace conversations about the "aging out" of an important component of our community, that being our numerous and amazing population of volunteers who, with grace and energy, have provided so many services to our residents and visitors.

An aging-out parallel also exists in many of our working-age residents that once provided employment "horsepower" in health care, education, transportation, local business employment, trades and many other public and private services. With our Census Canada demographic trends since 2001 showing our fastest community growth in the above-60 age group, and the working age group and younger in decline, our community is facing a growing shortfall in available services. Evidence of this "squeeze" includes the numerous "Help Wanted" listings and large daily in/out flow of off-island workers and vehicles. Similarly, calls to our fewer specialized workers seeking their services are frequently met with a "not available" response.

This challenge is increasingly difficult for all of us, and particularly for our more senior elders who must also seek once-local services elsewhere at higher cost and inconvenience.

With Helen's conversation not just being tabled but receiving reinforcement from many others feeling the inconvenience and pain, is it possible to find the community resources and practical actions that might be enabled to start restoring or at least preserving, our community's vitality and resilience?

The action(s) needed to rebuild balance in community demographics and services are likely complex, and like any journey, must start with a first step. Yes, that is a challenge that starts with conversation, but must be enabled with pragmatic actions from people like us who can bring renewed pragmatic vision and make effective contributions.

Our broadly experienced and talented community has the resources and hopefully the willpower, to revitalize our com-

### GUEST COLUMN

munity balance by taking positive actions.

Here are some conversation starters that are actionable and might make the "what-next" list for enacting potential outside and inside opportunities:

**Attract the desired demographic** with needed traits and skills and businesses to create vitality from incoming youth, families and children.

**Actively target, encourage and support** the real estate community, tourism stakeholders, service organizations and our community-grown interested people to actively tell and spread our special island story. We have a stronger likelihood of replenishing our community with like-minded people if we actively expose our island traits and culture. The value of our rural, tranquil and environmental nature is now more clearly recognized by younger generations looking for a safe destination to grow and educate a young family and others seeking refuge from frenzied urban lives.

**With the rapidly growing, young, prosperous** and often familial "tech sector" already well attracted to the Vancouver Island arena, we might find new ways to engage with and attract them.

**Engage with and build support for creative, "green business"** and other new enterprises and interests with a "next-generation" orientation and enthusiasm.

**Promote the opportunity to engage with younger community members** to open up life and business skills conversations along with skills mentoring.

Our community is brimming with accomplished, wise and experienced people, many of whom are our neighbours. Some may be ready to step out and embrace a new and fulfilling adventure of "generational cross mentoring" by inspiring others toward the excitement of discovery, determination and achievements that will build staying power.

Grow the next generation with life skills and applied learning foundations, by:

**Engaging with the education industry** to facilitate inspirational and pragmatic real-life presentations and discussion groups for promoting and connecting the benefits of learning through working in almost any job;

**Promoting the many ways to start career paths**, realizing that more learning and experience and growth that might lead to a future business succession possibility.

It's no secret that "long-time leaders are long-time learners," so helping others to grow into an exciting, curiosity and discovery-based culture is fulfilling and valuable.

The heading for Helen Hinchliff's column is "Aging with Grace." While none of us can escape this reality and the list of challenges and needs associated with "aging," we may wish to create a second list that focuses on what we may individually contribute to help our community and our neighbours in adapting more painlessly to them. Leaving your "mark" in life comes from NOT being like everyone else!

Community succession to a next generation is on our horizon. May I encourage us all to embrace this succession reality and how it may become a personal opportunity, then ignite our creativity and help inspire those people and our many community organizations that have discarded the "rear-view mirror" fixation and are actively seeking adaptive strategies. These include the Chamber of Commerce, Community Alliance, Community Economic Development Commission, service clubs and more. Initiating and encouraging creative conversations and positive contributions for revitalizing our community with more balanced demographics, and preserving services for all of us, might just add up to Helen's "grace" component and a life "mark" that we will all recognize and be proud of!

*The writer is a director on the board of the Salt Spring Island Chamber of Commerce.*



# Italians respond calmly to life in a 'red zone'

BY TAELORE LAY

It's a sunny Sunday morning, streets bustling with couples young and old out for morning walks, families taking their children for bike rides, runners taking advantage of the sunny morning and people sitting on cafe patios reading the newspaper while enjoying a cappuccino and brioche. Walking these streets is like taking a breath of fresh air as spring flowers begin to bloom.

At first glance, it's nearly impossible to tell that this is the "Northern Italy" that is making headlines around the world. The "red-zoned," "terrifying," "chaotic" Northern Italy that many people live in fear of right now is nowhere to be seen. How do I know that there is no fear and chaos running through these streets? I live here. More specifically, I live in Brescia, Lombardy, which is about an hour north of Milan.

As you may have heard by now, one of the most well-documented and widespread outbreaks of COVID-19 is currently here in Northern Italy. As I write this, Italy has confirmed 7,375 cases and 366 deaths of patients testing positive for the virus. These statistics make Italy the third most impacted country by the virus, following China and South Korea.

So, what does it mean to be in a "red zone?" For the average person living in the "red zones" of Italy, it means schools, non-emergency medical clinics (physiotherapy, chiropractic, etc), libraries, fitness centres, museums, shopping centres, stadiums and all other public venues that host more than a few people at a time are closed indefinitely.

## INDEPTH

Travel outside of our regions for any non-emergency or non-work-related purposes is prohibited indefinitely. People must keep a minimum of one metre between themselves at all times. Businesses such as cafés, bars, restaurants, small stores and hair salons, which are still permitted to remain open, must ensure that their customers are at least one metre apart at all times or they could face penalties from local authorities. (This is a brief summary of a 20-page document released to Italians by the federal government late Saturday night.)

It's easy to understand how this would bring people to panic, however, any Italian will tell you that the disproportionate panic around the virus is harmful and unnecessary. While people clear grocery store shelves of soap and toilet paper in North America "just in case," Italians go about their everyday lives, continuing to pursue their undying love of friends, family, community and food to guide their decisions. Unlike the panicked response many of us are seeing in North America, Italians conduct their lives with a sense of unparalleled calm and rationale.

The Italians with whom I'm lucky enough to live, study and work, continue to go about their lives as normally as possible, choosing positive attitudes and rationale while paying extra attention to the needs of the more vulnerable

people in their lives. Instead of panicking, they're continuing to go about their lives in good humour, educating themselves on the circumstances and responding appropriately.

Takeaway: Italians are responding to the situation, not reacting. They are responding to a potential epidemic by ensuring the safety of their fellow Italians. They are not, however, clearing grocery store shelves or allowing their emotions to take over their lives. Children are still playing, buses still running, private workplaces still functioning. Those who cannot remain in their public workplaces continue to work from home. Children continue with their studies online in an organized, routine way. In spite of the abnormality of these circumstances, the people of Northern Italy continue to find ways to care for the vulnerable people in their lives, continue with their work and studies, continue to share meals with loved ones and build a sense of community regardless of the "chaos" going on in the world right now.

I hope that COVID-19 doesn't touch the lives of Salt Springers or any Canadians as much as it has for us here in Italy. If the time comes, however, for Canadians to face a similar situation, it's worth learning a thing or two from the positive, proactive, responsive (not reactive) and calm people who call Northern Italy home.

*The writer grew up on Salt Spring and is studying languages and teaching English in Brescia, Lombardy, Italy.*



PHOTO BY TAELORE LAY

Encouraging sticky notes seen in the window of a Starbucks café in Brescia, Italy, which has been hard hit by COVID-19, and where a Salt Spring woman is currently residing.

