



LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!*

It's time for the Driftwood's annual island-wide clean-up campaign! Join your friends and neighbours in clearing litter and other debris from island roadsides and beaches.

HERE'S HOW IT WORKS . . .

- 1** Pick a section of road, beach or neighbourhood that you'd like to rid of trash in April.
- 2** Phone or email us at the Driftwood with your name and the area you've chosen. news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com
- 3** Pick up your Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services coupon from the Driftwood office and take your bag(s) to Laurie's, or otherwise dispose of what you've collected.
- 4** Enjoy being recognized in the Driftwood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make Salt Spring a cleaner and healthier place to live.



**Thank you for participating, and thank you to our sponsors
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*Nominated for a 2022 BC media industry community service award

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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

Driftwood litter campaign returns during April

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The 2022 Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign is now underway, with community members and groups invited to clear island roads and beaches of trash and other debris through the month of April.

Now in its fourth year — we started in 2018 but skipped 2020 due to Covid-19 — more and more people and groups have joined in each time. You don't need to tackle a huge area to have an impact: every little bit counts! Watch this space in coming weeks to see which roads and beaches people have committed to cleaning up, and we hope you will be inspired to add your name to the list. Just give us a call at the Driftwood office

— 250-537-9933 — email to news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com, or drop in to see us at 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd., Monday through Friday from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Once again our campaign sponsor Laurie's Garbage and Recycling is providing bags and covering garbage disposal costs for those who want to use that benefit. And TJ Beans is offering a complimentary coffee, tea or hot chocolate to participants. After registering through the Driftwood office, just drop by to get the required coupons to present to Laurie's and TJ Beans. (People are asked to not include their own household garbage in the bags taken to Laurie's.)

As you can see from the photos on this page, some people have already started and/or finished the area they

One piece of debris they cannot deal with on their own is an old float or dock that is washed up a year or two ago and is slowly deteriorating, with the bits of styrofoam spreading across a wide area.

"I reported it last year to the government but they said apparently nothing can be done about it. So it's still sadly sitting there on the west side of Baker Beach spreading styrofoam everywhere," said Sichertman.

She wonders if anyone on the island would be able and willing to help remove and dispose of it.

Susannah Devitt and Linda Dares volunteered to pick up the trash on Robinson Road again this year and didn't hesitate in getting the job done last weekend.

We encourage people to send us photos of themselves in action and their trash haul for publishing in the paper and on our Instagram page @driftwoodnews. You can post photos on Instagram with a #letspickitupsaltspring22 hashtag (and tag us, please!) or we can post for you on our Instagram page if you email photos to us.



PHOTO COURTESY LINDA DARES & SUSANNAH DEVITT
Linda Dares, left, and Susannah Devitt with their garbage-hauling wagon on Robinson Road over the weekend. Note the gloves: They are a must for the job at hand!

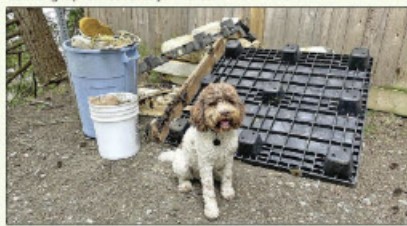


PHOTO COURTESY CLAIRE SICHERTMAN
Oscar sits with the pile of trash removed from Baker Beach by the Sichertman family.



PHOTO COURTESY CLAIRE SICHERTMAN
Jeremy Sichertman tries to take apart a piece of an old dock before taking it up the stairs from Baker Beach on Saturday.

Check out the list at the below to see what areas have been pledged so far. Duplication of areas is not discouraged, since more trash will likely accumulate throughout the month.

Thanks in advance to everyone who participates in the campaign and to the sponsors on this page!

