



KELLY REGEN

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SALT SPRING ISLAND—JEWEL OF THE GULF



Nestled in the Strait of Georgia, between Vancouver Island and the lower British Columbia coast, Salt Spring Island is 45,000 acres of shimmering lakes and spectacular vistas. Dotted with heritage farms, natural parks, and an eclectic mix of award winning hotels, restaurants, and galleries, Salt Spring has earned the designation of "best little art town in North America" thanks to year round artisans who flock to the island for its beauty and inspiration. In addition to its natural amenities, Salt Spring also boasts all the services of modern living.

CLIMATE
One of 200 islands and islets in the Gulf Island Archipelago, Salt Spring enjoys a cool Mediterranean climate, with warm dry summers and mild winters. The eight month growing season sees as much sun as B.C.'s Okanagan Valley which is approximately 2,000 hours annually. The rainfall is approximately 30-34 inches per year. Salt Spring is an all season destination ideal for active year round living.

SIZE
Salt Spring is approximately 185 square km (72 square miles) in size. It is the largest and most accessible of the Gulf Islands, home to a population of 11,000 people who work and recreate on island, and in the nearby cities of Vancouver, Victoria, Nanaimo and Duncan.

ACCESSIBILITY
Salt Spring is accessible by three ferry routes (Crofton to Vesuvius, Swartz Bay to Fulford Harbour, and Tsawwassen to Long Harbour), inter-island water taxi, boat, and float plane. For an up to date schedule of ferries, call 1-888-BC-FERRY.

**UP TO DATE
INFORMATION
ONLINE**

Visit our website for current listings, a market newsletter, and tips on buying in British Columbia or ask us for these publications.

**CALL KELLY
TOLL FREE AT:**

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ECONOMY

Tourism is the main industry on Salt Spring whose many visitors come to enjoy beaches, nature parks, small-town life, arts, music, and entertainment. Farming on Salt Spring dates back to the early 1850's, when local farms provided an important source of meat and produce to surrounding islands and the lower mainland. Today Salt Spring farms specialize in a variety of products, including organic foods, lamb, cheese, fruits, seeds, and market vegetables. Other industries on Salt Spring include specialty construction, alternative health care services, and retail sales.

HEALTH CARE

Salt Spring enjoys a wide range of health care services, including a hospital with 18 acute care and 31 extended care beds, several medical, optical, and dental clinics, and a wide range of alternative health care practitioners including chiropractors, herbalists, massage therapists, and naturopathic physicians. Home support services are available on the island, providing personal, respite, and palliative care, housekeeping services, and Meals-On-Wheels. In addition to the extended care facilities at Lady Minto Hospital, Greenwoods accommodates 50 beds for intermediate care. Other services include day and overnight spas, counselors for physical and mental health, in addition to over 20 support groups dedicated to assisting those with specific needs.

SENIOR'S SERVICES

Services for seniors on Salt Spring include a resource drop-in center, 3 Senior's residences, Senior's health and day programs, volunteer counselors, and an access bus operated by the Lions Club.

OTHER SERVICES

General services on Salt Spring include internet, telephone, and cablevision, paved roads, and some sewer systems. Piped water from island lakes and from a series of wells is available as well as home delivered bottled water services. There are two chartered banks, one credit union, a veterinary clinic, law and architecture firms, accounting services, and automotive repair. Salt Spring also boasts an excellent community library administered by volunteers, in addition to all trades and materials specific to the building industry.

SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

There are more than 150 service organizations, clubs, lodges, and societies on Salt Spring, many of which are arts and crafts related.

POLICE AND FIRE PROTECTION

An RCMP detachment is based on Salt Spring, along with a Restorative Justice Program sponsored by the SSI Community Police Advisory Council. The Salt Spring Island Fire/Rescue has 5 full-time members and 40 volunteers.



ISLAND SHOPPING

Shopping on Salt Spring is a delight for the senses, particularly if one is seeking that rare find. The Island boasts Canada's best known farmer's and crafter's market every Saturday morning in Ganges, April through October, where internationally acclaimed artists sell their wares alongside local farmers and producers. The Island also hosts the summer long ArtCraft and WinterCraft during the holiday season, both showcasing unique art and fine crafts of a professional quality. Year round shopping on Salt Spring includes grocery markets, bakeries, many specialty shops, art galleries, artisan studios open to the public as part of the Salt Spring Studio Tour, and nurseries specializing in a variety of native and exotic plants. The list of shops goes on, as do their contents.

