

inside:



**2** Murder-suicide tragedy rocks island



**6** Community pays tribute to Matt Steffich



**8** SSAC creates Dr. Bonnie Henry buttons

Arts and Entertainment.....	8
Classifieds .....	11
Editorial .....	4
Letters .....	5
Island Life .....	9

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GULF ISLANDS

Wednesday, June 10, 2020

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Issue 24

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## CIVIL ACTION

# Island adds to anti-racism calls



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Part of the crowd that gathered in Centennial Park last week for a peaceful demonstration supporting the Black Lives Matter movement that has been fuelled by the murder of George Floyd in Minneapolis, Minn. on May 25.

## Supporters make issue visible in Ganges

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Islanders turned out for a peaceful rally on Wednesday afternoon to protest the recent deaths of men and women with dark skin in the United States and Canada and to demonstrate that those lives do matter.

The quiet demonstration at the edge of Centennial Park was organized by 15-year-old Sophie Coopman, who splits her time between Sidney and Salt Spring. Coopman sent an email out to people she knew the day before and her dad's fiancée Michelle Grant also posted a call online. Around 100 islanders and friends came out to support the cause.

"I don't know most of these people, which is amazing," Coopman said during the event. "And I'm very happy to see that people actually care."

The teenager said she was motivated to act after hearing about George Floyd's death on the radio, an experience that caused her to break down for several hours. The 46-year-old black man died in Minneapolis, Minn. on May 25 after a police officer knelt on his neck for nearly

nine minutes while three other officers stood by.

For Coopman, it was a shocking reminder of pervasive racial injustice.

"I've read about this in books and I've heard my grandmother and my mother tell stories about this and terrible things happening to them because their skin is dark," she said. "I thought, 'I can't understand why this is happening and I can't understand why people aren't reacting.' So hopefully by doing this, we can make some sort of change, make people understand and make people see this is actually happening, it isn't a thing of the past."

People who joined the demonstration were similarly motivated to show up and take a stand against acts of violence and discrimination even if they hadn't been personally affected.

"I'm from Jamaica. I'm from a different, more sheltered place," said Paul Goodlet, who heard about the demonstration from Sophie's father Steve Coopman. "I haven't ever experienced injustice like I've seen people experience in America; I have relatives in the United States and it does affect them a lot."

"I've been in such a loving place in Canada. You don't really see it much, but I think it's up to us to show compassion and support . . . I think it's up to me to show what a good life we can have when everyone just lives together," Goodlet added.

Sharon Williamson said she came out for the event because she thinks what's happened to black people and Canada's First Nations is terrible.

"And it's time that people stood up and made themselves heard," Williamson said.

Protests against racism and police brutality aligned with the Black Lives Matter movement and other solidarity rallies have been taking place across the United States and Canada since an initial protest was held in Minneapolis the day after Floyd was killed. Demonstrations continued through the weekend.

All four officers were fired from the Minneapolis police force. Derek Chauvin was charged on May 26 with manslaughter, which was upgraded to a second-degree murder charge on June 3. The three other officers involved were also charged that day with aiding and abetting the act.

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#### What you can do:

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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## TIDE TABLES at Fulford Harbour

**JUNE 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>10</b>	0332	2.6	8.5	<b>14</b>	0718	1.7	5.6
	0558	2.7	8.9		1227	2.1	6.9
WE	1352	0.6	2.0	SU	1659	1.8	5.9
ME	2216	3.4	11.2	DI			
<b>11</b>	0451	2.4	7.9	<b>15</b>	0018	3.1	10.2
	0646	2.5	8.2		0746	1.4	4.6
TH	1435	0.8	2.6	MO	1424	2.3	7.5
JE	2253	3.3	10.8	LU	1802	2.1	6.9
<b>12</b>	0559	2.2	7.2	<b>16</b>	0041	3.1	10.2
	0801	2.2	7.2		0813	1.2	3.9
FR	1518	1.1	3.6	TU	1542	2.5	8.2
VE	2325	3.3	10.8	MA	1908	2.3	7.5
<b>13</b>	0645	2.0	6.6	<b>17</b>	0104	3.0	9.8
	1005	2.1	6.9		0840	1.0	3.3
SA	1605	1.5	4.9	WE	1637	2.7	8.9
SA	2353	3.2	10.5	ME	2010	2.5	8.2

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## TRAGEDY

# Murder-suicide shocks community

### Fundraiser to aid Quesnel sons earns mass support

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring community members are still struggling to cope with the deaths of John and Jennifer Quesnel in a murder-suicide committed by John last Monday.

While the Vancouver Island Integrated Major Crime Unit and the B.C. Coroner's Service have not finished their investigations, police say there are no suspects, no expected charges and no community threat. Witness testimony from someone who was there combined with the evidence on scene has led no doubt as to what occurred, according to RCMP media spokesperson Cpl. Chris Manseau.

The event has shocked the community where both John and Jennifer grew up. John Quesnel was a colourful and at times larger-than-life character who was well known for his Salt Spring Metal Recycling business and his frequent bouts with the Islands Trust over zoning violations. Jennifer had a lifelong passion for horses and was a well-loved member of the Arabian horse riding community.

"It's just a major shame," said Troy Kaye, a neighbour who lives down the street from the Quesnel family property on Fulford-Ganges Road. "I don't understand it. I don't think anybody understands it, and I don't think we should have to."

Kaye heard three shots fired late on the afternoon of June 1. He went over to the property around 45 minutes later and spoke with police to ensure the Quesnells' three sons were okay. Police say the boys were not home when the incident took place. They are safe and being cared for by family members.

RCMP have now confirmed that Jennifer, 41 and John, 48, were killed by a firearm. When police and paramedics arrived at around 5 p.m. John was dead. Jennifer died while being transferred to hospital.

Meaghan Calnan travelled with Jennifer and some other friends to the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show in Arizona in February, where Jennifer rode her horse to a top-10 win. Calnan said she had also recently attended a judging school based in Scottsdale.

"As her boys, whom she loved so much, were growing up she was reigniting her own passions around art and horses and she spoke positively about the future. She told me last week she couldn't wait to get back to horse showing and was excitedly talking about junior judging positions she had secured once the industry opened back up," Calnan wrote.

A statement from the family explains that Jennifer had recently left her marriage after 18 years.

She had been staying with her brother Glenn Hamilton in Sidney for the two weeks prior to her death and had returned to the property that day to pick up some belongings and care for her horse.

"There was a pre-arrangement that John would not be on the property during that timeframe. Jennifer had also spoken to the RCMP about an escort to the property but later felt



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG

Flowers and more at the site of the Quesnel property at 1502 Fulford-Ganges Rd.



PHOTO BY MEAGHAN CALNAN

Jennifer Quesnel at the Scottsdale Arabian Horse Show in Arizona in February.

he wouldn't be a threat. Additionally, she was re-assured by the fact that all his firearms had previously been confiscated and his vehicle was not in the driveway," the family said.

No one, including his closest friends and family members, realized John's state of mind. Although some stated he was often verbally abusive and controlling, they did not imagine he could be a lethal threat.

"Jennifer was taken from us and her three boys during a time of renewed hope and possibilities and was excited for what her future held," her family members stated. "She was a gentle and loving mother, friend, daughter and sister to everyone who knew her. She was everything that was good about people."

The BC Summary of Domestic Violence Risk Factors, which is used by interagency case assessment teams in the province, classifies separation as an extremely high-risk situation. In a review of 311 cases over a period of 15 years, Ontario's Domestic Violence Death Review Committee found 67 per cent of the cases involved a couple with an actual or pending separation. A perpetrator who was depressed and obsessive behaviour by that person were the next two highest risk factors. In 71 per cent of the cases reviewed, seven or more risk factors were identified.

Islanders Working Against Violence attests that intimate partner violence is present in the community. COVID-19 impacts may have exacerbated stresses at the same time as making it more difficult for vulnerable women to reach the help they need.

"The reality is we are seeing an

astronomical increase in these types of tragedies in Canada and the world over the last three months. IWAV is here to support our community as it comes together to grieve the death of Jennifer Quesnel and stand against all forms of prejudice, injustice and violence," the organization stated Friday.

IWAV provides anti-violence services — a crisis line, outreach, counselling and its Transition House — to support and respond to women and families in the community. As an essential service provider, it has continued to offer those services throughout the pandemic.

Women who are feeling unsafe and needing support are encouraged to contact the 24-hour crisis line at 250-537-0735 or email [ssitransitionhouse@iwav.org](mailto:ssitransitionhouse@iwav.org). All women, inclusive of trans women and gender non-conforming people and members of the LGBTQ+ community, are welcome. Additional information about IWAV's services can be found at [iwav.org](http://iwav.org).

The Gulf Islands School District also has resources to offer.

"When tragic events occur, we do a check-in through our principals and classroom teachers with students and staff to gauge how each of us are responding, and to determine what kinds of support are needed for students and staff. This week the occurrences particularly impacted the middle and secondary schools on Salt Spring," said SD64 director of instruction Doug Livingston.

School district representatives met last Tuesday with the Collaborative Practice Group, which includes Community Services, IWAV, Children and Youth with Special Needs and the Ministry of Children and Family Development. They have identified mental health supports available to students and staff through various programs and agencies.