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## Meet You at the Library

BY ANGELO ROSSO

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imagination pouring like ink from  
a bottomless well spring of potential,  
simply turn the page  
feel the heft of the page  
on your finger tips,  
ink on paper,  
low voices murmuring  
against soft walls  
directions into known  
& unknown valleys  
children's laughter  
old men flipping through  
today's newspaper  
page by page  
flip by flip  
we gather here  
to receive what we are hoping for  
to nourish our curious minds  
to nourish our yearning hearts  
to gather in togetherness  
we come here to see  
& be seen  
in the Agora  
to bear witness to each other,  
this sacred gathering place  
made of cement, glass  
& human beings  
volunteering time to make us whole  
to hold us in togetherness  
to create a town

a village  
a community  
a sense of commons  
in common cause.  
books, magazines, CD's, DVD's,  
audio books, comfy couches, computers  
free books, clean public restrooms,  
free parking, free smiles,  
windows looking out viewing  
sacred elder willow tree  
she sways in the summer breeze  
admiring us from her view  
we admire her from our view  
old, young and all in-between,  
coming & going,  
sing to me here  
read me a poem  
a passage  
remember my name  
wave hello  
i will run into you there  
here  
at the library,  
the children will play at the library  
the poetry reading is at the library  
the library will be closing in 15 minutes  
when does the library open.  
i fell in love at the library  
i will fall in love at the library  
again & again.  
oh library,  
i bow to you  
& all you hold,  
how you hold us in you  
& how we hold you in us.  
i will meet you there  
at the library  
& i will hold the door for you  
so you can enter first.

*The above is one of the finalists in the Salt Spring Public Library's Our Library in Poetic Life 60th anniversary contest. The Driftwood is publishing the poems as space permits.*





# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

## SALT SPRING INN

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### THEATRE

# Theatre Alive explores changing gay reality

Gently Down the Stream presented March 18

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Theatre Alive's staged reading series moves on from aging female rage to the changing nature of relationships between gay men as a theme, with a presentation of Gently Down the Stream coming to Mahon Hall on March 18.

The riveting and hilarious reading of Caryl Churchill's play Escaped Alone in February gave audience members an idea of what this series produced by Chris Humphreys can offer. Great contemporary writing paired with the right cast and director can engage the viewer just as well as a full-blown, off-book production.

Humphreys brought in frequent community theatre collaborators Suzanne Rouger and Scott Merrick for this month's pick, which he specifically wanted to reflect LGBTQ concerns and is sponsored by DAISSI.

It was Merrick who discovered Martin Sherman's latest work, which premiered in New York in 2017. He was in the process of reading five scripts with gay-related themes he had ordered when Gently Down the Stream arrived.

"As soon as I started reading it



PHOTO COURTESY SCOTT MERRICK

Scott Merrick, left, Wasontio Adam Morris and Wyatt Floerke snuggle up for Theatre Alive's staged reading of Gently Down the Stream.

I said 'This is the one,'" he reported.

According to a synopsis, the play "reflects the triumphs and heartbreaks of the entire length of the gay rights movement, celebrating and mourning the ghosts of the men and women who led the way for equality, marriage and the right to dream."

It does so primarily through the character Beau, a pianist expat living in London who's been wounded by his experiences as a gay man in an intolerant world. Things begin to change after Beau meets Rufus, a much younger lawyer with a different worldview, just as internet dating

starts to take off in 2001.

"I think this is a good choice," said Rouger, who directs the performance. "It's such a beautiful story regardless of who it's talking about. It's about humanity and being humane. It's such a beautiful story of pain and loss, but then of hope as well."

"And love — lots of love," Merrick added.

Merrick plays Beau and has found much to relate to in the older man's journey through things like the gay rights movement and the AIDS crisis. Wasontio Adam Morris plays Rufus and island newcomer Wyatt Floerke plays Harry, another

young gay man who becomes part of their chosen family group.

A New York Times review of the original production called the play both a romance and a history lesson. Beau's monologues serve to catalogue some important and terrible markers in the timeline, as well as naming gay icons and activists. The play also offers hope that some things have changed. Rufus and Harry may have benefitted from what others before them have achieved, but their ability to love more openly also helps heal the hurts people like Beau have endured.

Rouger notes the advice often given to writers to be successful is to "write what you know."

"It's so supremely evident that Martin Sherman is writing what he knows. The descriptions, the details — he had to have lived it. And the way he talks about how people feel is so dialled in," Rouger said.

Merrick said it's a good thing this presentation is a staged reading because there is one monologue he hasn't been able to make it through without crying yet. But there are also plenty of laughs between the moving passages.

"The other two characters are so young and full of life. They haven't been through all the things my character's been through," Merrick observed. "And Adam and Wyatt are both so good. The two of them are so

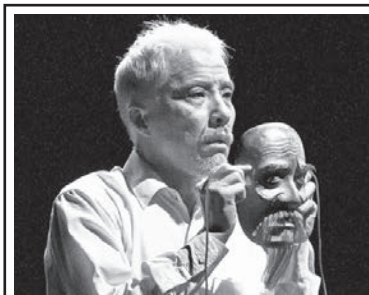
open-minded about everything."

"Anyone who has a heart cannot fail to respond," Rouger said. "They won't be able to resist falling for these people."

Audiences are warned the play is not appropriate for children because of its sexual content and coarse language.

Tickets will be available at the door at Mahon Hall. The show starts at 7 p.m.

A concession will be provided by the BC SPCA.



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No need to delay listing your house if you have a few things "to do". Time is needed to create marketing brochures while you start your "Honey Dew List". When one party sees your home, they are not the entire market. There are fewer houses for sale "sooner" (hence less competition), since supply expands greatly in springtime.

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KEATING

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After contributing to an RSP, many people don't realize they could be neglecting some long-term benefits. Contributions that languish in a savings account may not grow fast enough to keep up with the cost of living — or reach long-term goals. If you don't want to wind up behind-the-eight-ball, take the next step to choose investments that fit your stage of life and risk tolerance.

The question to ask your advisor is: "How is my RSP contribution invested, and how can I benefit from tax deferred growth?" This simple approach is likely to bring greater control and security to help your retirement plan thrive.



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## THEATRE REVIEW

# Improv lends fresh air to show

Annabelle's Birthday continues from March 13 to 15

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The former location of Ganges Floor Coverings is undergoing quite the transformation these days en route to becoming the latest home of Ganges Yoga Studio, it is currently arranged as the perfect boutique-sized theatre complete with stage lighting and seats on risers.

The original material being performed in the space is similar to its location in being something new, a little different and fleeting in nature. Annabelle's Birthday is "an improvised play in two acts," where the characters and scene structure is known but the dialogue and the resolution change on a nightly basis. Producers Kate Nash and Piet Suess, who co-direct the play along with Simone Cazabon and play two key characters, have introduced a fresh new element into the thriving local theatre scene.

The play is contemporary and sophisticated in its setting, taking place in an urban environment where the characters are either engaged in producing art or in supporting the arts in some way. Nash and Suess portray Phae and Denver, two multi-talented individuals who are involved in a puppet show for adults — the jury is still out on whether this is avante garde or mainstream. Their old friend Charles (played by Angelo Rosso) is a celebrated poet hoping to reach the next level.

The cast is rounded out by a supportive booster/social curator, a couple who own an up-and-coming publishing house and a wealthy investor who can change artists' lives with his backing.

While artistic expression is a strong theme of the play, the story really revolves around the unhealthy pattern that Charles and Phae have been involved in for countless years. Being sexually connected without committing to a relationship is having a toll on Phae. As events force the characters to face the situation, the emphasis on improvisation lends an authentic feeling to their interactions. Each actor has steeped themselves in backstories and character development so the unscripted dialogue can flow naturally.

It seems this process also strengthens emotional expression, especially in Nash, who is terrific as Phae: sexy, passionate and astute but not altogether in control.

