

# Letter - Appendix incident

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I have been a resident of Salt Spring for more than nine years. My occupation is a tile setter.

In 2009 I checked into the emergency department at Lady Minto Hospital with abdominal pain diagnosed as acute appendicitis. After phoning around to the southern Vancouver Island hospitals they eventually found me a bed in Victoria General Hospital and told me to report there, where they would remove my appendix the same day. They advised me not to drive myself and my boss took a day off work to transport me to Victoria General.

For some reason they could not perform the operation that day and postponed the surgery until the next day. As a result, my appendix burst. I had to stay in hospital for seven days due to infection rather than the usual overnight, resulting in a loss of work and separation from my family.

I am told that the complication, as a result of a burst appendix, could result in painful adhesions. The surgeon advised me to take a month off work, but I was lucky. I never developed the adhesions and was able to return to work in 12 days.

Had LMH's surgery still been open, the expense of the trip to Victoria, the separation from my family, the loss of work and the risk of adhesions could have been avoided. For these reasons I support reopening the surgery at Lady Minto Hospital.

**JON STOCK,**

**Salt Spring**

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