

# SALT SPRING ACCOMMODATIONS GROUP

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## INSIGHTS IN THIS MONTH'S ISSUE:

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## A NEW YEAR

*There's nothing quite so wonderful as a fresh start, especially when it's a new year. 2020 is behind us (thank goodness!) and we can all start to plan for the future. While there are many things that are still uncertain, one thing is: we here at SSAG will continue to offer support to our members.*

*With that in mind, read on for the latest updates and info here....*



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## SSAG UPDATES

### SGITP

The Southern Gulf Islands Tourism Partnership was established in late 2019 with the task of marketing and managing tourism in the Southern Gulf Islands. The 2% MRDT tax that you are collecting from your guests goes to SGITP as well as other government grants. You as an accommodation provider have free membership in this association.

IT'S IN YOUR INTEREST TO JOIN AS IT'S YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK. WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL SSAG MEMBERS JOIN THE ORGANIZATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ONLY MEMBERS CAN VOTE AT THE FORTHCOMING AGM ON FEBRUARY 23, 2021.

Here is a [new link](#) for you to register.

### MRD TAX

As far as we can tell, Airbnb is NOT collecting and remitting to the BC Finance Dept the MRD tax on behalf of hosts who receive bookings through Airbnb on Salt Spring. Despite assurances from the “Rulings and Interpretations Team – Ministry of Finance” that “accommodation hosts or owners will generally not be liable for the tax not levied or remitted when they sell the accommodation through a registered online accommodation platform” (see their email of June 10, 2020 copied below and note the clause in their last paragraph), they continue to refuse to confirm, one way or the other, what taxes Airbnb collect, citing “privacy reasons”.

Therefore it is up to you as an accommodation provider to inform yourself about this matter and to remit the MRD tax if you determine that Airbnb is not doing so or contact Airbnb to find out if they are submitting the MRD tax on your behalf. SSAG will not be held liable for any information suggesting that Airbnb is collecting the MRD tax. Unfortunately the BC Finance Dept refuses to clarify the situation for us despite our informing them that, as accommodation providers, we just want to do the right thing. As always, we will continue to update our members on any new developments regarding this issue.

Here is a copy of the June 10, 2020 letter below:

Thank you for your follow-up inquiry. Due to privacy concerns, we cannot share personal or non-personal information belonging to another business with you, including what taxes they are collecting.

Section 228 of the Provincial Sales Tax Act (PSTA), prohibits us from disclosing personal or non-personal information or records to any other persons except in the course of administering or enforcing this Act.

However, as discussed below in the interim, accommodation hosts or owners will generally not be liable for the tax not levied or remitted when they sell the accommodation through a registered online accommodation platform.

Therefore, we cannot provide you with the information you are seeking. If you would like information, you will need to contact the registered online accommodation provider directly.

This correspondence describes how the Ministry interprets the relevant tax provisions at the time of writing for information purposes only. This response may be impacted by variations in circumstance, subsequent changes to legislation or Ministry interpretations or subsequent court decisions. The Ministry is not responsible for updating this response if there are any subsequent changes to the law or the Ministry's interpretation of the law.

This response is provided as an aid to understanding the legislation. To confirm the application of the legislation to your particular circumstances, you should consult the legislation and obtain independent legal advice.

Rulings and Interpretations Team  
Ministry of Finance  
[www.gov.bc.ca/consumertaxes](http://www.gov.bc.ca/consumertaxes)



# NOTICES

## PROVINCE WIDE RESTRICTIONS

Just a friendly reminder about the Province's restrictions during the pandemic. For the latest updates, head over to the [BC website here](#).

## FRANCIS BREAD UPDATE

We were so happy to hear that Francis Bread has been given a reprieve from the Island's Trust! Thanks to your overwhelming support, the IT heeded the pleas of over 500 messages regarding the proposed closure. Many thanks to everyone who helped out! You can read more about this in the Driftwood article [here](#).

## SMALL AND MEDIUM SIZED BUSINESS RECOVERY GRANT

The Small and Medium Sized Business Recovery Grant program provides fully funded grants to businesses to ensure they have the support they need during and beyond COVID-19. [Here](#) is a link to the eligibility and application process.



# BURGOYNE BAY TRAIL LOSS FOR EQUESTRIANS

Due to the recent trail work done in Burgoyne Bay, part of a multi-use trail loop that was formerly equestrian-friendly has been lost. The restoration of the trail that previously had a metal grid bridge has been replaced with a smaller wooden one that has steps. This makes it impossible for horses and riders to utilize it, and creates challenges for cyclists and some hikers due to its short span.

Members of the Salt Spring Trail Riders bemoan the lack of dialogue and input allowed from the community before this was done. To read more about this, head over to the articles on the [Driftwood](#) and the [Salt Spring Exchange](#).

Please consider signing the petition “Burgoyne Bay Provincial Park Multi-Use Trails Under Threat” at [change.org](https://change.org), and to write to BC Parks management at [Sarah.Joanisse@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Sarah.Joanisse@gov.bc.ca) and to MLA Adam Olsen at [adam.olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca](mailto:adam.olsen.MLA@leg.bc.ca).



Photos of the new bridge  
and swale in Burgoyne Bay  
by Jayne Lloyd-Jones





# MEMBER PROFILE

## Solace Spa

Solace Organic Spa is thrilled to be the premier organic spa in Canada and celebrates over 16 years of serving Salt Spring Island locals and visiting spa enthusiasts! Our boutique day spa offers exceptional professional massage and spa therapies in a beautiful zen forest garden.

We offer an array of holistic therapies by some of Salt Spring Island's finest and qualified practitioners. We feature our local organic aromatherapy skincare brand that is formulated in small batches using ecologically and ethically conscious sourced ingredients to nourish your well-being and the earth we share. Our focus is on inner beauty and spa as a state of mind and heart for enhanced well-being, "a harmony of the senses".

Solace Spa is located in a rural setting at 111 Saltair Lane, "a breath away from town" in the tranquil southend of Salt Spring Island. We really are like no other and specialize in creating a private and boutique spa experience. Upon entering the spa garden and tea lounge you will be greeted by staff and catered to with undivided attention. A unique eCo contemporary west coast building surrounded by lush forest, sounds of nature, lotus pond and gardens. A masonry fireplace warms the spacious treatment room. Enjoy 5 star service and professional therapists catering your sessions especially for you.

Solace Organic Spa + Wellness Retreat

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Please join our mailing list:

[www.solaceorganicspa.com/newsletter](http://www.solaceorganicspa.com/newsletter)

