



Driftwood

GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday,
Mar. 25, 2020

60th year
Issue 13

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4 Transplant siblings mark 10-year anniversary

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COVID-19

Island visitors told to stay home

Ferry service continues with reduced amenities

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Gulf Islands residents are having to learn that maintaining physical distance between themselves and others is essential to check the transmission of COVID-19. Now many are turning their attention to dissuading others from considering their home as a potential refuge for riding out the unknown weeks ahead.

Elected officials from across the Gulf Islands and Howe Sound Islands issued a plea on Sunday for people to stay away from the Islands Trust area to minimize the spread of COVID-19 and to reduce pressure on limited island services.

"Now is not the time to be visiting the islands," said Peter Luckham, chair of Islands Trust Council, in a news statement. "Most Gulf Islands have a median age of over 60 years old and limited or no medical services. First responders are volunteers who are practising sheltering in place in order to be available for normal emergencies. We urge everyone to stay home and avoid discretionary travel to and from the islands. As ferry-dependent communities, we are especially vulnerable and face additional challenges. Now is not the time to take a holiday or visit your vacation property."

Electoral area directors for the Capital Regional District also recognized the potential risk to rural island communities from visitors in a joint statement issued Monday.

"Today our islands need to focus on the needs of residents," said Salt Spring director Gary Holman. "We need our Gulf Islands' precious medical resources for our most vulnerable, especially for those who are immune compromised."

Dave Howe, director for the Southern Gulf Islands, asked current visitors to make plans to return to their permanent homes.

"You don't know if you've been exposed to COVID-19. I urge you to stay home, and by doing so, protect yourself, your family and our island's unique culture and way of



PHOTO COURTESY BC FERRIES

Helping Salt Spring Food Bank rep Ellen Hazenboom, right, load a pickup truck with perishable goods from the Salish Orca on Thursday are BC Ferries crew members, from left, back row, Calvin Jesus, Haley Jones, Corinna Jordan, Roberta Elliott, Kayla Windsor, Kittie Byron, and front row, Carl Linton, left, and Jordan Seeley. Food from two Salish-class ships was donated when BC Ferries shut down food service on its vessels due to COVID-19. The same thing occurred with the Tsawwassen-Swartz Bay route vessels, which saw food given to the Rainbow Kitchen food security program in Victoria.

life. Follow the government's advisory — stay home and do not travel unless absolutely necessary," Howe said.

Island trustees have additionally encouraged people who are already visiting island properties from private boats to return to their primary residences to reduce the need for medical evacuations.

"On behalf of all British Columbians, the Islands Trust works to preserve and protect over 450 islands in the Salish Sea," Luckham said. "We now ask British Columbians to protect islanders and yourselves by staying home. We look forward to welcoming visitors again when it is safe to do so."

As of Monday there had been 472 confirmed or pre-

sumptive cases across B.C., including 39 in the Vancouver Island health region, which includes the Gulf Islands. There were 33 people in B.C. hospitals on Monday, with 14 of those in intensive care.

Provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry reported that 100 people had recovered from the virus and been released from isolation, but said measures to prevent the spread of disease would continue to be critical for weeks to come. These include good hygiene practices such as frequent hand-washing, staying home when possible and isolating if any cold or flu-like symptoms arise, no matter how mild.

COVID continued on 2

Driftwood reduces hours

Like all businesses on Salt Spring Island, the Driftwood is changing its hours to minimize the number of in-person interactions.

The office will be open for business from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday through Friday, with only one customer allowed in at a time. People are encouraged to do subscription renewals and ad requests over the phone at 250-537-9933 or via email at inquiries@driftwoodgime.com. All communications with editorial staff will take place via phone, email or internet methods.

On page 5, Web Express, which prints the Driftwood, explains what they are doing to help keep our readers safe.

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TIDE TABLES

at Fulford Harbour

MARCH/APRIL 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
25	0547	3.0	9.8	29	0141	2.4	7.9
WE	1156	1.6	5.2	SU	0649	2.9	9.5
ME	1809	2.8	9.2	DI	1406	1.0	3.3
	2346	1.7	5.6		2206	2.9	9.5
26	0603	3.0	9.8	30	0235	2.6	8.5
TH	1224	1.4	4.6	MO	0703	2.9	9.5
JE	1900	2.8	9.2	LU	1449	0.9	3.0
					2323	3.0	9.8
27	0021	1.9	6.2	31	0354	2.7	8.9
FR	0619	3.0	9.8	TU	0714	2.8	9.2
VE	1255	1.2	3.9	MA	1539	0.9	3.0
	1955	2.8	9.2				
28	0058	2.2	7.2	1	0036	3.1	10.2
SA	0634	3.0	9.8	WE	1639	0.9	3.0
SA	1328	1.1	3.6	ME			
SA	2056	2.9	9.5				

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HASSI restricts Ganges moorage

COVID-19

continued from 1

"We still need to work at trying to flatten this curve," Henry said during Monday's press conference. "Every day that you and your family stays distant from others . . . the better prepared we will be for the coming days and the coming weeks. We should do everything possible to protect our communities and protect our loved ones."

The Harbour Authority of Salt Spring Island has responded to health and safety concerns posed by visiting boaters by limiting services at some of its busiest facilities. "We have been in touch with the Canada Border Service Agency and the Coast Guard regarding any possible American vessels," HASSI manager Jim Heath stated in an email.

Heath said a vessel at the dock that had been flying an American flag had not arrived recently from the U.S. but had been purchased there six months ago. The owners were advised to remove the flag to avoid confusion.

HASSI's Ganges office, washrooms and showers have been closed to the public for over a week. Staff are on site but not making public contact. The garbage container will be left open during the day to avoid contact surfaces.

Kanaka Dock will not be open to transient moorage and its monthly moorage will be extended. The breakwater dock will be open to essential and emergency vessels

only, which will allow outer islands residents to continue to get supplies in Ganges.

Centennial Dock is open to existing monthly customers only. Temporary dinghy moorage at Centennial is being relocated to the boat launch ramp dock area where there are fewer touch areas like the ramp railing.

HASSI's inner dock at Fulford Harbour is open to existing monthly moorage only. The outer dock is open to essential and emergency services only. No restrictions have been added at Burgoyne, Vesuvius or Musgrave docks at this point in time.

The Capital Regional District operates a number of small craft harbour docks throughout the southern Gulf Islands as well as Fernwood Dock on Salt Spring. As of Monday the CRD had not made plans to close any of those facilities. CRD parks and beaches remain open, but playgrounds are off limits.

BC Ferries

Communications director Deborah Marshall reported that traffic is down around 40 per cent for Salt Spring and the Gulf Islands. The corporation has removed extra sailings it had scheduled for the Easter long weekend on the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands route. The province has not issued a change to the service contract for Gulf Islands routes at this time.

"As an essential service, BC Ferries understands that despite con-

cerns about COVID-19, some people continue to need to travel with us," Marshall told the Driftwood. "We are committed to provide and protect safe and reliable connectivity to communities, and to safeguard the sustainability of the ferry system. To do this, BC Ferries is closely focused on protecting the health and safety of ferry workers, without whom essential ferry service would not be possible. Our front-line coworkers face the virus every day so that critical supplies and people reach coastal communities. We are incredibly proud of our brave and courageous colleagues."

All food services onboard ships and at terminals have been suspended. The company has instituted measures to keep ferry travel healthy, including additional cleaning and disinfecting, passengers being able to remain in their vehicles on most enclosed decks and walk-on passengers having space to distance themselves from other passengers. Customers are requested to use an electronic form of payment.

Many island businesses are temporarily closing down or significantly limiting their services. The Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce is trying to keep a running list of the changes, which can be found at www.saltspringchamber.com.

Henry said it was important that essential services, including grocery stores, banks and pharmacies, stay open and that people should follow safety procedures to ensure that could happen.

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COVID-19

Local team urges compliance

Outdoor time must be limited to family groups

adhering to the advice above. Do not meet for coffee or dinner parties. Please do your part."

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Lady Minto Hospital Medical Staff Association is asking islanders to follow the directives of provincial and federal officials now and in coming weeks to prevent an even more serious turn to the pandemic crisis.

"It is clear that cases of COVID-19 are increasing. Whether they grow exponentially or start to decrease depends on all of us," the association said in Monday's local update.