A trust fund has been set up to help care for the Quesnells' sons, John Jr., 17, Dan, almost 16, and Jake, 12. People can contribute to the GoFundMe campaign called Jennifer Quesnel - Children's Fundraiser or contact [theonlysteph@gmail.com](mailto:theonlysteph@gmail.com) to donate through e-transfer.

As of Monday the GoFundMe campaign had exceeded the \$75,000 goal and had topped \$107,000.

"Jennifer's family and loved ones would like to publicly extend their heartfelt thanks to the incredible community of Salt Spring Island and beyond for their outpouring of love and support. We are truly so humbled by your generosity," a message on the campaign website states.

## BC FERRIES

# Ferry travel returns to Long Harbour terminal

Face covering requirement introduced as of June 15

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Direct sailings from Tsawwassen to the Southern Gulf Islands resumed on Tuesday as BC Ferries begins to match capacity with growing demand for service amid easing of restrictions on travel and gatherings.

The ferry company announced Friday it had agreed to a plan with the province that gradually increases service levels on multiple routes along the coast. The B.C. government amended the Coastal Ferry Services Contract to permit service adjustments through Sept. 7.

The change will see the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands route return to winter service levels from June 9 to 30 and includes the re-opening of the Long Harbour terminal. Many ferry employees who are based out of Long Harbour and were laid off this spring will soon be restarting their jobs.

BC Ferries says it will continue to monitor traffic levels on the minor routes and will add more service over the coming months as demand requires, but a second vessel will not be added to the Tsawwassen-Southern Gulf Islands run

this summer.

"BC Ferries understands the important role we play in British Columbia's social and economic recovery," stated Mark Collins, BC Ferries' president and CEO. "We remain committed to ensuring coastal communities have reliable access to essential goods and transportation for residents, emergency personnel and health-care workers. However, it will take some time before we return to pre-COVID-19 traffic demand and full service offerings."

While BC Ferries was reporting traffic was down by 80 per cent or more in April, May figures showed an increase in demand for the Gulf Islands. On the Fulford-Swartz Bay route, there were 55 per cent fewer passengers and 43 per cent fewer vehicles than in May 2019. The combined route serving the Southern Gulf Islands from Tsawwassen and Swartz Bay saw passenger numbers drop by 63 per cent and vehicles by 52 per cent. Ferries are currently operating under a Transport Canada directive that limits passenger capacity by 50 per cent to support physical distancing but doesn't limit vehicle numbers.

BC Ferries communications director Deborah Marshall said traffic is expected to increase in the summer months, with non-essential travel restrictions within the province to be relaxed in mid-June.

"We are seeing customers booking reservations and we want to follow in step with the province. Hopefully we'll all be in a position to widen our circle soon," Marshall said.

The company will continue to follow provincial and federal guidelines during the gradual resumption of service. Safety measures in place include allowing customers to remain in their vehicles during the sailing on all car decks, enhanced cleaning and the screening of travellers. Food services such as cafeterias and buffets have yet to be reopened on ferries, although vending machines are now back in service.

Beginning on Monday, June 15, passengers travelling on any routes longer than 30 minutes will be required have a face covering that covers their mouth and nose, and will be asked to wear this covering in situations when a physical separation of two metres cannot be maintained.

The directive applies to all passengers over the age of two, including those passengers travelling in a vehicle. Customers must bring their own face coverings as BC Ferries will not be supplying them to travellers.

Marshall advises passengers to check the bcferries.com website for schedule updates and to find more advice for travelling safely regarding the corona virus.



DRIFTWOOD FILE PHOTO

Long Harbour terminal, which resumed operation on Tuesday after two months of service suspension.

## GISRA

GULF ISLANDS SENIORS RESIDENCE ASSOCIATION

Gulf Island Seniors Residence Association is hiring an Executive Director for Meadowbrook, our 37-unit Independent Living Seniors Residence set on beautiful Salt Spring Island. G.I.S.R.A. is a not-for-profit organization.

STARTING DATE: JULY 20, 2020

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Please send resumes to kennethivorlee@gmail.com attention G.I.S.R.A. Board of Directors.

Applications will be accepted until June 19, 2020.

Successful candidates will be contacted directly for an interview.

## WATER

# Maxwell Lake water plant dissected

Trustees debate potential use of alternate technologies

BY GAIL SJUBERG

DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

North Salt Spring Waterworks District trustees will spend more time talking about the potential design of a new Maxwell Lake water treatment plant at their next meeting.

The matter was on the agenda of their May 28 meeting, with a recommendation that the district proceed with commissioning a preliminary design of a dissolved air flotation plant for an estimated capital cost of \$7.5 million. A DAF plant completed in 2018 by engineering firm Kerr Wood Leidal (KWL) to treat St. Mary Lake water cost approximately \$8 million.

The matter was tabled after some trustees questioned why newer and possibly greener technologies were not considered by KWL in a feasibility study provided to the board.

"When we started this there was a discussion about looking at different technology, and what I see here is exactly what I predicted would happen, which would be that because of the company that we used, who is very familiar with one technology, they've put forward the one technology they like, and now we are blessing that technology and moving forward," said NSSWD trustee Sandra Ungerson.

Acting district manager Meghan McKee pointed out that three different technologies were costed out in the study and she assumed others were considered as well before determining what would work based on the water quality and site limitations of Maxwell Lake.

"Innovation is great, but innovating for the sake of innovating is not the point," said McKee. "The point is to get the most efficient and effective treatment that we can have, and I believe that KWL has done that. They are experts in water treatment and I do not believe they are only familiar with DAF and have not considered other green and more innovative technologies."

Operations manager Ron Stepaniuk pointed out that KWL worked with a year's worth of data from the lake and that any system has to be able to run without requiring an expensive upgrade to the power lines. NSSWD staff are experienced in operating a DAF

plant and it is known to be cost effective, he added. He pressed Ungerson to describe specific alternate technologies.

She said she was not prepared to provide a technical briefing, and agreed with Stepaniuk's points about the benefits of the DAF option.

Island Health issued a directive to the district way back in 2009 to improve the treatment system for Maxwell Lake in order to meet that body's policy requirements around drinking water.

As a NSSWD staff report points out, treated water coming from Maxwell Lake "does not meet the Guidelines for Canadian Drinking Water Quality maximum acceptable concentration (MAC) for trihalomethanes (THMs), which are a by-product of disinfecting water that contains organic matter with chlorine. In 2018, 81 per cent of THMs samples in the Maxwell system exceeded the MAC. Further, 13 per cent of haloacetic acids (HAAs) samples, a different type of disinfection by-product, exceeded the MAC. THMs can negatively impact the liver and are classified by Health Canada as a possible carcinogen. HAAs are classified as a probable carcinogen."

The directive to improve Maxwell Lake water treatment has been a perennial concern for the district. A new St. Mary Lake treatment plant was the district's most urgent priority, and the cost has been borne solely by the ratepayers of approximately 2,100 properties. NSSWD trustees have been reluctant to ask those same people to fund a second multi-million-dollar plant.

Trustees discussed changing the wording of the proposed motion to add "Alternative technologies may be considered," but then decided to table the motion until the next meeting instead.

McKee expressed concern about the process being delayed. A NSSWD-Capital Regional District water optimization study currently underway is exploring the pros and cons of the NSSWD becoming a CRD entity, which would make the Maxwell plant eligible for federal-provincial infrastructure money and reduce the burden on NSSWD ratepayers.

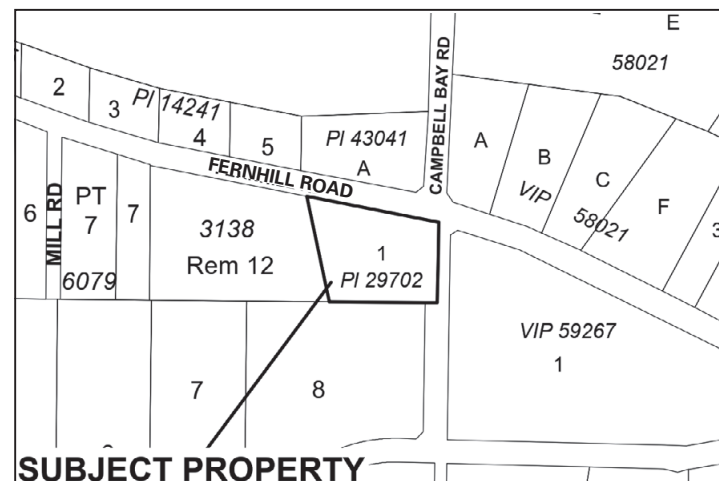
"One of the reasons we want to proceed is so that we have a Class-D estimate in order to make an ask when the water optimization study is concluded," McKee said. "That's why we want to have a preliminary design."



Islands Trust

## NOTICE MAYNE ISLAND LOCAL TRUST COMMITTEE (LTC) TEMPORARY USE APPLICATION – MA-TUP-2020.1

Michael Garratt and Annette Witteman have applied for a **Temporary Use Permit (TUP)** to allow for the expansion of an indoor area for brewery sampling and to allow for an outdoor seating area for brewery sampling. The property is zoned **Settlement Residential (SR)** and the uses would be subject to the conditions in the TUP (attached and/or online). The TUP is proposed to be issued for up to three (3) years and may be renewed once for up to three (3) additional years.



