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**8** Romeo & Juliet  
Reimagined this summer



**9** Indigenous names  
brought home to island

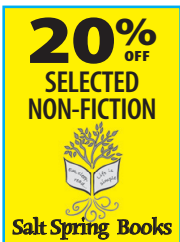


**12** Sneakers not idle during  
COVID-19 shutdown

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- Country Grocer
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Wednesday,  
July 15, 2020

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Issue 29

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PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

**OPEN DOORS:** Artcraft manager Sarah Hyams puts out the open sign Friday morning for the first day of the truncated 2020 season. The Salt Spring Arts Council sale and show is now open daily at Mahon Hall from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. with physical distancing protocols in place.

## COVID-19

# Islanders excited by Henry visit

Provincial health officer's downtime respected

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring Islanders were thrilled to spot provincial health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry around town over the weekend, while respecting her need to enjoy some rest from her work leading British Columbia's pandemic response.

"I'm not a person to be starstruck because I worked in television for years, but when I saw her a big smile came over my face," said TJ Beans co-owner Tim O'Connor.

O'Connor said he saw Henry on her way into Salt Spring Natureworks. She put a mask on as she prepared to enter the store.

"She puts it on like everyone else; one ear at a time," O'Connor reported.

Henry also visited the Pod Contemporary shop and gallery on Saturday.

"It was very exciting. She came in and

she tried things on," said owner Helen Mears.

While Henry was in the changing room, Mears put on her button produced by the Salt Spring Arts Council. It features a portrait of Henry by local artist Patrick McCallum as well as her famous slogan, "Be kind. Be calm. Be safe."

Mears explained the arts council's program of sharing the buttons with local sponsors when Henry came out to make her purchases.

"I didn't want to bug her because she was on holiday, but I also wanted to thank her," Mears said. "There was a lot of buzz around town about her being here so it was a very exciting day."

Suzanne Zacharias unfortunately missed Henry's visit to her Cedar Mountain Studios shop, and her employee Serena Mellen didn't recognize Henry with her mask on. She only


found out because another customer let her know after Henry left the shop.

"It actually breaks my heart that I wasn't there. If it wasn't that I was out for lunch for my 60th birthday I would have been there," Zacharias said.

The missed opportunity was especially sad for the business since they have Henry's message prominently displayed at both entrances. They make items and also carry other people's products featuring Henry's mantra, with all proceeds going to charities. Cedar Mountain directs its Henry product returns to Islanders Working Against Violence.

"I know she came in and I know she looked around," Zacharias said. "It would have taken everything in me not to hug her."


**DR. HENRY** continued on 2



**Zen Master Wolfgang says:**  
"The shortest distance between 2 points  
is under construction."

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## CAPITAL REGIONAL DISTRICT

# Energy projects get gas funds

CRD director seeks broader uses

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

A number of community facilities will get help with energy efficiency and conservation through Community Works gas tax funding, although expansion of the list of items eligible for such funds has been flagged as necessary to get other projects off the ground.

Funding requests supported by Salt Spring CRD director Gary Holman that have been recently approved by the Capital Regional District Board include Salt Spring Community Services' Core Inn, which will receive \$30,000 for energy conservation retrofits. ArtSpring will receive \$30,000 for retrofitting LED lighting in the arts centre building. Both retrofits will provide ongoing energy cost savings.

Salt Spring Parks and Recreation received \$176,000 for electrical repairs at the Rainbow Road Pool. PARC will also receive roughly \$30,000 for the installation of EV chargers at Portlock Park and the Rainbow Road centre, and to cover the incremental cost of replacing a truck that has reached its end of life with a low-emission truck.

Holman reported that due to the federal government doubling of the gas tax transfer in 2019, the balance in the Community Works Fund remains almost the same as at the beginning of the electoral term in late 2018. Disburse-

ment to projects outside the current guidelines could take another large bite out of the fund if administrators at the Union of BC Municipalities can be won over on some "grey areas," Holman said.

"There have been proposals that according to UBCM were kind of dicey as to whether they're eligible," Holman explained during Friday's ASK Salt Spring meeting in the United Church meadow. "One notable event was my counterpart in Juan de Fuca, Mike Hicks, purchased a machine that picked up dog poop . . . He made it high profile and it caught UBCM's attention."

Since then UBCM has looking at local government plans for gas tax spending more closely, Holman said, suggesting they may perhaps be over-cautious at this point. Seniors facilities are explicitly excluded, for example, even if projects would be improving water and power efficiency and thereby helping climate action, which the gas tax was designed to do.

Holman announced Friday the good news that UBCM had just agreed to direct funding for a wastewater disposal system at the new community produce centre, The Root. That occurred following a review with acting local CRD manager Dan Ovington. Funding to enact two plans being developed with gas tax funds remains an issue, however. The Agricultural Alliance is working on a new Area Farm Plan and Transition Salt Spring is finishing up its Climate Action Plan 2.0.

"We need to hire some coordinators to help implement the plans," Holman said, explaining this would mean doing things like convening meetings, sharing information, following up with elected officials and writing grant applications.

**"There have been proposals that according to UBCM were kind of dicey as to whether they're eligible."**

GARY HOLMAN  
Salt Spring CRD director

Holman and Southern Gulf Islands director Dave Howe also initiated a motion by the CRD Board requesting support for temporary relaxation of some of the guidelines governing gas tax expenditures during the COVID emergency.

"Despite support from the CRD Board and advocacy by Saanich Gulf Islands MP Elizabeth May, changes in the guidelines have not been made. However, the federal government did announce that all of the gas tax funding for 2020 would be provided in one lump sum payment to local governments, rather than the typical two installments," Holman said.

## BC FERRIES

# Ferry service levels boosted again

Second ferry added to Tsawwassen-Long Harbour route

The Gulf Islands will see increased ferry service beginning on Thursday, July 16 and continuing until Monday, Sept. 7.

BC Ferries announced Friday that the Salish Raven will operate as a secondary ship connecting Tsawwassen with the islands on Thursdays, Fridays, Sundays and Mondays.

"We desperately needed it," said Salt Spring Ferry Advisory Committee chair Harold Swierenga, noting a number of overloads were occurring with only the Salish Orca serving the route.

For Salt Spring Island departures the change sees an additional non-stop 4:45 p.m. sailing from Long Harbour to Tsawwassen on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and a 6:45 p.m. sailing on Sundays and holiday Mondays that stops at Pender.

For people travelling to Salt Spring from Tsawwassen, there

are extra sailings at 2:30 p.m. and at 6:45 p.m. on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays, and at 4:50 p.m. on Sundays and holiday Mondays.

Full schedule details for all of the islands are available at [bcferries.com/schedules](http://bcferries.com/schedules).

"BC Ferries' priority is the health and safety of our customers and employees, and the company will strictly adhere to provincial and federal guidelines during this gradual resumption of service," BCF states in a press release. "The company is following the directives and guidance provided by the Province of B.C. and Transport Canada. We request customers remain in their vehicle for the entire sailing to ensure physical distancing is maintained, and possess and wear a face covering if physical distancing cannot be maintained."

Earlier in the week BC Ferries announced that it was reopening more food services, the Lands End building at Swartz Bay and some gift shops on the major routes as of July 10.

# Wine and dessert payments swapped with Henry

DR. HENRY continued from 1

Mears said some other customers at her store had also recognized Henry and there was a small group waiting to greet her outside when she left the shop.

On the whole, everyone who saw her seemed to respect her wish to have a break despite her huge popularity as a public figure.

Islander Brian Johnson reported a similar situation when he saw the provincial health officer on Friday night. Johnson and his wife were celebrating their 10th anniversary with dinner at a restaurant and realized Henry had been seated behind them. (Johnson did not name the

restaurant in order to respect Henry's privacy.)

"I told the waiter I would pay for anything she was drinking that night, which looked like red wine," Johnson said, adding he and his wife did not wish to disturb Henry by speaking to her. "That was pretty much it until we got our bill. The waiter told us she was kind of taken aback; she didn't know what to do, so she paid for our desserts. I would say she's a supremely kind and generous person, and what she did really touched us."

Henry has been widely praised and received international media attention for her leadership during the province's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Cedar Mountain Studios sign in Ganges bearing Dr. Bonnie Henry's mantra.



## NEWS BRIEFS

### Rabies found in local bat

Despite a bat testing positive for rabies on Salt Spring, a member of the island's community bat group says it is important to view the incident in context and not alarm people about bats.

A big brown bat with rabies was detected after it was brought in to Gulf Island Veterinary Clinic along with the cat that caught the bat, and then sent away for testing.

Peter Ommundsen, a biologist who volunteers with the Salt Spring Community Bat Program, said only seven bats in all of B.C. tested positive for rabies in 2019.

"There have been only nine human rabies deaths in Canada in the past half century, only four of which could be definitely attributed to bats," he added. "The rabies incidence in dogs, raccoons, skunks, foxes and other carnivores in Canada is double that of bats, and the death rate in Canada of people inhaling sin nombre viruses [hantavirus] from mouse droppings in sheds, basements, garages, etc. is five times that of people dying from bat rabies."