The medical team said on Saturday the virus is in the Gulf Islands community. No outbreak centres have been identified, but the number of cases in the Vancouver Island health region had reached 39 as of Monday. They reiterate their message remains the same as that of provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, which is to just stay home.

"Spend time outside but only with members of the same household and always two meters away from others. Every day that you and your family stay distanced from others, the better prepared we will be for the coming days and weeks. We must do everything, every day, to protect our community and loved ones," LMH MSA states.

"So please go for a walk, get in the garden, go for a bike ride, all while

"We must do everything, every day, to protect our community and loved ones."

LADY MINTO HOSPITAL
MEDICAL STAFF
ASSOCIATION

Lady Minto Hospital chief of staff Dr. Holly Slakov confirmed again on Monday that anyone who comes down with COVID-19 on Salt Spring and becomes ill enough to require ventilation will be transferred to an intensive care unit off-island. The local hospital has capacity to ventilate a patient for a short time while waiting for their transfer only.

Several resources can help people wanting to know more about their situation. People who suspect they might be sick are asked to self-isolate and use BC's online COVID-19 self-assessment tool. The app can be downloaded at <https://bc.thrive.health/>. People with non-medical questions should call 1-888-COVID19 (1-888-268-4319), text 604-630-0300 or visit www.gov.bc.ca/covid19.

NEWS BRIEFS

Zoom meeting

The Salt Spring Community Alliance is offering a chance for people to check in with each other via Zoom this Monday, March 30 at 7 p.m.

"This would be a chance for people to share how they are doing, share ideas for how to get through this health crisis in a good way, suggest community issues they would like to discuss, and perhaps even find others who might like to work on community projects together during this time," the group states.

Email ssispeaks@gmail.com to get connected.

Keep asking

Like all public events, ASK Salt Spring Friday gatherings at Thrifty's have been suspended, but organizers say the need for answers is as great, or even greater, than ever before.

That's why Gayle Baker of ASK Salt Spring is inviting people to continue to send their questions about any island matter to asksaltspring@gmail.com and to expect an emailed response.

Additionally, elected officials will still address questions — but via email — on the Friday when they would normally visit ASK Salt Spring. The schedule is: MLA Adam Olsen on the first Friday of the month; CRD director Gary Holman on the second Friday; Islands Trust trustee Laura Patrick on the third; Chamber of Commerce executive director Jessica Harkema and an Emcon roads maintenance rep on the fourth Friday. Questions should be sent to asksaltspring@gmail.com by 5 p.m. on the Tuesday before their scheduled visit. Although an answer will be emailed to the individual, ASK Salt Spring will select some questions and answers for an article that will be published in the Driftwood the following Wednesday.

ASK Salt Spring is also willing to accept COVID-19 questions and find answers for people.

Lost ring

A Thrifty Foods employee whose engagement ring fell off while she was packing groceries at work on Friday, March 13 is hoping everyone will check their grocery bags for it at home.

Sherrie Windsor said she was extra busy due to wiping the tills and hand sanitizing and assumes the ring fell into a bag in the process. Despite numerous shares of her Facebook post the ring had not been found as of March 23. Anyone who finds a ring in one of their cloth or paper bags is urged to contact Windsor at 250-537-7574. A photo of the ring on her hand is now the profile picture on her Facebook page under the name Sherrie Blake.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

CRD and Trust budgets get approval

Salt Spring property owners will see increases from 2.3 to 4.5 per cent

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Two local governments passed their 2020-21 operating budgets in recent weeks.

The Capital Regional District Board approved the CRD's 2020-21 operating and capital budgets on March 18 during a meeting held via teleconference.

The \$283-million operating budget is 1.7 per cent higher than last year's version, with increase levels varying depending on the municipality or electoral area in question.

On Salt Spring, the CRD and Capital Regional Hospital District will requisition \$6,777,726 of the total amount from property owners — \$5,860,765 for CRD services and \$916,961 for regional hospital capital costs — in the coming fiscal year, a 4.51 per cent

increase from 2019-20. This year the average-assessed residential property will pay \$1,014.95 to the CRD for services, which range from parks and recreation (including the pool), liquid waste disposal, ArtSpring, the library, transit and transportation. Those figures do not include requisitions paid by property owners in specific water and service sewer areas. On Salt Spring the average residential assessment is \$693,828.

Nelson Chan, the CRD's chief financial officer, confirmed that a surplus arose in the Salt Spring administration budget because the island was without its full complement of engineering staff in 2019. Chan and Salt Spring's electoral area director Gary Holman said those funds were spent on other administrative costs, such as the debt on money borrowed to create a new CRD office on McPhillips Avenue a few years ago, repairs to vandalism suffered to the office in 2018 and a new vehicle.

Southern Gulf Islands electoral

area property owners will contribute \$3,132,362 in 2020-21, which is 5.6 per cent more than the previous year.

The CRD also passed a 2020-21 capital budget of \$402 million.

Islands Trust

At Islands Trust Council's quarterly meeting held on Salt Spring Island March 10-12, trustees passed an \$8,338,613 operating budget for the coming fiscal year. That amount is five per cent higher than last year. Property tax revenues will be \$6,917,075 — an increase of 2.3 per cent over 2019-20, with Bowen Island Municipality contributing (\$312,887), \$501,150 coming from the Trust's accumulated surplus, \$180,000 from the provincial government and the remainder from other sources. The approved budget also includes a Salt Spring Island Local Trust Area special property tax requisition of \$75,500 to fund continued coordination of watershed management.

In addition to regular work

of the various local Trust committees, Trust Council and the Islands Trust Conservancy, funds will support new climate action strategies, including projects prioritized by the public in a recent online survey. Those include:

- Development of a regional freshwater strategy,
- Review of foreshore policies and bylaws, and development of a model policy,
- Development of climate change, demographic, and environmental indicator data sets,
- Continuation of Coastal Douglas-fir protection work by select local trust committees,
- Development and implementation of a climate change-focused stewardship education program,
- Mapping the extent of eelgrass throughout the Trust Area,
- Continuation of the Policy Statement Amendment Project, which includes consideration of climate change-related policies,
- Testing and developing the potential to broadcast public meetings.

COMMUNITY

Pot shop grateful

Product returned; RCMP helpful

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Island's capacity for community support in times of trouble is often in evidence, but a different brand of high-mindedness might be hard to resist if another person's cannabis suddenly came up for grabs.

Islanders proved immune to such temptation, though, after the Gulf Islands Organics dispensary was robbed and torched in February. Business owner Dean Bielert reported that several different people who found bags stuffed with product returned it to him after the heist, which occurred in the early hours of Feb. 2. The rest was located and then released to him by the local RCMP detachment.

"The RCMP have been so supportive," Bielert said. "They caught the thief the next morning. The break-in happened around 2 a.m. and they had booked her by 7 or 8 the next morning."

Bielert was surprised to hear the police say they would work on getting his stolen goods back to him, and even more so when that came to pass a week into March. The shop hasn't actually been licensed for retail cannabis sales.

"The last time I was in a police station was probably around 40 years ago and it was for possession of marijuana," Bielert said. "And now I'm there picking up my marijuana."

Members of the community have been just as impressive. Some people noticed a suspicious young woman trying to hide something near the harbour the night of the theft and then found a bag stuffed with product when they investigated. A fisher person and another local also located separate bags in the days afterward. All of them figured out where it must have come from and returned what they found to Bielert.

"I would just like to thank the community for bringing it all back. That includes the RCMP and people who smoke," Bielert said. "All my employees and my family are just blown away by the integrity of this island. I find it pretty heartwarming."

A woman named Erin Hartley has appeared in Victoria Provincial Court in connection with the theft. Hartley was charged in a number of similar incidents in Vancouver Island communities that occurred over several days prior to the Salt Spring break-in. She was previously charged for a series of break-ins to Salt Spring businesses that took place in May 2017.



**NORTH
SALT SPRING
WATERWORKS
DISTRICT**

NOTICE TO THE RATEPAYERS OF THE NORTH SALT SPRING WATERWORKS DISTRICT CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE ELECTION OF ONE TRUSTEE

Notice is hereby given to the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, that nominations for ONE trustee will be received in the District office between:

**8:00 am March 18, 2020
12:00 noon April 1, 2020**

Nomination of candidates for this position must be made in writing, duly signed and seconded, by two duly qualified electors of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District with signature of agreement by the nominee, and delivered to the District Office at or before 12:00 noon, Wednesday, April 1, 2020.

NOMINATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED FROM THE FLOOR

The Trustee position is for a three year term commencing at the Annual General Meeting, to be held on Saturday, April 25, 2020 beginning at 2:00 pm at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road. Voting for the Election will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm at Community Gospel Chapel on April 25, 2020. Results will be announced as soon as they are available.

To be eligible a nominee must be a Canadian Citizen, 18 years of age or older, an owner, or spouse of an owner of land in the North Salt Spring Waterworks District, and entitled to be registered as a voter under the Elections Act.

Visit the "Who We Are" and "Becoming a Trustee" pages on our website for more information about the role of a Trustee.

Nomination forms are available at the District Office and online in the Documents/Forms section of the District website.

NOTICE OF 2020 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting of the Ratepayers of the North Salt Spring Waterworks District will be held at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2020 at the Community Gospel Chapel, 147 Vesuvius Bay Road, Salt Spring Island, BC. Voting for the Election will be from 10:00 am to 3:00 pm.

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LIFE GIVERS: FIRST OF A TWO-PART SERIES

Transplant anniversary marked

Siblings Barb and Michael Levy reflect on past decade

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

April is organ transplant awareness month in British Columbia, a time of year when BC Transplant redoubles its efforts to convey how a simple decision on one person's part can have life-saving impact on others.

While the focus is usually on increasing the number of people who register as organ donors in the event of death, gifts from living donors are also possible in some cases. This coming April will be a time of heightened awareness and gratitude for the Levy family, who will be celebrating the 10-year anniversary of a living donor kidney transplant between siblings Barb and Michael on March 29.

The anniversary coming in the midst of the COVID-19 crisis offers some interesting parallels for the Levys. In 2010 Michael was being forced to dramatically change his way of life, slow down and stay away from people.

"It's very reminiscent of 10 years ago. I was in the hospital in Vancouver and Barb was recovering at home with Mom. People were bringing pre-made meals and coming to do the recycling and the garbage. It's really interesting because it's spring. It's the same time of year. It's actually nice to shut down a bit in terms of interactions, but go outside and enjoy the natural environment."

"We're just extremely fortunate to be here on the island where nature is so accessible. It just helps everybody to calm their nerves," Barb added.

While everyone in the community is learning how to adapt to a radical shift in reality, this is something Michael has undergone several times. The first perhaps came when his health started to collapse as a complication of Alport syndrome, a genetic condition which can attack kidney function among other things. An avid hiker, rock climber and kayaker, Michael had to first give up his former activities and then rely on dialysis to clean the toxins from his blood. The invasive, time-consuming procedure allows the body to function but does not offer much in terms of wellbeing or quality of life.

Barb's decision to offer her younger brother one of



PHOTO COURTESY MICHAEL AND BARB LEVY

Siblings Michael and Barb Levy with kidney donation T-shirts.

her kidneys and the good news that they were a suitable match offered a vastly different experience for Michael, who will be 52 this June. After his initial recovery from the surgery he was feeling so good, in fact, that he went out and bought a guide to the West Coast Trail and made plans to do the hike the following year. He soon realized that was unrealistic and that his expectations were too high.

"It's just such a difference from pre-transplant to post. You feel invincible and then it wears off. It took a few years to reconcile to that because I did have a gradual run-down of energy. It just meant finding a new balance, finding limits and not resenting anything," Michael said. "It's been 10 years of major adjustment, but for the most part freedom. No more dialysis, no more special diets, no more health running down every day and getting worse. It's so much better than pre-transplant."

Barbara's recovery time was much less intense but the experience also led to a transformation. Michael sold his business — The Fritz Movie Theatre — after the surgery and returned to photography, including a new exploration of digital techniques. As he moved through that world and began upgrading his equipment, Barb became the beneficiary.

"It's been fantastic," she said. "By getting the practice in and using the professional gear and software, I've been really able to progress as a multimedia artist."

Her mixture of images and poetry has led to a regular page called Rhen's Poetry in Aqua magazine, and a book which she's had printed as a proof. The next step is to find a publisher or a patron.

The transplant is a treatment and not a cure for the underlying syndrome, which means Michael still faces chronic fatigue and other issues. He's also on a lifelong medication regime, which often results in side effects. With the necessary change in lifestyle he has stepped back from his commercial photography work and previous focus on publishing books and is now enjoying a more leisurely exploration of fine art possibilities. Having a functioning kidney has also allowed the siblings to stay on Salt Spring and care for their aging mother together more effectively; without it they would all have had to move to a centre with more supports.

"I feel really grateful we have this treatment available, and I had such an incredible transplant team," Michael said.

In addition to continuing care from his nephrologist, he also goes to Lady Minto Hospital once a month for blood work and has found a strong connection there as well.

"It's like having an extended family," he said.

For anyone who might be thinking about donating a kidney to someone in need or wondering if they should register to donate organs and tissue after death, the Levys are full of encouragement.

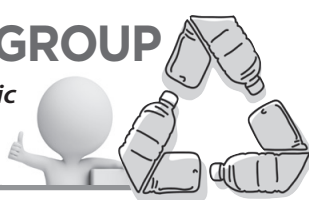
"It's a wonderful thing to do as a human being, without too much stress. It's so life-affirming," Barb said.

"It will change someone's life profoundly. It will be a rebirth," Michael explained. "There's no doubt without Barb's gift my life would have been infinitely worse. If someone's ever considering giving an organ, tell them '150 per cent yes.'"

Next week's story will feature two island families who lost their sons too soon, but whose organ donations saved the lives of many others.

SUPER GROUP

- Single Use Plastic Elimination and Recycling



SHOPPING WITH ZERO WASTE

Choose reusable or refillable first. When possible, shop at zero waste stores. The Zero Waste Emporium website (www.zerowasteemporium.com), lists zero waste stores in Victoria that provide produce, meat, vegan items, dairy and dairy alternatives, dry and liquid bulk, personal care and cleaning products, and more, plastic free.

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BC FERRIES

Skeena returns to Fulford route

Lounge and washroom configuration updated

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Ferry passengers travelling between Fulford Harbour and Swartz Bay have been getting used to a new version of the route's regular vessel since the Skeena Queen returned from its mid-life upgrade on March 13.

The vessel was removed from service on Oct. 28 to undergo the upgrade, which BC Ferries says was necessary to provide required maintenance on the ship. It was built in 1997 and needed work to provide another 20 years of safe and reliable service.

Enhancing the customer experience was another consideration.

"We heard from customers about

some areas on the ship that needed improvement, and we took that feedback into account during the upgrade," said Brian Anderson, BC Ferries' vice-president of strategy and community engagement. "We know the community is excited to have the Skeena Queen back in service and we're looking forward to showing them the improvements to customer areas. We appreciate the community's patience while the ship was out of service."

Customers will notice new furniture in the passenger lounges as well as additional exterior benches that will provide seating for travellers to take in the view in the warm summer months. One of the lounges was also converted to provide cafeteria-style seating with tables.

The ship now has air conditioning and washroom areas have been expanded so they are no longer single stalls. The

navigation, communication and electrical systems were improved to enhance safety and reliability.

While its transfer onto the route last fall was a bit rough in terms of timing and overloads, many passengers had grown to appreciate the replacement vessel Queen of Cumberland for its extra comforts. Salt Spring Island Ferry Advisory Committee chair Harold Swierenga notes the Skeena's upgrade will provide some extra comforts, and returns the single-deck loading scenario that is beneficial during busier seasons.

"While passengers may miss the popular lounge and cafe on the Queen of Cumberland, we look forward to experiencing the upgraded and improved amenities on the Skeena Queen," Swierenga said. "On the whole, the return of the efficient Skeena Queen to Fulford Harbour will be warmly welcomed."

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Web Express is also committed to providing safety for employees, publishers and their readers to prevent the spread of COVID-19. We have undertaken numerous disinfecting measures like crew separation and equipment wipe down. We have also limited entry from delivery people and customers to increase social distance. Currently we understand the virus is NOT easily passed on paper (according to the World Health Organization spokesperson on CNBC they have not issued a warning regarding the passing of the virus on paper) BUT to reassure readers the manufacturing process requires VERY LITTLE TOUCH from our staff. See pictures for further understanding.

