

OYSTERCATCHER



Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club

SSTNC Executive:

President: Carron Carson

Vice President: Larry McIntyre

Past Pres: Charles Kahn

Treasurer: Wayne Locke

Secretary: Nick Coghlan

Membership: Pat Miller

PR & Communications:
Margriet Ruurs

Trail Development &
Maintenance Coordinator:
Bill Palmer

BC Nature Representative:
Susan Hannon

Hikers Coordinator: Bob Keates

Walkers Coordinator:
Sheila Spence

Ramblers Coordinator:
Marjorie Radford

Website Coordinator: Bob Reynolds

Greeting to all members,

Autumn has rolled around again and with it comes the change of colour of the leaves and much needed rain for our forests. It seems that there have already been some well attended hikes, walks and rambles since the start of our 2025-26 season. It may be a good idea to pack along a reference book to help identify the mushrooms which will be flourishing at this time of year. Please don't hesitate to volunteer to lead a group on one of your favourite hike or walk destinations. If you are looking for route ideas, consider checking our website saltspringtnc.ca for past events in the archives which can serve to inspire you. Everyone should have a couple of favourite routes in their repertoire when called upon to lead. Stay tuned for the development of at least two new trails which will be announced in the new year. I look forward to seeing you out and about enjoying our beautiful island with others in the club.

Carron Carson, President



Our Website....

... offers a wealth of information for long time members as well as newcomers. Here you will find

- Descriptions of rambles, walks and hikes
- Dates and destinations
- Links to maps and trails
- Guidelines and carpooling information
- Archives with back issues of The Oystercatcher
- and much more!

<https://saltspringtnc.ca/>



Remember to 'LIKE' us so we can be FRIENDS!

<https://www.facebook.com/SSTrailandNatureClub>

Contact:

info.sstnc@gmail.com

Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club, PO Box 203, Salt Spring Island, BC, V8K 2V9

Did you know that all SSTNC Members share some responsibilities?

As a member participating in group walks, you are expected to:

1. Choose an activity (ramble, walk or hike) appropriate to your capability. Note expected duration and elevation gain.
2. Wear clothing and footwear appropriate for the coolest/wettest conditions likely on the day. Consider hiking poles for steep climbs.
3. Bring water and a packed lunch (unless notified otherwise).
4. Adhere to the hike's leader directions. Advise leader or sweep if you find the pace is too fast and/or you need to stop and take a break.
5. Stay on designated trails.
6. Take only photos, leave only footprints.
7. Dogs are not allowed at any SSTNC activities.

HAVE YOU WALKED IT YET?

The new community Labyrinth at the Anglican Cemetery on Upper Ganges Road is laid out in a pattern similar to the labyrinth at Chartres Cathedral in Paris in the 12th century. The path will lead you in and out of the centre and provide a calming walking experience.



RECIPE

During this Fall's Blackberry Festival,

Jan's Blackberry Peanutbutter Squares

were the most popular item! Here's the recipe she generously shared:

INGREDIENTS (Yield: 16 bars)

½ cup/115 grams unsalted butter at room temperature, plus more for greasing the pan

1 cup/255 grams natural or processed peanut butter or almond butter

½ cup/110 grams packed light or dark brown sugar

¾ cup/150 grams granulated sugar

1 large egg

1 teaspoon vanilla extract

1½ cups/190 grams all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon kosher salt

½ teaspoon baking powder

1 (10-ounce/285-gram) bag frozen blackberries

- Heat oven to 350 degrees. Butter an 8- or 9-inch square pan and line with parchment paper, leaving a 2-inch overhang on two of the sides.
- In a large bowl, stir together butter, peanut butter, brown sugar and ½ cup granulated sugar until smooth and creamy. Add egg and vanilla and beat to combine. Add flour, salt and baking powder and stir to combine.
- Press about two-thirds of the dough into the prepared pan. In a separate bowl, toss berries with remaining ¼ cup granulated sugar. Scatter berry and sugar mixture over dough, then crumble remaining dough over top, pulling it apart into big crumbs.
- Bake on the middle rack until golden brown, 45 to 50 minutes. Sprinkle with flaky salt, if using. Let cool completely before slicing into squares. Store, covered in the refrigerator, for up to 3 days. Or bring to a SSTNC event and they'll last half an hour tops.