Ommundsen said Margo Pybus, a wildlife disease specialist, found a rabies incidence of only 0.13 per cent in a survey of bats randomly collected from buildings in western Canada.

He also said people should not touch bats with bare skin and pets should have current rabies vaccinations. Domestic cats commonly prey on bats so it is desirable to keep cats indoors at night.

### Patrick next

Salt Spring Local Trust Committee member Laura Patrick is the next guest in the weekly ASK Salt Spring series.

Patrick will answer questions from members of the public on Friday, July 17 from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the United Church Meadow. In the case of rain, the event will move to the pavilion in Portlock Park. People can send in questions in advance via email to asksaltspring@gmail.com.

## FOR THE RECORD

The last part of the water-topic section of CRD director Gary Holman's column was omitted last week. The complete final sentences should have read: "SSIWPA, which has re-constituted itself to include NGOs and North Salt Spring Waterworks District, is also coordinating a pilot water storage rebate program. The CRD/NSSWD study of a possible island-wide water utility is being reviewed internally. It is hoped that a reorganization of water management arising from this study could result in additional water infrastructure funding."

### SHELTER HOUSING

## BC Housing funds aids new shelter renovation

New building will replace current facility

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN  
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The final chunk of funds is now in place to complete renovations of a new overnight shelter building operated by Salt Spring Island Community Services.

SSICS executive director Rob Grant said BC Housing has allocated \$43,500 towards the \$120,000 project. Around one third of the funding is coming from Community Services and the other third is being financed by private donations and the Salt Spring Foundation.

Grant said SSICS applied for the BC Housing contribution in March, so while the award is good news, the community contribution is more worthy of celebration.

"We set the local funding target at \$40,000 and we got there fairly quick," Grant said.

The renovation project involves the complete

overhaul of a home at 105 Kilner Rd. next door to Community Services' main property, which the organization purchased last year. Grant said the building needed to be completely gutted and asbestos was removed. The home also needed a new roof and heating system.

The shelter will feature some private rooms, three bathrooms and laundry facilities. Grant noted it will replace the small, crowded building that's currently used to shelter homeless people overnight, but there will not be an increase in overall beds available.

"We are not changing our contract with BC Housing for 30 beds per night, but now we'll be able to do it in a much more respectful way," Grant said.

He explained the current building only allows for mats squeezed together on the floor. Mould was detected this winter, likely because too many people were in the space without adequate air flow.

Grant said the new building renovation should be ready in time for the colder nights beginning around October. The shelter may not be able to operate at full capacity, though, depending on whether or not COVID-19 regulations remain in place. The current shelter building can only fit seven people and still maintain spacing requirements. An additional eight people have been housed at the Seabreeze Inn during the pandemic with BC Housing funds. Grant said there will be more room in the new building but still not enough for everyone with spacing requirements.

While Grant estimates there are around 60 people who are completely unsheltered on Salt Spring, he said Community Services is not seeking to build additional shelter infrastructure.

"It's still a fairly modest operation and the goal is to get people into the continuum of housing," Grant said.

### COMMUNITY RESILIENCE

## Frontline workers get boost

Mental health training to be offered later this summer

BY GAIL SJUBERG  
DRIFTWOOD EDITOR

Mental Health First Aid training is coming to Salt Spring Island through a Salt Spring Community Health Society initiative.

SSCHS will be offering two sessions of the Mental Health Commission of Canada course during the week of Aug. 24. Each segment has room for 25 people. One subsidized session will be for essential workers and the other one will be offered to community members free of charge.

"The need for this type of training was identified by frontline workers, service providers, and community members who participated in two COVID-19 Mental Health Roundtables in May, which were hosted by SSCHS and the Salt Spring Health Advancement Network," said SSCHS president Jennifer Williams. "It was clear we needed to find ways to help community members address — as quickly as possible — their personal and community-wide mental health concerns that are arising as a result of the pressures and uncertainties created by the pandemic and several recent, tragic deaths."

Williams added that "It also aligns

with the findings from our 2019 Community Health Needs Assessment, which highlighted Salt Spring Island's greatest need: improved access to mental health supports and services."

Kristin Stein, a certified Mental Health First Aid Instructor from Vancouver Island, who was a frontline mental health worker for many years, will teach the course.

The SSCHS says individuals trained in the program will:

- Increase their knowledge of signs, symptoms and risk factors of mental health problems;
- decrease the social distance between themselves and someone with a mental health problem;
- experience increased confidence in their ability to help someone experiencing a mental health crisis;
- be able to identify professional and self-help resources for individuals with a mental health problem;
- show increased mental wellness themselves.

Mental Health First Aid is being made possible by generous grants from the Salt Spring Island Foundation's COVID-19 Emergency Preparedness and Relief Fund, the Government of Canada's Emergency Community Support Fund and a grant-in-aid from the Capital Regional District.

More information about Mental Health First Aid training and how to register is available at saltspringcommunityhealth-society.ca/upcoming-events.

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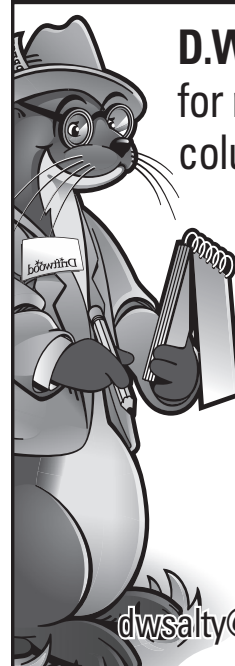
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column,

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# OPINION



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

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



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Published every Wednesday by  
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

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### EDITORIAL

## New normal

The past couple of weeks have seen life on Salt Spring Island return to some semblance of normalcy under the province's Phase-3 restart plan.

Vehicle and ferry traffic is up, more retail stores have opened, restaurants are providing sit-down service and the Rainbow Road Aquatic Centre has even opened on a limited basis. Five cars can now access the recycling depot at one time.

B.C.'s most prominent public figure these days — Dr. Bonnie Henry — even chose to visit Salt Spring for her first Phase-3 holiday over this past weekend.

The changes mean more options for islanders and visitors and, most importantly, some much-needed revenue for island businesses and non-profit agencies. For the many local people who struggle financially, the reopening of the island's two thrift stores, run by Lady Minto Hospital Auxiliary and Islanders Working Against Violence, has restored a vital service.

**THE ISSUE:**  
Life with COVID-19 restrictions

**WE SAY:**  
Take advantage of opportunities for fun

There's signs of life in the cultural realm as well, with live music returning to island restaurants, a Shakespeare in the park show set for later this month, art galleries open and the Salt Spring Painters' Guild show on tap at ArtSpring beginning on July 27.

What cannot be mounted in an effective reduced public fashion, though, are annual large community events such as the island's fall fair, Pride festival or the Canada Day celebration.

Thankfully for fall fair lovers, the Farmers' Institute's fall fair committee has come up with a way to keep the spirit of the fair alive even if everyone can't get together to admire the hobby arts exhibits, animals or zucchini racers. For an event called the Salt Spring Fun Fair, youth and adults are invited to send photos of themselves with their exhibits — whether it's a plate of apples or a Lego creation — to the fall fair committee at ssfallfair@shaw.ca. As many photos as possible will be compiled in a special Driftwood publication that will come out the week after the fall fair would have occurred this year. Entries will be accepted from now until Sept. 1.

It's too easy to stay wrapped up in a safe cocoon while the coronavirus pandemic plays out. If proper precautions are taken, most people can enjoy at least a slice of pre-COVID life — or embrace creative options like those presented by the fall fair organizers this year — and have as much fun as possible even if things aren't still back to "normal."



## Revised IWAV plans alarm

BY SUSAN PAYNTER

When Islanders Working Against Violence made the proposal to change Croftonbrook from the sweet, single-story duplex concept, made for seniors in need, to a two-story apartment (phase two) and later a three-story complex also for the homeless and the hard to house (phase three), adding 54 units, many of us became concerned.

We all understand the need for housing on our island and after hearing our concerns the "developer" listened and changed the three-story building to a two-story (in line with our OCP regulations) and moved the building into the forest to try and improve the damage to our sight lines. Just lately, however, the story has changed. The plan is now back to a three-story building (phase three) made up of mixed-family, subsidized and some market-priced units. This is no longer going to be a quiet enclave for seniors.

Now under BC Housing, funding has changed along with the plan. The first plan was "in our minds" a complex with one-bedroom or studio apartments, which normally house one or two people. Because of the

### VIEWPOINT

change in financing we understand there will be larger units, including some for families, so there is then the potential that instead of only 34 new residents (one bedroom) there could be more.

We don't have the actual plans for the size of the apartments but it is obviously not only for seniors at one to two per unit. This should raise some red flags! There is a growing concern in our neighbourhood and many of us feel a huge three-story apartment complex is not welcome in this quiet part of the village. At a meeting with the "developer" we were assured the new plan is really a "modified" three-story, because the first floor was going to be partially built into the ground, making it only a two and a half story, but when we actually saw the plans, it is really a four story (with basement) and all three stories of apartments are above ground. A real "bait and switch" in our minds. Although the footprint is smaller, I'm sure the main reason for this switch is finances; it's cheaper to build up. This "new" build-

ing (phase three) will look like Braehaven, plunked in the forest, near a stream, beside small cottages, at the end of a narrow dead-end road.