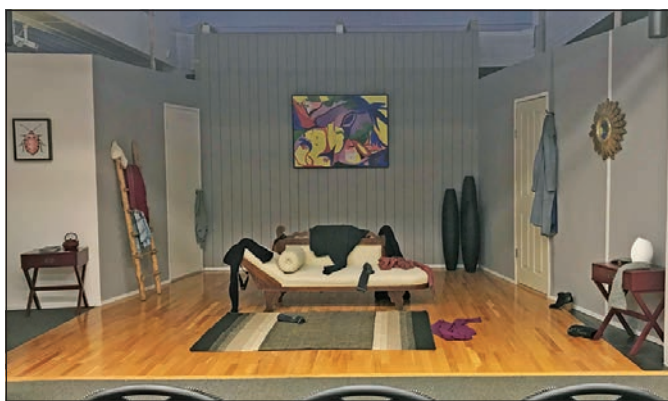


PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

A former floor coverings shop at 122 Lower Ganges Rd. is transformed into a stage set for Annabelle's Birthday, which returns March 13-15.

As may be expected, the improv element also lends itself to a lot of humour, and there are plenty of laugh-out-loud moments and gasp-producing one-liners. Lenka Lee has a real touch for comedic delivery as the generous divorcée helping guide Charles' entry into a more elevated world. (It turns out she also has a beautiful singing voice.) Suess takes the role of the scruffy artist/puppeteer in unexpected directions, being more of a voice of reason than the perceived screw-up, and has wonderfully understated delivery for great comic effect.

Daniel Squizzato also get the laughs with his uptight publisher trying to navigate involuntary portraits and puppets with genitalia, while Ross, Elizabeth Young and Michael Mann all embody their characters' personalities with complete conviction.

With a roll of the dice in the second act determining which characters will be left on stage to resolve the final scene, the actors get to explore a different set of circumstances in every show. The audience will likewise see a unique performance on the night they attend, and the first weekend offered some surprising outcomes.

Annabelle's Birthday returns for three final shows this weekend, from March 13 to 15. Doors open at 7 p.m. for a 7:30 curtain.

Advance tickets are available through [info@onesevenfive.ca](mailto:info@onesevenfive.ca).

## ARTS

## Craft Council offers awards

Gulf Islands artisans eligible

Salt Spring artist Francine Hampson-Reid wants island residents to know about two programs offered by the Craft Council of B.C., of which she is now a board member.

The council is a charitable arts service organization that supports the B.C. craft sector and artisans in a variety of ways: from creating exhibiting and sales opportunities to supporting communities around craft through its programs.

One of those is the CCBC Citizen of Craft Award, given to an individual who has made a significant impact in their community for craft and the artists who create it. Regional and community arts councils, craft organizations and artists can submit nominations. The deadline is March 20, with the application form available through the [craftcouncilbc.ca](http://craftcouncilbc.ca) website.

The second program Hampson-Reid wants to highlight for Gulf Islanders is the Micki MacKenzie Educational Craft Bursary, established by the family of the late Micki MacKenzie, who was instrumental in developing the CCBC and its predecessor, the Crafts Association of British Columbia.

The \$4,000 award assists an individual in their pursuit of a career in the field of craft and to help promote the development of excellence in crafts in British Columbia.

"There are probably people here who are eligible but not aware," said Hampson-Reid.

More details are available on the CCBC website.

## celebrating SENIORS

### Recommended vaccines for adults

A common misconception suggests that vaccines are only for the young. However, the following vaccines are recommended for people of various ages.

- **Influenza:** An annual flu shot is highly recommended. Doctors and health officials indicate that getting the flu vaccine is the single most effective way to prevent seasonal flu or reduce the duration and severity of the illness should it be contracted.

- **Tdap:** This vaccine contains strains of tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (whooping cough). All three are implicated in serious illnesses or death, according to WebMD. Just about every person, young and old, should receive the Tdap vaccine. The CDC says that every adult should get the Tdap vaccine once if they did not receive it as an adolescent. Then a Td booster shot every 10 years is sufficient.

- **Shingles:** People who have been exposed to varicella (chicken pox) in their youth are at risk for shingles as they grow older. The CDC says nearly one out of three people in the United States will develop shingles in their lifetime. A shingles vaccine can protect against shingles and complications from the disease. Adults who are 50 and older should get the vaccine, which is administered in two doses.

- **Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23):** This vaccine protects against serious pneumococcal diseases, including meningitis and bloodstream infections. It is recommended for all adults age 65 and older.

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- **Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV 13):** This protects against serious pneumococcal disease and pneumonia. Adults 65 years or older who have never received a dose of PCV13 should discuss PCV13 with their physicians.

Vaccines protect the very young from various diseases, but there are many vaccines that are still vital to health in adulthood.

## CONCERT

## Cécile Doo-Kingué at folk club evening

Monday night at Fulford Hall

The Salt Spring Folk Club is excited to present blues, afro-roots and soul performer Cécile Doo-Kingué on Monday, March 16.

According to the folk club, Doo-Kingué is considered one of Canada's most electrifying and versatile guitarists. When added to her rich vocals and powerful songwriting, the impact is an unforgettable evening of music and intimate communion.

Living Blues Magazine said her shows are "full of sophisticated musicianship and striking lyricism."

Doo-Kingué was born and raised in New York City and her family came from Cameroon. She has lived in the U.S., France and is now an adopted Montrealer. She has shared a stage and/or recorded with acts such as Montreal Jubilation Choir, Blind Boys of Alabama, James Blood Ulmer, Bernard Purdie, Jim Byrnes, Michael Jerome Brown, Tricia Foster, Scarlett Jane, United Steel Workers of Montreal, and has opened for icons like Canned Heat, John Prine, Eric Andersen, Angélique Kidjo, Yousou N'Dour and Manu Dibango. In 2008, Cecile and Gern f. of USWM started Chick Pickin' Mondays, a



PHOTO COURTESY TERRY HUGHES IMAGES

Montreal musician Cécile Doo-Kingué, who headlines the March 16 folk club show.

night promoting women singer-songwriters.

Doors for the folk club show open at Fulford Hall at 6:15 p.m. Opening act is Yael Wand.

Catering dinner and desserts for the evening is Three Blind Mice.

Advance tickets are sold at Salt Spring Books.





# ISLAND LIFE

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

**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)



## SALT SPRING LIBRARY

# Meet librarian Julia Wagner in the kids' stacks

Librarian is enthusiastic about range of services for families and kids

There's always something new happening at the library, but it's not often the children's book section gets a new librarian.

Julia Wagner joined the Salt Spring Public Library in January 2019, was swiftly promoted to full-time librarian in January 2020, and it's been pretty much nonstop before and since. I've seen her walking the stacks in sensible but stylish shoes, and tending bar in a glittery dress and go-go boots, all in the service of the library. Wagner's new position includes everything from social media posts to grants to volunteer management to programming, and — most importantly for this column — the library's children's collection and programs.

The first thing you should know about Wagner is that she's not your average librarian. (Actually, given the librarians I know, maybe she is.) Fresh from a master's degree in philosophy and another in library and information studies from McGill, Wagner was contemplating a PhD program in philosophy when a job popped up for the English Montreal School Board as one of a handful of pedagogical services librarians for the 44,000 students administered by the board. It was a huge job that involved working with dozens of schools and dozens of libraries.

**"I want to see kids – either if they have a passion for reading, or if they feel there's not another place for them – feel the library is their place."**

**JULIA WAGNER**  
Librarian, Salt Spring  
Public Library

Wagner went to work with a boatload of ideas for growing the many kinds of literacy needed by students growing up in a complicated digital age, found that schools embraced them — and that they worked.

"I loved the people I worked with, and I loved feeling like I made a tangible difference at those libraries and to the lives of the kids that used them," says Wagner. "You know you're in a good job when you think, 'They're letting me do this?' It ignited me."