### SUBJECT PROPERTY

Copies of background documents and the TUP are available on the Islands Trust website: <http://www.islandstrust.bc.ca/islands/local-trust-areas/mayne/current-applications/> and at the Islands Trust Office, 200 - 1627 Fort Street, Victoria, B.C. between 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m, Monday to Friday inclusive, excluding Statutory Holidays, from **June 5, 2020** up to and including **June 17, 2020**. Enquiries or written comments will be received before 4:30 p.m. on **June 17, 2020**:

- Narissa Chadwick, Island Planner: (250) 405-5189 or toll free: Enquiry BC
- Email: [information@islandstrust.bc.ca](mailto:information@islandstrust.bc.ca)

The LTC may consider a resolution allowing for the issuance of the TUP by resolution without meeting or during the regular business meeting on **June 29, 2020**.

Applications are available for review by the public upon prior request. Written comments made in response to this notice will also be available for public review.

Jas Chonk, Deputy Secretary

# 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

## Everyone's tragedy

**P**ain. Outrage. Sorrow. Shock.

Those are just some of the emotions that overwhelmed our community last week upon learning that lifelong island resident John Quesnel had murdered his wife Jennifer and then shot himself.

It is too easy to say that if Jennifer Quesnel had requested a police escort to their Fulford-Ganges Road property on June 1 she would still be alive. Instead, that action could possibly have resulted in more deaths occurring that day. The path leading to John Quesnel's murder of his wife and his own suicide began long before June 1, 2020.

Prevention of tragedies such as this one begins with halting inter-generational cycles of violence, and making violence and abuse of any kind — whether against intimate partners, children, elders or anyone at all — absolutely unacceptable in our communities and in our homes.

It is difficult to force or enforce respectful, non-violent relationships, however. Positive outcomes may sometimes occur through the judicial system, certainly, but by the time a crisis reaches that point much damage will have been done. Mass anti-racism protests like those seen in recent weeks in response to the murder of George Floyd

### THE ISSUE:

Violent acts

### WE SAY:

Do your part for prevention

can precipitate public shifts in attitudes and behaviour as well.

But preventing violence and the imbalance of power that fuels it in intimate relationships truly requires the fostering of deep awareness and hard work. That comes through individuals honestly assessing the health of their own relationships and seeking to improve them if necessary. It requires consistent access to education programs such as those presented by Salt Spring's own Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse and Islanders Working Against Violence organizations. It demands wholehearted financial and philosophical support being directed to those kinds of programs and to mental health services for youth and adults. It requires families and communities to be on board with prevention of violence and abuse and for them to not make anyone feel ashamed for seeking help.

The deaths of John and Jennifer Quesnel must be a wake-up call for us all. We all have a role to play in preventing another tragedy like this one from unfolding on Salt Spring Island.

Our community is shaken and our deepest sympathies and sincere condolences go out to the Quesnel children, their families and their friends.



## Out of sight, out of mind

BY BARB GALLOWAY

Just because you can't see the 33 freighters parked around the Gulf Islands from your homes, as described in last week's "Australia Provides Ship Lessons" article and the Driftwood's editorial, that doesn't mean you shouldn't be extremely concerned.

If you go to the beach to kayak, boat, fish or crab, or if you have young children, you should be fighting to get rid of these ships. They are polluting our environment and interfering with our orcas. I have a perfect view of the two anchorages in the entrance to Ganges Harbour and Captain's Passage.

On May 14 at 6 a.m. I watched the MV Theus come through Swanson Channel and Captain's Passage looking like it was burning 1,000 litres of oil a second. The streak of thick, white-blue-grey smoke lingered for two kilometres before the vessel parked in the entrance to Ganges Harbour and stayed there until May 27. I phoned the Port of Vancouver to complain and as usual received

### VIEWPOINT

absolutely no response from them.

On two other occasions I watched as freighters with empty cargo holds had their crews wash the freighters inside and out. Brown, murky water came from their anchor wash for two and a half hours for one ship and three hours and seven minutes for the other and was dumped into our waters.

The last freighter that parked in Captain's Passage from May 8 to 16 had such a whiny pitch to its generator that it could be heard for four kilometres 24/7. I received no response from the Port of Vancouver regarding that complaint.

They want pleasure boats to turn off engines, depth and fish finders when orcas are near, but these freighters are allowed to do whatever they want with absolutely no consequences.

There are protests against pipelines and for the orcas. Well, think

globally and act locally. These freighters are our pipeline issue. Like the people of Sky Valley Road who feel like they are fighting their battle alone, those of us fighting these freighters feel alone.

The shipping industry has decreased by 30 per cent during these difficult times. Now is the time to fight and change this policy. There are 10,000 of us on Salt Spring Island. There should be 10,000 letters on the desks of Transport Minister Marc Garneau, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Jonathan Wilkinson and Minister of Fisheries and Oceans Bernadette Jordan. Wake up, Salt Spring, this is about all of the generations to come.

The Port of Vancouver has pulled the wool over the eyes of Lower Mainland citizens with their feel-good commercials. The dirty secret is that the Gulf Islands have been turned into an industrial dumping ground with not a second thought to our environment, our quiet way of life or our tourism industry.

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### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

**Are you concerned about freighters in the Gulf Islands?** ☐ Yes ☐ No

### LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

**Have the children in your family gone back to school this week?**

33	80
YES	NO

Cast your ballot online at [www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com](http://www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com) before Tuesday at noon or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"It seems what you might notice in elder abuse is not the presence, but the absence of something."**

SHAMANA ALI, COMMUNITY RESPONSE NETWORK

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *What's something you have peacefully demonstrated against in your life?*

### ANTHONY MATTHEWS



I demonstrated in Toronto in 1990 against the first Gulf War during the presidency of George H. W. Bush.

### IRENE WRIGHT



The environment and economic justice were my main concerns when I marched with a busload from Salt Spring to the Legislature. They still are.

### ADAM OLSEN



One of the most poignant was the #nohousehere campaign connected to the Grace Islet protests highlighting the double standards and rules for Indigenous burial cairns and cemeteries.

### SUE NEWMAN



Ending poverty. And addressing a world of systemic social injustices, including racism and sexism. An egalitarian democracy has every possibility of saving the planet.

### RACHEL BEVINGTON



I protested the Texada logging in Burgoyne Valley but was too shy to join Briony Penn on her Lady Godiva ride in Vancouver, so I stayed home and then later wished I had gone too!

## LETTERS to the editor

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)

### Watershed growth

Years ago when Eric Booth and I were more active in community affairs, he and I often saw things differently. We disagree now on expansion of housing around Swanson's Pond and in the St. Mary Lake watershed.

Still, I yelled "Foul!" when I read in the June 3 Driftwood ("NSSWD to request peer review of lake studies") that a NSSWD staff member had dismissed Mr. Booth's water supply analysis because he doesn't have credentials. Surely the question is whether Eric's analysis and conclusions are sound, not whether he has technical credentials.

Ironically, the same article notes that the NSSWD board decided to pay for a professional review of past water supply studies done, I assume, by credentialed contractors. Why? Said

one board member, "You can't believe how often I get comments from people in the community whom I respect that the moratorium is just B.S." We aren't told what their credentials are.

Respectability and credentials are both fine, but they don't have much to do with each other.

**BOB WEEDEN,**  
PRIMROSE LANE

### Seek better site for concerts

I, too, support the PitchFork Social — just not at the proposed venue of The Cottages.

As early as 1996, the sustainability of the shared aquifer was acknowledged as problematic by the Islands Trust. Climate change, with longer droughts and shorter rainfall seasons, has only made for an increased groundwater crisis.

Please remember that TUP 2020.1 is presented by and for the benefit of The Cottages to enhance their profitability for years into the future.

I suggest that the PitchFork Social seek a more environmentally suitable site for their gathering.

**MARIANNE HOBBS,**  
CEDAR LANE

### Tragic time

So many tragedies this week. I thought everyone should know that there is a Salt Spring link to the tragic shooting by police of a young B.C. Indigenous woman in New Brunswick on Wednesday, June 3.

Chantel Moore is the granddaughter of Tla-o-qui-aht carver Joe Martin of Tofino, who Salt Springers will know as the lead carver of the Xwaaqu'um dug-out canoe. They may wish to donate to the fundraiser to support the family through this time.

I am horrified by this police killing during a call to check on Chantel's well-being, and by the disproportionate number of Indigenous people in Canada who are killed by police and RCMP.

I support the Nuu-chah-nulth Tribal Council's calls for action around police reform: firstly, there needs to be an independent investigation into this police killing; secondly, police policies and practices need to ensure that police conduct de-escalates situations and that police use trauma-informed practice when engaging in de-escalation.

We stand with Joe Martin and his family at this tragic time, and hold them in our hearts.

The fundraiser can be found by searching Support for Family of Chantel Moore on the GoFundMe site.

**KAIT LESLIE,**  
FULFORD

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 7

## Deaths prove more anti-violence work needed

BY JANINE FERNANDES-HAYDEN

We, the staff and board of SWOVA, are deeply affected by the tragedy surrounding the Quesnel family. Our condolences go out to the three boys, the families and their friends.