I know my thoughts may not change the plans of this developer, but let's look at the big picture here. Maybe there's a better spot near Ganges for a large apartment building for families that has better access to facilities, including schools, and is not near a stream, forest and crammed up among small cottages originally designed for seniors. Unless there are plans to widen Corbett Road, add sidewalks, bus access (the answer is apparently "no" at the moment), walking paths that do not go through private lands (Roscommon), and make it easier to access emergency and fire concerns, the apparent urbanization of this quiet neighbourhood make for some huge problems just waiting to happen.

Phase three of this development is a slippery slope and doesn't really address our official community plan or our "preserve and protect" mantra. The very least we can do is reject the variance permit put before our Islands Trust.

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Foreign: \$248.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST



Funded by the  
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Canada Publication Mail No.0040050837 | International Standards Serial Number 1198-7782

Member of: Canadian Community Newspapers Association, B.C. & Yukon Community Newspapers Association, B.C. Press Council

### THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Are you happy about  
BC Ferries' increased  
summer service? ☐ Yes ☐ No

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elsewhere in B.C.  
this summer?

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# OPINION { QUOTE OF THE WEEK: }

**"She puts [a mask] on like everyone else; one ear at a time."**

TIM O'CONNOR ON DR. BONNIE HENRY'S VISIT

## SALT SPRING SAYS

**WE ASKED:** *If you met Dr. Bonnie Henry, what would you say to her?*

**ADAM HILDEBRANDT**



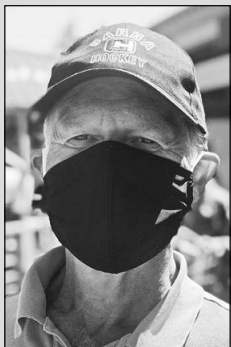
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**SEAN MCINTYRE**



Thanks for keeping us all calm and safe, and please come to our house for dinner when social distancing ends.

## LETTERS to the editor

### Step up market safety

I went to Salt Spring's Tuesday Farmers' Market for the first time two weeks ago, mask on, distancing in mind, looking forward to getting some fresh greens, strawberries and heritage tomatoes.

I arrived early and the directional arrows and spaced waiting spots for each stall seemed adequate. But soon throngs of tourists descended on the market. Very few people wore masks and social distancing was almost impossible. The place was packed. I did not feel safe. There was also no hand sanitizer available and it didn't seem like anyone was monitoring the crowd.

A Vancouver friend reported that "Strict measures are in place at Vancouver farmers' markets, with controlled numbers to enter, one exit, one entrance, directional flow and strict controls on numbers. Only one family member. Early hour set aside for seniors. Hand sanitizer. No cash."

A Nanaimo friend reported, "Our farmers' market in Nanaimo is quite safe. Surprising

number of customers actually wearing masks, maybe 25 per cent, plus good social distancing and other protocols in place and observed."

The Tuesday market needs to step up its safety protocols ASAP, especially if tourists are swarming here. All we don't need is one super-spreader ruining everything. At present I don't plan on returning to our farmers' market this summer, and it was always the market I enjoyed the most. But I will continue to support Salt Spring's local farm-gate stands.

**MONA FERTIG,**  
GANGES

### Long-term water use plan needed

I read Frants Attorp's July 8 response to my letter regarding proposed TUP Bylaw 471 with interest. I suspect we agree on many things.

In particular, I agree that planning decisions should be made with reference to comprehensive planning criteria, not single-

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)

issue advocacy. I also agree that the Gulf Islands face distinctive pressures and all those pressures must be considered in assessing bylaws. The purpose of my letter was to suggest that the availability of water, though important, was just one of many factors that should go into the mix.

The response suggests that because we live in a protected area, it follows we must "abandon conventional expectations with regard to services, amenities and development." I have no doubt that is so but reiterate that those who happen to be here first should not assume an unfettered right to use water how they please without regard to the impact of their use on other current and future users. Protecting the wanton use of water by some as a basis to preclude the availability of housing to others is as arbitrary as it is unfair. It would be much better to develop a long-term strategic plan that seeks to serve the needs of present and future residents of all economic circumstances by encouraging efficient use of water, land and all the other resources that must be considered in developing the plan. Housing developments

that fit within that plan should be as entitled to have their reasonable water needs met as any incumbent user.

**CHRIS SANDERSON,**  
SALT SPRING

### Caring island

On June 6, I had a fairly major bike accident on Walker Hook Road's very bumpy area.

I had such incredible help, so I want to thank from the bottom of my heart the following people: the man who picked up my bike, the walker who got the paramedics called, the people who took my bike home and told my husband to meet me at the hospital and, most of all, the paramedics who took such good care of me and got me to the hospital, and the emergency staff who sent me to Victoria and the paramedics who took me to the ferry.

Everyone was so kind. I just feel so amazingly lucky to live on such a caring island. Thank you all.

**KISHORI HUTCHINGS,**  
SALT SPRING

**MORE LETTERS** continued on 6

## Essential services demand essential responsibilities

BY DAVID J. RAPPORT

A. White's contribution to the Driftwood, "Store practices questioned" (June 24), points to some shortcomings in the way Country Grocer operates during this perilous pandemic.

One gets the sense that White was traumatized by her experience at CG, and with good reason: despite limiting the number of people allowed in the store at any one time and providing protection at check-out, management appears to have neglected other basic precautions.

Let's start at the front door, where one or often two CG employees, presumably monitoring the flow of people in and out, appear rather oblivious to social distancing as they merrily chat away with customers on their way in, often at close quarters (more like two feet rather than the required two meters). Nor are they wearing masks to protect those entering as well as themselves. Should one of these guardians be an unsuspecting asymptomatic carrier, they might unwittingly infect hundreds of islanders in a single day.

Nor is there any justification for the situation one encounters once inside. While measures have been taken to protect cashiers from direct contact with customers, one still experiences unnervingly close encounters with employees, who continue to dart around in all directions with seemingly little regard for social distancing or for wearing masks and gloves. Apparently, as White asserts, management leaves it up to staff whether or not they choose to wear masks and gloves to protect the health of the community. The B.C. government strongly recommends mask wearing for everyone when in enclosed spaces for extended periods of time. As this

### IN RESPONSE

measure is not mandatory, CG cannot force customers to wear masks — although they could undoubtedly remind them often of the importance and social responsibility of doing so. And they could most definitely request that staff who are in contact with customers, especially staff handling our produce and food supplies, wear masks and gloves at all times.

I raised some of these concerns with CG management back in March, urging them to take more precautionary steps during this crisis. They replied that CG lacks the personnel to ensure in-store social distancing, and further that some of their staff were recent hires, so they would review the rules with them again. They also informed me that one-way aisles are not "practical" within CG — which I find curious, as they are in place in other essential hubs both on and off island.

While this suggests that CG is taking some measures in the interest of public health, there appears to be many a slip between the cup and the lip. It has been my observation over the past two months that there has been little perceptible improvement. If anything, the situation appears to have become even more lax. While the employees may have been given gloves, as A. White points out, many of them are not using them — not even those in charge of fresh produce. While staff may have been given more instructions on social distancing, many of them are not following those instructions, routinely coming within close range of shoppers.

Let's not mince words: the situation is serious, both globally and in Canada. With

over 12.5 million cases and over 560,000 deaths worldwide as of July 10, this is the deadliest global pandemic in a century. And although Canada has fared relatively well so far, and especially B.C. — in part owing to the cautious approach taken by public health officer Dr. Bonnie Henry — this situation could easily change overnight if we let our guard down.

New research, just published, shows that "silent spreaders" — infected people who have no symptoms, or who have contact with others during the few days before symptoms appear — are a primary driver of COVID-19 spread. There is also mounting evidence that small droplets emitted by an infected individual can remain airborne for extended periods of time in enclosed spaces. It might only take one silent spreader in our midst to spark an outbreak on island. That would certainly burst our bubble — and in the worst-case scenario might result in a complete island lockdown.

Under such circumstances, caution is of the essence. One can hope that the seemingly "relaxed" attitude at CG stems from lack of deeper understanding of this emergency and of the health risk it poses to our community, rather than from other considerations. If so, hopefully CG management will now recognize that those who serve as an island hub for essential services also have essential responsibilities. If their casual approach persists, fortunately there are alternatives on the island.

*The writer has served as an honorary professor in the Faculty of Medicine at Western University (London, Ont.), and as an international consultant to UN agencies and the government of Vietnam on pandemic spread and pandemic planning.*





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# Trust staff report doesn't make sense

BY MAUREEN HOWE & JOHN REID

In a June 30 staff report to the Islands Trust, a staff planner recommends the approval of a temporary use permit to The Cottages on Robinson Road that would allow 400-person amplified events for a three-year period.

The recommendation is a real "head scratcher," as the 42-page document lists many reasons why such an application should be rejected, with seemingly no rationale for moving forward with the proposal.

