



Saltair District Residents Association (SDRA)

www.sunnysaltair.ca

September 2023

Please stay vigilant!

The worst of the heat may be over but we are still too dry to drop our watchfulness.

The SDRA was pleased to host a public meeting in July concerning Summer Heat Hazards. Speakers were John Silins of the SDRA, Paul Wechselgerger (CVRD Emergency Management) and Trevor Reid (FireSmart services of the CVRD). Three very helpful resources which were made available at the event include:

- FireSmart BC Landscaping Guide, published by Firesmart BC provides guidance for strategic choices in how we landscape our yards. Check out www.firesmartbc.ca
- The Extreme Heat Preparedness Guide and Household Preparedness Guide published by Prepared BC, deal with overheating, dangers of heat stroke during summer heat, and provides guidance for dealing with emergency situations, whether from wildfires, tsunamis and floods or earthquakes. See www.PreparedBC.ca

Help Support the Halloween Festivities in the Park

The Evans are forging ahead with all of the arrangements for a spooky good time for all ages in Saltair's Centennial Park again this year. But they are struggling again with funding for key elements – particularly with the cost of insurance (up again) and supplies (up again).

The SDRA is making a major contribution to help with insurance but more is needed. So we are asking our members – and everyone they can reach out to for help to meet their funding goal. Please forward this to all your friends here, in Chemainus, Ladysmith and even further afield.

Contact the Evans at tjlucky@shaw.ca if you can make a contribution. Please put "FUNDING HELP" in the subject line so Janet and Tim know to reach out to you quickly. Every little bit helps. Many thanks, in advance to all.....



JOIN US! Everyone Welcome – First in our series of COMMUNITY CONVERSATIONS

September 24, 7 p.m. – SCC : Jesse McClinton & Rob Douglas (North Cowichan Mayor)

The SDRA is hosting Community Conversations events in the Saltair Community Centre (SCC). These are planned to be monthly or bi-monthly, depending on availability of speakers and time of year. This month our area director (Jesse McClinton) will regularly provide an update on local issues, and Mayor Rob Douglas will also speak. Attendees will have an opportunity to provide input and ask questions. **POSTERS** are up beside local mail boxes and please share this newsletter (or just the poster) with friends and neighbours. Copy found later in this newsletter.

Yet Another Ask.....Fundraiser

In order to raise money **for both the high school bursaries fund and to replenish our coffers** for advertising, promotion and supplies for our events and efforts, **we will have a table at the SCC Fall Market** (see Info at the end of the newsletter) and we're asking our members if you'd contribute preserves, excess fruit/veggies, crafts, art, or whatever for our table. If you can, please contact Sue Miller at milder@shaw.ca and we'll get organized.



Quadra Island Water Issues = another Canary in the Coalmine

Climate change, like the UN Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change report says, is officially a climate change catastrophe, warming the planet to the point where it is causing irreversible damage in some parts of the world. Let's try not to be one of those.

Most of Quadra's 2,700 residents depend on groundwater, from shallow or drilled deep wells, to meet their water needs. (**NOTE: Saltair is now on drilled wells**) I-CAN's water security team has launched an ambitious project to gather data on the health of the island's aquifers and get a sense of how much water is being extracted and if they are recovering or not. The idea is to avoid situations that have developed in the Okanagan

Valley and on the southern Gulf Islands where competing demands on water have exceeded supply for well over a decade. And they are measurably not recovering properly – each year for the last 3 years, the aquifer water level has dropped 10 cm from the year before after recharging.

Quadra Island, along with most of the province, is weathering the twin crises of prolonged drought and record-breaking wildfires. **Eighty-five percent of B.C.'s 34 water basins are experiencing severe drought. And more than 55 per cent, including Quadra Island, are at Level 5 on the provincial drought scale — the point when adverse socioeconomic or ecosystem impacts are almost certain.**

Quadra Island is working to protect their water supply. They will not extract more than is annually available like some other areas of BC are doing. The goal is to have a sustainability plan for the island, which takes into consideration both climate change and population growth.