Wagner's Salt Spring story started two years ago when her husband, recently graduated from Niagara College's brewing program, saw a posting for the head of brewing at



**Lavonne Leong**  
**READING ROOM**

Salt Spring Island Ales. A move to Salt Spring meant being closer to her sister, who lives in Victoria, and a childhood filled with creeks, sea anemones and cedars for their son, who is three.

"We thought, 'Oh, what the heck, we'll apply for it,'" says Wagner, and before they knew it, they were packing their bags for Salt Spring.

Now you can find her five days a week in our sunny book stacks. What does she see ahead for Salt Spring's children's programming and collections? Books are central, says Wagner, but "the concept of literacy is changing. We all know [book] literacy is important, but there's so much more to literacy than just reading."

Wagner is also excited to make tweaks to the layout of the children's section that will help both caregivers and kids find what they need, from making sight lines better so adults can stay in contact with children to maximizing access to books and making the browsing experience more intuitive for both adults and kids.

"We need to make sure that people can get, find and also stumble upon the books they want," she says.

Wagner also wants to make sure teens feel welcome and are finding an environment and resources they feel are relevant to their lives.

The feeling of personal welcome, safety and endless possibilities that a library can provide is one of the reasons she got into this line of work in the first place, she says.

"While I was a student at university, one of my favourite places to be was the library. I was completely inspired by the people. I felt they were magic, and I wanted in on that."

And she wants to pass it on.

"We are respite, refuge and shelter for a lot of people," says Wagner. "I want to see kids — either if they have a passion for reading, or if they feel there's not another place for them — feel the library is their place."

Enough about the future. What resources does the Salt Spring Island library offer right now, that Wagner wishes more people knew about?

- The teen meeting room. This meeting room, in the teen area and designated specifically for teen use, doesn't require a sign-up. If it's free, and you're a teen, go right in and use it to do homework, have discussions, work on group projects or just hang out. The room is also free for meetings of teen-led or parent-led interest groups that could be anything from crafting to gaming to chess.
- Hoopla. This library-linked North



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Julia Wagner, the Salt Spring Public Library's newest full-time librarian, whose responsibilities include the children's section of the library.

American streaming service offers e-books, movies, music, streamed audiobooks, TV shows and more streamed to your device or enabled TV. Unlike other library digital services, says Wagner, there are no long waits.

- Lit kit backpacks. Everyone's seen these little backpacks in the children's section, filled with carefully chosen themed books, toys and games — but they don't circulate as often as they might, given that they provide a weekend's worth of high-quality educational entertainment. To find out what kits are available, use the online catalogue and search for "lit kit." Right now there are 21 of them, including Numbers, Shapes and Colours, Feelings and Friendship, Under the Sea and Northwest Coast. Check your chosen kit out at the front desk so they can make sure that all the parts are there, and you're good to go.

- Non-book loans. There's much more to the library's collections than books. Library members can also take out musical instruments (a guitar and a ukulele); audiobooks (great for road trips); films (the children's section has a wall of DVDs); family passes to the Royal BC Museum, the Robert Bateman Centre, and Craigdarroch Castle in Victoria. (Check the online catalogue to see if they're checked out.) There's also a programmable Sphero robot ball that helps kids learn how to code. Stop by the front desk to ask about it.

- Parenting programs. The library doesn't just offer family programs for kids but also programs for parents. Mark your calendars for Raffi, who will give a TED-style talk on child honouring on March 25 at 7 p.m.

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# what's on this week



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Wed. Mar. 11	Thu. Mar. 12	Fri. Mar. 13	Sat. Mar. 14	Mon. Mar. 16	Tue. Mar. 17	Wed. Mar. 18
<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Islands Trust Council.</b> Second day of quarterly meeting at the Harbour House Hotel. 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Delegations and town hall session scheduled for 1:30 p.m.  <b>School Board Meeting.</b> SD64 Board meets at GISS. 1 p.m.  <b>Armed Resistance on the Gulf Islands: The Battle of Lamalchi Bay - April 20, 1863.</b> SS Historical Society talk by Chris Arnett. Central Hall. 2 p.m.  <b>Music Bingo.</b> Every Wednesday with Taylor at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 10 p.m.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Open Mic &amp; Jam.</b> Thursdays at the Legion. 7 to 9 p.m.  <b>Introduction to Tarot.</b> Learn how to use the ancient wisdom of the Tarot cards to develop your intuition and get in touch with your innermost self. Four-week course starts today. Salt Spring Wellness Centre. 7 p.m. Info: jodie@westcoastskies.com  <b>Fri. Mar. 13</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Annabelle's Birthday – An Improvised Play.</b> An improvised play in two acts, where a roll of the dice determines the ending. Seven actors and two puppets explore adult relationships. Not suitable for kids. 122 Lower Ganges Rd. Doors open 7 p.m. Show starts at 7:30.  <b>Karaoke.</b> At the Legion. 7:30 p.m. The Ashton Bachman Band. Roots rock reggae at Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.  <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>St. Patrick's Spring Celebration.</b> Opening event for A Toast to Old Ireland: the Art of Will Millar. With live music by Millar, an Irish Rovers founder. Gallery 8. 5 to 8 p.m.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Introduction to Restorative Justice on Salt Spring.</b> Find out more about this alternative to the justice system. Lions Hall. 6:30 p.m.  <b>Salt Spring Forum: COVID-19.</b> Dr. Kevin Patterson gives special presentation on everything people need to know about COVID-19 and health services' response. ArtSpring. 7:30 p.m.  <b>Sat. Mar. 14</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Annabelle's Birthday – An Improvised Play.</b> See Friday's listing.  <b>Salt Spring's Got Talent.</b> Audition Night #2 for talent show at the Legion. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.  <b>Jim Payne + Fergus O'Byrne.</b> Traditional Newfoundland Irish music. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.  <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Basic Amateur Radio Licensing Course.</b> FULLY SUBSCRIBED. WAIT LIST ONLY. Four-Saturday course begins today with the first session at Meaden Hall and the remaining three at the Portlock Park portable. 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Met Opera: Der Fliegende Holländer.</b> François Girard, whose revelatory 2013 take on Parsifal set the recent Met standard for Wagner stagings, now unveils a spellbinding new vision of the composer's tale of a cursed sea captain doomed to sail the open ocean for eternity. ArtSpring. 10 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  <b>Satsang with Desthein.</b> Info: call Gwen at 250-538-0204. 15-258 Lower Ganges Rd in Kingfisher Cove. 3 to 5 p.m.  <b>Sun. Mar. 15</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Annabelle's Birthday – An Improvised Play.</b> See Friday's listing.  <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Satsang with Desthein.</b> See Saturday's listing except time is 1 to 3 p.m.  <b>Mon. Mar. 16</b> <b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Salt Spring Folk Club: Cécile Doo-Kingué.</b> Guitarist/singer-songwriter Cécile Doo-Kingué blends blues, afro-roots and soul to create a unique sound. Yael Wand is opening act. Show at Fulford Hall starts at 7 p.m. Doors open at 6:15 p.m. and at 6 p.m. for season's ticket holders.	<b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Eco Art Camp.</b> Weeklong camp where kids ages eight to 14 learn how to be an eco citizen and help the orca, salmon, herring and sea bird ecosystem survive starts today. With Tracy Harrison and Briony Penn at their studios, in the forest and by the beach. Text 250-537-6568 or email tracy@artbyharrison.com to register.  <b>Story Time En Espagnol and English.</b> Bilingual Story Time presented by Nedjo Rogers, Alberto Lara and Wendalyn von Meyenfeldt. Parents/guardians must be in attendance. Ages 4-8. Salt Spring Public Library. 10 to 11 a.m. Info/registration: 250-537-4666 ext. 222 info@saltspringlibrary.com  <b>Street Dance Moves.</b> Mixed dance styles including hip-hop, Latin, jazz, and belly dancing. Salt Spring Public Library. Ages 6-9 from 2 to 3 p.m. and ages 10-13 from 3 to 4 p.m. Info/registration: 250-537-4666 ext. 222; info@saltspringlibrary.com  	<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>St. Patrick's Day Party.</b> With Buck Dodgers String Band + Ivonne Hernandez + Oliver Swain. Moby's Pub. 8 p.m.  <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Making St. Patrick's Day Crafts.</b> Limericks, poetry and fun. Ages 6-9. Salt Spring Public Library. 11 a.m. to 12 noon. Info/registration: 250-537-4666 ext. 222 info@saltspringlibrary.com  <b>SSI Parks and Recreation Commission.</b> Public welcome to observe business meeting. Salt Spring Public Library. 3 to 5 p.m.  <b>Evening of Sacred Poetry.</b> "Celtic Poets" — John O'Donohue, Seamus Heaney, William Butler Yeats and Padraig O Tuama. Bring your favourite as the group celebrates St. Patrick's Day. Facilitated by Gyllian Davies and Heather Martin at Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice (St. Mary's Church in Fulford). 7 to 8:30 p.m. Participation is by donation and registration is not required.  <b>Trivia Tuesday.</b> Every Tuesday at Moby's Pub. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m.	<b>LIVE ENTERTAINMENT</b> <b>Theatre Alive Presents Gently Down the Stream.</b> Staged reading promises an emotional ride filled with sadness, love and hope. Suggestive scenes and coarse language. Tickets at the door. Mahon Hall. 7 p.m.   <b>ACTIVITIES</b> <b>Raptors and Raptor Expert Visit.</b> Live Birds group visits, co-sponsored by Salt Spring Conservancy. Ages 6-13. Salt Spring Public Library. 1 to 2:30 p.m. Info/registration: 250-537-4666 ext. 222; info@saltspringlibrary.com  <b>Permaculture Transformation.</b> Talk by Mary Beckett and Lynda Turner about permaculture benefits to Kenyan elementary school. Salt Spring Seniors Centre. 2 p.m.  <b>Video Screening of Poetry in Motion and Music.</b> Film of All Saints By-the-Sea 25th anniversary show of music, dance and more. All Saints. 2 p.m.  <b>Music Bingo.</b> See last Wednesday's listing.