The following problems are extracted from staff's written recommendation:

- Community halls are not permitted on properties zoned "Rural";
- the proposal is in conflict with minimizing impact on neighbouring property with respect to noise generated;
- the applicant has not fully demonstrated that suitable sites with appropriate zoning are not available;
- the application anticipates the construction

of a purpose-built structure that would not be defined as temporary;

- there will likely be a noticeable increase in traffic along Robinson Road;
- options to mitigate traffic increase are limited due to the location of the site;
- the proposed uses have the potential to have significant impact on neighbouring properties;
- the natural topography of the area, combined with the proposed siting of the uses, will likely create an amphitheatre-like effect and may further impact surrounding properties;
- the terms of the proposed TUP may be difficult to enforce by Islands Trust bylaw enforcement staff; and finally,
- staff noted an unfortunate error in the mailed notification to neighbouring properties resulting in impacted properties not being contacted.

After reading the document, the obvious question is "Why is Islands Trust staff recom-

mending approval of this permit?" The only justification provided in the document is that there is support for one potential patron of the site, that being PitchFork Social. However, as the recommendation points out: 1) there are other available venues for PitchFork, and 2) the permit would not be limited to PitchFork events.

In fact, if the objective is to attract renters to the cottage units, it would be logical to hold destination type events. Allowed events would include 400-person weddings, corporate conferences, conventions and a multitude of other large and loud gatherings that are in no way consistent with the quiet nature of the Rural-zoned area.

The staff recommendation lacks logic. Further, it is very disappointing that our Islands Trust staff appear more concerned with catering to off-island investors than maintaining the culture and ambience of the community that has made Salt Spring Island the very unique place that it is.

## Water trustees urge direct communication

BY MICHAEL MCALLISTER

In a recent article in the Driftwood, I was quoted as saying that I was tired of "pot shots" being taken at North Salt Spring Waterworks District staff and the organization generally. I was correctly quoted. So, first let me apologize for my inarticulate use of language. My point, nonetheless, stands.

It has recently come to the attention of the NSSWD board of trustees that social media on Salt Spring Island continues to direct criticism towards the staff of our water district. I hope that this is happening due to a lack of understanding of how our democratically organized system works.

As established by statute of the Province of British Columbia, an improvement district, of which NSSWD is one of the largest and best run in British Columbia, is a form of democratic local government. The trustees that are elected by and represent the ratepayers of this water district are like a municipal council of a town or city. Issues that arise are directed to this elected body to be decided upon after due deliberation and the gathering of all pertinent data. The responsibility for decision making lies with the board of trustees and not the staff. Staff are only the messengers and implementors of our decisions and directions.

We are allocating considerable resour-

es to improve our communication and transparency and this group of trustees is highly committed to improving relations with the community and ratepayers. We acknowledge that there have been problems in this regard, in the past, but we are diligently addressing those issues with measurable success already.

There may be times when it appears that decisions are not forthcoming in the timeliest manner. At times, we must prioritize our limited time and energy to the most pressing questions. This is often the case when more information gathering needs to be completed in order to assess the full picture of the issue at hand. For example, we have just spent a good portion of the last two lengthy board meetings getting ourselves up to speed on the complexities and different options of a new treatment plant for Maxwell Lake. It may take several more sessions to arrive at a final decision, given the potentially changing dynamics of water governance currently being studied for the island.

As volunteers, the trustees spend an enormous amount of our time familiarizing ourselves with the many complex issues that arise. For example, a previous board of trustees instituted the temporary moratorium on providing water connections to new ratepayers. This current board is tasked with completing the

gathering of data in order to determine whether to make the moratorium a permanent situation. The final piece of new information, being data collection on Maxwell Lake, will be completed by the end of this year. To be ready, the board has directed that three critical engineering reports are to be peer reviewed by an independent engineer. Having this information will be of great value to the board going forward.

As an aside, if any other person or level of government wished to undertake such a review of these reports, they are free to do so.

In conclusion, the board is proud of our staff, especially over the past four months. They are very hardworking and incredibly knowledgeable. I encourage anyone with concerns about anything to do with NSSWD to please bring these concerns directly to the trustees.

The next 12 months will be a very interesting time at NSSWD.

I encourage you all to take a closer look at our organization. If you do look, you will see that we have made concrete and positive efforts in several areas.

We are planning an upcoming annual general meeting and, as soon as possible, another community forum.

*The writer is chair of the NSSWD board of trustees.*

### MORE LETTERS

continued from 5

## Invest in parks

The current health pandemic has shone a light on the cracks in many of our public systems, and BC Parks is no exception.

B.C.'s provincial parks have been chronically underfunded since the early 2000s, with minimal resources to manage nearly 15 per cent of the land in our province. This lack of funding has caused many issues within parks. Park rangers are few and far between, leaving areas with no one to monitor for illegal activity such as wildlife poaching and dumping. There are decades worth of maintenance and planning to do in order to keep up with demand for outdoor recreation while safeguarding nature.

As B.C. reopens our communities and green-lights local travel, camping and hiking in provincial parks provide one of the

most affordable and spectacular ways to explore the province. To keep these places open safely, we must invest in B.C.'s parks.

Investing in parks means investing in community wellbeing.

**DEBORAH MILLER,**  
SALT SPRING

## Stimulus works

Have you heard this story?

It is a slow day in a small, midwestern town and the streets are deserted. Times are tough, everyone is in debt and everybody is living on credit. A tourist visiting the area drives through town, stops at the motel and puts a \$100 bill on the desk saying he wants to inspect the rooms upstairs to pick one for the night. As soon as he walks upstairs, the motel owner grabs the bill and runs next door to pay his debt to the butcher.

The butcher takes the \$100 and runs down the street to retire his debt to the pig farmer. The pig farmer takes the \$100

and heads off to pay his bill to his supplier, the co-op. The guy at the co-op takes the \$100 and runs to pay his debt to the local prostitute, who has also been facing hard times and has had to offer her "services" on credit. The hooker rushes to the hotel and pays off her room bill with the hotel owner.

The hotel proprietor then places the \$100 back on the counter so the traveller will not suspect anything. At that moment the traveller comes down the stairs, states that the rooms are not satisfactory, picks up the \$100 bill and leaves. No one produced anything. No one earned anything. However, the whole town is now out of debt and now looks to the future with a lot more optimism.

And that, dear islanders, is how a stimulus package works. Let's keep Salt Spring Island going by doing all — or as much as we can — of our business here, and keep our island economy buzzing!

**JILL WILLMOTT,**  
SALT SPRING



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<b>15</b>	0719	1.1	3.6	<b>19</b>	0134	3.1	10.2
	1548	2.6	8.5		0942	0.3	1.0
WE	1811	2.6	8.5	SU	1820	3.2	10.5
ME	2350	3.0	9.8	DI	2229	2.9	9.5
<b>16</b>	0753	0.9	3	<b>20</b>	0218	3.1	10.2
	1635	2.9	9		1022	0.2	0.7
TH	1933	2.8	9	MO	1851	3.3	10.8
JE				LU	2310	2.9	9.5
<b>17</b>	0020	3.0	9	<b>21</b>	0307	3.1	10.2
	0828	0.7	2		1102	0.2	0.7
FR	1713	3.0	9	TU	1922	3.3	10.8
VE	2046	2.9	9	MA	2355	2.8	9.2
<b>18</b>	0054	3.1	10	<b>22</b>	0359	3.1	10.2
	0904	0.5	1		1144	0.2	0.7
SA	1747	3.1	10	WE	1951	3.3	10.8
SA	2144	2.9	9	ME			

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# Anti-racism camp gives guidance

BY LEA WEIR, MELANIE FURMAN AND MOLLY MURPHY

Last weekend we had the amazing opportunity to spend some time with Qwiaqwulthw (Robert George) and other elders of the Quw'utsun peoples of this territory. Invitations had gone out to community leaders within the Black, Indigenous, people of colour community, including settler supporters, to take part in an anti-racism camp with about 30 others from Salt Spring and the Cowichan Valley at Xwaaqw'um (Burgoyne Bay) for the weekend.

Lea: As a woman of colour in this community, and in the world, it is immensely challenging to understand where I fit in this journey of reconciliation that is the work of the human species at this time. It was a truly beautiful thing to sit in the presence of these wise elders and look around a circle of faces of people — Quw'utsun (Cowichan), Japanese, African, Indian, European descendants of all ages — who are all wondering the same thing: how to find their place and do this healing work well. With the incredibly kind and immensely generous guidance of the Quw'utsun elders we were able to move deeper and deeper into a place of understanding and connection.

Melanie: After setting up the kitchen and making a fire, all were welcomed and brushed off with medicine shared by Qwiaqwulthw. Seairra, one of the facilitators, started the circle by asking what is needed for everyone to feel safe. How can we make a container for everyone to speak and be heard? This discussion was well thought out by all and led to safety agreements which were revisited on a few future occasions as the weekend unfolded. The time, patience and care it took to create safety and opportunities for connection with each other was at the heart of this workshop. Often, we don't truly ask of ourselves and others for the time and space required to feel safe in our lives. When safety is overlooked to accommodate productivity, our consumption and destruction relationships between each other and the environment occurs much more frequently.