OUR RUNNING LIST AS OF MONDAY IS:

- Sichertman family — Baker Beach.
- Linda Dares & Susannah Devitt — Robinson Road.
- Krista & Brent Leffer — Ross Road, Walker's Hook Road from Ross Road to Grantville Street and lower Grantville Street to the water.
- Elizabeth Nolan — North End Road from Whims Road to North Beach.
- Amanda McLeod — North End Road from North Beach to Southey Point Road.
- Salt Spring Sneakers — Walker's Hook Road and North Beach Road — exact area TBD.
- John Howe — Cusheon Lake Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to Stewart Road.
- Nancy Johnson — Fulford-Ganges Road from the Driftwood to Charlesworth Road.
- Argie Bailey — Malliview Drive & Whims Road.
- Gail Sjuberg — Cranberry Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to Blackburn Road.

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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

Driftwood litter campaign continues through April

BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Thank you to everyone who has already picked up garbage or pledged to do so for the 2022 Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring clean-up campaign!

Five new individuals and groups had signed on as of early Monday, with some of them taking on huge areas, like Rick and Juliette Laing, who will clean up from the bottom of Charlesworth Road through Wilkie Way, where they have lived for some 40 years. Rick notes that it wouldn't be the first time they have cleaned up trash in their neighbourhood and beyond! Not only that, but Rick has volunteered to help

the Sichertman family rid Baker Beach of large pieces of an old float or dock, in response to Claire Sichertman's request in our story from last week.

There is still lots of time left in the month and any number of spots on the island that could be cleaned up. Join the effort to see and feel the tangible results of making your island home more beautiful and improving its environmental health.

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Just give us a call at 250-537-9933, drop by the Driftwood office or email news@gulfislandsdriftwood.com with the area you'd like to tackle. See the "Here's How It Works" directions at the bottom right of this page for all the details.



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG
Driftwood publisher Nancy Johnson cleans up trash from outside the Driftwood office at 241 Fulford-Ganges Rd. on a sunny day.

OUR RUNNING LIST AS OF MONDAY IS:

- Rick and Juliette Laing – Charlesworth up through Wilkie Way.
- Marie Beaudoin – Cranberry Road from Blackburn to Toynbee.
- Anne Parkinson and Transition Salt Spring Marine Stewardship Group – Fulford estuary.
- Ilyld and Joanne Perkins – Fulford Ganges Road from Garner to Mereside.
- Bill Goddu – North End Road from Stark's Road to Central. Sichertman family – Baker Beach.
- Linda Dares & Susannah Devitt – Robinson Road.
- Krista & Brent Leffer – Ross Road, Walker's Hook Road from Ross Road to Grantville Street and lower Grantville Street to the water.
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- 3 Pick up your Laurie's Recycling & Waste Services coupon from the Driftwood office and take your bag(s) to Laurie's, or otherwise dispose of what you've collected.
- 4 Also at our office, pick up your coupon for a free tea, coffee or hot chocolate from TJ Beans.
- 5 Enjoy being recognized in the Driftwood and the satisfaction of knowing you have helped make Salt Spring a cleaner and healthier place to live.

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OPINION

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Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Feature Series (Gail Spurgin)
Bronze - Best News Story (Lorraine Guthrie) | 2020 - Community Service

2021 BCYCA Awards
Gold - Best at Board (Eve Livingston) Category C



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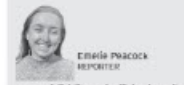
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EDITORIAL

Inspired to act

Face it: We are living in depressing times.

Between the horrific war in Ukraine, the relentless challenges of a mutating virus and poisoned drug crisis, political instability, inflation, lack of housing and health-care personnel, and the latest dire warnings about climate change, it's natural to want to scuttle into the nearest available cave and forget the state of a rotten world outside.

But stepping out of our caves and coming together globally and/or as a community to take action is one of the main ways we can push past the sense of futility and hopelessness. Earth Day, first established as April 22 way back in 1970, is considered by some to have initiated the modern environmental movement and it is more relevant than ever today.

The connection to Earth Day is one of the reasons the Driftwood's island-wide clean-up campaign was first launched in 2018 as an April event.