See September 5 for full article: <https://www.campbellrivermirror.com/local-news/>

Western Canada a global hot spot over summer months

 Sept. 7, 2023 - the Globe and Mail

From **THE CANADIAN PRESS**:

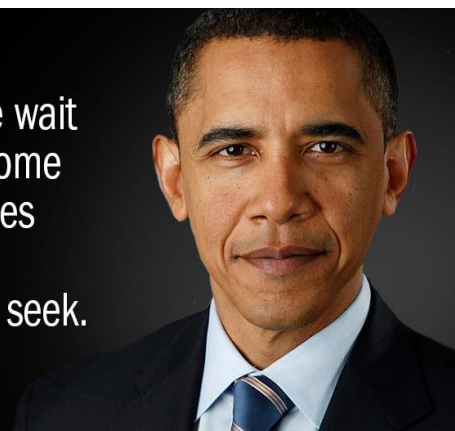
"Canada, and especially the western provinces, has been unusually warm this summer," said Andrew Pershing, science director of Climate Central, which released its study linking greenhouse gases to daily temperatures around the world. "Very strong fingerprints of climate change persisted for at least half of the June-August 2023 period in ... Western Canada," the report says. Over the course of the summer, Climate Central's analysis showed Western and Northern Canada – including northern Quebec – registered temperatures 1.5 C higher than normal. That's the seventh-highest figure in the world. "They've just had very persistent unusually warm conditions," Dr. Pershing said.

The researchers then analyzed to what extent those conditions could be attributed to climate change. They concluded that in a large band of the West Coast, for almost the entire summer, unusually warm daily temperatures were made three times more likely by greenhouse gases. (**AND all the wildfires have heightened the amount of those gases**)

From **THE DECIBEL**: This year's wildfire season has broken all kinds of records – including on emissions. Canada's wildfires have doubled previous records for greenhouse gas emissions – and they've caused more emissions than all of Canada's industries combined. Dr. Werner Kurz, a senior research scientist with the Canadian Forest Service, explains how these wildfires are changing Canada's forests, what it means for Canada's emissions and how we can lessen the damage from wildfire seasons in the future.

Change will not come if we wait
for some other person or some
other time. We are the ones
we've been waiting for.
We are the change that we seek.

– Barack Obama



A NEW WORLD RECORD

For the first time on record, since weather satellites began peering at our skies from above, every tropical ocean basin around the world has produced a tropical system with the equivalent strength of a Category 5 storm so far in 2023.

While we'd typically see at least one tropical system somewhere on Earth achieve this infamous milestone each year, we've never seen each of the world's tropical ocean basins pump out a scale-topping storm all within the same year.

Many of the planet's apex storms so far this year have been noteworthy for their ferocity, longevity, and the sheer speed at which they intensified. And the year is not over. The whole article is an eye-opener – check it out at the Weather Network: <https://www.theweathernetwork.com/en/news/weather/severe/a-world-first-every-tropical-ocean-saw-a-category-5-hurricane-cyclone-in-2023>



From: Tofino-Ucluelet Westerly News (Sept 5)

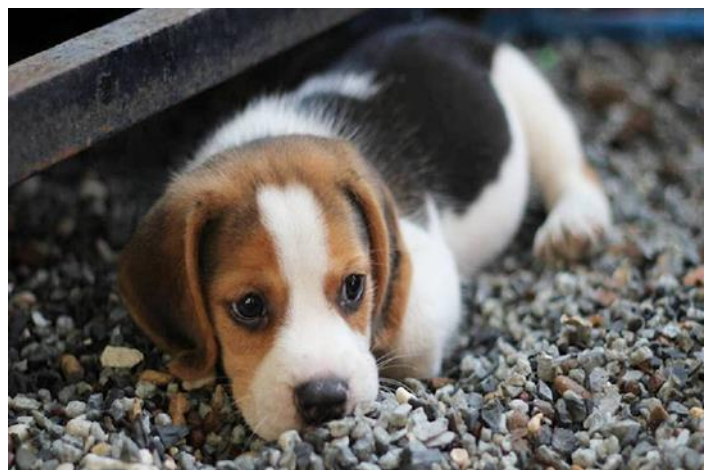
A potential canine parvovirus outbreak has killed several dogs in the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation community of Ty Histanis and the Nation is urging all dog owners to keep their pets contained and monitored.

"This deadly virus spreads quickly and can transfer to cats and the wolf population too. It can also spread from one community to another on objects like kennels, clothing etc." - a statement from the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation on Aug. 31.

Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea, low energy, rapid weight loss and high heart rates. The virus spreads fast and it kills fast – it can stay in the ground for years. It can spread to wild populations of canidae - dogs, coyotes, raccoons, and many other carnivorous species. The only answer to eradicate is to vaccinate, vaccinate, vaccinate.

Additional Info: As of September 14, no confirmed cases have been reported in communities neighbouring the Tla-o-qui-aht First Nation, though tests have been done on a dog showing symptoms in Tofino

If you have been in the Tofino area with your animal and it/they are not vaccinated for parvo, you may want to rethink.