"No Man is an Island," writes John Donne, though it can feel this way, especially during our COVID times when we are unable to connect and experience the type of kinship that we are meant to; to share, ponder, rejoice together, to grieve together in deeply meaningful ways. We at SWOVA espouse healthy relationships, and yet, what does this mean for us in these times of social distancing, let alone as our community processes this horrible incident?

SWOVA works within the educational setting, with children and youth, to prevent violence in all forms. Our vision statement reads, "We envision inclusive and gender-equitable communities living violence-free." It is hard for us as an organization not to feel deflated when we think of this tragedy. And yet, we must remember that a vision is where we hope to arrive and, when we have arrived, there will in fact be no need for the work of organizations such as Islanders Working Against Violence or Salt Spring Women Opposed to Violence and Abuse. Until then, there is work to be done. We are not there.

We live on an island that is special in many ways, but it is not idyllic. An idyllic island would be one that has reached that vision of a community living violence-free. In our work together, we need to face the realities of a community that is not idyllic, where domestic violence, as well as other forms of violence,

### GUEST COLUMN

including self-inflicted, are very real. And all forms are complicated by risk factors associated with addictions, mental illness and poverty.

To feel shock over the news of the past week is a hopeful sign and a step forward towards awakening to the realities facing our island. To feel numb means that there is a pain that needs to be dulled, one left by an underlying wound that we all share, one that needs to be aired out and nursed. Let's not ignore nor dismiss those feelings.

The deaths of John and Jennifer Quesnel weaken us all. To come full circle in the words of Donne, "Any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in mankind; and therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; it tolls for thee."

Let the bells that toll for all of us at this time not paralyze us with guilt and shame. Instead, let them call us to a humility, honesty and vulnerability that has us assess the health of our relationships, with ourselves and with others, and to consider the messages that we pass on to our younger generations.

Let us ask ourselves the question, "How are we doing, really?" At a time when we are impacted by acts of violence on a world stage, let us acknowledge the work that needs to be done in our own backyard.

### RESOURCES

• At SWOVA, we'll continue moving towards our vision of communities living violence-free by offering programs

for children and youth to give them the skills to create healthy relationships now and in the future. We do partner with other community organizations who are involved in directly addressing violence and crisis in our community. If you or someone who know needs help:

• IWAV provides anti-violence services: crisis line, outreach, counselling and Transition House, and supports and responds to women and families in our community.

• IWAV encourages women who are feeling unsafe and needing support to contact IWAV's 24 hr crisis line at 250-537-0735 or email at [ssitransition-house@iwav.org](mailto:ssitransition-house@iwav.org). Additional information about IWAV's services can be found at [iwav.org](http://iwav.org).

• Youth and families can also seek support from Salt Spring Community Services. Counsellors are ready and available to meet with children, youth and families who would like support. They can access this by phoning Community Services' Navigator at 778-353-4731. More information about counselling support is also available on the SSCS website: [saltspringcommunityservices.ca](http://saltspringcommunityservices.ca).

• School counsellors are, as usual, available for students in need of emotional support.

• There are also many helpful resources through phone, chat, or text, for youth struggling emotionally, including:

• Kids Help Line, available 24-7, for students struggling with anything. 1-800-667-6868.

• Vancouver Island Crisis Line (24-7) 1-888-494-3888 for youth needing support.

*The writer is executive director of the SWOVA Community Development and Research Society.*

## TRIBUTE

# Community champion Matt Steffich mourned

Islanders recall generosity, humour, optimism, love of family and more

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Well-loved islander and businessman Matt Steffich died suddenly of cardiac arrest on June 3 at the age of 61.

He was found collapsed in his Steffich Fine Art Gallery by his friend and gallery patron Anne Zeller at approximately 12:30 p.m. Emergency services personnel arrived quickly but were unable to revive him.

Matt was raised in East Vancouver and proud of that fact, said his wife of 19 years, Christine Steffich. He credited that experience with making him the person he was, and had recently written a song about his love for his eclectic and multicultural neighbourhood, where family and community were so important.

"His love of family was his top priority," she said. He was completely devoted to his two sons, Austin, who will be 27 in November, and Dakota, who turns 14 in the same month this year.

He had recently gotten a tattoo on each arm: one was comprised of the names and birthdates of his sons; the other was the East Van cross symbol.

Christine said COVID-19 and the need to homeschool had provided her husband and son with an invaluable opportunity this spring as they did local history studies and field trips together and Matt worked from home.

"He was very thankful to be able to do that."

Matt was the middle child in a close family of three other brothers and a sister.

"And he has tons of nieces and nephews who love him and miss him and are shattered to pieces," she said.

Several small memorial events are planned. Those include a toast at Auntie Pesto's with his scotch-tasting buddies, a disc golf tourney, impromptu music events, a gathering in Vancouver, a poker game, a classic car rally and a "September birthdays" party, for starters.



PHOTO COURTESY CHRIS STEFFICH

Matt Steffich with his vintage Corvette outside Steffich Fine Art during a gallery event in 2016.

"We hope that after things open up in 2021, we can have a huge celebration of life for everyone," Christine added.

In the short term, Steffich Fine Art will be open Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays, led by Matt's assistant Kaeli Yarwood and with Matt's son Austin rejoining the team.

Matt became interested in First Nations art in particular because of a family connection to Reg Ashwell, who founded Pegasus Gallery on Salt Spring Island. Matt then opened his own gallery with a native art focus in Grace Point Square called Thunderbird Gallery on April 1, 1992 with then-wife Jen Rosling. He and Christine changed the gallery name to Steffich Fine Art in 2007.

Christine said Norval Morrisseau was probably his favourite artist and his first art sale was a Morrisseau piece.

Steffich Fine Art became a community hub, with everyone welcome to drop by and chat with Matt, whether about art, music, sports, local happenings or a particular cause or passion.

He never kicked anyone out of the gallery, said his close

friend John Bateman, who was frequently found there over the past 19 years.

"People would go to Matt . . . he would always listen to them, and if it was right he would do what he could to move their cause forward," he said.

"Positivity and optimism. Those were huge hallmarks of who Matt was," he added. "So many times he would pull things from the brink and make them work. He was just positive, and he was action."

Matt and Bateman expanded their notoriety through 160 episodes of co-hosting the hilarious anything-goes CFSI radio program called The Speakeasy beginning in 2009.

"Being funny together happened instantly," said Bateman in reflecting on their friendship. "We just annoyed the hell out of so many people . . . but it was something you just couldn't turn away from."

Bateman is working to make all of The Speakeasy episodes accessible through a podcast format.

Music was also a huge part of Matt's life, said Christine. He got his first guitar when he was 16 and as a young man spent six months immersing himself in the music scene in Toronto. He travelled around B.C. with his band The Fins a younger man, and he performed with many musicians on Salt Spring, with bass player Dave Roland usually involved.

Duane Allman and Hank Williams were his musical heroes. In January of this year he went to Macon, Georgia with two of his brothers to attend an Allman brothers benefit concert and see other sites related to the group. He had also visited the grave of Williams in Alabama on another occasion. Two of the dogs he had were named Hank Williams and Lucinda Williams. (Others were Rufus and Slide, and their current black lab Mojo, who he adored.)

Salt Spring painter Mel Williamson observed how "Matt related art to music in so many conversations. But he taught me about so much more than just art and the parallels with music."

"He gave his time, patience and respect to everybody who walked into his gallery — tourist, artist, friend, farmer or toddler. He had not an ounce of pretentiousness," she said.

"Matt insisted that the best thing for me to paint was exactly what I wanted to, even and especially if it seemed weird. In doing so he helped me to trust myself, to not worry, and just do what feels right."

Art curator Anthony Matthews is another islander who benefitted from Matt's mentorship.

"Matt was always goading me, in his direct and humorous way, to publicly thank him for his teaching me everything I knew about the art business. Of course, that wasn't exactly accurate but it became a running thing between us . . . While I had the mechanics down, Matt had something I still struggle with. He had heart. He helped me navigate the complex Salt Spring art scene, giving encouragement and advice, donating generously and, more importantly, by setting a fine example."

"Everyone loved Matt," said Driftwood publisher Amber Ogilvie. "He was a diplomat, always listening to everything and everyone no matter what his personal position was. He was proud of Salt Spring, he cared deeply about the community and was committed to making it better. He will be missed."

Steffich was a strong representative for the island's business community and served on the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce board for several years, including terms as president and vice-president. He worked closely with current president Li Read.

"I always saw Matt as an authentic Renaissance man," she observed. "A person of many parts. The first time I encountered him, he was on a stage at Glass Onion — now Barb's — playing guitar with a rock-blues group. Then he was organizing a huge arts festival. Next, he was president of the Chamber and began his efforts to create a boardwalk. He understood that the boardwalk was really to be a gathering place for islanders, only incidentally for tourists."

Islands trustee Peter Grove worked with Matt on efforts to revive the long-dormant Ganges boardwalk project and described Matt as its "champion."

"Arvid Chalmers challenged us to get on with this long-awaited community project and Matt rose to the occasion. He devoted endless hours to this endeavour and they will not have been in vain. On its completion the harbourwalk will be an important part of Matt's legacy and will honour him."

