

Summer, 2016.



The "season" is upon us....

Summer is here!

SeaCapers

Canada Day

B.C. Day

Kayaking

Sailing

Swimming

Labour Day

Salt Spring & the Southern Gulf Islands are "seasonless" destinations...always something interesting going on, and always a beautiful part of the world. That said, the entire Pacific Northwest Coast, including the Gulf Islands, wakes up to a treasured time between May & October. The Gulf Islands are in the heart of some of the best protected boating waters in the world, & sailing or kayaking through these Islands is a delight. Craft Fairs, Farmers Markets, special events, the pleasure of relaxing on a dock, swimming in a lake, just kicking back & rediscovering your essential self...that's the gift of summer-summer.

Many people on the Gulf Islands rely on a tourist arrival...artists, musicians, restaurant owners, gift shops, accommodation providers, realtors, vineyard & cheesemakers, farm growers, galleries/studio tours...you get the drift. The "season", then, can be intense (July, August, September, October are the four key months). Take time to discover the amazing things on all of the Southern Gulf Islands...easy to visit them all with a Salt Spring "start". Choose one each time, learn about each one in depth...all a little different, & all very beautiful. Try being a tourist in your own backyard. Be in-



"By the sea, by the sea, by the beautiful sea!"

spired. Check out the Japanese Memorial Garden on Mayne (Dinner Bay location). Beaches on Pender are superb. Galiano's parks (land & marine) are unparalleled. Saturna's Winter Cove is a gem. Lots to see & to do. Call me.

Summer is the season to enjoy "ease"...

- Kayak to Chocolate Beach.
- Drift with a sailboat's calm, into hidden anchorages.
- Swim off Tent Island.
- Ponder life at Ruckle Park.
- Be at peace in a garden.

Salt Spring "items"....

SeaCapers Fun, Canada Day celebration on July 1, Rotary Crab Fest on July 2, studio tours, special gallery openings, ArtCraft, ArtSpring events, Library happenings, patio coffees & al fresco dining, float-plane vistas, kayaking pleasures, swimming at Vesuvius,

sunsets from Seaside restaurant, B.C. Day (August) holiday events, retro moments at Fulford Village, meandering on North Beach/Walker's Hook (Fernwood Café sojourn), movies at Central, Burgoyne Bay Park trails, Mt Maxwell vistas, Farmers Market on

Tuesday afternoons, Saturday Market in the Park, alternative healing arts (check out Wellness Centre in Ganges Village), vineyard tasting delights, cheesemakers, farm to plate dinners, live music venues, hiking Ruckle Park, Mt Maxwell Park, Burgoyne Park....

Summer-summer things to do....



Tea by the Sea....

Summer in the great Pacific Northwest Coast is a delectable season...whether it's a year of heat and endless sun or a more typical year of summer mixed with late Spring or early Fall (depending on your point of view), there's always something amazing to discover in the Southern Gulf Islands. Lots of gallery openings, special presentations at ArtSpring and at ArtCraft, studio tours are open for your pleasure, and the foodie extravaganza is alive

and well on Salt Spring Island (Tuesday Farmers Market is not to be missed...plus all the farmgate stands). Salt Spring's Saturday Market in the Park has set the standard for many other communities, but this one, the original gem, is not to be missed. Have a dog with you? A special area set up for dog-sitting, while you enjoy the market vendors displays. If you have no idea about the many parks on Salt Spring, with hiking/walking trails for

all levels, now is the season to discover your environmental self: Ruckle Park, Drummond Children's Park, Burgoyne Valley Park, Mt Erskine Park, Channel Ridge trails...pick up the trails map at the Visitors Centre in Ganges, and away you go. Never been kayaking? Make a picnic trip to Chocolate Beach one of the top priorities this summer season. It's already getting darker earlier every day...don't delay! How about a sail to Galiano?

Did you know?

**"A poor life this, if full
of care**

**We have no time to
stand and stare."**

(W.H. Davies)

Salt Spring is involved in an incorporation study. The two trustees and Trust bylaws in place since 1974 will remain...the CRD would be replaced with a mayor and council. Taxes raised on Salt Spring would stay on Salt Spring, to facilitate the Island being responsible for itself. Called a Gulf Islands Municipi-

pal structure, Bowen Island (on Lower Mainland side of Georgia Strait) voted to do this some years ago. Until the Provincial Government responds to the first elements of the process, with funding ideas for the first three years, say, then very little will be discussed in our weekly newspaper. As soon as that is known, another

of Salt Spring's "great debates" will begin. It's important to consider all aspects of this very important decision, and not to rush to continue one's own pre-conceived ideas. Listening and considering and then voting thoughtfully, with an eye on the next 30 years of governance here, is the best plan going forward. Stay tuned.

Experience the Gulf Islands....



*Lucky Islanders...easy sea
voyages...enjoy.*

Destination B.C. has taken over the role formerly held by Tourism Vancouver Island. Matching funding is put forth by this Provincial Government body, to all the smaller communities, to encourage tourism. Destination B.C. is looking for various communities to work together on tourism relat-

ed initiatives. This has led to the five Southern Gulf Islands working together, to bring promotional material forward, and to encourage tourist visits. Salt Spring, Galiano, Mayne, Pender, Saturna are collectively known as the Southern Gulf Islands. This is an important initiative, and the Chambers of

each of the Islands, with support from their Economic Development groups (if in place...as part of the overall CRD), are working hard to make this a success. More information? Call the Salt Spring Chamber office and ask about the Experience the Gulf Islands.