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OPINION



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2019 BCYCNA Awards
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Silver - Best Multimedia Feature (Marc Kitteringham)
Silver - Community Service | New Journalist of the Year (Marc Kitteringham)



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EDITORIAL

Home bound

Driftwood columnist and island performer Shilo Zylbergold once penned a song called *If You Love This Island, Please Don't Come*.

While it was a tongue-in-cheek ditty that discouraged tourism to Salt Spring Island in general, it could be brought out again as local leaders seek to keep COVID-19 at bay on the islands.

Visitors are usually much appreciated, of course, since so many residents rely hugely on their economic contributions at local stores, restaurants, accommodations and the Saturday and Tuesday markets. But with travel understandably being curtailed around the world, restrictions need to apply locally as well.

Both Islands Trust chair Peter Luckham and the two electoral area directors who represent the Gulf Islands in the Capital Regional District — Gary Holman and Dave Howe — made public pleas in the past few days for people from “away” to not visit. Even individuals with second homes on the Gulf and all Trust-area islands are being asked to not visit.

THE ISSUE: COVID-19

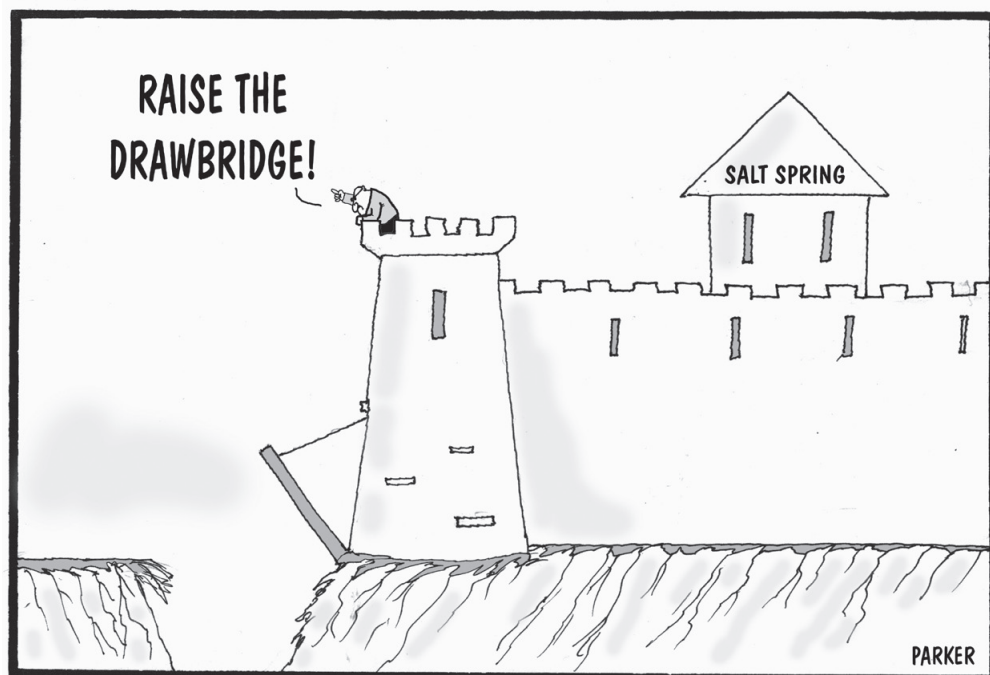
WE SAY: Stay home, stay safe

As Lady Minto Hospital doctors have also stated, it cannot be stressed enough that the many people returning to the islands from time spent overseas, in the U.S. or Mexico must self-isolate for 14 days.

Health Minister Adrian Dix has stated numerous times that the province needs everyone to adhere to restrictions 100 per cent, whether that's in maintaining the two-metre distance between yourself and others, suspending regular social activities, staying home if you are sick and self-isolating for 14 days after returning home from travelling. How well citizens adhere to the guidelines — some of which can be enforced by peace officers — now and in coming weeks will determine the outcome of the disease's progression and how well we have “flattened the curve.”

Every time a local worker, from those in retail to health-care to the ferry system, is forced to interact with a customer, their risk of contracting COVID-19 increases.

While many local businesses have instituted changes in how customers are dealt with and by increasing cleaning protocols to reduce the risk of transmission, the only surefire way for everyone to stay safe is to stay home.



Keep local economy afloat

BY JIM STANDEN

One can observe that the emergence and spread of the COVID-19 virus is affecting almost everything to some extent.

That includes the stock markets, which have retreated because of the reduced spending on almost everything (except toilet paper) in the economy. Many things are curtailed or stopped, with the exception of critical supply chains.

Are there good strategies to consider in these challenging times?

This is a wonderful opportunity to purchase as much as possible from our local suppliers until the world returns to normal. Our community will fare much better if we keep our dollars circulating all around here, and many local providers are very damaged by the reduced spending. I think many things can be done while still abiding to the necessary universal rule of a safe social distance.

So where to put those dollars?

Here are some examples. Spend your grocery dollars on-island (instead of an off-island

VIEWPOINT

super chain). Our stores are under great stress and have done a superior job of managing our needs. Please support them. Be prepared to use low-risk touchless payment options, such as cell-phone or credit/debit card “tap” methods, debit or credit cards using a passkey. Avoid cash if you can.

Most of our restaurants are still in business, though mainly offering takeout and delivery services. Maybe it's time for some takeout food? And smaller boutique businesses are still in business and need your attention too.

Been waiting for the opportunity for a home renovation? This could be the time. I just requested a quote for a heat pump for our studio, a long desired project. If other projects are delayed for some reason, maybe this can replace it.

Support farm stands and businesses selling fruits, veggies, meat, wines, spirits, etc. Since the Tuesday and Saturday markets will likely not be opening on sched-

ule, you direct-buy and those farmers will really appreciate your cash. Bring exact change if you can to minimize risk.

And it must be time to load the garden with hearty plant starts. Gardening gets you safely into the fresh air and busy.

What about the needy? Can you find a way to provide funding to Copper Kettle and other local support groups? Their needs may have accelerated recently.

Online purchases will likely be mainly to off-island services, but on-island couriers or our postal workers will be delivering.

Entertainment. Could you do a social-spaced concert in your living room with some of our local musicians? Maybe an audience of five at one end of the room and one to three players for an hour concert?

These are just some thoughts. I encourage you to bust your brain cells to keep our local economy vibrant.

The writer lives in Vesuvius and is currently hunkering down with Sheri and the dog.

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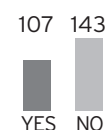
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Will you be growing more food in your garden this year? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Has the Canadian government done enough to slow the spread of COVID-19?



OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

"If someone's ever considering giving an organ, tell them '150 per cent yes.'"

MICHAEL LEVY, KIDNEY TRANSPLANT RECIPIENT

SALT SPRING SAYS

WE ASKED: *What has been the most difficult thing about coping with COVID-19 so far?*

BOB TWAITES



Seeing false posts about immunity boosting products. Seeing people attempting to profit from a disease. Seeing people make false claims to coat-tail their world view onto a public health problem.

JANE MACKENZIE



The unknown ... how long will we be distancing, how does it spread, are we going to flatten the curve, will the chocolate finally run out?

MICHAEL LEVY



Watching friends struggling to find a new balance in life during these tumultuous times.

JANE EATON HAMILTON



Lack of clear info from Dr. Bonnie Henry/Adrian Dix.

SPOUSES DAVID FRENCH + KELLY WATERS



Seeing friends close businesses and people so scared and sad about this unknown future we face.

LETTERS to the editor

Next chapters

Doesn't it feel like we are living in a Stephen King novel? Except I can't recall what happens in the next few chapters.

I'm not watching the news 24/7, so maybe I missed this, but I haven't seen any discussion of COVID-19's impact on the poorest parts of developing countries. The favelas of Latin America, similar urban areas in Africa and Asia, refugee camps in several nations, where the concept of self-isolation is a joke. Social distances of six feet? Maybe six inches. Isn't this virus going to move like wildfire through these areas soon? I think it will.

While I can't or at least won't move to developing countries to help these vulnerable communities, I can support people who have done so. I urge Salt Springers to send a large donation to Doctors Without Borders right

now in addition to supporting charities helping people here in Canada. Or, if you can, sign up for a monthly donation of \$100 or more. See the News and Stories section at doctorswithoutborders.ca.

Also, the World Health Organization and the United Nations Foundation have set up a COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund for donations.

Those of us lucky enough to live in affluent countries are worried about our next chapters. But for millions of people in the poorest nations, the next chapter will be their last one.