## THE FRITZ CINEMA

- **Jumanji: The Next Level** shows Friday, March 13 to Tuesday, March 17 at 7 p.m. each night plus a 3 p.m. matinee on Sunday. Rated PG. 121 minutes.
- **Leonardo: The Works** shows on Thursday, March 19 at 3 and 7 p.m.
- **For more movie info, visit The Fritz website at [www.thefritz.ca](http://www.thefritz.ca).**

## EXHIBITIONS

- **Gallery 8** presents **Saint Patrick's Spring Celebration - The Art of Will Millar: A Toast to Old Ireland**, beginning with an opening reception with the artist and musician on Friday, March 13 from 5 to 8 p.m. Show continues to March 25.

- A new group of large-scale drawings titled **Pentimento** by **Deon Venter** is showing at the **Venter Gallery**.
- **Thrust: A Visual Celebration of Human Sexuality** by multiple artists runs at the **Salt Spring Gallery** until March 18.
- **The Salt Spring Painters Guild Lobby Show** runs in the **ArtSpring lobby** from March 2 to 31.
- **Brushstrokes & Bookshelves**, a juried exhibition of work in celebration of the **Salt Spring Public Library's 60th anniversary**, continues in the **library program room** for the the month of March.
- **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.

## Theatre Alive Staged Reading Gently Down the Stream by Martin Sherman

Mahon Hall

Wednesday, March 18 at 7 p.m.

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**Driftwood** GULF ISLANDS





PHOTO BY DREW UNDERWOOD

**BIG CHEQUE:** Fulford Community Hall Association president Markus Wenzel, right, accepts a cheque for \$10,500 from 100 Men Who Care planning committee member Rod Martens at last Wednesday's gathering at the Harbour House. Members voted to give the hall association the funds for a rainwater catchment system following Wenzel's pitch to the group. The most recent 100 Women Who Care Salt Spring meeting saw members vote for the SWOVA Community Development and Research Society to receive the \$18,500 in the pot for that evening.

## READING

# Local author's book a tonic

First book in Coralie Moss trilogy

BY MAGGIE WARBEY  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Getting ready for spring? Check out the Gillian Watson Bird Watcher Kit at the front desk for a bird's eye look around you.

And something new? **Once Blessed Thrice Cursed** by Salt Spring author Coralie Moss is just the tonic to get you going. This book is the first in a trilogy of magic and witches and mystery by this seasoned author. Set in contemporary times and an urban setting, this story encompasses the essence of generational traits and talents that lead to a good read and an intoxicating story. Readers will be eagerly watching for volumes 2 and 3.

**The Invention of Yesterday: a 50,000-Year History of Human Culture, Conflict and Connection** by Tamin Aansary is an enticingly rich and approachable global history that draws together examples of how the human race is one. Examining the basics of civilization: language, environment, tools and the human penchant to utilize these elements in creative and useful ways, Aansary explores the connections and devel-

## ON THE NEWSHELVES

opments of societies that both brought together and separated the human species. From the very start of human civilizations to the digital age, the author creates a cohesive analysis of human social development.

Eric Klinenberg's **Palaces for the People: How Social Infrastructure Can Help Fight Inequality, Polarization and the Decline of Civic Life** couldn't have come at a more opportune time. As North America and the "developed" world faces increased social division and polarization, this text suggests a way forward that can help societies to bridge the increasingly large chasms between peoples. The author suggests that shared spaces and safe places: libraries, schools, gathering places are the root of a more democratic and peaceful future. Drawing on examples from around the world, Klinenberg points to stories of successful integration and finding of common purpose.

**In the Dream House: a Memoir**

by Carmen Maria Machado is the life story of the author's attempts to come to terms with who she is, how she got there and where she came from. It is the episodic tale of her sexual coming out as a lesbian; her struggle with the demons of her childhood: religious and parental; and her relationships with the influential people around her and with herself. Ultimately, it the tale of a tortured soul that finds relief and release in being who she was intended to be.

A remarkable and insightful book, **Hello I Want to Die Please Fix Me: Depression in the First Person** by Anna Mehler Paperny is a poignant, harrowing and (sometimes) funny account of the author's struggles with mental illness and the healthcare system. An individual who has suffered with depression, the author uses her journalistic skills to bring to life the story of her own experiences with the condition and the fight to get help from the medical profession. Based on interviews with people who have depression, as well as doctors and others who are trained to offer help with this condition, Paperny provides details, illustrative stories and multiple resources for those whose lives are touched by this blight.

## FAITH

# Video shares anniversary excitement

Snow-cancelled event rescheduled for March 18

A video screening of an All Saints By-the-Sea anniversary event will run at the church next Wednesday, March 18 at 2 p.m.

When the Anglican Parish of Salt Spring Island celebrated the 25th anniversary of All Saints on Thanksgiving weekend in 2019, part of the celebrations was a concert titled Poetry in Motion and Music.

According to the parish, videographer Peter Prince has beautifully captured the colour and humour of the concert, which highlights some of the pieces performed at the evening of dance in 1994, when the building of All Saints was completed and celebrated. Included in the show are also many of the songs from the popular Music and Munch series and Flower Festivals of the past. Featured dancers, Sue Newman, Robbyn Scott, Lolli Devindisch and friends, Jean McClure, Anke Smele, Connie Holmes, Deb Toole, Mary Lowery and accompanist, David Storm presented the hour of uplifting entertainment.



PHOTO COURTESY ANGLICAN PARISH OF SSI

All Saints By-the-Sea church, which marked its 25th anniversary with a Poetry in Motion and Music event last fall. A video of the concert will be shown next Wednesday.