## COVID-19 IN BC



### RESTARTING OUR LIVES:

## Let's proceed with caution.

Here in BC, we've made progress flattening the curve. That's because we all pulled together and did the right thing. But COVID-19 isn't behind us. As we get together again in small groups and in public spaces, maintaining physical distancing and personal hygiene measures are critical.

Let's be careful as we start seeing family and friends in small groups, and as we head outdoors or back to work.



Stay informed via these resources:  
[gov.bc.ca/covid19](https://gov.bc.ca/covid19) | 1-888-COVID19 | [gov.bc.ca/restartbc](https://gov.bc.ca/restartbc)

Symptom Self-Assessment:  
[covid19.thrive.health](https://covid19.thrive.health)

# Thank-you letter to Matt

The following was written by Janet Clouston, who was executive director of the Salt Spring Chamber of Commerce from March 2011 until October of 2018 before returning to her home province of New Brunswick.

Dear Matt Steffich,

You have been on my mind all week and I can think of little else, so I thought I would write you and say hello and say thank you. My adventure on Salt Spring Island was made better because of you, and in fact without you there I am not sure what it would have looked like.

When I was interviewing for the position with the Chamber, I was introduced to you and your gallery where we sat for the interview. A great start to a great friendship, as it turned out. I am so grateful that you and your hiring team chose me, and here is my first of many things to thank you for. With my office in Ganges so close to your gallery, the pavement is worn down with the number of times I "popped in" to see you (there was usually a line-up of us doing the same thing). You were my go-to guy on the board, and I knew I could always count on you for whatever I needed, good times and bad.

Thank you for your great taste in music, and for sharing that with us. As soon as I heard Joni Mitchell playing in your space I knew we were buds. Thank you for loaning me your copy of Shine so I could rip it. My copy was scratched from over-use.

Thank you for the wind sculptures that

are all around Ganges village, and for the two that I have on my deck overlooking the Bay of Fundy. The first one I bought at Sip & Savour Salt Spring, which you donated for an auction, and the second one was a gift from the Chamber at my going-away party. How thoughtful — thank you for picking out the perfect gift. They spin around in the ocean breeze and I think of my friend Matt.

You and your lovely family were always so gracious and kind to me, and watching Dakota go from a small boy to a fetching young man was a treat, and seeing the love from Austin and Chris toward you both was a wonderful part of my day. I am not alone in letting them know what a wonderful person you are and that we all wish we had a dad and husband just like you in our lives.

With courage we carry on, and thank you for your belief in a better future, one filled with art and Canadian pride and love for community, and for showing us how to throw a great party. If your building is too small to hold it, take over the whole block and ask your neighbours to join in!

You and I shared a pair of rose-coloured glasses, and a belief in rule number one — never give up. Knowing you has made me a better person, a better family member and a better leader. I am grateful to have known you.

With that I will say goodbye my friend. Be well.

Until I see you again,  
Janet

## MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

## Time to support locals

Our wonderful islands! How blessed we are to live here. During this strange time our neigh-

bours are being so kind and helpful.

I can't help worrying about the economic decline expected when the pandemic is over and which, indeed, has already started. One thing we can all do is to shop locally. There is very little that one cannot get here.

It would be to our shame if people lost their jobs or

had to give up their farms because we were not supporting them. (I am old enough to remember the '30s when so many came to my mother's door for hand-outs.)

We already have needy people here. Let us not create more by our thoughtlessness.

MEG HODGES,  
SALT SPRING

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#### Buyers: How to compare prices and value?

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When planning a second viewing, ASK FOR AN INFO PACKAGE & PERMISSION TO TAKE PHOTOS. Take notes. Identify chattels that you may wish to have included such as: window coverings, appliances and their brand name, built in vacuum and/or hot tub accessories, shelving, firewood on hand, riding lawn mower, water filters, garden sheds, building plans, etc. Note what items are excluded on the feature sheet to assist you in making plans for replacing. Then you will likely conclude that...

*The most affordable home is rarely the lowest priced home!*

Jan Macpherson, M.E.S., R.I.(B.C.) - GOLD AWARD 2018 (VREB)

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### Mechanic

#### We will be continuing with shop safety precautions to keep you and our staff safe, indefinitely.

As safety recommendations ease, we are all beginning to breathe a bit easier after the last months of tension. Dreams of travel and holidays are returning. However, staying close to home and enjoying one of the nicest places on the planet doesn't seem like much of a sacrifice when it is also one of the safest places.

Here's a big shout out to all the health care workers, first responders, and essential workers for helping us get through this!

*Stay close, stay safe, Gyle*



GYLE KEATING

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### Financial Advice

#### Questions a financial plan can help you answer

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- 50% of your after-tax income covers your needs
- 30% covers your wants • 20% is what you save
- Should I pay off my debt or build up my savings? Growing your nest egg is a big reason for why you should start saving as soon as possible. But, not all debt is the same - with credit card debt, it's best you pay that off quickly as the interest rates can be extremely high.
- Am I saving enough for retirement? Make sure to pay yourself first. It's never too early to start planning your retirement and it's never too late to plan what it's going to look like.

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# ARTS + ENTERTAINMENT

## COVID-19

# Dr. Bonnie Henry buttons shared

Arts council returns the love to past supporters

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Dr. Bonnie Henry's message to "be kind, be calm, be safe" seems more appropriate than ever in today's world, even if COVID-19 fears are easing along with the transmission rates.

People on Salt Spring will be seeing more of those words as well as Dr. Henry's image in the coming days thanks to a button pin produced and distributed by the Salt Spring Arts Council. The large button features a portrait of the provincial health officer created by local artist Patrick McCallum and Henry's now famous mantra for helping people get through the challenging and changing pandemic situation.

The arts council is in the process of sending the buttons out to local businesses as a token of appreciation for sponsoring their programming throughout the years.

"We kind of felt it was time to turn the tables on our sponsors; it was time to ask how we could help them out, because a lot of them are hurting right now," said Kathy Ramsey, an arts council board member and volunteer.

Ramsey noted that frontline workers in essential services often bear the brunt of the anxiety and frustration felt by the people they are serving. Hopefully the buttons will remind customers to be kind and to share a smile with those workers instead.

McCallum is just one of the many people in British Columbia who was



Button depicting Dr. Bonnie Henry and some words she has become famous for, created by the Salt Spring Arts Council.

won over by Henry's demeanor, and her ability to balance strong medical knowledge with a reassuring approach. He decided to create her portrait as part of a self-assigned exercise to produce an artwork and post it to Instagram every day during 40 days of pandemic restrictions.

"During that time I was of course also watching Dr. Bonnie Henry every day. She's not what you'd usually expect from people speaking on behalf of government — she clearly has tremendous experience and knowledge but that's not where she's coming from. She's bringing this sense of empathy and compassion," McCallum said.

After McCallum posted his image of Henry to Instagram the Dr. Bonnie Henry Fan Club group on Facebook picked it up and spread it even further. Then fellow arts council member David Borrowman informed McCallum that some friends on Bowen Island had seen it and were inquiring about possibly buying a

print they could use to poster their local windows with during quarantine.

McCallum did not want to sell the image, but he did make a file available for free to anyone who wanted to use it. That aligned well with the arts council's desire to do something to help island businesses in recovery.

"I just couldn't be happier with the response, and at the end of the day as an artist, to have something to contribute means a great deal to me," McCallum said.

Distributing the button throughout local shops and services serves another famous Henry catch phrase, which is about getting through the pandemic together as a province.

"I love the idea of a unified look for all the businesses on the island," Ramsey said. "Even though there may be friendly competition, we're all islanders, we're all in this in together. And art is such a perfect unifier. This seemed like the perfect moment."

The arts council ordered 500 buttons for the initial run, which was paid for by an anonymous donor. They may do a second run for health-care workers but are working through the businesses first.

"Our priority right now is to put a smile on the faces of those people behind the cash register and at the pump, where they are facing other people all the time," Ramsey said.

"It's been really super positive," she added. "We've had lots of smiles, lots of thanks. We're really happy to give back to all these amazing businesses on the island that have done so much to ensure Salt Spring has a vibrant arts and culture community — and it's still here. It will be back and stronger than ever."

## WRITING

# Focus on listening in new writing workshop

Lorraine Gain leads online session

On Saturday, June 13, Star of the Sea Centre for Spiritual Living and Practice will host a free Zoom online writing retreat called Listening at the Heart's Gate.

It will be presented by Lorraine Gane, a poet, writer, teacher, editor and mentor, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

"One of the most vital things we can do, especially during these times, is to attune to our hearts, the core of our being," explains press material about the event. "Here the mental noise subsides and we feel a pervading peace, love, joy and harmony. We also

have access to a great reservoir of creativity that is available for any purpose."

The focus of the two-hour retreat will be "to listen deeply to what's ready to be expressed on the page. This may be the joy and wonder of nature or the fear and challenges we are moving through during this tumultuous time. As we acknowledge and express these, we come into deeper intimacy with ourselves, which often transmutes the feelings into acceptance, understanding and grace. This will be our aim during this retreat."

People need to register at starofthesea@gmail.com to receive the Zoom link for the retreat.

## Currently, all SPCA shelters are closed to the general public.

Staff is still available to answer emails and return phone messages.