Lea: Most, if not all, participants recognized that respect, understanding and reconciliation is the groundwork, the base upon which all anti-racism work rests. Racism is all about building up false barriers, and anti-racism, so much of it, is about taking the time to tear those down with time and integrity. In fact, integrity was the word that kept ringing in my head the whole weekend.

Melanie: Daily meals and stories occurred around the sacred fire from Friday through Sunday. The Xwaaqw'um cedar dugout canoe was a central part of the weekend. The big canoe was paddled with a small crew from Xwaaqw'um over to Maple Bay on Thursday night before the gathering. The next morning a full group of paddling camp participants steered the dugout canoe back towards Xwaaqw'um. The carving of the canoe, led by master carver Joe Martin, was worked on by many hands over the two previous years. At the end of the weekend we all worked together once again with the canoe by lifting it out of the ocean back onto the waiting trailer. Everyone agreeing to take a little bit of the weight of the canoe achieved a larger shared goal. Qwiaqwulthw reminding us to work together as one throughout the weekend was reminiscent of how in our own small community — by sharing



PHOTO BY CHRIS MARSHALL

Quw'utsun elder Qwiaqwulthw (Robert George) at the July 3-5 anti-racism camp held at Xwaaqw'um (Burgoyne Bay).

our unique gifts and practising care of heart and mind — together we can achieve lasting moments of inclusivity and integrity.

Molly: There were magical flashes that have been etched in our minds forever. There was a moment when Joe Akerman had taken all the young ones out on the big canoe for a paddle around the bay. We adults, deep in our reflection, were sitting around the fire by the sea. The tide was low, the canoe came towards us, and all the paddlers had their oars vertically in the air. It was like time stopped. To see our children out there paddling together in the same old ways of the first people of these lands was powerful, heavy and surreal. Then watching from shore, we heard the paddlers thump the handles of their paddles on the bottom of the canoe with the cascading sound filling the bay. It was a glory to behold.

**We can continue  
building a much  
stronger community.  
We have the resilience  
needed to get through  
what is to come.**

Another profound moment of the gathering was the healing ceremony that took place as a result of a young girl who burned her foot on a hot rock from around the fire after the last workshop of the day had finished. A decent-sized blister was developing and she was in a good amount of pain. After the immediate medical needs were taken care of, Qwiaqwulthw gathered everyone around to share his teachings of ensuring no hard feelings were felt by anyone, child or parent. A blanket was wrapped around the girl and witnesses were brought to the front to observe what was taking place, to remember the teachings shared over the next half hour and to ultimately oversee the care offered and received. The young girl wore that blanket for the rest of her stay, she felt special, held and looked after.

Group: Being and staying on the land as the classroom was important to this process of integrity. This land that was stolen from Quw'utsun people is

slowly and carefully being restored with the leadership of Quw'utsun elders and knowledge keepers, including Tousilum (Qwiaqwulthw's older brother), Sulsameethl, T'uwxwiye' and many others. Indigenous plant and animal habitats, water ways and human relationships are all being healed at Xwaaqw'um. In fact, it is good to be reminded of the relationship between the land and people by local Indigenous folk that lasting reconciliation and healing needed in today's world must come from our deeply woven relationship between all species who inhabit the earth. Showing daily respect to each and every living being, including humans, regardless of race, genders and other diversities, we realize the very complex relationships we weave throughout time are firmly held up by our dependence on and responsibility to the land and each other.

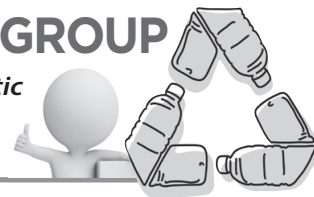
Right now we are immersed in some extremely potent times. With the pressing realization that race relations in so-called Canada are not as advanced as some of us liked to imagine, the climate crisis and the unsettling and even the uncertain future of the COVID-19 pandemic, we all have a lot we can choose to stay engaged with. It was also a compelling weekend, where people of all ages, skin colours and backgrounds sat, listened, learned and shared. Receiving local Indigenous guidance and leadership from the small island we live on is a great honour. This unique anti-racism camp has encouraged us to keep learning the truth of the past and present here on Turtle Island, and motivated us to look forward to the healing work we have in front of us all. We can continue building a much stronger community. We have the resilience needed to get through what is to come.

Thank you to Qwiaqwulthw, Joe Akerman, Seairra Courtemanche and all the volunteers and participants that put on this incredible by-donation gathering.

*The three writers attended the workshop on anti-racism and diversity held on the July 3-5 weekend at Xwaaqw'um. They said, "We chose to write this collectively to honour the teachings of the Quw'utsun who always work together: Nutsamaat Shqwuluwun — "one heart one mind." Lea Weir is of African/European descent, Melanie Furman is of European descent, and Molly Murphy of Eastern Europe/Guyanese descent.*

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\*Photos must be minimum of 200 dpi



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## LIVE THEATRE

# Romeo and Juliet surges with all-female power

Limited run opens in Centennial Park July 24

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Island theatre fans suffering the sad loss of live events have something to look forward to at last as exitStageLeft steps in as the first local company to hit the boards since the coronavirus pandemic struck.

Those boards are figurative in this case, since the show is a minimalist production being staged in Centennial Park. The script of "Romeo and Juliet Reimagined" likewise hangs on a pared-down cast — but this original adaptation is anything but simple. Director Christina Penhale and four young women present an all-female take on Shakespeare's tragic love story that weaves the seed material into modern times and involves each actor portraying multiple characters.

Inspired by an earlier adaptation featuring four boys, the exitStageLeft version sets the drama in a repressive all-girls school.

"The premise is the female voice and how these young women begin to discover what that is for themselves through the playing of this text," Penhale explained.

ExitStageLeft had planned to put on Pericles for its summer Shakespeare in the Park show this year, while Romeo and Juliet Reimagined was to be scheduled in the spring. The original cast had started rehearsals of that script when provincial health orders against gatherings came into force. The easing of restrictions at the end of June meant the company could use the



PHOTO BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

Romeo and Juliet Reimagined castmates, from left, Lois Warwick, Calla Adubofour-poku, Amelia McCluskey and Kahlila Ball rehearse Thursday in preparation for the upcoming exitStageLeft production at Centennial Park.

park space it had pre-booked and get the play already in progress back on track.

Recent Gulf Islands Secondary School graduates Kahlila Ball, Calla Adubofour-poku and Amelia McCluskey co-star along with Lois Warwick, who replaced the Salt Springers' usual collaborator Jo Gaffney due to a scheduling conflict. Warwick played MacBeth in an all-female production of that tragedy, which exitStageLeft company member Jeffrey Renn directed for Douglas College Studio Theatre last fall.

"We've had a short window to pull it off because all of them are off to other theatrical life adventures elsewhere," Penhale said. "But we'd gone 40 pages into the text with blocking before COVID happened and they remembered almost all of it when we came back, and Lois is a super quick study."

Penhale said she was inspired to pro-

duce the play at first because she wanted to see Ball play Romeo. The actor has been with exitStageLeft every season except for the very first one in 2014, starting when she was 12.

Ball has embraced the challenge with McCluskey playing her Juliet. But each actor has the difficult task of playing several Shakespeare characters and also embodying a character who is doing that.

"I feel like the casting was really smart and by keeping it so small, it makes a very simple but strong statement about femininity that I feel hasn't been done a lot. In casting four people to play many roles and two stories, almost, it just demonstrates we are more than one thing," Ball said.

The issue of youth voices striving to be heard and taken seriously is another theme of the play, and one the teen actors can relate to. Adubofour-poku

observed it echoes throughout Shakespeare's original text and the contemporary story.

"I think when we are taking on these roles and playing both adults and children and there's that balance, there's a lot that bleeds into our real lives as well," she said.

Casting against the norm has increasingly become a tool that modern theatre directors are using to interrogate systemic assumptions and power dynamics. Similar to how the hit musical Hamilton casts people of colour to portray America's founding fathers, gender reversals can highlight problematic issues while still celebrating source material. ExitStageLeft previously produced The Taming of the Shrew with women playing the male roles as men, and vice versa, to terrific effect. Larger-scale companies have started casting The Tempest's Prospero as a woman in recent years.

In this play, the device is perhaps most prominent in scenes like the one where Juliet's father threatens to disown her after a violent argument. It takes three of the girls to become Lord Capulet, underlining a very skewed power differential.

"There's so much power, I think, in young women reclaiming that role," McCluskey said. "Because we're all that age that Juliet was in that situation, or just a little bit older. So it feels powerful and it almost feels liberating to be portraying it in that way rather than what is often an over-dramatized portrayal of violence. And sometimes it's almost written off."

"You kind of have a moment to understand where the power trip is coming from, but at the same time, it's terrifying to be in," Warwick added.

The show runs July 24, 25, 29, 30, 31 and Aug. 1 at 7 p.m. and there will be one 2 p.m. matinee on July 26. To maintain physical distancing rules, only 40 tickets will be offered per show and people must bring their own camp chairs or blankets. There will be no intermission or concession.