The video screening was originally set to run in January but was postponed due to snow falling on the scheduled day.

Admission, including tea and treats to follow, is by donation to support the work of Music Makers and the Tea à Tempo concert series, which continues to run on the first Wednesday of each month.

## Remember WHEN

### Five years ago

About 350 people converged at Centennial Park on March 15 and walked through Ganges to protest proposed Bill C-51, the federal government's anti-terrorism legislation. Making a symbolic statement on the bill's potential implications for free speech, a roll of duct tape was passed around at the park so people could cover their mouths with a strip of it. Critics of Bill C-51 felt it could severely limit Canadians' freedom of expression and other Charter rights, create problems for RCMP investigations and the judicial process.

### Ten years ago

Less than a year after Salt Spring's Richard Murakami visited Victoria's Government House to meet the Emperor and Empress of Japan, he was asked to come down and make yet another appearance. This time around, Murakami and 44 other Community Achievement Award winners were honoured. "You're kidding," Murakami said upon hearing the news at his collision repair shop. "I guess I'll have to spray my shoes with a spray bomb to shine them up again." Murakami said he'll dust off his suit and attend the ceremony even if it means having to take another big trip off the island.

### Twenty years ago

Two groups of men in white trucks raced into areas of Texada Land Corporation property being occupied by protesters taking some "direct action" of their own. Witnesses said one man was physically assaulted, a rope holding a tree sitter's platform was cut and a campsite was torn apart. A group of protesters involved in a lockdown on machinery off Hamilton-Horne Road saw two white trucks driving up the road before midnight. The men, who protesters presumed were logging company employees, ripped down the tarps over the tent one person was sleeping in, sent candles, canisters and other objects flying and then jumped back into their trucks. The incident lasted about five minutes.

### Thirty years ago

A Grade 7 teacher from Fernwood Elementary School won first place in a computer competition sponsored by a computer magazine and company in the United States. Joy Brownsword was one of 100 teachers from Canada and the United States to enter the contest. She walked away with a Macintosh SE computer complete with hard drive and printer. The competition called for the submission of a teacher lesson plan using part of the program put out by the Microsoft computer company. In January, she entered a lesson plan on spelling and spread sheets that could be used by students in their own work. She received a phone call from New York telling her the good news.

### Forty years ago

The type of criminal activity that is "totally unexpected in the Gulf Islands" occurred on Mayne Island. Corp. Harry Danylchuk of the Pender Island RCMP detachment reported that a 19-year-old visitor to Mayne Island was robbed at knife-point by two unidentified men, and then beaten up. Danylchuk told the Driftwood that Jonathon Driver, of England, was robbed of approximately \$70 while walking along Stewart Road on Mayne. Driver received several bruises from the beating, Danylchuk said.

### Fifty years ago

A big paving job was looming on Salt Spring Island. Railway cars were drawn up in the harbour at Ganges and the plant was warming up at Fulford. Heavy trucks from the mainland were travelling up and down the island as gravel and fill were hauled in readiness for the blacktopping. At the side of roads throughout Salt Spring Island there were markers for the paving equipment. The first job was to complete the paving from Ganges to Fulford, where it was left off in the fall. The paving would then start a second time with a second layer spread on the roads.



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## Obituaries

### ALEX OLCHOWECKI

May 13, 1928 - March 2, 2020

Alex died peacefully in Lady Minto hospital following hip surgery at the Royal Jubilee. He was born in Sandilands, Manitoba, the seventh of eight children. He is survived by his wife of 59 years, Victoria (Mosquin), nieces and nephews. Alex was predeceased by his father Jacob, mother Frances (Monastyrski), five brothers, Peter, Paul, Roman, Sam, Michael, and two sisters, Helen Beyak and Jean Stark.



Sandilands, where Alex attended the one-room school from grades one to eight, is a small village on the C.N. railroad line to the USA. He knew the woods, climbed jack pines, picked wild berries and mushrooms. In winter, with his older brothers, provided rabbit and venison. He attended the local one-room school for grades one to eight, and continued high school in Ste. Anne, Teulon and, in 1946, St. Andrews College in Winnipeg. After cutting pulpwood in bush camps of Ontario and two years plying the Great Lakes shipping iron ore on the Algorail, he decided to go to Edmonton. There, pouring concrete for the city's curbs, and being on unemployment insurance led him to try long distance trucking. He loved driving the Kenworths and the trips gave him opportunity for quick visits to relatives and friends scattered across Ontario and Manitoba.

At age thirty, he decided to go to university and applied to the U of Alberta. However, he was short his grade twelve English and denied entrance. Application to the U of Manitoba was accepted and he attended summer school there, taking two courses. Here he met Victoria, who was working on her B.A. They married two years later. Al continued trucking for two years and they moved to Manitoba for Al to begin his Science degree. He received his Ph.D. in Mycology in 1972 and stayed with the Botany Department, teaching various courses, including photography, until his retirement from the Faculty of Science in 1993.

The Sandilands Forest Reserve was a favourite destination for mushrooms, photography and picnicking with friends on the old family homestead. He was delighted, one year, to say he had filled the trunk of the car with morels. Travels to other countries always included visits to Botanical Gardens. As a member of the British Mycological Society, there was the pleasure of roaming the countryside with forays to Italy, Majorca, Spain and Portugal. Al was an adventurous cook, barbecued a great steak, and made noodles for the Sunday chicken soup. He loved New Orleans jazz, his many cameras, small radios, and good tools.

He moved to Salt Spring in September of 1993 looking for shorter winters and a longer tomato growing season. The Garden Club introduced winter vegetables and slugs. Al joined the Farmers Institute and over the years valued the Tuesday mornings working on the buildings and grounds. He was pleased to offer his tools: he had many and often more than one. He could not resist a bargain.

Following the independence of Ukraine, travel was possible and several trips connected him with relatives. He was pleased to be able to support some of them through medicine, the priesthood, computer science and law. Throughout his life, Al maintained friendships and stayed connected with family. To Victoria, he was a best friend and a loving husband.

Cremation has taken place. A Celebration of Life will be held at 2:00 on Wednesday, April 8, at Fulford Seniors, south side of Fulford Hall. Internment will be in Winnipeg at a later date. Donations in his memory may be made to a charity of choice. Thanks to the nurses at Lady Minto and to Dr. Beaver for their wonderful care.

## Obituaries

### Sue Ann Hicks (née LEIGH-SPENCER)



Sue Hicks passed away peacefully February 27, 2020 on Salt Spring Island, BC, in the company of her family and friend Peter Jones and assisted by the excellent staff at Lady Minto Hospital. She was 72. Sue was clear, resolute, and thankful to have control of her life to the end, despite her incurable cancer.

Sue moved to Salt Spring Island from Winnipeg less than five years ago after the death of her husband of 48 years, Dave Hicks. She dove into her new life and community lending her practical and efficient organization skills to such projects as expanding the Meadowbrook seniors' facility, coordinating volunteers for SSNAP (Salt Spring National Art Prize), improving the experience at the Salt Spring Island Golf Club, and much more. Her passionate support for others, insight, clarity, and strength made her many close friends. Her playful sense of humor and effortless fashion sense charmingly complemented her pragmatism.

Sue was born and raised in Winnipeg where she completed her Bachelor of Nursing at the University of Manitoba and later completed her Masters of Environmental Studies (Health Planning) at York University in Toronto. She began her career as a Public Health Nurse for the City of Winnipeg and rose to become Associate Deputy Minister of Health for the Government of Manitoba. In addition to her busy professional life in Winnipeg, Sue also worked tirelessly in the community for such organizations as the Royal Winnipeg Ballet (two terms as Board director), Deer Lodge Hospital, and the Pan American Games.

Sue was a leading expert in public health planning and program implementation and spoke, wrote, and consulted on the subject nationally and internationally and was widely recognized. She was ultimately awarded the Canadian Public Health Association Certificate of Merit in 2009. She continued to consult privately until her retirement in 2019.