SCHOOLS

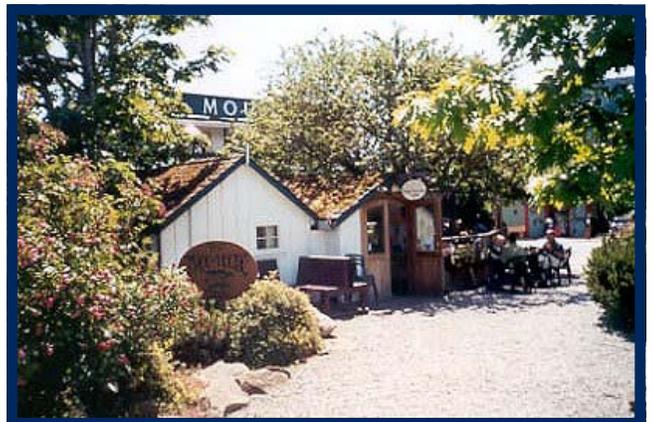
Salt Spring is home to seven publicly funded and a private schools. Three elementary schools, Salt Spring Elementary, Fernwood Elementary, and Fulford Elementary; one middle school; and one secondary school are all part of Gulf Islands School District 64. There are two alternate schools under the umbrella of School District 64 - Phoenix Elementary and Phoenix High School as well as the independently operated Salt Spring Centre school (grades K-10).

NEWS AND ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Island is served by a weekly newspaper, the award-winning Gulf Island's Driftwood. Salt Spring is also home to The Fritz Movie Theatre, showing first run movies, but with a uniquely Salt Spring feel to it. Each July, Salt Spring hosts the month long Festival of the Arts, highlighting talent from island and abroad in the areas of theatre, music, and dance. Artspring, the Island's own arts center, hosts musicals, concerts, and theatrical productions year round. A number of local and amateur dramatic associations also get in the act, entertaining audiences with old favourites, and exciting new productions.

DINING

For a diverse experience in dining, Salt Spring features over 25 restaurants, eateries, and cafés with a hearty emphasis on local produce, infamous Salt Spring lamb, and vegetarian alternatives. Fine dining is available at Hastings House and House Piccolo, while Moby's Oyster Bar and Marine Grill welcome visitors seeking a casual atmosphere and a broad selection of west coast ales. Raven Street Café, located near the Fernwood Government dock specializes in wood fired food. Calvin's, The Oystercatcher, The Market Place Café, Salt Spring Inn and the Tree House Café (shown at right) are also available in Ganges. There are two locations in town where you can enjoy sushi, along with restaurants specializing in pizza, Mexican, authentic fresh Italian pasta, Chinese and much more to choose from. If you wish to venture to the south end of the Island, the Rock Salt Restaurant & Café specializes in global flavor with local comfort. For coffee lovers, check out the Salt Spring Roasting Co. found in downtown Ganges - the west coast's most respected artisan roaster of 100% certified organic, fair trade shade grown coffees.



RECREATION

Salt Spring has Canada's #1 organic nine-hole golf course and one par-three golf course, three marinas, 12 boat launches, 22 beach access points, and one of the few frisbee-golf courses in B.C. One of five tennis courts is enclosed in winter, offering year round play. Salt Spring also boasts excellent fishing opportunities, with fish stocked in five lakes, in addition to boat rentals and charters for ocean fishing. Fish include Chinook, Pink, Spring, and Sockeye Salmon, Ling and Rock Cod, and Small-mouth Bass. All of Salt Spring's freshwater lakes are closed to gas-powered engines, preserving the natural ambiance unique to the Gulf Islands. Cycling on Salt Spring is a popular pastime, with repairs, supplies, and rentals available in Ganges. Kayaking and camping opportunities are also endless in the island's many bays and coves. Swimming is at its best in one of the island's many lakes, on public or private beaches, or in the community pool. For children there are three conveniently located playgrounds.