LINDA STARKE,
SALT SPRING

Remembering Evelyn Lee

Twenty-one years ago, we approached Evelyn Lee about

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

buying her farm. Over a pot of tea and cookies at the kitchen table, Evelyn and her two sisters listened with steely eyes as we explained, nervously, that with its well-drained soil and southern orientation, the location had ideal conditions for growing grapes.

Would she consider selling it to us to plant a vineyard? After a few moments' consideration, Evelyn rose and told us to go and have a look at the rest of the property.

Over the next year or so, Evelyn continued to live in the farmhouse while she planned her next move. She took an active interest in our plans, offered vital advice, and relished all the activity — even the big bangs when some tree stumps were blown up — as we prepared the land for planting. After she moved into Ganges, she visited Garry Oaks often, proudly

showing off what we had done to the farm she had lived on for almost 50 years to her family and friends. "If only Ronnie could see it now," she would say, referring to her late husband.

Evelyn's favourite wine was the Blanc de noir and we always made sure she had some. We enjoyed hearing her many stories about life on Salt Spring and the farm over cups of tea and amidst her many plants. And at Christmas, there was always a small fruitcake and a lovely card.

Evelyn was one of those strong, resilient women that Salt Spring seems to breed. It was a pleasure and a privilege to have known her.

ELAINE KOZAK & MARCEL MERCIER,
FORMER OWNERS OF GARRY OAKS VINEYARD,
VICTORIA

MORE LETTERS continued on 8

Pandemic can be licked if we all pull together

You all remember Nostradamus, the 16th-century French astrologer, physician and seer into the future. Among his many prophecies, he is credited with predicting the French Revolution, the Great Fire of London, the UK floods, and the collapse of the World Trade Centre. Of course, he also foretold the coming of the Antichrist and warned the world that the future blonde bombshell, Madonna, was actually the whore of Babylon, but the jury is still out on those last two predictions. He definitely blew it on his prognostications on "the Great War of 2002" and the capture of Rome by the Albanians, but let's give him a couple of mulligans ("takeovers" in golfing parlance) on those.

The genius of Nostradamus lies in his brilliant tactic of making sure that his predictions could either be verified or debunked only centuries after he no longer walked the earth. The same, I'm afraid, cannot be said about any prediction one can make regarding today's virus epidemic threat to the planet.

By the time you read this blog, the future may already be upon us. Or maybe not. At this point, nobody really knows.

What's fuelling this global uncertainty is the novel Coronavirus pandemic (aka COVID-19). It's quite possible that within the next few days or weeks we will discover whether it's a whole bunch of hooey that will blow over like so many other "scare" that have come before (remember Y2K?), or it is indeed marking the beginning of the end.

The resulting mass hysteria is manifesting itself by consumer frenzy-buying across the nation and probably throughout the globe. Big-box stores are seeing their stock wiped out as shoppers load up their mammoth carts with supplies they hope will see them through the oncoming crisis.

The top three products being stockpiled by gluttonous hoarders are hand sanitizers, face masks and toilet paper. The run on hand sanitizers stems from the belief that the virus is being passed to a new host through surface to surface contact to the hand and then from the hand to the face where it can easily penetrate the body's defences. The face masks, even the preferred N95 models,



Shilo Zylbergold

NOBODY ASKED ME BUT

apparently do little to protect the wearer from picking up the virus (except that it probably keeps one from touching the lower part of the face), but it does stop someone who is already infected from spreading it through sneezing or coughing. As for the toilet paper, well ... I suppose it keeps doing what it's supposed to do, COVID-19 or not.

It's possible that I might be missing something when it comes to the stockpiling of toilet paper. Perhaps people are loading up on 48-roll cartons of the commodity at their local Costco or Walmart for a completely different reason. Imagine glue-gunning the rolls together to create a "Michelin Man" suit of cellulose armour, which would be instrumental in keeping others from penetrating your safe zone of an acceptable three to six social distancing feet away. This could even bring back jousting.

What is it with all this hand-washing business? Health expert will have you believe that you can beat the virus if you wash your hands with soap and water as many times as you possibly can throughout the day. Assuming you don't develop a Lady Macbeth complex as a result, you are also advised to make each hand wash last for at least 20 seconds, or the time it takes to sing "happy birthday" twice (unless you are singing it to Esteban Julio Ricardo Montoya de la Rosa Ramirez, in which case once may suffice).

Nobody seems to be advising exactly how many times you should be washing your hands in a day. Is it every hour? Every 10 minutes? Every time you touch something (other than your face)? At this rate, probably the things you should be touching the least are the taps and faucets of any bathroom sink. Perhaps the ultimate form of self-isolation

and social distancing is restricting your living space to your own shower stall and/or bathtub.

And then there's the issue of not touching your face. Have you ever counted how many times you bring your hand up to an itchy nose or eye or how often you rub your lips and mouth? How are you supposed to control these subconscious actions? I suppose you could try wearing those plastic cone-shaped collars that vets put on dogs to keep them from licking and scratching at stitches or mangy skin, but you would probably do more harm to yourself from violent eruptions of laughter every time you saw yourself in a mirror.

There's nothing like a world in crisis to bring out the irony in our lives. You may have heard that the French shrine at Lourdes, famed for providing its alleged curative and healing waters to thousands of sick and crippled visitors every year, has shut down as a result of the pandemic. As a viable alternative to the usual medicinal properties at Lourdes, the sanctuary is advising sick pilgrims "to pray more." Even in North America, Catholic churches are restricting the manner in which bread and wine (representing the body and blood of Jesus Christ) are being administered during Holy Communion. It seems that the risk of spreading the viral infection is crossing over from the material to the spiritual world.

So get a grip! Stop wringing your hands in desperation and keep washing them (if you haven't washed all the skin off by now). Ignore the picture in your mind of those tiny COVID-19 viruses doubling over in laughter at your attempts to fight off the plague with soap and water. It seems so benign an action, but it just might work.

Nobody asked me, but how about trying not to think about the reeling global economy and your impending "near-debt experience." Keep your social distance and self-isolate as much as possible. If we all pull together, we can lick this pandemic and get back to what we were doing before all this came down the tube. Dealing with climate change.

I'm sure Nostradamus probably saw this coming.



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MORE LETTERS
continued from 7

Of farmers and COVID-19

This past week I received a news-letter from one of our market's farmers and it gently and elo-quently welcomed spring while expressing concern over planning and planting for a season with so many unknowns.

It outlined that so much of its income centred around our mar-kets and the visitors to them and how grateful they were when the local community reached out to them.

It occurs to me that we could look at this time of isolation to put our shoulders to the wheel of relocalization of our food produc-tion. At the moment we are experi-encing only temporary shortages of some items but we are being taught how quickly this can happen and only imagine other scenarios that may make food access problems more prolonged.

This could be a window of opportunity for us to become engaged with local farms and offer support.

Farms are dependent on appren-tices, many of whom come from away, for labour over most of the season.

We might offer farms volunteer help. This is quite easily managed while maintaining our "social dis-tancing," given the nature of farm work.

We can access local farm road-side stands on a regular basis and take advantage of whatever prod-ucts have provided on a farm-to-home and farm-to-local-retailers basis.

"Buy local" was never more important than right now and throughout this season of isola-tion. It really falls to us to be sure our farms can continue, prosper and expand this season. Let's do it!

MARIAN HARGROVE,
DEAN ROAD

Landlord kindness

Some kindness in these difficult times: my daughter, who rents a basement suite in Victoria, has just heard from her landlords. Because the banks are not requir-ing their mortgage payment for April, they are passing it on to her: no rent for April, just a small amount for utilities.

They are very decent people who are helping in the way they can. I am very impressed.