THE ISSUE: Earth Day and other events

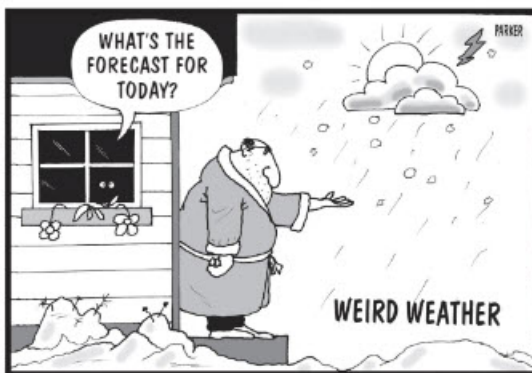
WE SAY: Taking action together makes a difference

Not only does it make sense to seek out trash before the greenery gets too thick and hides it on island roadsides and in ditches, but making the effort part of Earth Day celebrations is a reminder of why it's important. Among other reasons, keeping plastic debris out of our oceans is critical for the health of our marine ecosystem and wildlife that ingest plastics of all sizes, leading to their death. Thank you to everyone who has so far taken on a chunk of the island to clean up this year. More participants are always welcomed!

This year also sees two gatherings with music and more to mark Earth Day on Salt Spring Island. One is a Walking to Peace event on the afternoon of Friday, April 22 in Centennial Park and the second is titled Come Celebrate Our Earth. It takes place on Saturday, April 23 in the United Church Meadow in the evening. Stay tuned as well for an upcoming important peace book discussion taking place at the library on April 30.

The island is also gearing up for a major fundraiser for humanitarian aid to the Ukraine people. Set for Saturday, April 30 from 2 to 7 p.m. at Fulford Hall, the silent auction and sale of donated items, with live music and Ukrainian food will not only raise money but provide an opportunity to show emotional support for islanders with connections to Ukraine.

When the dire state of the world overwhelms, taking action as part of a broader community effort is one way to make a difference to ourselves, loved ones and everyone we share the planet with.



Action for GPs needed now

BY CURT FIRESTONE

There is much that can be solved if British Columbia wants to solve the untenable lack of primary care providers in our provincial and local health-care system.

To start with, the "professionals" in the provincial and local health-care arenas need to open up a dialogue with the communities served. Community members who support the health-care system through taxes and patience have a right to fully understand the issues which have led to 900,000 British Columbians being orphaned by the primary health-care community. We should never forget that we live in Canada, where health care for all is considered a basic right. Community members are also a source for solutions to the problem, both by volunteering and by offering creative solutions.

On Salt Spring Island, over 10 years ago a Physician Recruitment Committee (PRC) was created upon the suggestion of one of the local physicians who had recently closed his outpatient practice. The PRC morphed into the Health Advancement Committee, which is now the Salt Spring Health Advance-

VIEWPOINT

ment Network (SSHAN). During a time when Salt Spring Island had sufficient medical doctors to meet the community's needs, SSHAN shifted its focus to mental health and seniors. Now with the retirement and lack of replacement of three medical practitioners, maybe it is time for SSHAN to return to its original goal of recruiting and retaining primary care providers.

Five years ago, the Salt Spring Community Health Society (SSCHS) was created with the goal of creating a multi-professional community health centre in collaboration with local physicians. During the time when sufficient doctors were on Salt Spring, SSCHS also shifted its focus to mental health issues. Maybe it is time for SSCHS to return to its original focus of working with the community towards the development of a broad-based community health centre.

Housing is always mentioned as a problem for new doctors wanting to move to Salt Spring Island. Right now, the Lady Minto Hospital Foundation (LMHF) has purchased the

Seabreeze motel to create housing as part of Island Health's efforts to fill the 35 vacancies at Lady Minto Hospital. Some island businesses are providing housing for their workers. The SSCHS might consider using their registered charity status to replicate the LMHF efforts by raising the funds and purchasing housing for new doctors and nurse practitioners.

Provincial health authorities do not ask their hospital or clinic staff physicians and nurse practitioners to pay for office expenses. Why can't the province provide the medical facilities and staffing for outpatient services? This will lessen the burden on outpatient practitioners and attract more physicians and nurse practitioners to reside in B.C.

Family doctors and nurse practitioners are critical primary care components of our health-care system. B.C. has focused on the creation of walk-in clinics, which lack clinical continuity.

It is easy to understand why so many people are saying that the B.C. health-care system is collapsing. Solutions are a la carte. The time is long overdue for Salt Spring Island and B.C. to take action.