Sue Hicks will be deeply missed by her many friends on Salt Spring Island, and in Winnipeg, Tucson, and elsewhere. She is survived by her sister, Sally Leigh-Spencer (Brian Thacker) of Duncan, BC; her brother, Peter Leigh-Spencer (Marjorie) of Edmonton, AB; her brother-in-law, Dennis Watkins (Michelle) of Brentwood Bay, BC and a wide extended family of beloved cousins, nieces and nephews. Sue comes from a long history of family from Salt Spring Island; her parents (Ann and Frank Leigh-Spencer) and her paternal grandparents (Helen and Leigh Leigh-Spencer).

A Celebration of Life will be held on May 24, 2020 at 3:00 pm at Gallery 8 on Salt Spring Island. Those who wish to remember Sue in a special way, may make a gift in her memory to Lady Minto Hospital Foundation, Ganges, Salt Spring Island, BC.

## In Memorium



**Annual General Meeting**  
Wed. March 25  
6:30-8:30 pm  
Seniors Centre

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## Coming Events

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the CENTRAL COMMUNITY HALL SOCIETY

Sunday  
March 29, 2020 at  
1:00 pm in the main hall  
at 901 North End Road.

Public welcome.

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

on Wednesday 18th  
March, 2019 at 7:00 pm  
in the lower hall at  
901 North End Road.

PUBLIC WELCOME.

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## Coming Events

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## Coming Events

### March Break Kids Programming at the Library

Check our website for further info  
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or call:  
250-537-4666

Salt Spring Island Public Library

**The Annual General Meeting OF THE**  
**salt spring arts council**

**Sunday March 15, 2020 at 10 am**  
**will be held at Mahon Hall**  
**114 Rainbow Road, Ganges**

Everyone Welcome. Memberships available.  
Refreshments and light snacks will be served.  
Join us find out about SSAC accomplishments in 2019, and plans for 2020.

**250-537-0899 • [www.ssartscouncil.com](http://www.ssartscouncil.com)**

**What's happening at your Library?**  
Find out at the  
**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**  
**3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2020**  
**Community Program Room**  
**Salt Spring Island Library**  
**129 McPhillips Avenue, Ganges, BC**

A resolution to amend the bylaws of the Association will be presented for approval by the members of the Association present at the Annual General Meeting. The full text of the proposed resolution will be posted in the Library, and on the Library's website <http://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop/> between the publication of this advertisement and the Annual General Meeting.

All active Library cardholders are welcome to attend and are eligible to vote at the meeting.  
Refreshments will be served.

## Information

## Information

### Call for Community Music Award Applications

The Salt Spring Singers invite community members to apply for a \$500 award toward music studies. All ages are eligible. Preference will be given to candidates who intend to study voice and/or are members of a community or school choir.

**The deadline for applications is Wednesday, April 22, 2020.**  
**For more information and an application package, please visit [saltspringsingers.ca/scholarships.html](http://saltspringsingers.ca/scholarships.html) or contact Lesley Reynolds at (250) 537-4861 or [lesleyr1@telus.net](mailto:lesleyr1@telus.net)**

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PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

From left, Islanders Working Against Violence executive director Kisa Petersen and board member Jayne Lloyd-Jones give out information about their organization at a table at an International Women's Day event at ArtSpring on Sunday evening.

## COURSES

# Foodsafe class coming in April

## Foodsafe Level 1 prerequisite

A Foodsafe Level-2 class will be offered on Salt Spring in early April.

Instructor Sheri Nielson said the Level-2 class is rarely offered on the island. That means people who work in food service for hospitals and care facilities, as well as farmers and producers who want to develop value added products, require the course and have had to go off island, or take the course on-line.

Foodsafe Level 2 runs April 6 and 7 from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. at Lions Hall. It is for anyone responsible for food service delivery in restaurants, cafés, food trucks, catering businesses, hospitals or other food service institutions.

Successful completion of Foodsafe Level 1 (being offered April 1 on Salt Spring) or the Food Safety Basics review module through Open School BC must have been done within two weeks prior to taking the Level-2 course.

There will be an in-class exam at the end of the second day. Successful participants will receive a certificate and be registered with the BC Foodsafe Registry.

Call 250-537-1883 or email [sheri@kitchensync.ca](mailto:sheri@kitchensync.ca) to register.

# THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

[www.sunstarastronomy.com](http://www.sunstarastronomy.com) 1-800-836-0648 [sunstarastronomy@gmail.com](mailto:sunstarastronomy@gmail.com)

**TIP OF THE WEEK:** READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Due to the Leap Year, Spring Equinox arrives early this year – March 19 at 11:50 pm EST. It occurs while all the main planets are Direct, as in not retrograde. This is a somewhat rare occurrence and generally indicates straightforward and thankful and matter-of-fact attitudes. How this or any event 'influences' any of us personally is an entirely different conversation. Horoscopes provide a glimpse but the real story is to be found in your Natal Chart and how the planets are forming aspects to it (Transits). It should be noted, however, that while we use the term 'influence', it is actually not an accurate means of saying what is happening. The planets are sometimes described as having 'energies' or 'forces' but this is incorrect as it yields to notions of physics and Astrology belongs under the heading of metaphysics. It is more accurate to say that the planets represent archetypal principalities that manifest synchronistically. You need the 'app' to appreciate this form of Piscean logic, without which suggests 'ring-pass-not'.

### Aries (Mar 21 – Apr 19)

Just when you thought you might be out of the watery grip of Pisces as the Sun enters your sign this week, Mercury re-enters the fish's sign where it will remain until April 11. The result of this is that regardless of the weather, you will not likely launch into spring as fully as you might otherwise. Use this time to dream on...

### Taurus (Apr 20 – May 20)

You are in the mood to make things happen. Mercury, Venus and Uranus are working together to inspire new connections and leads with those you deem movers and shakers. Yet, as practical as your aspirations may be, there is a definite twist of the unusual features, perhaps something unexpected or, if you are lucky, kinky.

### Gemini (May 21 – Jun 21)

Imagination is so significantly your power in the world. While it is the domain of Pisces, that is the sign that is situated on your solar career cusp. Yeah, it can prove as cosmic as it sounds. Meanwhile, you are feeling the love for everyone these days and might be wondering who is next... With your ambitions running high and your desires deep, the next may just be the lucky one.

### Cancer (Jun 22 – Jul 22)

Who are you now? Circumstances of late may be leaving you wondering and asking such questions. Positively, you are out of the Mercury Rx fog, yet that does not mean you are completely free from the mystic mist that has been surrounding you the past several weeks. Whatever the answer, you will likely still feel moved to express it assertively.

### Leo (Jul 23 – Aug 23)

Okay, so you are not the only one who has felt inspired to take a skinny dip in unknown waters. Yet, you may be the one taking the lead. At worst, you feel a little weighted by the realities of the efforts required. In the bigger picture, one of the more significant cycles underway suggests that you have until Winter Solstice to complete the task. Slow but sure.

### Virgo (Aug 24 – Sep 24)

Sometimes in the relationship dance, we trip and falter or toes get stepped on. This may have occurred over the past several weeks and now you must contend with the realities of it. However, since you probably will not achieve the progress required, according to certain planetary configurations, you are probably wise to wait until after the Aries New Moon on March 24.

### Libra (Sep 23 – Oct 22)

Health concerns continue to be registering high on your radar. Due to various factors, you may feel especially susceptible now. Therefore, you are wise to take any and all precautions you can think of. This will remain true into early April especially, yet will linger on, if to a lesser degree. Since the best defense is a strong offense, focus to boost your immune system and energy levels.