PARKS AND NATURE

Salt Spring Island is known as an ecological gem to all that visit its numerous parks and ecological reserves. The island possesses a variety of ecosystems such as old growth forests, Garry Oak woodlands and bird nesting sites open for public viewing. Peter Arnell Park, near Cusheon Lake, offers trails winding through arbutus woods. Mount Maxwell Provincial Park boasts Baynes Peak (1,929 ft.) which visitors can access to view the spectacular vista of Burgoyne Bay and Sansum Narrows. Salt Spring is also home to Ruckle Provincial Park, 1000 acres of the island's rare wildflowers, quiet beaches, and heritage farms that include fine examples of Victorian and Queen Anne style architecture. Five marine parks are accessible by boat, ranging from secluded bays with undeveloped beaches, to popular sites with moorage, water, and camping facilities. There are also excellent opportunities for diving and intertidal exploration off of Salt Spring beaches.



POLITICAL ORGANIZATION

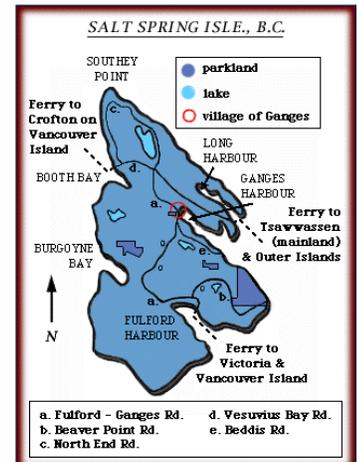
Salt Spring is located within the jurisdiction of the Islands Trust, an autonomous local government whose mandate is to *"preserve and protect the trust area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents..."* The Islands Trust has land use planning and regulatory authority, and is comprised of committees directed by elected trustees. The Trust manages sensitive and donated lands to preserve the special features of the trust area. Salt Spring Island also falls under the jurisdiction of the Capital Regional District (CRD) which serves Greater Victoria. CRD services include waste management, public and community health, and a resident building inspector.

CHURCHES

Salt Spring is home to the following faiths: Anglican, Roman Catholic, Baptist, Jehovah's Witness, Society of Friends (Quaker), Community Gospel, Bahai, Pentecostal, United, Buddhist, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, Mormon and Eckankar.

Information Links for Salt Spring Island

Accommodation: www.gulfislands.com/acc_ssi_main.asp
Artisans and The Saturday Market: www.saltspringmarket.com
Business & Community: www.saltspringisland.org/business_listings.htm
Car Rentals: www.saltspringmarina.com/html/rentals.html
Chamber of Commerce: www.saltspringtourism.com
Coming Events On Salt Spring: www.saltspringtourism.com/events/events.asp
Community Links: www.gulfislands.com/Community.asp
Cultural Arts Center: www.artspring.ca
Government: www.islandstrust.bc.ca
Health & Wellness: www.saltspringtourism.com/business/search_results.asp
Kennels (Cats): Greenspring Farm 250.537.2647
Marine (Boat and Fishing Charters): www.gulfislands.com/Marine.asp
Map: www.saltspringtourism.com/visitors/directions.asp
Newspaper: www.bclocalnews.com/vancouver_island_south/saltspringislanddriftwood/
Real Estate On SSI: www.gulfislandsrealestate.com
Recreation: Ideas: www.gulfislands.com/Recreation.asp
Golf: www.saltspringgolf.com/ or www.blackburnmeadows.com/
Parks: www.crd.bc.ca/ssiparc/
Restaurants: www.saltspringtourism.com/business
Schools: www.sd64.bc.ca/schools.html
Shopping: www.saltspringtourism.com/business
Storage: Salt Spring Mini Storage 250.537.5888
Studios and Galleries: www.saltspringtourism.com/business/
Travel:
BC Ferries: www.bcferrries.bc.ca/schedules/southern/index.htm
Float Plane: www.seairseaplanes.com
www.harbour-air.com
www.saltspringair.com/
Public Transit: www.transitbc.com/regions/ssi/?p=2.list



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KELLY REGEN

Macdonald Realty Salt Spring

Ask KELLY for details on ALL MLS properties for sale on Salt Spring Island.

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