Tickets will not be available at the gate; email [info@exitstageleftproductions.com](mailto:info@exitstageleftproductions.com) to purchase. A few tickets will also be available at Salt Spring Books.

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## BOOKS

# New book highlights region's aging churches

Salt Spring gets own chapter

Salt Spring has a prominent place in a new Heritage House book about the historic churches of Vancouver Island and surrounding islands.

Pioneer Churches of Vancouver Island and the Salish Sea: An Explorer's Guide tracks author Liz Bryan's journey to learn about the early churches and chapels that once formed the heart of British Columbia's island pioneer communities.

Organized into five geographical sections — Victoria, Esquimalt, and the Saanich Peninsula; the Cowichan Valley; Salt Spring Island; Central Vancouver Island; and the North Island — the book profiles 46 Protestant and Roman Catholic churches built before 1900. Salt Spring's picturesque St. Paul's Church in Fulford is the book's cover image.

Along with highlighting each building's unique architec-

tural aspects, Bryan explores the local history of the sites and of the settlers from many denominations and cultures who built and sustained them over decades.

While not a practising Christian herself, Bryan says she is passionate about the need for capturing this aspect of B.C. heritage for future generations.

"The 19th-century churches of British Columbia are important historical landmarks," she states in a press release. "They are all worth study — for their architecture; their graveyards; their fittings and fixtures, many of them antique; and for the stories they tell."

Bryan is a writer, photographer and co-founder of Western Living magazine. She lives in Rock Creek, B.C.

Pioneer Churches of Vancouver Island is the first in a three-part series on the historic churches of British Columbia. A second book is planned for fall 2021.





# ISLAND LIFE

stay safe

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

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## INDIGENOUS CULTURE

# First Nations names revived on Salt Spring

Donna Martin Legacy Fund and Stqeeye' Learning Society projects now underway

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN

DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The names that local First Nations gave to significant Salt Spring landmarks will soon be better known to the settler community with two complementary projects now underway.

Information panels and signage are being developed for Ganges, Fernwood and the Burgoyne Bay area — a place that has already become familiar to many islanders as Xwaaqw'um thanks to ongoing cultural reclamation work by the Stqeeye' Learning Society.

Penelakut First Nation is informing creation of the Fernwood panel, which is being produced by the new Donna Martin Legacy Fund in partnership with the Salt Spring Archives and will be designed by Phil Vernon. A third panel site is planned near Ganges Alley.

Stqeeye' Learning Society spokesperson Joe Akerman explained the Xwaaqw'um signage project has been in development for three years and will likely be ready for public viewing in August. The cedar panels will have Hul'q'umi'num' names and information on nearby places that colonial settlers know as Mount Maxwell and Mill Hill, as well as important sites and resources in the former Xwaaqw'um village area around Burgoyne Bay.

"It will give visitors a better sense of place and honour the ancestors as well as the WSÁNEC and Cowichan people that continue to use the land, despite continuing challenges and lack of access to resources to do so," Akerman said.

Akerman said the three-year journey was needed to ensure the information and the interpretation were correct. The society didn't want to just create the material in English and then ask someone to translate it. Content came "through the leadership of Tousilum, Sulsameethl and other Cowichan leaders and knowledge keepers" as part of the larger Bringing Home the Elders project.

"We've also been working closely with some of the few Hul'q'umi'num' speakers left in Cowichan," Akerman said.

Vernon is principal graphic designer on the project.

Collaboration between the Salt Spring Historical Society/ Salt Spring Archives and local First Nations for the Interpretive Panels Project in Ganges began after a presentation by elders at the Salt Spring Public Library in January 2018 inspired the organization to act.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation and the Capital Regional District provided grants toward Phase One of the project: consultations with local First Nations. The working group consulted with members of both the historic Cowichan Nations and the WSÁNEC Language Advisory Group, as well as the Penelakut elders. Tousilum and Sulsameethl from Cowichan also looked at the Ganges sites and gave recommendations.

"These meetings have resulted in meaningful relationship building and have helped greatly to bridge our knowledge gap," said Salt Spring Archives project coordinator Christina Marshall. "At present the archives has little specific First Nations history except for what has been recorded by the pioneers and settlers. Transcripts and other material gathered for the signage project will be added to the archive, as deemed appropriate by the First Nations involved."

Ganges sites have been approved thanks to Ganges Alley property owner David Grayson and the CRD. The working group is putting forward a request to the CRD parks commission for placement at Fernwood.

Funding to actually create the Ganges panels and the expansion of the project to include Fernwood comes through the newly created Donna Martin Legacy Fund. Martin died earlier this year after a short battle with glioblastoma (an aggressive brain cancer). Her daughter Tara Martin, who grew up on Walker Hook and is a professor of conservation science at the University of British Columbia, said creating the \$10,000 fund was one way to find closure after her mother's death, since pandemic rules made it impossible to hold a celebration of life. The Indigenous Panel Project also fits per-



PHOTO COURTESY SALT SPRING ARCHIVES

Penelakut elders visit Ganges Harbour to inspect siting for Indigenous interpretive panels being produced by the Salt Spring Historical Society and Archives with the Donna Martin Legacy Fund.

fectly with Donna's ideals.

"Donna was really passionate about supporting building Indigenous relationships and supporting the resurgence of Indigenous rights and culture in the islands, and she really saw that that needed to happen in tandem with conservation," Martin said. "She was a hard-core conservationist, and she really recognized those things go hand in hand."

Martin described an ongoing relationship between her mother and the Penelakut people that began through shared activism about a development on Walker Hook that proposed to cut right through archaeological sites. Their relationship only strengthened through the years with events like the campaign to protect Grace Islet burial sites.

Marshall said the historical society is very happy to gain the partnership.

"Penelakut elders have already visited the Fernwood site and are very enthusiastic about the ongoing collaborative process that we are committed to," she reported.

Vernon is the senior designer of the Ganges and Fernwood panels as well as the project's First Nations liaison. He is building on his ongoing relationships with local Indigenous groups and employing extensive work experience in sharing and presenting sensitive cultural information.

His commitment to process means continuous consultation and implementing the feedback returned for additional rounds.

"Because of the work I've done over the years there's a trust that's built up, and we're getting conversations that go to a deeper level because of that trust. Then there's the responsibility of bringing the information forward properly. It's a burden we take very seriously," Vernon said.

The Donna Martin Legacy Fund is being supported by a GoFundMe campaign. Donations can also be made by cheque or directly to an Island Savings account. See the online campaign site for more information. Martin said there will be money left over after the Fernwood and Ganges panels are completed, which could go toward the Xwaaqw'um project or other similar ventures.



IMAGE COURTESY STQEYE' LEARNING SOCIETY

A detail of one of the interpretative panels destined for Xwaaqw'um (Burgoyne Bay) with artwork by Phil Vernon.

"Donna Martin was a shining example of prioritizing relationships and support of local Indigenous elders and families," Akerman said.

Partners in the Indigenous signage projects recognize their work is important but just the first step in the much bigger project of reconciliation.

"First Nations are grappling with huge issues daily and educational signage such as what we're proposing is just a small but respectful piece of much larger ongoing work," Marshall said.

"It's a nice entry point, but we want to go much deeper into welcoming Coast Salish people back home," Akerman added, noting the Stqeeye' Learning Society has been advocating with BC Parks for the past five years to bring Cowichan elder Tousilum home to Xwaaqw'um as its permanent guardian.

Stqeeye' Learning Society says its work requires an elder in residence at Xwaaqw'um for direct oversight and support of its cultural plan, including continual advising and curriculum enhancement work with the Gulf Islands and Cowichan school districts, along with continuing partnerships with BC Parks and BC Wildlife Federation wetlands restoration, salmon, trout and stream monitoring, future native plant nurseries, and infrastructure improvements and maintenance. Current planning involves research and concept designs for a cultural centre at Xwaaqw'um to better host Cowichan people — adults, kids, youth and elders — and the general public.

"Elders currently travel from the Cowichan Valley to Salt Spring Island regularly, which is not sustainable physically and financially. The core goal of Stqeeye' Learning Society is to provide opportunities for Indigenous youth to continue to re-engage with local culture and ways of life that have been forcibly removed from Indigenous communities, and educate the broader community about these ways," Akerman said.

Donations can be made to aid the Stqeeye' Learning Society projects at [www.xwaaqwum.com](http://www.xwaaqwum.com). Look for more information on the society's work in the coming months.

**"It's a nice entry point,  
but we want to go much  
deeper into welcoming  
Coast Salish people  
back home."**

**JOE AKERMAN**  
*Stqeeye' Learning Society*



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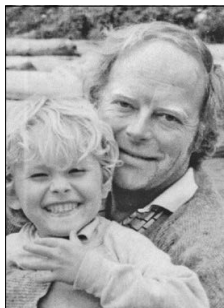
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**Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****Obituaries****In Memoriam**

## ALLAN DONALD REIMER

October 13, 1945-June 29, 2020

Allan was born in Victoria B.C. His father was in the Canadian Air Force so he grew up at several bases across Canada, including Tofino BC, Whitehorse Yukon, and Chatham New Brunswick.