To see adoptable animals around the province, please visit the SPCA website and fill out the convenient online application.

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PHOTO BY ROBIN JENKINSON

### GANGES BEAUTIFICATION:

Artist Talia Peckel works on her Native Flora & Fauna murals going onto the concrete barricades on both ends of the Kanaka trail along the School District 64 field by the skate park. Peckel has featured rare and beautiful plants, animals and fungi based on the Salt Spring Conservancy's web catalogue, using paint donated by Windsor Plywood. The project was funded by an Island Savings Simple Generosity grant and the Salt Spring Elementary School Parent Advisory Committee.

## ASK SALT SPRING

# ASK Salt Spring moves outside

First event at United Church Meadow happens this Friday

BY GAYLE BAKER  
 DRIFTWOOD CONTRIBUTOR

Tired of Zooming about? Beginning this Friday, June 12, ASK Salt Spring will be welcoming islanders to socially distanced gatherings in the United Church Meadow every Friday from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. during the summer.

This week, our Capital Regional District director Gary Holman will be our special guest, welcoming all to ask questions and participate in lively conversations about the issues that matter most to us. As the CRD has recently taken over management of the meadow, committed to making this charming park a village centre again, his presence at our first gathering there is a meaningful coincidence.

ASK Salt Spring will be the first of many local groups expected to enjoy

this area for its regular gatherings. Honoured to be able to meet in this lovely setting, it makes sense to learn a bit about the history of this meadow first, courtesy of Bryan Adderley.

In the early 1950s, the United Church traded its church building, located where the Salt Spring Island Wellness Centre is today, to the Royal Canadian Legion Branch 92 in exchange for the site of the present church. (If you journey down the pathway next to the Wellness Centre, you can see old windows that are remnants of the previous church building.)

This building had been the original Methodist church. Built in about 1907, it was moved, piece by piece, to Hereford Avenue from its location near the present-day softball field at Portlock Park.

The United Church also acquired the small house across the street where Twang and Pearl is now located as the home for its minister. Soon, though, this home proved to be too small, and the large house on the west side of the

meadow next to the church was purchased for ministers and their families.

Times changed for most churches when it was recognized that housing ministers in exchange for very low salaries was leaving too many in desperate straits when they retired with neither money nor housing. Recognizing this unfortunate situation, churches across the country began paying ministers more money and encouraging them to buy homes in preparation for their retirement.

No longer needed, the house was moved to Upper Ganges Road and the property cleared and prepared to serve the church and the community.

Enjoy this lovely park setting every Friday this summer when islanders gather seeking answers at ASK Salt Spring. Chairs will be provided; bring your favourite beverage and sweaters and/or sun hats. Events will be postponed if it is raining.

No time to sit in the meadow? Send your questions to asksaltspring@gmail.com.

## INVASIVE SPECIES

# Invasive mussel defence program launched

Visiting boat inspections mandatory

Boat inspection stations are opening at various locations throughout the province to prevent harmful zebra and quagga mussels from hitching a boat ride and entering B.C. waterways.

From now until late October, inspectors with the B.C. Conservation Officer Service will check boats for aquatic invasive species and educate people about the importance of Clean, Drain and Dry — a preventative step that all boaters should practise when moving between lakes in B.C.

Due to current travel restrictions, the risk for invasive mussels entering B.C. is expected to be low, but authorities say vigilance is still needed.

"We are fortunate there have been no reports of quagga and zebra mussels so far in B.C., and we need to make sure it stays that way by ensuring the necessary resources are in place to protect our economy, our infrastructure and our sensitive ecosystems," said George Heyman, Minister of Environment and Climate Change Strategy.

Piloted in 2015, the Invasive Mussel Defence program consists of three main components: watercraft inspections,

lake monitoring and public outreach and education. The COS enforces the program and has two detection dogs, Kilo and Major. The dogs are primarily on the road searching for invasive mussels at the inspection stations.

Last year, more than 52,000 inspections were conducted that resulted in 22 mussel-fouled boats destined for the Lower Mainland, Vancouver Island, Kootenays, Thompson-Nicola and Skeena regions being found. The program received advanced notification of 17 of the 22 mussel-fouled boats either from another jurisdiction or by Canada Border Services agents.

The COS reminds people that it is mandatory for anyone transporting a watercraft (sailboats, motorboats, car topers, kayaks, canoes and paddle boats) in B.C. to stop at an open inspection station. Failing to stop can result in a \$345 fine. Last year, 116 violation tickets were issued to motorists failing to stop at inspection stations.

People are encouraged to report watercraft suspected of transporting invasive mussels to the Report All Poachers and Polluters (RAPP) line at 1-877-952-7277. People can also report other potential invasive species through the provincial Report Invasives App at: www.gov.bc.ca/invasive-species.

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# Remember

## WHEN

### Five years ago

North Salt Spring Waterworks District began talks with waterfront property owners around St. Mary Lake about possible compensation for land that would be lost by raising the Duck Creek weir. Increasing demand from ratepayers and worries about declining precipitation levels had the district seeking to raise the concrete structure's height by 30 centimetres to meet its commitments. The district said it preferred to settle matters through negotiation rather than expropriation, although it had that right under provincial law.

### Ten years ago

Island entrepreneur David O'Flynn was ordered to take his Fulford village hot dog cart and beverage stand off the street by Islands Trust bylaw enforcement. O'Flynn argued his business was on the Fulford-Ganges Road allowance and therefore didn't fall under residential zoning bylaws. Bylaw officer Miles Drew said the lot's residential property zoning extended to the centre of the road, and the only businesses permitted to take place there would have to be located in the home.

### Twenty years ago

Salt Spring FC men's soccer team won the silver medal at the Nike Provincial Recreational Cup after a heartbreaking 3-1 loss to Richmond Town. Team members attending the championship weekend in Burnaby were Peter Aust, Josh Byron, Jesse Fisher, Dion Hackett, Chris Jason, Harrison Jason, Brad Johnson, Eric Jorgensen, Zoltan Kodaly, Dave McColl, Jonathan McDonald, Corbin Scott, Colin Walde, Kerry Walker and Aaron Witter, plus coach Darryl Lister and manager Ken Marr.

### Thirty years ago

Much of Wallace Island became a B.C. provincial park, a move that surprised the Islands Trust and also posed some concern. Salt Spring trustee and Trust chair Nick Gilbert said it was a "fine acquisition" but he worried about a hidden agenda for development, given the provincial government's appetite for destination resorts. Gilbert said the Trust would seek clarification on the intention for the park's management strategy, and would stress to the parks department that it should be kept in a natural state.

### Forty years ago

B.C. Ferry Corporation announced the cost of travel would go up, in the first fare increase since 1976. Under the new rates, those taking a vehicle aboard the Bowen Queen, Mayne Queen, Vesuvius Queen or Salt Spring Queen could expect to pay an additional 50 cents for a return trip. The rate of \$4.50 for non-residents would increase to \$5 and the return-trip vehicle fare for residents would go up to \$3.50. The fare for all vehicles going from Tsawwassen to Long Harbour was set to go from \$9 to \$10 and the trip back to the mainland would increase from \$4.50 to \$5.

### Fifty years ago

Rose Murakami accepted a position to teach nursing at the University of British Columbia in the fall, when she would join the Faculty of Nursing. Murakami had completed her master's degree in science at McGill University. Described as a "brilliant student," she received a number of scholarships during her studies.

### Sixty years ago

The B.C. Department of Public Works relinquished its rights to a section of Ganges Harbour foreshore, paving the way for the Salt Spring Fire Protection District to apply for the foreshore rights necessary to fill the area and build its new hall. The area in question was described as being "60 feet deep and 150 feet across the head of the bay."

## GARDENING

# Take time to smell roses

BY JACKIE SOMERS

SSI GARDEN CLUB

June is the month when we celebrate the rose. The first flush of blooms is underway, flower colour and form delight the eye, and fragrance pervades the air.

Here are some tips for ongoing care, and a guide to selecting roses for new plantings.

Rose gardeners will have completed their annual pruning by early April, and administered the first application of fertilizer after the soil has warmed in mid-April. Wait to apply a second feeding until late June, after the first flush of bloom. Use a granular rose food at the label rate, about one handful per established bush, more for larger plants and climbers. Sprinkle around the root zone, rake in and water well. A third application may not be necessary, and in any case do not fertilize beyond July since later fertilization may encourage growth that could be damaged by frost.

Roses are fairly drought-tolerant, but they will perform better if you water them during dry periods. Apply an organic mulch over the root zone before the summer drought. This will help to keep the soil moist, provide nutrients, improve soil structure and suppress weeds.

To encourage more blooms, snip off fading flowers regularly. Stop deadheading in mid-summer if you want to have decorative hips for the winter. (Rose hips, that is.)

Do not hard-prune in the fall. A rose that is left with most of its growth will handle cold temperatures better and will have more energy to re-grow in the spring. You may wish to cut back very tall roses by a couple of feet to prevent winter wind rock.

Do not strip the foliage off your roses in the winter. It may cause them to break dormancy and it will not control disease. Rose diseases need certain temperatures to germinate and spread, and as long as you remove all last year's foliage during spring pruning you will achieve the desired disease control. Be sure to clean up any foliage that has naturally fallen from the bush.