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THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should Salt Spring's emergency shelter be maintained?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Should the NSSWD reconsider its hook-up moratorium?

30 33
YES NO

Cast your ballot online at www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com before Monday 2 p.m. or clip this box and drop it at our office before Monday at 2 p.m.

LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

Driftwood
litter
campaign
enters
final phase



PHOTO BY GAIL SJUBERG:
Caroline Hickman, left,
and Marriah Jane Grey
with just two of several
bags of garbage they
retrieved from the
roadside and ditches of
Fulford-Ganges Road
south of Cranberry
Road on Saturday.



BY GAIL SJUBERG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

The Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign is heading into its last 10 days, and the volunteer list keeps growing.

Deserving of the medal of fortitude so far this year is the team of Rosamund and Patrick Dupuy, and Caroline Hickman and Marriah Jane Grey. Those four took on a big stretch of "the highway" between Blackburn and Cranberry

roads this year. When I caught up to Caroline and Marriah on Saturday they were feeling the effects of clambering into and out of ditches, but the amount of trash ultimately collected by all four of their team — a pick-up truck load — was worth the effort.

I completed the Fulford-Ganges to Old Divide section of my allotted area of Cranberry Road on Sunday morning and was pleasantly surprised at how little litter required picking up this year. "Only" a dozen discarded drink cans and bottles were found.

OUR RUNNING LIST AS OF MONDAY IS:

- Phil Bysher — Ensilwood and LePage roads.
- Karen Hudson + Lynda Nash — Isle View Drive.
- Rosamund & Patrick Dupuy; and Marriah Jane Gray and Caroline Hickman — Fulford-Ganges Road from Cranberry to Blackburn.
- Ken Jackson — Baker Road — the whole thing.
- Tangachee Goebel — Fulford Harbour and Drummond Park.
- Salt Spring Apple Co — Fulford-Ganges Road Cranberry to Arnell.
- Rick and Juliette Laing — Charlesworth up through Wilkie Way.
- Marie Beaudoin — Cranberry Road from Blackburn to Toybee.
- Anne Parkinson and Transition Salt Spring Marine Stewardship Group — Fulford estuary.
- Illyd and Joanne Perkins — Fulford Ganges Road from Garner to Moreside.
- Bill Goddu — North End Road from Stark's Road to Central.
- Sichertman Family — Baker Beach.
- Linda Dares & Susannah Devitt — Robinson Road.
- Krista & Brent Lefler — Ross Road, Walker's Hook Road from Ross Road to Grantville Street and lower Grantville Street to the water.
- Elizabeth Nolan — North End Road from Whims Road to North Beach.
- Amanda McLeod — North End Road from North Beach to Southey Point Rd.
- Salt Spring Sneakers — Walker's Hook Road and North Beach Road; plus Stark's Road and North End Road from LePage to Fernwood. (And more roads may be added!)
- John Howe — Cusheen Lake Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to Stewart Road.
- Nancy Johnson — Fulford-Ganges Road from the Driftwood to Charlesworth Road.
- Angle Bailey — Malliview Drive & Whims Road.
- Gail Sjuberg — Cranberry Road from Fulford-Ganges Road to Blackburn Road.

I also noticed a bit of tweakiness in my hips from elaborate ditch manoeuvres, including those required to pull some ancient Coroplast Gary Holman provincial election signs out of a wet and muddy ditch.

I must confess that the hunt for trash is almost "fun" and it certainly feels great to clean up an area. Receiving kudos from strangers along the way is also quite nice.

If you want to be part of the positive action, check out the instructions on page 13.

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COMMUNITY-MINDED RUNNERS: Salt Spring Sneakers running club members with a haul of trash from cleaning up part of Walker's Hook Road on Saturday are, Erik Ellis, Julie van Soeren, Anna Ford, Karen Clark, Janine Fernandes-Hayden, Sabine Georgy, Renee Hayden and Pasley Hayden. For more on the Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign, see page 20.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

Trust proposes housing change

Trustees want feedback on accessory dwelling unit bylaw

BY EMELIE PEACOCK
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Salt Spring's Local Trust Committee (LTC) has given first reading to a bylaw meant to help ease the rental housing shortage on the island.