In New Brunswick he became an Air Cadet and later went through university in the ROTP program. He received a Pilot Officer commission in 1966. After graduating from UVIC with a degree in Math and Physics he did not pursue an Air Force career and became a Physics lab instructor. He met his future wife, Kathy Rauchert, in the line up at the UVIC graduation ceremony. They were married in 1972.

When the university closed for the summer, he went scuba diving, surfing at Long Beach, and fishing. Within a few years he answered the call of the sea and forgot about working ashore.

His first boat was a tiny west coast troller, the Jibbs. Two other small trollers he fished with belonged to Henry Nolla of Tofino and Alex Mulholland of Ladysmith. They all became lifetime friends. In 1973 Al and Henry, who was a Tofino artist, purchased the 86 ft. old sardine packer, the Pride of Fundy, on Grand Manan Island NB, and sailed her home through the Panama Canal. They used the boat for fishing tuna and halibut and then later as a fish packer and cash buyer.

The Reimers moved to Salt Spring Island in 1979, and quickly became part of the island's dynamic maritime community. Their boat joined an iconic fishing fleet, including the Annie Tuck, the Pacific Prowler, Lady Patricia, Miss Universe, the Crazy Horse, and the Salty Isle.

In the summer of 1985, The Pride of Fundy, with a full load of 50 tons of Sockeye Salmon from Rivers Inlet, struck a rock in the night, just off Port Hardy. The crew survived but the boat could not be salvaged intact. Instead, the shoreline was gradually covered with tons of rotting salmon much to the disgust of the local residents.

Al's next boat was the Pescadero, a bowpicker gillnetter, he built in 1986. After that he had many happy years at sea with his deckhand nephew, Byron. He fished along side local legends like bowpickers Billy Hitchcock, Pat Fraser and Ray and Arnie Hengstler. Some of his happiest fishing times also were off San Juan and the Nitinat Bar, with his friend Carl on the Silver Surfer.

As the salmon openings became few and far between he purchased a share in a classic old wooden troller turned crab boat, the Pride and Joy. For a few years he also fished king crab in the Portland Canal area, north of Prince Rupert along the Alaska border. When the salmon fishing declined, in the late 1990s, he sold his licences and boats and retired from the fishing industry.

After retiring Al kept busy caring for his family. He spent a lot of time with his parents and built a house for his aunt, after all of them had moved to Salt Spring Island. He saw his son James through years of medical care including two double lung transplants. Despite some good times playing pool at the Legion, and taking a memorable trip to Europe with his friend and scrabble partner, Sam Bawlf, retirement was not easy for Allan. He suffered two strokes, first in 1996 and again in 2011, after which he endured 9 years in extended care - long enough to see his son married to Adena and to meet his precious granddaughter Lilah Joan.

Allan was predeceased by his beloved daughter Laura Jane (1982), his parents Ed and Vivian, and his wonderful uncle and aunt, Don and Irene Roper. He is survived by his wife Kathy, son James (Adena), amazing granddaughter Lilah Joan, favorite nephew Byron Nutton, and cousin Ron Sangster (Linda). He also has many in-laws and Reimer cousins as well as dozens of good friends along the coast.

A memorial will be held later, when it is safe to do so, at the Royal Canadian Legion, Salt Spring Island.

Donations in memory of Allan can be made to the Canadian Cystic Fibrosis Foundation or to the Island Stream and Salmon Enhancement Society.

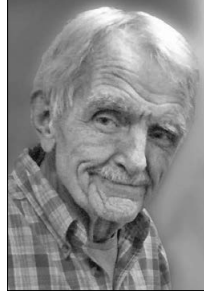
*"It's those times ashore that kill a man,  
not his days at sea"*



**A butterfly to remind  
me even though  
we are apart**



**Your spirit is  
always with  
me forever in  
my heart...**



## BRIAN CHARLES THOMPSON

November 8, 1936 -  
July 7, 2020

Brian Charles (Chuck) Thompson, born in London, England, passed away at his home on Salt Spring Island, BC on Tuesday, July 7, 2020 at the age of 83 years.

He will be lovingly remembered by children: Adam Thompson (Andrea), Nancy Thompson (Steve McNaughton), Marcy Thompson (James Blake); four grandchildren: Reece, Emma, Grace, Jared as well as by his loving companion, Juanita 'Katalina' Parry. Brian was predeceased by his wife Marjorie Lynn (nee Stewardson) in 1983.

A very special thank you to all the staff of Lady Minto Hospital, the Home Care Nursing team on Salt Spring Island, the staff of Braehaven Assisted Living, and Dr. Daniel Kalf. Together, with their care and support for Brian, we were able to honour his wish to be with his family and closest companion for his final days. Fair winds, Dad.

Memorial donations in Brian's name may be made directly to the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (<http://ladymintofoundation.com>), 135 Crofton Rd, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 1T1 or the Salt Spring Island Public Library (129 McPhillips Road, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2T6).

A private family service will be held at Cedar Valley Memorial Gardens.



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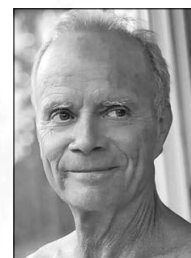
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**Obituaries**

## BRIAN MCMANN

March 11, 1952 - June 26, 2020

COVID 19 times have made a small gathering impossible unfortunately, so following dad's wishes to have only me speak at his memorial, I have decided to write a letter of remembrance that will hopefully do him justice.

Anyone who knew Dad knew he was one of the kindest, most thoughtful and sweet people around. Willing to go any extra mile to help you out. Even when a person would perhaps do him wrong in some way and he would get frustrated with them, the next day he would find a reason to explain their behaviour as perhaps a bad day and give them the benefit of the doubt once again. Sometimes to his detriment. He certainly taught me to show people forgiveness and try to see things from another's perspective.

Dad was a super talented builder and finisher, I have many a fond memory of him teaching me small life skills such as cutting in and masking for painting, although one thing I wish I could remember is his fishing knots. He showed me no less than ten times how to do many useful knots to tie down things and tie ropes together and I just could not remember one of them. I know how to tie my shoe laces though thankfully and that's about it.

Dad was by far the funniest person I have ever known. Right up till the end he kept his jovial joke cracking self. He helped me to see the humour in almost any situation, including the joyous side of death. A normal and inevitable occurrence for everyone, even if that does sound a little morbid.

He specifically wanted this John Prine song played at his memorial, one of our shared favourites which if you didn't know dad's sense of humour, may give you an insight into how he loved to see the light side to every situation. The song can be found here: <https://youtu.be/JfBdMXhpQnU> (please copy and paste into the search bar of browser if the hyperlink does not work), and I remember quite a number of years ago when we still lived in NZ he said it would be a good song for a funeral.

Dad was first and foremost a family man, I was never in doubt of his love for me, and later his love for his grandchildren. He was able to be there when his first grandson was born and was the second person to hold him. He was also visiting us in Australia this past February, and was able to see Josiah learn to walk. A time that was as special as it was to me as it was to him I am sure.

Even though Brian may be gone physically, I know beyond a shadow of a doubt he lives on. Maybe not in a physical body, but perhaps something even better. I so look forward to seeing him again and giving my Daddybri a big hug and kiss. I hope he can see us here at his house in Canada and know we are thinking of him today and everyday with gladness and thankfulness to have known him and had him in our lives. Fly high Dad. ~ Love your daughter Sarah

The family wish to thank Dr. Paula Ryan and two of the SSI Home Care Nursing Team, Carolyn M and Emilie, for their friendship, compassion and care which was so generously bestowed on Brian and his family. Without their kindness and support it would not have been possible to honour Brian's wish to die at home with his family. We are eternally grateful.



**D.W. Salty**  
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## Coming Events

## NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

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## Remember WHEN

## Five Years Ago

A study examining the link between phosphorus levels in St. Mary Lake and shoreline septic systems suggested a sewer system would not improve the lake's health or water quality. The resulting report by Don Hodgins concluded that installing a costly sewage treatment system would have limited to no effect on algal blooms in the lake.

## Ten Years Ago

Salt Spring residents were adjusting to the 12 per cent Harmonized Sales Tax, which had been brought in by the B.C. Liberal government as of July 1. "Nobody's said a peep," said Salt Spring Inn co-owner Jeremy Milson. In the meantime, an anti-HST petition initiative had garnered the required level of support across the province to eventually force a referendum on the matter, which led to B.C. reverting to the previous federal Goods and Services Tax and the Provincial Sales Tax system in 2013.

## Twenty Years Ago

A game that bordered on the miraculous propelled the Salt Spring Slashers U-19 girls' soccer team to a gold medal in provincial championships in Prince George on the July 7-9 weekend. The girls beat teams from Surrey, Smithers and the North Shore en route to victory. Coach Malcolm Legg also announced his retirement after coaching soccer for 30 years.