If you would like to start growing roses, but are bewildered by the variety of choice and deterred by the thought of disease, here is a short guide:

Most modern hybrid roses you will see in the garden centre fall into one of four classes based

on the form of the flower. Hybrid Teas have large, high-centred buds, supported by long, straight and upright stems. Their flowers are usually borne singly at the end of long stems, which makes them popular as cut flowers. The blooms of Floribundas are often smaller than hybrid teas but are carried in large clusters on each stem. Grandifloras bear hybrid-tea-type blooms but in clusters (similar to Floribundas). English Roses (David Austins) bear old-rose type flowers, often cup-shaped and in rosette form with numerous small petals. Climbing roses may have any of these flower forms.

For the best bang for your buck, choose repeat bloomers, which give an abundant first flush of bloom during June (or May in these days of climate change), and then go on to produce more flowers throughout the growing season.

What is the first thing that you do when you see a rose? And are you disappointed when you can't smell it? I personally do not see the point of having a rose with no fragrance. Especially if you are limited to only a few plants. There is no exact scale of fragrance rating, but "strongly" or "moderately" should be in the description somewhere.

You will have a choice of basically any colour except blue, black, green or brown! Go with your personal preference and your landscaping design.

Rose hybridizers have made huge strides in developing varieties that are highly resistant to black spot, powdery mildew, cankers, blight, and other nasty things. Now we can have beautiful, glossy green leaves as well as perfect blooms, without resorting to sprays. In my opinion, disease resistance is priority, (along with fragrance!). I advise new rose growers to look for roses from the Clean 'n Easy series: over a dozen choices from the hybrid tea, floribunda and climber classes selected for their ease of care and exceptional disease resistance.

Roses are tolerant of a wide range of soils, but do demand sunshine — ideally six hours per day during the summer. And the deer love the delicate new leaves so protection from browsing is a must. If you have these conditions and want to rush out to the garden centre, be aware that the season for buying bare-root roses ended in April, but potted-up plants are often available into the summer.

The appeal of the rose never fades. It has given joy to humankind for centuries, in all manner of times.

## YOUTH LIBRARY EVENTS

# Writing contest winners announced

Creative writing groups proposed for summer programming

The Salt Spring Public Library has named the winners of its children's writing contest and found the first ever event was so successful that more writing contests and programs may be warranted in the near future.

"The results are in, and the competition was fierce," said librarian Julia Wagner, adding the incredibly talented writers made it challenging for the judges to have to pick.

"You are all far too talented at such a young age," she told the those who entered. "Every one of the participants is encouraged to keep on writing, and keep submitting your stories to contests. If you didn't win this contest, it is not a reflection of your writing. Every one of these entrants was a winner."

The winners, per category were:

Grades K-2

1st Place: The Race Champion by Finn Cardinal

2nd Place: The Adventures of Moonshine, The Super-fat Cat by Aidan Ruurs

Special Mention: A Cat, A Hamster, and 2 Chicks by Zavy Van Ommen

Grades 3-6

1st Place: My Little Brother Has Super Powers by Lukah Ferguson

2nd Place: A Strange Day by Maeve FitzZaland  
Grades 7-10

1st Place: Mickker M. E. Noot by Zoe Sanchez-Wickland

2nd Place: The Second Chance by Nayani Catri-Bauer

Writing topics ran the gamut and included magical gardening, go-cart racing, super powers, mythical creatures, poetic narrative, time travel, climate change, monsters, baby animals, booby-trapped labyrinths, police-chase adventures, flying super-fat cats, physics-defying wells, inter-dimensional existence and more.

"Writing quality, creativity and imagination shone from the pages," Wagner said. "It was a delight and an honour to read these, and as a reading panel member, I was impressed."

More prize-places were added, and prize value was increased, due to entrant volume. The prizes support local business.

Due to the large applicant volume and positive response, Wagner said there's an excellent chance another writing contest will happen. The library would also like to offer creative writing groups as a part of its children's summer programming this year. Participants would meet and share material through electronic platforms.

Anyone who thinks their child might be interested should contact Wagner at 250-537-4666 ext. 225 or jwagner@saltspringlibrary.com.

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## Obituaries

## Obituaries

## Obituaries

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## In Memoriam



**ROBERT (BOB) BELL**  
1929 - 2020

It is with sadness we announce the passing of our husband and father Bob, who passed away peacefully at Lady Minto hospital on April 20, 2020.

Bob was born and raised in the Riverdean suburb of Swift Current, Saskatchewan. He spoke often of his idyllic childhood and for the last three years of his life he returned to his hometown to revisit old memories with his friend Howard Gowan.

Bob joined the Air Cadets in 1943 and started his life-long association in the aviation industry. He flew commercially and instructed aviation students until he earned his Air Mechanics Engineer license. Thereafter, he teamed-up with Mobil Oil Aviation and took his family to Libya for an overseas assignment in the late sixties. Bob was Chief Engineer (Aviation) the last eighteen years of his professional life with Pan Canadian Petroleum, Calgary and West Coast Energy, Vancouver. Upon retiring, he with his dear friend Ted Coombes volunteered their skills at the Air Museum in Sidney. With great enthusiasm he overhauled and maintained three ponies (vintage Mustang cars) and entered them in many Show & Shine venues here on Salt Spring Island and Vancouver Island. A special place in his life was also reserved for his beloved Scottie dogs.

Bob was predeceased by his parents Joe and Georgina Bell and son Cameron. He leaves behind his wife of 66 years Lorraine and son Kenneth, brother Hartley (Joyce), nieces and nephews. A farewell gathering with his family was held at his home with his family and brother and sister-in-law Dawn and Bob Shaak. A Dogwood tree was planted on the acreage as a living memorial to his life. He spoke of great satisfaction of his years on this earth and often said he would do it all over again in the same way.

We thank you for the memories.

Our thanks to the Lady Minto staff for their exemplary care. No service is planned but if a donation to your favorite charity is made, thank you.

## DESMOND ROBERT CHAMPION

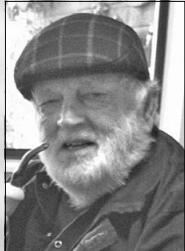
November 23, 1935 - April 13, 2020

Des died from natural causes in Ganges, B.C. He was born in Vancouver but moved to New Zealand as a baby. He learned his trade as a carpenter in Auckland before moving back to Canada, where he spent many years as an unofficial but much-loved member of the Denton family, both in Vancouver and on Salt Spring Island, where he lived out his final years.

Friends and family described him as a thoughtful and caring person with a lovely smile, a delightful quiet voice, and a witty sense of humour. He loved animals, especially dogs. His many interests included astronomy and other sciences, electronics, photography and wine-making. Des had an endless curiosity about the world and would often jot down perceptive thoughts about what he saw and heard.

He was predeceased by his brother Lawrence and sister Lillias, and survived by his sister-in-law Kathy Champion. Des was also predeceased by his dearly-loved friend Dorinne Denton and survived by his 'sister' Lynne Denton (Mark Hughes) and Lynne's sister Laurie (David Schmidt) and Lynne's niece Patricia Denton.

In lieu of flowers, please send donations to the B.C.S.P.C.A. or Lady Minto Hospital, per his wishes.



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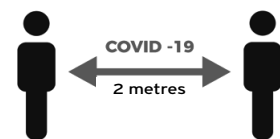
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**TIP OF THE WEEK:** READ MORE IN MY NEWSLETTER. SIGN-UP IS FREE ON MY WEBSITE.

Spring 2020 is now in its final stretch and what a spring it has been. Many will agree that the past several months have been the most confusing, frustrating, and disruptive they have experienced in their lifetime. Ironically, the major shift has, in some cases, disrupted the daily grind contributing to new and more wholesome perspectives and lifestyle rhythms.

Last week's Lunar Eclipse served to trigger our beliefs, philosophies, and ethics that we have acquired via social conditioning. Positively, it supported us to see through our habitual perspectives and to make needed changes on both personal and collectively levels.

Now, the Moon in its waning phase is approaching a Solar Eclipse New Moon which will occur on June 20/21st = Summer Solstice! This is quite significant and will manifest as a measurable turning point for us all over the course of summer. With Mercury turning retrograde on June 17/18th while in Cancer, this process will be accompanied by deep emotional complexities that will affect us all.

## Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

In subtle but very real ways you may feel the call to retreat and quietude. You may still be able to stay busy and happily so especially if your focus is directed upon home and family. Fortifying your overall foundation is featured. Weaving a blend of tasks and chores with an escape from the maddening crowd and the dramas of the world will bring you the harmony you seek.

## Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

Show me the money is a phrase that may be echoing in your mind. Beyond the immediate materiality, you are also in search of meaning and value. These could come in many forms from high-quality materials to knowledge that you can actually rely upon. With so much 'fake news' to contend with, you feel strongly about getting information that you deem worthy of your time.

## Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

You are in a pioneering process that includes gaining information that helps you feel secure. Perhaps your biggest challenge is to get past your subjective perceptions. Sometimes, trading freedom for security is reasonable enough yet now always. Seeing a bigger picture is implied. Focusing to invest in knowledge and beliefs that you will not regret later is the main challenge.

## Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

Learning to think with your heart and feel with your mind not only includes empathy and compassion but accessing your intuitions as well. It is said that the intelligence of the heart knows intuitively. It may still prove important to verify your intuitions with factual knowledge, but doing so in that order is the key because the lower mind, the intellect, has traditionally been categorized as the trickster.

## Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

Deciphering who are and are not your friends and allies is in important theme cycle underway now. Above all, cultivating a healthy relationship with yourself is featured. This includes making peace with your past. You may be feeling a little haunted by the experiences and choices you have made in the course of your life, perhaps reaching all the way back to childhood.

## Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

The old saying, 'silence is golden', may be deemed platinum for you at this time. A listening, meditative, creative, and perhaps a literary or journalistic approach will prove more suitable for you at this time. Positively, you are experiencing a steady flow of inspiration, yet you may be contending with your ability to focus. Allow some room for multi-tasking, yet aim for completion as you do the rounds.

## Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Finding your place in the world is one thing and feeling at peace with the place you find is the other. As the scales swing and sway, finding the balance is subject to moving rhythmically with the swinging. What you may need now is a break, or at least more say in the hours you give. Who does not want things more on their own terms? Focus to strike a deal that works for all concerned.

## Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

Finding your voice amidst all of the commotions, intrigue, and propaganda is a current challenge. This includes seeing through all the distractions to reclaim your sense of individuality. A sincere intention to want to make a meaningful contribution will help considerably. In fact, to the degree that you are not focused this way, you could feel lost in confusion regarding your principles.

## Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Who do you love and why? This is a prominent question on your mind. In some respects, the answers may be obvious. However, if resentment, disappointment or cynicism are clouding your judgment, you may need to exercise more gratitude to be able to see clearly again. Other investigations to see beyond what you deem obvious is also likely and ideal. Acknowledge your assumptions and see through them.

## Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

Speaking your truth with significant others is an important theme currently. Yet, you also want harmony and will have to make extra efforts to find the balance. Where others are unwilling or unable to hear you might be recognized as a lack of respect. Awareness of this will help you to convey your message more clearly. Of course, respect is earned especially by being respectful.

## Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

A lot is shaking both within and without. Positively, the changes unfolding are supporting a happier and more creative flow. Still, it feels important to exercise your ability to think critically so that you can perpetuate perspectives that are both clear and open to new considerations. Digesting it all may feel easier said than done as you are challenging to separate toxic lies from nurturing truths.

## Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

It is said that melancholy can be the source of creative inspiration as your mind and imagination become moist with emotion, even if they feel confused and heavy. If so, you stand to express yourself profoundly and profusely over the coming weeks and months even. Either way, you will want to get a lot done so be careful not to get too distracted by all the drama on the airwaves.



## Coming Events

## Coming Events



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Thursday, June 25, 7:00 pm

SSI Conservancy members, please note that this AGM will be online with access via computer (Zoom) or telephone.

Access instructions and reports will be posted at <https://saltspringconservancy.ca> by June 18.

Please RSVP to [amanda@saltspringconservancy.ca](mailto:amanda@saltspringconservancy.ca) by June 17 with your choice of access (Zoom or telephone).

For members without internet, call 250-931-7218 by June 17, and we'll mail the info to you.

## Ganges Fire Hall Replacement



### ONLINE INFORMATION SESSION

Wednesday, June 24 | 4 to 5pm

Join Fire Chief Arjuna George, Ron Lindstrom, Chair, SSIFPD Board of Trustees, and Ernie Polsom, FireWise Consulting

for a review of recent building and site reports, known options, and next steps in the process.

Watch live, or view the recorded video afterward.

Ask questions before or during the session.

Project details, ask questions, and links to event streaming:

[SpeakUpSaltSpring.ca/SSIFR](https://SpeakUpSaltSpring.ca/SSIFR)



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Networks**

*Stopping Adult Abuse and Neglect...Together*

### World Elder Abuse Awareness Day - June 15, 2020

**Elder Abuse is a big concern – not just in BC but in the whole world. Enough that in 2006 The United Nations General Assembly designated June 15th of every year as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.**

In its declaration, The United Nations stated that this important day “represents the one day in the year when the whole world voices its opposition to the abuse and suffering inflicted on some of our older generations.”

Your local Salt Spring Island Community Response Network (SSICRN) along with its host agency, Salt Spring Island Community Services (SSICS) honour this day each year with a free community event to raise awareness. However, this year, due to the COVID-19 outbreak we are keeping people safe by not holding a public gathering.

However that does not change the fact that “Older adults in our communities continue to find themselves in vulnerable situations and still experiencing various forms of abuse and neglect,” reports Sherry Baker, ED of the BC Association of Community Response Networks.

Social isolation is the leading contributing factor to an increase in risk of abuse or neglect. With this unprecedented time of social isolation and stresses in our world right now with COVID-19, abuse incidents are up, transition house and shelter usage is up, crisis line calls are up, domestic violence is up. Approx. 10 percent of all senior adults will experience some form of physical, emotional, financial or sexual abuse. It is also believed that abuse of seniors is significantly under reported. Tragically many will suffer in silence, in fear or in shame.

**Let's raise awareness in our community about this public health and human rights issue.**

The Salt Spring Island CRN can host Educational workshops and seminars focused on keeping seniors safe in their communities. They are all are all free to attend, can be virtual and topics range from knowledge about abuse to the impacts of aging on driving. If you'd like more information about these, email [shamanaali58@gmail.com](mailto:shamanaali58@gmail.com).

Additionally - If you or someone you know is faced with an abusive situation – help is available! With complete confidentiality you can. ....

- Call toll free: 1.800.563.0808 • Email: [VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca](mailto:VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca)
- Website: [VictimLinkBC](http://VictimLinkBC) • 24 hours day/7 days week
- Multilingual Service available in 150 languages

**Or call the Island Health Authority, Home & Community Care inquiries at toll free 1.888.533.2273.**

The international symbol for **World Elder Abuse Awareness Day** is the Iris with its beautiful purple colour. People are urged to wear purple on June 15 as a way of acknowledging their support to shine a light on this significant issue.

**At this time, more than ever, we all need to help keep our elders and community members safe and treated with the dignity and respect they deserve.**



## SENIORS

# Elder abuse awareness highlighted on June 15



PHOTO BY SHAMANA ALI

An information booth at the Saturday Market set up by the Salt Spring Community Response Network for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in 2019.

International day provides a chance to open the conversation

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The BC Association of Community Response Networks is asking people to wear purple on June 15 to acknowledge their support for World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

The international symbol for the day is the purple iris. Wearing purple is a way to bring visibility to a complex issue that is often overlooked.

A Community Response Network is a diverse network of concerned community members, businesses and agencies, including local health authorities, who come together to create a coordinated response to provide help for adults experiencing or at risk of experiencing abuse, neglect and self-neglect. Salt Spring Island Community Services acts as the Salt Spring CRN's host agency.

Local coordinator Shamana Ali helped raise awareness for 2019's World Elder Abuse Awareness Day by creating an information display at the Saturday Market. Although she was hoping to have an event at the library this year, new rules around distancing have forced a change in plans.

“I got into a lot of really awesome conversations last year at the market with people who felt they were on the edge,” Ali said. “What I find is, when you get the conversation going, people are more likely to see the signs of elder abuse, because it's so subtle.”

Ali said because elder abuse often takes place within intimate or family relationships — the abuser may be the elder's main contact to the outside world — it can be hard for others to know what's going on.

The manifestation of abuse can be more insidious than obvious. It can take the form of violence or aggression, but it can also be emotional and psychological. Financial exploitation seems to be more commonly associated with it than with other types of abuse.

Ali, who has worked for many years as an activist against discriminations

such as racism and homophobia, said elder abuse is in fact the most complicated issue she has tackled.

“It seems what you might notice in elder abuse is not the presence, but the absence of something,” she said, adding this could mean a senior is suddenly not showing up to events that he or she used to attend regularly, or they're no longer spending the same \$20 on a regular purchase.

Recognizing elder abuse is complicated by the fact that the victims involved are going through a life-stage that calls their very experience into question. They are aging and vulnerable and may also have forms of dementia, Alzheimer's or mental illness.

“You might not be believed or your credibility is questioned,” Ali said. “So opening the conversations about it is the most important step. It's an ‘it takes a community or village’ kind of thing.”

Whether under-reported or unnoticed, elder abuse can be a serious issue in communities where the population is aging. Ali notes the Vital Signs report compiled by the Salt Spring Foundation in 2017 found 50 per cent of the local population are seniors. But it can impact anywhere.

“Regardless of how the demographics roll out in your particular community, it is a vulnerable population,” Ali said. “Everyone should be able to live freely without neglect or abuse.”

Another concern is that with people forced to stay home during COVID-19 restrictions, there has been a documented increase in cases of domestic abuse in general, while the usual checks and balances may not be in place.

“Sharing homes, these issues tend to unfortunately come out. That's why it's good to raise awareness,” Ali said.

The CRN wants people to know there is help available. VictimLinkBC provides information and referral services to all victims of crime and immediate crisis support to victims of family and sexual violence. Call 1-800-563-0808 toll-free or email [VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca](mailto:VictimLinkBC@bc211.ca) for confidential assistance by trained victim service workers. Multilingual support is available in 150 different languages.