

OPINION

2023 CCNA Awards
Gold - Best Editorial Page | Gold - Best Local Cartoon (Dennis Parker)
Bronze - Best All Round | Bronze - Best Front Page

2023 BCYCNA Awards
Gold - Best All Round (for circulation Category C)
Gold - Community Service Award

CANADIAN
COMMUNITY
NEWSPAPER
AWARDS

Driftwood
Published every Wednesday by
Driftwood Publishing Ltd.

Tony Richards, MANAGING DIRECTOR

Nancy Johnson
PUBLISHER
nancy.johnson@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Gail Sjuberg
MANAGING EDITOR
gail.sjuberg@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Robb Magley
REPORTER
robb.magley@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Bryan McCrae
ART DIRECTOR
driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Robert McTavish
PRODUCTION ASSISTANT
robert.mctavish@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Matt Gaudette
ACCOUNT MANAGER
matt.gaudette@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

Jane Gartrell
OFFICE ASSISTANT
driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com

EDITORIAL

Purse power

Reading glasses have been more de rigueur than usual among island shoppers, as we peer into the fine-print origins of every purchase not wearing a prominent maple leaf.

And as comfortable as the rest of the nation has been transitioning into a Buy Canadian mindset, it may have been even easier for islanders, long accustomed to the reality that “buying local” is the best way to mitigate the risk of a critical business not being there when it’s needed most.

Local governments are shifting their buying habits as well, as their constituencies demand it; from Salt Spring’s fire district trustees to the Capital Regional District board, island representatives are looking at what procurement choices can be made

THE ISSUE:

Voting with our wallets

WE SAY:

Governments, citizens have choices

From fire trucks to beer, an overwhelming majority of these items will have a good “made in Canada” alternative (or, to paraphrase one staff member’s quip, “made anywhere but the U.S.”). Indeed, at the very local level, we are repeatedly delighted to discover the variety and quality of offerings available from our own islands.

Again, as islanders know well, making buying decisions with values beyond the bottom line can be complex, time-consuming and more costly. While we should demand that discretion at a government level, it can be financially unreachable for individuals; we hope those with the privilege to do so exercise it as often as possible while withholding judgment on those who cannot.

A protracted trade dispute across our southern border was as far beyond our imagination this time last year as paving on Ganges Hill actually happening was. But here we are, in both cases, and for now a bumpy ride is all but guaranteed.

Things will, we hope, improve eventually. In the meantime, we say slowing down, watching for potholes (proverbial and otherwise) and exercising patience with one another will be the keys to navigating it all — including with those trying to point a way through.



Success across party lines

BY NANCY WIGEN

In this time when our security and future are threatened, I heard someone say, “I’ve always voted Green, but now we need someone tough to protect us.”

Like who? Elizabeth May has been our MP for 14 years and she is the best, most hardworking, smart and effective representative we have ever had.

Elizabeth succeeds across party lines, working with respect and kindness together with other MPs who are doing good work for us. While in office she has got three private member’s bills (PMBs) passed into law on our behalf, while Pierre Poilievre, with more time in office, has not passed even one PMB.

The first PMB was to create a federal strategy to confront Lyme disease. The second prohibits keeping whales, dolphins and porpoises in captivity, and the third is a law to provide a strategy for environmental justice, which became law in June 2024.

In 2011, there was a lot of controversy about how MPs’ expenses were not made public. The big parties had all decided against revealing how they spent public dollars. It was assumed that as the only Green MP Elizabeth would not be able to make a difference, but she set up a website attached to her office and posted every expense for which she spent public dollars. Having been shamed by her good example, within a year every MP was required to submit every invoice and all their spending of tax dollars became public.

Another very important victory is the passing of Lindsey’s Law, which established a DNA data bank to register the DNA of missing persons and was initiated by previous MP Gary Lunn. Elizabeth and many

VIEWPOINT

others, including Indigenous leaders, got the law passed. By June 2024 the National Missing Persons Program had the DNA profiles of 2,500 missing persons, which has helped identify more than 90 people who were otherwise lost. Elizabeth has also brought millions of federal dollars for infrastructure into Saanich and the Gulf Islands.

Also, she and past Green MLA Adam Olsen have worked hard to try to save our wild salmon from diseases from fish farms. That is still ongoing.

Any time I have raised an issue with our Green MP, or our Green MLA, I have gotten a personal reply, with information relevant to my concern, or thanking me for my advocacy, including for saving an important salmon-spawning site in the Fraser River from being turned into a gravel pit.

Elizabeth’s belief that “you can do anything you want if you don’t care who gets the credit” gets egos and partisan politics out of the way, so work gets done, but often those who don’t deserve it get the credit. The news media tend to ignore all but the big parties so we don’t hear of what Green members do for us.

I’d like us to have proportional representation, with all MPs working together, but when Green policy is to work across party lines it comes to almost the same thing. I hope Elizabeth continues as our MP, and many more Green candidates are elected in the next election to give us a truly democratic government.

A positive, constructive, creative attitude bringing us all together in cooperation and unity makes Canada so much stronger than the division, fear and hatred sweeping the world right now. That’s why I support Elizabeth and the Green Party to lead the way.

241 Fulford-Ganges Road, Salt Spring Island, B.C. V8K 2K7 | PH: 250-537-9933
Email: driftwood@gulfislandsdriftwood.com | Website: www.gulfislandsdriftwood.com

OFFICE HOURS: 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Monday to Thursday, 9 a.m. - noon Friday.
SUBSCRIPTION RATES PER YEAR:
Print Edition: \$65.00 | Digital Edition with Print Edition: \$85.00 | Elsewhere in Canada \$115.00
Foreign: \$260.00 | Digital Edition: \$45.00 anywhere | Prices include GST

Driftwood
GULF ISLANDS

Funded by the
Government
of Canada

Canada

Community
Newspapers
Association

CMCA
AUDITED

News Media Canada
Médias d'Info Canada

THIS WEEK’S POLL QUESTION:

Are you pleased with the Liberal leadership race outcome?

☐ Yes ☐ No

LAST WEEK’S QUESTION:

Do you find waits due to road construction frustrating?

37 76
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.