CORRECTION!

When the SDRA 2023 AGM minutes were circulated, the results of the community survey were left off as an attachment to those minutes. The survey results are now attached, at the end of this newsletter – apologies all!

EVERYONE WELCOME!

PLEASE JOIN US FOR THE FIRST

Community Conversations



*Reporting from,
Questions to, &
Interaction with*



Jesse McClinton
CVRD Director
for Area G

and

Rob Douglas
Mayor of
North Cowichan

Sunday, September 24th, 2 to 4 pm

Saltair Community Centre

South Oyster School Road

Hosted by the Saltair District Residents Association

INFO FROM THE SALTAIR COMMUNITY CENTRE:



Saltair Fall Market

Saturday, October 28th
10am to 2pm

Saltair Community Centre
3850 S. Oyster School Rd

Little Kickers in Saltair!



Starting Oct 22, 2023
Sundays at the Saltair
Community Centre

Classes offered for 1.5 to
8 year olds.

To enroll and for more
details email
vanislandinfo@littlekickers.ca



www.littlekickers.ca

vanislandinfo@littlekickers.ca

Watch for more next month!

What makes Saltair special		Total Scores	#Respond	Average	Median	Mode	#'s of '1'
A.1	Diversity of geography	40	18	2.2	2.0	2	5
A.2	Low density of development	48	20	2.4	2.0	1	8
A.3	Health of/access to parks/green areas	50	20	2.5	2.0	2	3
A.4	Dark skies	63	18	3.5	3.0	5	3
A.5	Community Centre	59	18	3.3	3.5	4	3
SDRA's short term focus centre on							
B.1	Monitor CVRD: bylaws, spending, etc.	30	20	1.5	1.0	1	15
B.2	Community education	20	15	3.3	3.0	0	0
B.3	Local environmental initiatives	43	15	2.9	3.0	0	3
B.4	Roads & ditches	48	19	2.5	2.0	2	2
Community Events							
	Picnics in the park - with music?	34	15	2.3	2.0	0	6
	Neighbourhood Yard Sale	36	16	2.3	2.0	2	5
	Group sport day - e.g. frisbee golf	35	14	2.5	2.5	0	6
	Waterfront/wilderness nature hike	37	17	2.2	2.0	1	6
	Movie night	49	12	4.1	5.0	0	1
SDRA's longer term action plan include							
1	Emergency Planning	53	20	2.7	2.0	1	6
2	Bylaw changes -housing, age in Saltair	46	15	3.1	3.0	0	4
3	Preserve of parks' integrity/health	61	18	3.4	3.0	3	2
4	Environmental protection, climate	53	16	3.3	4.0	4	2
5	Water system upgrades, improvements	37	18	2.1	2.0	2	6
Strategies to engage more of the community							
1	Regular general meetings	43	16	2.7	2.5	4	3
2	Improve avenues of communication	48	19	2.5	3.0	3	4
3	Environment (e.g. ivy & broom removal)	44	20	2.2	2.0	1	7
4	Find out what people want - open house?	34	19	1.8	1.0	1	10

Definitions:

Total Score : raw total of all scores entered on a survey - if a score was greater than the max number of choices, it was given a zero

#lines = # of responders = all non-zero values

Average: total score divided by # of responders

Median: 50% of data points have a value smaller or equal to the median and 50% have a value higher or equal to the median

Mode: value that appears most frequently in a column; note columns that have large differences between mode and median/average

1's: the number of instances where the responder had this choice as "1st"

"Other Suggestions" List: suggestions and choices written in - if there was only one instance of the idea, it did not affect the count

Other Suggestions:

	# votes	Scores
Sewer system	5	level 1 & 4
More activities in Centennial Park; programming in SCC	3	level 3 & 4
Street lights at intersections	3	level 3 & 4
Affordability		
Alternative transportation choices		
Art in the Park		
Build interest in community welfare		
CVRD - finish approved projects		
Expand use of ball fields		
Fenced Off-leash in Park		
Get out of CVRD		
Get rid of old school; get it off property taxes		
Hwy access from Chemainus Road		
Improve snow removal		
Long term community plan		
More community engagement		
New asphalt on roads - too many poorly patched potholes		
New turn lane from Chemainus to Oyster school road (safety)		
News mailed to homes		
No raises for directors		
Real sidewalks on Chemainus & Oyster School roads		
Supply services north of lagoon - e.g. gas, fibre optic cable		