MARIE BEAUDOIN,
SALT SPRING

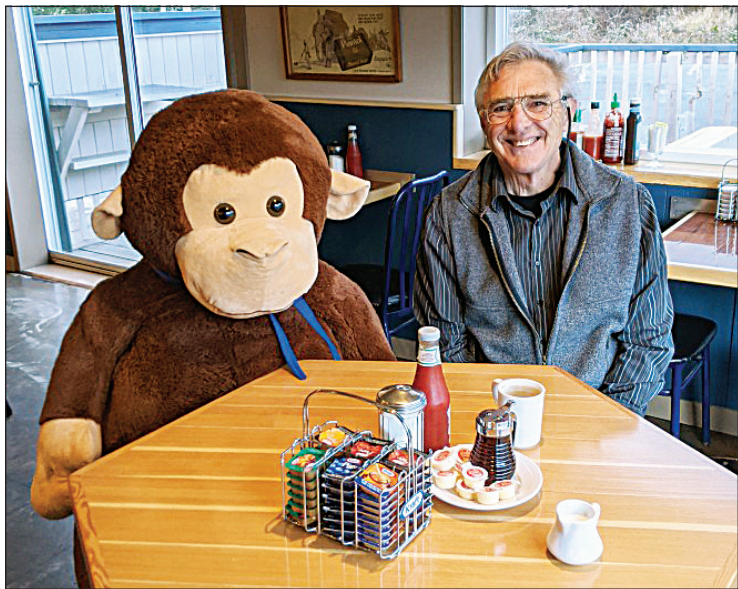


PHOTO COURTESY ROGER BRUNT

MONKEYING AROUND: Roger Brunt enjoys coffee with a friend at Dagwood's before it closed to sit-down business due to COVID-19. The monkey was bought by Brunt's friend Adele Storm as a gift for Brunt's new grandson Ely, the son of Samantha Brunt.

Heartfelt thanks to workers

To all of our fellow islanders who work in our stores and res-taurants, I thank you from all parts of my heart for what you are doing for us.

What would we do without you?

I am sending wishes that you will all be safe and healthy. You are our essential everything and I know that you must feel stressed to be out there for us.

I am sure that many many people join with me in sending you a myriad of appreciative blessings.

HANNAH BROWN,
SALT SPRING

We have the opportunity to think like an island

BY MICHAEL ABLEMAN

Every spring for the last 43 years I have followed the same routine.

I turn under green manure crops, spread compost, prepare fields, and direct seed and transplant. The seeds and small plants that go into the ground are the product of months and some-times years of propagation work. The compost is made throughout the prior season, and the complex crop rotation and field plans are the result of a win-ter of careful thinking and consider-ation. The soils are built and improved over decades. Before the first seed gets planted, many months and thousands of dollars have already been invested into a professional endeavour that requires decades to develop and perfect.

This spring is different. I am going through all the same motions as I always have, but this time for the first time, I have no idea how the results of my labour, the food that will surely ripen, will make it into the homes and the bellies of all those on the island and beyond that we have supplied for the last 20 years. I am not alone; every farm-er everywhere is struggling with the same concerns.

The Saturday market is now tempo-rarily closed, the Tuesday market is still in question, and the restaurants on the island and in Victoria and Vancouver that we sell to are shuttered. I support every and any effort to stem the spread of this disease, but as the weeks prog-ress there will be food to harvest and people who need it. Would it not be safer, with strict protocols in place, to purchase food directly from local farms in an outdoor space, than food from inside a store that has travelled long distances and been handled by many anonymous hands?

Vancouver's winter market remains open and California, which

INDEPTH

now has one of the strictest lockdowns of any place in North America, has kept its farmers markets open, seeing those markets not as a social gathering space but as an essential service.

Most of my farming colleagues on the island continue to put in the long hours to do the work we love and plant food for the community. Many of us ask ourselves a simple question: how can we safely and most responsibly feed our community? Some farmers are providing food boxes on a subscription basis, others are selling to their imme-diate neighbours, at Foxglove Farm we are offering both home delivery and a "drive-through" pick-up option at our farm.

We may feel paralyzed when faced with the enormity of our modern dilemma, but we have enormous power in and around the places where we live.

None of us knows for sure how long this crisis will last, but we do know we all have to eat, and now more than ever we all need to eat well. There have been significant efforts made on the island to create a strong local food sys-tem, with the Tuesday market, recent work on updating the area farm plan and many more.

It may be that the current crisis is pro-viding us with an opportunity to create a food system that truly reflects who

we are, where we live, and the reality that we may no longer be able to rely on the industrial food system that still supplies the majority of our food. We live on an island. We are now being asked to think like one.

The financial impacts of this crisis will go on long after the disease has dimin-ished. This year there may be more members of our community who simply cannot afford to access fresh food. The responsibility for this, for making sure that everyone has a place at the table, belongs to all of us, not just the tiny percentage of our island population we call farmers. This too can be an opportunity.

Each morning I walk my fields observ-ing, making lists, checking newly plant-ed crops. These walks reveal new leaves unfurling, soil lifting and cracking to expose green pea knuckles, flower jack-ets slipping off freshly formed fuzzy apple babies, small fleeting gifts like drops of dew on taut squeaky cabbages reflecting the light of the world. But my heart and mind are also consumed by the suffering I see around me, by the internal collision between our human dilemma and the audible sigh of relief I can hear from our Mother Earth as the world pauses, and the constant assault, extraction and pollution, the grabbing and grasping, have been forced to just stop.

We may feel paralyzed when faced with the enormity of our modern dilemma, but we have enormous power in and around the places where we live. This is our time to come back home, to support all those who are re-imagining and replanting our island — one seed, one farm, one meal, one individual at a time.

The writer is an island farmer and author.



ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

SALT SPRING INN
Great Take-Out Options
"Where Islanders & Friends Start their Day"

CULTURE

Raffi shares Dylan-esque song

Message to remain positive important, says island artist

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

In uncertain times old friends are invaluable, and so are words that can guide us to the right actions without giving up hope on the bigger picture.

Salt Spring resident Raffi Cavoukian is a reliable resource for all of the above. There are now a couple of generations of "Beluga grads" who grew up with Raffi's children's music, meaning he has friends of all ages across the globe. A new song that he's released speaks to his own roots as a folk singer while sharing some important messages and lightening the mood around the COVID-19 pandemic, all at the same time.

Cavoukian said the song Dylan Sings Quarantine started with just the first verse, which popped into his head one morning and emerged in the style of early Bob Dylan, with a little help from his ukulele. He posted the clip to Twitter and was surprised many people thought the actual Dylan was singing the lyrics that go along the lines of "Quarantine, quarantine. We gave our life to quarantine. One day we'll get it back."

Cavoukian started off his career in the folk scene and counts Dylan among his influences, along with people like Gordon Lightfoot and Joan Baez.

"It was always fun to imitate him.



PHOTO COURTESY RAFFI

Children's entertainer and advocate Raffi has written a fun song for tough times that encourages hand-washing and social distancing.

He's a little nasal, a little idiosyncratic, a little off-key," Cavoukian observed. "My impersonation of Dylan seems to fool people, but that wasn't my intention. I thought it was tongue-and-cheek."

The social media response to the quarantine clip was good, though, so Cavoukian decided to develop the bit into a full song with four verses. It reminds people to wash their hands for 20 seconds and practise social distancing, and even gets the word out that medical coverage should be accessible to all.

Cavoukian recorded the song on his iPhone and sent it to "Beluga grad" Lindsay Munroe in Massachusetts, who added the harmonies.

"I've been fond of calling it the Social Distancing Duet," Cavoukian said.

Reinforcing the messaging coming from public health officials in a fun and accessible way is more than just a whimsy for the singer, who is also a well-known advocate for social justice through his children's foundation and its focus on child-honouring. He carries a sense of responsibility at all times, but especially now.

"I'm doing my part and I think we all can play a part," Cavoukian said. "It's a very serious situation. It's very serious here in Canada but we seem to be ahead of the curve compared to our neighbours to the south, who seem to be in for a rough time. My heart goes out to the afflicted."

Cavoukian said he also wants to remind people of our duties to one another.

"This is a time when being kind to one another takes on a whole new meaning," he said.

"I think it's very important during this time not to give in to a negative perspective," he added. "We have to keep our spirits up, we have to stay positive because that helps the immune system. I like to remind people that our essence is infinite love — we were all born with it, so it doesn't go away. We each have the power of infinite love and we can remember that to stay strong."

"We can also feel afraid. That's okay. But we don't give in to it. We feel the fear but we stay strong in our love to overcome."

Dylan Sings Quarantine can be found on Raffi's Twitter page, his Facebook page and on YouTube.

AWARDS

Smart wins prize

Hummingbird poem best in contest

Salt Spring writer Christine Smart has won the Federation of British Columbia Writers' 2020 Literary Writes Poetry Contest.

Smart's poem called Hummingbird was chosen by the judges from a field of nearly 100 submissions and a short list of six finalists.

"At first, I was honoured to be shortlisted with five other amazing poets," said Smart. "Then when my poem was announced as the winner I was thrilled. And now the hummingbirds are back to celebrate."