Day Trip Ideas....

Salt Spring has 3 different ferries: Vesuvius to Crofton puts you in mid-Vancouver Island region. Fulford to Swartz puts you in Sidney and Victoria areas. Long Harbour to Tss-wassan delivers you to Vancouver's main terminal. Easy, then, to do fun day trips, and it's always a pleasure to return to Salt Spring. Ahhh....

Floatplane companies run regular sked flights from Ganges to either downtown Vancouver

(25 minutes) or to Vancouver Airport (12 minutes). You can also catch a flight to Maple Bay on Vancouver Island. Ask the floatplanes about their 30 minute tours of the Islands...enjoy an eagle's eye view of our beautiful region.

Don't forget to do the Island hopping opportunity, whether via ferry or the Water Taxi...discover those other Islands in our back yards! Make sure you put on your

tourist hat and discover your own Island home: too often we forget to pay attention to everything that's going on, and so miss new items, new businesses, new offerings. Check it out! Give yourself the gift of a day, and do Salt Spring as its own amazing entity. When did you last meander Beaver Point Road, enjoy Tony's Tarts, stop at Kizmet Café, do lunch at Salt Spring Cheese's Bistro, or....share your adventure.



*A farm in your future?
Call me!*

Quick trips around Salt Spring:

Leave Ganges seaside village on Lower Ganges Road, and head north...pass by the Upper Ganges shopping area. Pass the golf course, turn left at the movie theatre corner onto Vesuvius Bay Road. Do not continue to ferry lot...turn right on Sunset and wander this lovely road all the way to Southey Point Road. At that

point, it changes its name to North End Road...this brings you back to the movie theatre corner, while passing lovely St Mary Lake. A quick drop down to North Beach Road allows you to drive along Trincomali Channel...turn right on Fernwood (past Fernwood Café), and reconnect with North End Road. This is ap-

proximately a 40 minute trip...if you decide to stop at beaches, at roadside farm stands, or pop into some studios en route, you can expand your discovery. More ideas for drives? Call me...maps at my office for your self-guided discoveries. It's not really possible to do Salt Spring in a day...lots of variety, here! Just look...just enjoy!

**In change, lies
opportunity.**

Could you live in 2000?

The speed of change wrought by the Internet sometimes obscures just how far we've come in this electronic revolution. Take a minute or two and try to imagine yourself back in the year 2000...a lot of millennium fuss at that time. No industry has been untouched by the impact of the Internet. Social

media has replaced some styles of communication. Many businesses have not responded to the allure of online shopping. Going back to the 1990s is even more shocking. Watch a Seinfeld rerun sometime...look at the use of phones. Watch some old Hitchcock films...Dial M for Murder is

built around a phone call. If you're in Victoria, don't forget the B.C. Museum...walk the street of earlier years...the 1980s are almost the dark ages! We have not yet seen all that will evolve...I'm thinking the self-guided cars will help in real estate. What about a robot to cook, to clean, to...hmmm.....



*Ponder your soul...beside the
sea...abhh...breathe.*

Li Read at Sea to Sky Premier Properties (Salt Spring)

Www.liread.com

See Li for Successful Solutions!



**Sea to Sky Premier
Properties (Salt Spring)**

Successfully connecting buyers with sellers, since 1989, I remain a full time and full service real estate agent. Your best interests are my motivation. Benefit from my knowledge (of both inventory and of current trends), plus my expertise (managing broker's licence), plus my experience (understanding of the high and low rhythms of market driven cycles...and real estate is a market).

Enjoy my websites, my blog, my monthly market thoughts, my quarterly newsletters...discovering the pleasures of a Gulf Island is about more than the properties on it. Each of the Southern Gulf Islands has its own special "signature"...you will find the one that is in synch with you.

Call me for answers to your questions. Whether an investment, or a holding property, or a recreational gem, or a second home or retirement choice, a farm, a vineyard, an equestrian property, a waterfront with a dock, or just a lot in a forest, just for you...it's there, and in all price ranges. Pop by my office: driveby lists of all properties, free maps, to get you started. How may I help you to discover and to buy your special Gulf Island property? 250-537-7647

Thinking ahead....



*Eagle's Eye View...always
choose the big picture!*

After an 8 year downturn in the secondary home market-places, on B.C.'s Coast, we have suddenly experienced an uptick in sales volume. Most of the inventory between \$350,000 and \$750,000 on Salt Spring (in residential offerings) has sold. Little new is coming on the market. Low inventory coupled with high buyer demand is a signal that we have switched out of a buyers market (lots of listings and no buyers) and into a sellers market (hardly any listings and lots of buyers). To begin with, sales volume rises. Later, price points also rise. Lack of in-

ventory is the precipitating engine of price rises. There is not a lot of inventory in undeveloped land or in higher tier residential listings, either. The traditional buyer on Salt Spring and the Southern Gulf Islands has been from Alberta and from the U.S. Sales right now, however, have mainly been to people from Vancouver. This may imply that they will actually live here, and not just "vacation" here. That also means, though, that there may be even fewer rental opportunities for those who may not be buyers. The Community Service organization and the

CRD (Capital Regional District) are both attempting to develop/offer affordable housing options. These would be purchased homes, however, and not rental accommodation. An aging population has been thought about, and there are good alternatives to remaining in one's own home. The rental aspect is the most significant item right now: wanting to get involved in this? Talk to the Chamber of Commerce office, and find out about serving on a committee interested in solving this issue. Meantime...if you are seeking a property purchase, please call me. I am there for you. 250-537-7647