A bylaw change allowing homeowners to set up secondary suites in all zones, including in accessory buildings, was one of the Housing Action Program Task Force's recommendations made in the summer of 2021. Trustee Laura Patrick characterized the bylaw presented to the LTC on April 19 as a work in progress and she is eager to hear from would-be landlords and all residents of the island about what they want to see included in the final product.

The intent of the bylaw, Patrick said, is to allow would-be landlords to provide rental accommodation to tenants in nearly all zones

on the island. Bylaw 530 "does not represent the finished product, at all," she stressed. It will now go out to agencies, groups, First Nations and the public for feedback.

"A first reading purely signals that we want to talk to the community."

An accessory dwelling unit (ADU), according to the bylaw, is a unit that is accessory to a single-family dwelling and intended to be independent and separate. An ADU could be contained within a house or as an accessory structure, including "tiny homes, garden suites, seasonal cottages or full-time rental cottages." An ADU could also be a mobile or manufactured home, the bylaw stated. The proposal does not include RVs or detached dwelling units on wheels as ADUs.

Patrick said wording about tiny homes should be removed from the bylaw, as they are generally smaller than a building permit allows, aren't allowed under provincial build-

ing codes and should be dealt with separately. Yet as an important "rung on the ladder" of home ownership, Patrick feels they should be dealt with.

The bylaw lists requirements of accessory dwelling units detached from a home, including that the floor area is a maximum of 90 square metres, on a lot 1.2 hectares or larger, is not located in a portion of a lot identified as a community well capture zone and is not on a lot with a duplex or multi-family dwelling. Property owners would be allowed only one detached ADU per lot.

If located in a community water system, water for any ADU has to come from alternative potable water supply or have written confirmation from the community water system operator that the site has sufficient capacity to supply the unit.

ACCESSORY DWELLINGS continued on 2

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LET'S PICK IT UP, Salt Spring!

Hearty thanks to everyone who participated!

BY GAIL S-JUBORG
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

Last week's action in the Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign was truly inspiring on a couple of fronts.

Not only did some of the major roads that were still unclaimed get cleaned up by new and returning volunteers, but the island's beaches have or will be getting some much-needed TLC.

A fellow who wanted to remain

anonymous came in to the Driftwood office one day to inquire about the details of garbage disposal being covered by Laurie's next to the Country Grocer complex. He told us he had a pick-up load of debris from cleaning beaches on the south and west side of the island and was going to continue with his mission. No recognition needed, he said.

Then we heard from Claire Sicherman, whose family had cleaned Baker Beach early in April and had

requested help to remove a decaying dock float. Islander Rick Laing stepped up to help with the physical removal, along with Claire's husband Jeremy and neighbour Ethan, and Rick also took care of disposal. Yay, teamwork!

Tangachee Goebel reported that a barge and other large debris has washed up in Fulford Harbour. We're going to hopefully figure out how to deal with that problem too.

Members of the Salt Spring Sneakers running club were back on the campaign after a hiatus last year, and took on part of Walker's Hook Road. They found a ton of alcohol containers on their stretch, and Andrew Haigh also came along and hauled a rusty barbecue up the bank.

Julie van Soeren reported that other Sneakers involved on a different day were Catherine and Richard Bennett and Mary and Peter Freeman, who found large car parts.

Thank you to everyone who volunteered to clean up our island this year, and to our amazing partners Laurie's and TJ Beans, and the ad sponsors on this page.

There's still a few days left in the month to get rid of the trash in an area that's dear to your heart as part of our official campaign. Drop by the Driftwood office by 4 p.m. on Friday, April 29 to get your Laurie's and TJ Beans coupons.

PHOTO BY SARAH GORDEON

THE THINGS YOU FIND: Salt Spring Sneakers running club member Janine Fernandes-Hayden shows a bag of identical wine bottles retrieved from the side of Walker's Hook Road when group members took time off from running to pick up trash and other debris as part of the Driftwood's 2022 Let's Pick It Up, Salt Spring campaign.



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