## Thirty Years Ago

Salt Spring Island's full-time resident population was estimated by the Islands Trust to be 7,600, a 23.3 per cent increase from the census number of 6,166 four years earlier. Trustee John Stepaniuk told the Driftwood the Trust arrived at the population total by cross-checking figures from BC Tel, BC Hydro, School District 64, the census bureau and the building inspectors office.

## Forty Years Ago

Strong opposition was expressed at the Capital Regional District Board meeting when it was proposed that leg-hold traps be prohibited in the region. Some directors suggested that there were people making a living out of trapping and therefore the region should not interfere. Another director urged that the population of predatory animals has to be controlled and therefore leg-hold traps are a necessity.

## Fifty Years Ago

Years of experience sailing coastal waters came in handy for George Georgeson, Jr. and his 11-year-old son Gordon when their 27-foot troller hit a deadhead in Active Pass on the morning of July 9. Fortunately, they were close enough to shore to jump from the bow of the sinking craft and swim to safety. Salvager Bob Bamford and crew retrieved the sunken vessel, which was determined to be a total loss.

## 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.

The next New Moon occurs on July 20 and it will again be in the sign of Cancer. As common as a New Moon event is, it should be noted, that in the context of the whole chart, no two are EVER the same. This is very significant to understand. That is why despite the cyclic reality of time, life is ever revealing new themes, experiences, and episodes in general. These are all for the sake of our evolutionary growth as souls attending the 'Earth School'.

Although not an eclipse, it will prove powerful in a sobering a restrictive way as it will be opposed to the heavyweight and the authority of Saturn in its own sign of Capricorn and retrograde at that, adding even more weight, especially since it remains closely aligned with Pluto and Jupiter both also in Capricorn and both also retrograde.

Understanding our own destiny within this context is what astrology is about. Yet, interestingly, our own Birth Chart, although it too is subject to the cycles of time, has a fixed quality linked to the moment of first breath. Perhaps this is your cue to take a closer look.

## Aries (Mar 21 - Apr 19)

Some big changes have and will continue to roll in close to home. The pace has probably been quite mixed; hardly flat water. All the while, you have been pushing to forge ahead somehow. Attending to a variety of fronts continues to keep things interesting. You have things to say and you not only want to be heard, you want to be heeded. The main question is: are your views as objective as you may believe?

## Taurus (Apr 20 - May 20)

This time of year is all about quality time shared with family and friends. This time, travel is featured. Perhaps you are making the moves or they are. You are eager to break free of the past, yet it weighs heavily on you, within and perhaps without, as you make sincere efforts to be light and bright. In the deeper reaches, you have inner work to do which requires courage.

## Gemini (May 21 - Jun 21)

Over the past several weeks, you have taken a turn. It has and continues to prove to include a process of building new foundations. Whether this process is inner and figurative or outer and literal, or both, depends on you specifically and your circumstances. To you, it is always a matter of family first and that is probably where you are happiest to direct your attention and share your love.

## Cancer (Jun 22 - Jul 22)

You find yourself taking new leads and strides. This process includes training which could be both for and by you. Yet, somehow you find yourself working behind the scenes. The projects include new approaches that you have probably not done before. Your feelings about it all may be a bit mixed and your confidence levels are wavering. Positively, you are enjoying the challenge.

## Leo (Jul 23 - Aug 23)

You remain largely focused on activities behind the scenes. Yet, your outreach may be extended more broadly. The revolutionary pace and reality of change in the world have your attention. You feel called somehow to contribute, to make a difference, one that is perhaps larger than you would usually. Expect this to continue, yet your front, focus, and approach may change, but not yet.

## Virgo (Aug 24 - Sep 22)

Your career is calling. Or, it could be your participation in social and public events. Either way, circumstances require you to take a powerful lead. This includes others. These may include teachers and mentors and you are wise to honor their authority. Either way, you have work to do. Mercury retrograde has probably not helped with your focus, but that cycle is now over. Get to work!

## Libra (Sep 23 - Oct 22)

Circumstances are causing you to pay closer attention to the details, yet of the bigger picture. A philosophical and/or journalistic process is implied. This probably includes seeing through and beyond your own biases. Have you genuinely looked at other sides of the issue? Are you truly listening or are you dismissive of others and other perspectives and, if so, why? What are your attachments?

## Scorpio (Oct 23 - Nov 21)

You may find yourself squarely dealing with important choices that you must make. Essentially, some point to a higher road and some to a lower one. In the short-term, the higher road may be harder, yet will bring greater rewards, later. While you feel drawn to family, you must also honor your own sense of individuality. Change in this regard is featured and you may by now be dealing with the results of it.

## Sagittarius (Nov 22 - Dec 21)

Some deep processes are churning within. These are probably more emotional and psychological, but they could also include biological and chemical shifts. Either way, you are drawn to engage with others in ways that are already resulting in changes in your lifestyle and/or literally in your home. Building projects are a very real possibility. You do want it done but may not want to do it.

## Capricorn (Dec 22 - Jan 19)

You have begun a process of stepping out of the shadows somehow. It can be described as acting upon dreams and visions that have been brewing for a long time. Yet, you may be getting a very mixed review. You may wonder why, yet upon closer observation, you may come to see their perspectives and through your own blind spots. Will you fight your own demons or direct your focus externally?

## Aquarius (Jan 20 - Feb 19)

You are receiving a call to be more creative. Answering it does include a steady process of shifts and changes in your lifestyle. These have required an added measure of critical thinking over the past several weeks. Positively, circumstances have supported you to do just that. Shifting from existing routines into more satisfying activity holds great appeal and you feel inspired about the possibilities.

## Pisces (Feb 20 - Mar 20)

Somehow, you have been called home. This may be true literally, yet it may also be figurative. Everyone has been dealing with the confusions caused by Mercury retrograde in Cancer over the past several weeks, yet now the confusion is lifting. Things are getting clearer, albeit still slowly. You are enthusiastic to learn, but if this is to prove truly integral, you will have to work to see through your own biases.



## RUNNING

# Sneakers strive for success with virtual races



Salt Spring Sneakers members at Portlock Park.

PHOTO COURTESY SS SNEAKERS

Favourite events unlikely to occur for the rest of 2020

## SUBMITTED BY SALT SPRING SNEAKERS

March 2020 is a month most of us will remember forever, and not fondly. As pandemic restrictions began, road and track racing quickly became a thing of the past, as race after race was cancelled. After the initial shock and disappointment set in, the "new normal" began to take shape.

The Salt Spring Sneakers responded immediately as protocols were enacted to prevent the spread of COVID-19. All group workouts were halted. Individual members chose to continue running or walking either solo or with family members. We consider ourselves fortunate to have had leadership that allowed for outdoor exercise and a healthy lifestyle to be maintained in spite of the declared emergency.

Race directors and organizations scrambled to keep athletes engaged. The idea of "virtual races" materialized and soon spread around the world with a variety of challenges. Participants are given specific directions and submit their results via sport-watch/GPS uploads or a selfie and their watch face with the time it took them to run their route of choice, based on the parameters of the specific event.

The first Sneaker to take part in such a race was coach Susan Gordon. She had converted her running program back to racewalking when the shutdowns began, a tactic that allowed for de-training for intense competition yet staying fit.

During the month of May, Athletics Illustrated's Global Virtual One Hour Race added a racewalk division. Gordon entered and won the women's division, walking eight kilometres in the allotted time. Funds raised went to a Victoria food bank.

In June, a number of Salt Spring Sneakers competed in the Athletics Illustrated Virtual 5K Relay. Team members ran strong, completing their distance at either Portlock Park or a suitable route of choice.

Among several divisions included with the race, Richard Hayden topped the men's entries with a stellar time of 18:54.

Melanie van Soeren was the second female overall in 19:14, finishing behind Olympian Natasha Wodak of Vancouver. Wodak also won the age-graded division of the race, which uses a formula to determine a performance percentage based on the ratio of the approximate world-record time for your age and gender divided by your actual time.

Gordon was the third female overall in 21:31 and second in the age-graded division with 86.15 per cent.

The top five Sneakers' times counted for their second-place team result. Those runners included Hayden, Gordon, Melanie van Soeren, Eric van Soeren and Duncan Elsey.

Eric Ellis, Marion Young, Marcia Jansen, Gillian McConnell, Anna Ford, Catherine Bennett and Julie van Soeren rounded out the enthusiastic team of Salt Springers.

On July 1, Gordon ran in the Big Fun Run Series Canada Day Challenge, completing 5K on the road in 21:55. She won the overall female division for this event, and once again funds raised were donated to food banks.

Given the cancellation of the Vancouver Island Race Association Series in March, a belated recognition for the 2019 MVP was awarded to Ellis, for his top club performance that earned the most overall points for the Sneakers that year.

While B.C. Athletics, Athletics Canada and Via Sport B.C. have all sanctioned a "return to sport," it is unlikely that any of our favourite races will be returning in the foreseeable future due to the complexities of putting hundreds or thousands of people together on a starting line.

However, as much fun as competition is for certain runners, it is not the sole reason we run. The opportunity to be outdoors, stay fit and keep us healthy and engaged with the world in a kind and productive manner is more important than ever.



AGRICULTURE



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