

Gulf Islands Driftwood - Letters

# Letter - VIHA protest

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Would a flotilla of small craft manned by pajama-clad “patients” heading to Victoria make a passionate protest about VIHA’s health review and the high cost of ferries? Islanders, please consider!

When the June 2 Driftwood editorial called “Community pulse” seems to find us apathetic or resigned, calling losing the OR “predictable” and noting a “lack of outcry” about the issue, and Dr. Shane Barclay, chief of staff, says he thinks the review reflects the views of a majority of Salt Springers, I think we haven’t raised the right ruckus!

Dr. Barclay did not take up the offer from the qualified island surgeon who would have served until a permanent replacement was found. Seeing him oversee sending the expensive OR equipment the community purchased to a northern hospital was particularly painful, since that was paid for with the love and cake-baking efforts of caring islanders. But when the Driftwood doesn’t seem to think we care . . . .

Two unelected autocrats are shaping life on our rock, and doing it to our detriment. David Hahn (BC Ferries CEO) and Howard Waldner (VIHA CEO) are making projections and decisions about the quality of life we could be enjoying here.

Let’s join forces with a major, imaginative and powerful protest that makes our voices heard! The on-going Save Our Surgery group will be scheduling a meeting next week. Please get involved! This could be our last chance.

-Yantara Walker, Fulford