SAVE THE DATES!

SATURDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2 PM



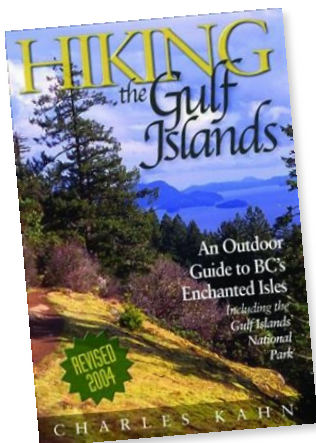
SSTNC long time member, Andrea Rankin, will share the exciting story of being on the all female Centennial climbing team to scale peaks in the St. Elias Range in 1967. Weekend Magazine called it 'the largest assault in the history of mountain climbing when unclimbed peaks were scaled and named for Canadian provinces'. Join us as Andrea shares stories and a documentary about the historic event at the SS Public Library. Free admission. Bring a friend!

TUESDAY DECEMBER 9, 12 PM

SSTNC's annual Christmas Potluck will be held at Lion's Hall, 12 PM. Join us for a festive luncheon with fellow ramblers, walkers and hikers.

THURSDAY JANUARY 29, 2026, 12 PM

Annual AGM at Lion's Hall. Please to attend to be informed about your club, to enjoy a supplied lunch and to listen to guest speaker **Claudia Schroder-Adams** presenting **The Geology of Salt Spring Island**.



This indispensable book, as well as Salt Spring, The Story of an Island, were both written by SSTNC member Charles Kahn and are available from our local library and at Salt Spring Books.

MEET OUR MEMBERS: Joy Holland

Going on walks or hikes with our Club, you can't miss the cheerful smiles of Joy Holland whose membership goes back a long way. In fact, Joy's parents were part of the group of hiking enthusiasts who started our Club!

Joy recalls, "Loes and Gerry Holland, my parents, came here in 1971 when they bought a lot on Trincomali Heights. While our house was being built we rented a cabin on Mary Lake. So started our first hiking days - 35 minutes up the winding hills to help with the house completion, and 30 minutes down again... to get our mail below at the boxes at the lake."



Joy and Loes on Mt Erskine

In January 1973 a group of friends met to start what eventually became the Salt Spring Trail & Nature Club. The name was chosen to reflect the interests of both hikers and nature enthusiasts. Joy's father Gerry Holland became the secretary while her mother, Loes, served as the trails coordinator.

Loes worked at Lady Minto Hospital as the X-ray technician. There she met Lassie Dodds, who was born and raised on Salt Spring, eventually living here for 86 years, and who loved island life. Together with Loes and Lassie they did their first hike straight up Erskine! Joy laughs, "We followed many deer trails and logging roads but always carried a roll of surveyors' tape leaving coloured ties to lead us back for next visits, eventually leading to today's trails we still take with our club."

Joy, who lived on Toronto Island, as well as in Germany and France with degrees in languages and worked with (refugee) students, has called Salt Spring home for over 50 years and has been a member of the SSTNC ever since. Her most memorable walks are with Lyn to Mt. Tzouhalem to see wild flowers and with Frauke, who always arranged a trip to Honeymoon Bay to

see the lilies. “But the best part of being a member”, she says, “are the friendships formed, sharing our love for nature, the outdoors and the adventures shared in travelling. You can always start as a hiker, then join the walkers and even still get out and ramble and realize how wonderful our club still is and has been for the last 50 years! See you on the trails!”

To read more about our Club’s History click here and select ‘History of SSTNC’: <https://saltspringtnc.ca/index.php/about-us/>

HAPPY FALL HIKING!

Check our website for all upcoming walk and hikes.

Leaders are needed for a few dates - a chance to show others
your favourite trails: <https://saltspringtnc.ca/>

