

From: SSInfo
Sent: Thursday, February 24, 2022 8:57 AM
To: Islands2050
Subject: FW: Driftwood article
Attachments: Driftwood Feb 23, 2022-pages-4.pdf

Good morning,

Please see below/attached correspondence regarding the Trust Policy Statement.

Cheers,

Jenn Baddeley (*she/her/hers*)
Office Administrative Assistant
Islands Trust | T: 250-538-5609

From: Frants Attorp [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 23, 2022 1:25 PM
To: Executive Admin <execadmin@islandstrust.bc.ca>; SSInfo <ssiinfo@islandstrust.bc.ca>
Subject: Driftwood article

Please place this article on the Trust record.

Frants Attorp
Salt Spring Island

OPINION

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

2021 BCYNA Awards
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)



Driftwood

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EDITORIAL

Learn the story

Black History Month has special significance for Salt Spring Island.

The role of Black people in Salt Spring's early history is well documented in various books and in Salt Spring Historical Society materials. Charles Kahn's *Salt Spring: The Story of an Island*, and Crawford Killian's *Go Do Some Great Thing — The Black Pioneers of British Columbia* are must-read full-length books for learning about the early Black settlers of the island. Sylvia Stark: *A Pioneer* by Victoria Scott and Ernest Jones is a small biography that details the history of what is considered the best-known of the families that first came to the island from the U.S. in 1859. John Craven Jones was the island's first teacher and elected to Salt Spring's short-lived municipal council along with another Black settler, Henry W. Robinson.

People wanting to know more about Salt Spring's rich Black history can access those books at the Salt Spring Public Library. While there this month they can enjoy a portrait of Stark and her father Howard Estes done by Alli Hames and commissioned by Stark family descendant Judy Sims.

While being celebrated that history is also threaded with stories of racism and the documented murder of at least two residents of African-American descent — William Robinson and Giles Curtis — in those early days.

This year's national Black History Month theme is "February and Forever: Celebrating Black History today and every day," which aims to recognize the daily contributions that Black Canadians make to Canada. Dovetailing with that theme is a Feb. 28 online evening presentation by *Overture With the Arts (OWTA)* called *Tracking Black Canada - Trailblazers Edition*. Promotional material states that it will "highlight the contributions and achievements made by prominent residents in these forgotten communities, while illuminating the conditions that led to their systemic demise, and how their impact is still felt today." The event is for School District 64 parents and staff and connects to a student presentation done by OWTA at the high school on Feb. 23.

As a *Conversations on Racism* series held on Salt Spring illustrated last year, along with the creation of a Black Indigenous People of Colour group, racism is still a factor in 21st-century life on the island. Learning about Black history on Salt Spring and beyond can be one step taken towards addressing that issue.

THE ISSUE: Black History Month 2022

WE SAY: Several ways to learn local history



Growth agenda greenwashed

BY FRANTS ATTORP

Contrary to recent claims by local trustees and others that Islands Trust policies will protect the Gulf Islands going into the future, neither the existing Trust Policy Statement (TPS) nor the new draft document offer any guarantee of environmental protection.

To be clear: the main purpose of the Islands Trust Act and, by extension, the TPS, is to limit development on the islands. Without limitations there is no point in having an Islands Trust.

Efforts to weaken the TPS to allow for more development go back to 1994 when Trust Council broadened the interpretation of "unique amenities" to include healthy communities and culture. In that historic moment, Trust Council committed to the impossible: simultaneously protecting the natural environment and the forces that destroy it.

South Pender Trustee Steve Wright has long campaigned to correct this contradiction. At a Trust Council meeting last March, he moved to "prioritize" protection of the natural environment. That motion was defeated 17-8. Trustee Laura Patrick argued that the interpretation of the mandate must be kept "as broad as possible."

VIEWPOINT

Rather than close the barn door, Trust Council opened it even further by supporting a motion by Gambier Island Trustee Dan Rogers (seconded by Laura Patrick) to extend protections to "healthy and inclusive communities — but not limited to — housing and transportation." The words "not limited to" have serious implications.

With no clear priority, no limits, and no definition of key words such as "healthy" and "community," trustees are free to use their imaginations. Is there any development, no matter how urban, that does not arguably contribute to a "healthy community?"

Keeping the interpretation of any legal document "as broad as possible" renders it useless. Denman trustee David Critchley recognized as much and presented a follow-up motion affirming that "the paramount object of the Islands Trust Act is preservation and protection of the natural environment." It, too, was defeated.

Critchley then tabled another motion to give protection of the natural environment "special and profound consideration." It

passed, but try changing the context. Would you drink water where meeting health standards is not required, but rather, given "special and profound consideration" by politicians?

Even that feeble gesture is undermined by loopholes in the Policy Statement Implementation document. For example, to escape restrictions, a local Trust committee need only show it "directed its attention to the matter" and "made a considered decision."

The TPS is a legal requirement intended to protect the islands in the long term. It does not have to preclude human needs, but it must limit development. If each new generation demands freedom from regulations, environmental protection becomes a pretense.

The unfettered powers afforded trustees have spawned a movement to make sweeping changes to Salt Spring without a full public review of our official community plan, even as studies show projected build-out numbers for existing zoning are unsustainable. But nobody admits to this. Instead, we are fed a constant diet of sustainability rhetoric and false assurances that actions have no consequences. We're drowning in greenwash.

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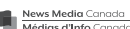
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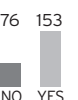
THIS WEEK'S POLL QUESTION:

Should suites be allowed in accessory dwellings on Salt Spring?

Yes No

LAST WEEK'S QUESTION:

Are you concerned about Gulf Islands population growth?



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.