Smart's winning poem will be published in the upcoming issue of WordWorks.

Smart grew up in rural Quebec. She studied, travelled, then settled on Salt Spring Island in 1989. Her book called 'decked and dancing' won the 2007 Acorn-Plantos Award. A book of poems, The White Crow, was published by Hedgerow Press. Christine's poems have been anthologized in Refugium, Sweet Water, Beyond Forgetting and Love of the Salish Islands.

In selecting Hummingbird as the winner, contest judge Jude Neale said, "We've all seen the small clutch of hummingbirds as they gather at the feeder. The rapture. The awe. This wonderful poem, Hummingbird, was able to give us a glimpse of what we already knew but had forgotten. In a few deft strokes the author paints a visceral picture so clearly that we are left to ponder this: Like the bird, enticed into flying/fast/we dash full force toward/ something glimpsed/some truth longed for."

Other finalists were Michelle Brown, Anne Hopkinson, Alan Hill, Joanna Streetly and Yuko Kojima.

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Financial Advice

What is a CRA My Account?

Well, in my opinion, it is one of the most useful government sites I've come across. I think it may be of particular interest at this time of year when our financial thoughts turn from TFSA and RSP contributions to income taxes.

So, a CRA My Account, basically, lets you check up on or even update, in some cases, everything tax related. With your own personal account, you can make changes to past returns, check your TFSA and RRSP contributions limits, sign-up for pre-authorized debit (if you are paying your tax in installments), apply for certain child benefits, update your address and telephone numbers or even your marital status, view tax information slips and your notice of assessment, or file a GST/HST rebate. So, whether you file your own taxes or have a professional prepare them for you, I think it's worth signing up for this account.

Just get on the Canada Revenue Agency site and you should easily see the link to "My Account".

There is a bit of information you need to provide (including information from past tax returns) to get access but I think it's worth the effort.

If you are looking for even more fun, then check out My Service Canada site, which will give you info on employment insurance, CPP and OAS.

Let me know how you get on.



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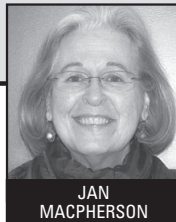
Real Estate

How Should I Prepare My House For Listing? Part 2

You have one chance to make a first impression with drive-by appeal. Buyers begin to evaluate a home before they are in the door. Consider painting the front door, placing spring flowers in pots, or setting out bedding plants near the entry. Is the yard and drive tidy? Is the home address clearly visible?

Create ambience! Treat yourself to presentation accessories. A new tablecloth, bedspread, or speciality lighting can add pizzazz. Enliven your living space with bowls of fresh fruit, plants, freshly cut flowers. Buy or borrow artwork from friends. Rejuvenate your current living space and enjoy the new items in your next home. You are presenting an image, a lifestyle.

Staging your home can make a huge difference as to how quickly your home sells and increase its perceived value!



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Obituaries



SUPERINTENDENT MARV YOUNG

June 28, 1935 -
March 17, 2020

Marv passed peacefully at the Lady Minto Hospital, after a battle with A.L.S. His wife, daughter, son and three grandchildren were by his side.

Marv served 35 years in the R.C.M.P. and enjoyed his retirement years golfing on Salt Spring Island.

At this time no service is planned.

Donations to the A. L. S. Society would be very much appreciated.

Obituaries

In Memoriam

The Celebration of Life
FOR
ALEX OLCHOWECKI
on April 8
at the
Fulford Seniors has been
postponed to a later date.

The Celebration of Life for
Laurits (Louie) Lorentsen
on April 11 from 2 - 4 at
the Harbour House Hotel
has been cancelled due to
concerns for the health and
safety of participants.

Coming Events

In Memoriam

 Salt Spring Hospice


AGM
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Postponed
until further
notice.

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Information



Volunteers needed for the Conservancy's School Program
250-538-0318



Information


Coming Events

Coming Events

What's happening at your Library?
Find out at the

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
3:30 p.m. Thursday, March 26, 2020
Salt Spring Island Library, 129 McPhillips Ave., Ganges, BC

Members with valid library cards are invited to attend using **Zoom video conferencing** by computer or phone. Please see the library website for details.



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 on the Library's website <http://saltspring.bc.libraries.coop/> between the publication of this advertisement and the Annual General Meeting.



RECYCLE THIS NEWS PAPER.

DRIFTWOOD CLASSIFIEDS

THIS WEEK'S HOROSCOPE

Michael O'Connor - Life Coach Astrologer

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

On Saturday, March 22, 2020, Saturn entered the revolutionary and future-oriented sign of Aquarius (it was the 21st for most of North America). Saturn will remain in Aquarius until July 1st, when it will re-enter Capricorn, due to its retrograde cycle, where it will remain until December 17. Saturn will reach 1 Aquarius 57 by May 11 on which day it turns retrograde. Saturn will then retrograde back to 25 Capricorn 20 until September 28 when it will resume direct motion again. So, despite the retrograde back into its own ruling sign of Capricorn for 5.5 months, Saturn will officially enter Aquarius, the sign it co-rules on March 22 largely remaining there until March 7, 2023. This Saturn theme, the famously ringed planet symbolic of karma, duty, discipline, limitations, restrictions, and restraints, and responsibilities are clearly playing a major role now and will all year culminating in a conjunction with Jupiter on Winter Solstice. The Aquarian influence indicates revolution and it is occurring on a global scale by the command of destiny.

Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

How quickly the world can change! If you have been diligently securing your nest and nurturing your nest eggs, you will be experiencing the rewards and returns for your efforts. If you feel like you are out on a limb and have not been as diligent as perhaps you now feel you should, then you have work to do. This includes generating new streams of income.

Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Saturn's influence is ever a double-edged sword. It is so due to the very nature of reality, in duality. On one hand, you feel like you have climbed steadily and have arrived at a high peak. On the other hand, it may be cold up there and is unlikely to feel comfortable and secure, despite feelings of victory. It is probably time to outline a new plan.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

You may feel as though you have come through a powerful phase of change that has literally transformed you inside and out. Positively, you feel like you can breathe deeply again. However, as life goes, you find yourself in a new arena of experiences. This one will push you to take pioneering initiatives and will include other things to learn.

Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

The journey of Saturn in Aquarius is destined to have a powerful, transformational impact on you. It will not happen all at once, yet, it has already begun. It will have a direct influence on your personal and professional life. Jupiter is currently synchronizing with expansion and it too is impacting your very sense of self and in relation to your career and social status.

Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

A whole new level of commitment will be activated by Saturn in Aquarius for you. You will have to be patient and it will include a process of paying your dues. This can come in the form of financial outlays, but will probably more fully include a learning/training process. This will come in stages and it begins now. If you have already been busy this way, expect to be busier.

Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

Overcoming fear brings rewards. This is usually a 'learned and earned' process. Fear is very instinctual and activates our fight or flight mechanisms to survive. Often, fear is conjured by the stories we tell ourselves and especially by our own overactive imagination. Resistance to change or attachment to comfort and familiarity or to an inability or unwillingness to adapt is the other issues to overcome.

Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Challenging times can activate heroism and untapped reserves of strength and resolve. On the other hand, they can activate our lower nature where we slip into despair and indulge in justified anger, reaction, and blame. While reaction can rise, it can also be managed. Gratitude is key to elevating our perspective and serves to intercept reactive behavior. 'Calmness is power'.

Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You have entered a cycle which will challenge you to lay claim to hidden reserves of power. This can generally be regarded as your resourcefulness. It also includes your willingness to enter new territory and to take new approaches. If ever there was a time to step into a new mode of action and reconsideration of your self-concept and what you deem possible, it is now.

Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

You have entered an important and powerful learning curve. It will require a whole new level of commitment. Fortunately, you may discover that you are in the mood to learn. This is not always the case, even for you, so the timing is good. It will also lead you to engage with new people and forge alliances, but this aspect will fully kick-in a little later.

Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Well, the battalion of planets in your sign is sure making its impact on the world stage. This is true at an archetypal level and is not about you personally. While you are usually inclined towards traditional attitudes and approaches, destiny and outer circumstances are blending to direct your focus to look to the future.

Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

Saturn in your sign is destined to activate a whole new level of discipline. This will prove true over the course of the year and is likely to manifest as a challenging process. It could well include major changes close to home and even a change of residence, the concentrated focus of which will begin this week. It could manifest as something of a turbulent emotional ride so keep breathing.

Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Saturn in Aquarius will manifest as an important follow-through process for you. While it will not bode well for new initiatives, it could prove successful regarding projects already started over the past months and years even. So review all the projects and goals that you have started but have not completed and focus to follow through, perhaps one at a time.



AUTOMOTIVE NEWS

- Vehicle tips
- EVolution column
- Local auto deals

DRIVING SAFETY

Dangers arise in walking and self-driving cars

Humans are the unknown element in the safe transportation equation



Jim Standen
EV
OLUTION

My wife Sheri will tell you that I am a walking accident waiting to happen.

I am one of those people with wonky ankles who can get hurt while moving, either by walking, skipping, jogging or climbing over objects. Wait a few minutes and down I go. It's just the way I am. But if you search YouTube under "falling over" you will see other folks like me.

For most, walking is not really dangerous. But then add some potentially distracting technology. You can listen to music while walking. You can talk on your phone, check your email, text message, check your Fitbit steps, or use your GPS to see where that Starbucks is hiding. Or many of those at the same time. All

nifty cool, but all these activities carry increased risk and, if you are not very careful, the hospital visits are forthcoming. Technology is very nice, but it needs to be used in a responsible way and maybe that means for me, not while in motion.

What about bikes? Even after helpful technology like helmets, blinking lights and bells, I personally know of many very serious bike accidents. Broken bones, bandages, crutches, that sort of thing. Add a distracting technology like some mentioned above, and the crash rates are destined to climb. I am sure if humans could figure out a way to text

while biking, they would do so and . . . back to the hospital.

But this is an EV car column right? And boy, have both helpful technology and distractive technology arrived in the car world, and more is on the way.

The first somewhat helpful technology was cruise control. You set a speed and the car, jerkily in the very early renditions and pretty darn nice in the recent versions, maintains a constant speed while you "keep your eyes open, hands on the wheel and your foot near the brake." A helpful feature.

Next on the autonomous driving path is adding some cameras (backup and other) and radar (Lidar) to detect lane departures and warnings that you are following too close to the car in front. The human might start to feel indestructible, right? Not so. Just as with cruise control, each new technology will take time to mature and be safe enough for us accident prone and risk-taking humans.

What about distractions? It started with listening to the radio or music (I can personally tell you the serious risk of listening to a meditation talk — complete with a practice-session silent sit — while driving down the highway. Totally unsmart.)

And for the silly-willies. You can talk on a cell phone (if law enforcement is looking the other way). And texting — REALLY?

Is there hope? Can the technologically packed vehicle save us?

Enter the vision of the car that drives itself. It picks you up, delivers you to the restaurant and parks itself. You dine and wine, and it gets you home again. Tesla is a world leader on the path to provide fully autonomous driving, but is being chased by Waymo and many others. Tesla has released early versions of Autopilot for a few years now and there have been some accidents, some quite horrific. Even though the manual and dash warning message tells you to keep your hands on

the wheel and tests you periodically, it seems like a siren to let the stupid amongst us sit back, relax, make a phone call or answer emails. Bad things happen.

But the engineers are on it. Tesla has about one million vehicles building an AI driving database. The technology is improving at a dramatic pace and self-driving vehicles promise to maybe make the world a far safer place. Will I trust it? I don't have an opinion yet, but if it safely gets me from A to B without falling over, count me in.

The bottom line is that everything we do transportation-wise carries risk. And we humans tend to seek out ways to duck the odds and increase the riskiness. The ditches were filled with past failures. And while I might be dangerous while walking, perhaps the self-driving car will finally make the streets safer for everybody.

I encourage your respectful comments. I can be reached at jstanden@ucalgary.ca.

VEHICLE MAINTENANCE

Common brake noises diagnosed

Noises that pop up when applying the brakes can be especially scary for motorists. The two most common brake noises are grinding and squealing.

GRINDING BRAKES

If the grinding sound is audible when pressing on the brake pedal, this is likely because the rotor disc is coming into contact with part of the caliper. This typically occurs because the brake pads or rotors are extremely worn down, causing the steel backing of the worn out pad to grind against the rotor.

If the grinding noise is audible while the vehicle is in motion, debris might be stuck inside the brakes. Drivers might be able to

dislodge this debris by repeatedly moving their cars forward and backward in a safe place, such as a driveway. If that does not work, have the brakes serviced by a qualified mechanic.

SQUEALING

Many drivers are familiar with the high-pitched squealing sound that comes from their vehicles or those of fellow motorists. That squeal, while certainly not music to the ears, might be a good thing. That's because some brake pads are equipped with small steel clips that serve as wear indicators. When brake pads have worn down, these devices produce a squealing sound to let drivers know it's time to get new brake pads.

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Windsor Plywood's message to our community:

★★★★★ UPDATE: MARCH 23, 2020 ★★★★★

VALUED CUSTOMERS, STAFF AND VENDORS:

Windsor Plywood Salt Spring Island staff, management and owners have been monitoring the accelerating circumstances of the COVID-19 global pandemic and responding to the latest recommendations to the best of our abilities. During this challenging time, our critical focus continues to be on the health and welfare of our staff, customers, business partners, and community.

We are taking every precaution in order to minimize the risk to everyone.

We remain dedicated to our relationships with our loyal customers, vendors and freight suppliers. To do this, we encourage you to avoid coming into our stores until we get through this. We need your help to keep our staff healthy to serve you and of course to slow the spread of the virus.

To help you do this and continue your projects, or maybe start one, we are offering the following new services:

Call or email your pick-up order. Pay by credit card or on your account and we will assemble your order and have it ready for you to pick up. We will do our best to accommodate your schedule, but due to the volume of orders some delays may occur and we ask for your patience.

We will also deliver small purchases to most addresses on Salt Spring Island for a nominal charge of \$10. Call or email your \$50 minimum delivery order and pay by credit card or on your account and we will deliver to you. Items from our yards are subject to our regular delivery costs. \$50 minimum purchase price does not include taxes or delivery fee. We will deliver your order as soon as we can, aiming for three days or less (excluding weekends).

If you have an account and want to pick up your supplies at our Beddis location and not enter the trailer, stop outside and text the phone number at the trailer door with your account number and we will come outside to write up your order as soon as we are able.

Staff, customers, vendors or freight drivers who have had any recent symptoms of COVID-19 or recently travelled internationally or have been exposed to anyone who has are not to enter either of our stores. Do not enter any of our facilities if you are experiencing (or have experienced in the last two weeks) any of the following: cough, fever, shortness of breath, sore throat, or a runny nose. Go home and self isolate.

We have instituted enhanced cleaning services of often touched surfaces at both locations.

Rainbow Road is no longer open Sundays and holidays. Check our website or Facebook page for our current hours.

If you must visit our stores or yards please shop early and avoid the crowds. We are open for business at both locations at 6:30 am. Our social distancing procedures at both stores are evolving daily. At this time, we are allowing one customer at a time in our Beddis trailer and we have clearly marked spots to wait for service in our Rainbow Road store. We are currently considering limiting the number of customers at one time in the Rainbow store.

We no longer accept cash in payment for goods or services and our customer coffee service has been suspended. There will be no food on or behind the counter at Rainbow Road.

There are clearly marked staff only areas including, but not limited to: Behind our sales counters, Accounting, Shipping and Receiving and our Door Shop. We expect our customers and vendors to respect these boundaries.

In order to keep maximum separation of our employees, our Beddis Road staff are not to enter the Rainbow Road store during open hours and the same in reverse. Meetings are held outside or electronically as much as possible. All employees are encouraged to take their breaks outside and some are working from home and on shifts when the store is closed to reduce the concentration of staff at the stores in peak times.

We ask for your patience and respect for our sales and service staff at this time. We are very proud of the leadership of our managers and the dedication and hard work of our entire staff. They are working tirelessly to ensure your safety and at the same time serve your business needs.

We will graciously decline gifts of food from customers and vendors for sharing amongst the staff, temporarily. We expect double rations when this is over.

And it will be over. When will depend largely upon our choices as individuals.

Thank you for your continued support during this challenging period. We encourage you to follow us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/windsorssi/> for service and policy updates as they occur.

We are available to discuss any suggestions or concerns.

MIKE AND KEN, OWNERS

**REMEMBER TO CHECK OUR CURRENT
FLYER IN EFFECT TILL APRIL 11TH**

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