### Scorpio (Oct 23 – Nov 21)

If you have been enjoying swimming in the Piscean waters, take note that this cycle is in its last period. As lovely as such sojourns can be, they can also prove to be like swimming with sirens. You know the mermaids that have lured many a sailor to find their resting place in the watery depths. Positively you have received a kiss of destiny revealing who you are and are not.

### Sagittarius (Nov 22 – Dec 21)

Although a practical one, you are a dreamer and mystic at your core. This has proven especially true of late. Positively, you have been able to take refuge in quietude. If not, there remains time for you to do so for the next few weeks. Since it remains true that you are still in a cycle requiring giving more than usual, you may especially relish the sweet sounds of silence whenever you can.

### Capricorn (Dec 22 – Jan 19)

You may have noticed that your imagination has been running especially strong of late. It is also possible that not all of the results are as positive as you like. Yet, since these are largely imagination-stimulated perspectives, you are wise to remember that they may not be nearly as real and important as you have imagined them to be.

### Aquarius (Jan 20 – Feb 19)

Holy waters Aquaman, or is that Aquawoman... the scent of spring is strong on the airwaves? And it is likely moving you, both figuratively and literally. Yet, this is not a fast move. It is more like a flow yet it does host some complex currents. But don't let these perturb you, there is something very special in those waters like a great big rainbow-colored sunfish.

### Pisces (Feb 20 – Mar 20)

While when retrograde in our own sign, mercury can sharpen our focus, this is not to say that your mind is in full forward motion. Yet, now that is becoming true and you may find yourself eager to cover lost ground. This pace will accelerate progressively over the next several weeks and it stands to be a rather revolutionary march as well.



## 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:

Sam Keating was the first person to identify the lamp post in the bus loop area at GISS.

SALT SPRING

# Star of the WEEK



## Helani Davison

Helani, who is 76, broke her own long-distance swim record last Thursday when she swam six miles or 380 laps at Rainbow Road pool non-stop for a Heart & Stroke Foundation fundraiser she initiated herself. She also exceeded her \$500 fundraising goal. As Rory Warnock of the Heart & Stroke Foundation said, "Hat's off, Ms. Davison, for such a remarkable feat! You rock!"





# 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)



## FITNESS

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**Susan Gordon**  
THE PERENNIAL  
**RUNNER**

The basis of learning any new sport or physical activity involves understanding the fundamentals of how to train. Whether you ever decide to race or prefer not to, a coherent workout plan will help lessen the chance of injury, and optimize your enjoyment of the activity.

When you see someone happily jogging along a local pathway or sprinting around the track at Portlock, realize that there was a lot of thought and effort preceding their ability to be able to crank out the effort, no matter how slow or fast.

In fact, speed and distance will be two of the achievements that follow in progression to the runner's initial foray into the sport, which begins simply with the desire and interest to give it a try.

Walking briskly and running are so natural to humans that it often begs the question as to why we need specialized training. However, given modern lifestyles and common health problems, a personal assessment needs to come under careful consideration before beginning or improving on a level of fitness.

In my last column, I mentioned being inspired to run while watching my cousin finish a gruelling Ironman competition with a hamstring strain. I want to be clear that I don't actually recommend anyone attempt to complete a race or workout with an injury, but my cousin and his wife are both sports medicine practitioners who work with elite athletes. Rick knew precisely how much he could push himself under the circumstances.

Starting with "where you're at" is the protocol I recommend. Finding good help and sources of information is imperative to your own motivation and progress.

Learn to Train is an official component of the

National Canadian Coaching Program and is typically aimed at youth who are developing the skills necessary to participate in a broad range of sports. It is actually Stage Three of the Long Term Athlete Development system by Athletics Canada, and designed to help kids stay active for life.

The first two stages encourage essential movement and begin teaching agility, balance and coordination, along with instilling the importance of daily play and physical activity. The emphasis is on fun and non-competition.

I do, in fact, encourage adults to play and find joy in all forms of physical activity, including the basics that help train or re-train the building blocks of good form and movement.

As a coach of Masters and Grand Masters (age 50 and over) athletes, I propose the Learn to Train stage as a starting point in my program because it adds basic structure and more intense focus to whatever the athlete has already been doing to keep him or herself relatively fit.

Most adults have some experience in their history, no matter how far back, that involves skills in sport. If you ever did track and field in school, learned how to swim, dance, ride horseback, play team sports, or had a very physical job, you already know quite well what makes your body tick. If running or power walking is appealing to you, think about how you can schedule three or four structured workouts into your life, and keep reading this column for more tips!

*Susan Gordon has been a Salt Spring resident since 2012, and a successful competitive runner since 2008, with many age-group wins and series championships. She is an NCCP Trained Endurance Coach, member of BC Athletics, and coach for the Salt Spring Sneakers. She holds B.C. Sr. Games meet records for W55-59 in the 800m, 1500m and 5000m, and the B.C. 1500m Racewalk record for W55-59.*

## RUNNING

# Sneakers get results

Dedicated runners trek to Port Alberni

BY SUSAN GORDON  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Winter passes quickly when there are races every second weekend.

Event number five in the Vancouver Island Running Association's 2020 series saw a dedicated group of Salt Spring Sneakers and friends either spend the night or rise exceptionally early to make the 6 a.m. ferry for the drive to the Port Alberni Paper Chase 15K, held Sunday, March 8.

Fastest runner among the Sneakers was Gary Myers, finishing in 1:10:07 and 13th place in his age group.

A notable 15K personal best time was achieved by Duncan Elsey, who was sixth in his category, and four minutes faster than last year at this event.

Rounding out the Salt Spring men's participants were Peter Freeman with a 12th place and Eric Ellis, first in M70-74 with an outstanding 1:14:18 that bested his time on this course by a minute.

In women's divisions, the Sneakers were led by Marion Young (second), followed by Anna Ford (sixth), Doreen Peron (10th), and Mary Freeman, who placed sixth in her age group.

The sixth race of the Island Series, and the longest, the Comox Valley RV Half Marathon, takes place on March 22.

It is a rural out and back course with views of Mount Washington, Forbidden Plateau, and Tsolum and Puntledge Rivers. If you're looking for a great first half-marathon or a potential personal best, this course has a net downhill after the turnaround and is known for producing optimal performances.

For more details on the VIRA Series go to [www.islandseries.org](http://www.islandseries.org) or look for #runseriesfunseries.

Full race results can be found at [www.racedaytiming.ca](http://www.racedaytiming.ca).



PHOTO COURTESY SS SNEAKERS

Anna Ford races the Paper Chase 15K in Port Alberni.

## TRACK AND FIELD

# Thompson sweeps BC Masters

Indoor championships held in Kamloops

BY SUSAN GORDON  
DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Long-time Salt Spring resident Lynn Thompson again proved that reaching upper age groups and reaching for the stars in athletic performances are not only possible but potentially a formula for keeping one's mind and body finely tuned. Typically once in their 80s, many of our elderly population are struggling to maintain good health and function.

Feb. 28 to March 1 were this year's dates for the Van Ryswyk Indoor Meet and the BC Masters Indoor Championship, which are held at the same time in the Tournament Capital Centre in Kamloops.

Thompson, who always manages to excel, did so once again with gold medal wins in the Men's 80-84 division for the 60-m dash, 200-m dash, 60-m hurdles, triple jump and long jump.

According to Thompson, "My time there was identical to two years ago,



FILE PHOTO COURTESY LYNN THOMPSON

Salt Spring's Lynn Thompson at the 55+ Games in Kelowna last summer.

while the 200 metres was about half a second slower. I set B.C. records for my age group in the hurdles and the triple jump and was within seven centimetres of the long jump record."

No doubt the talented octogenarian will be back on the track for a few more runs at age-group records this year, as the indoor championship meet was only the first of his upcoming events planned for 2020.



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Appreciation Day!

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**TRANSIT DRIVER APPRECIATION DAY**  
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