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SEA CREATIONS: Sonia Barnard decks Fulford Hall with her mermaid pottery at last weekend's annual Christmas craft fair.

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NEW BOOKS

Finding the fun in Canadian geography

Briony Penn's Kids Can Press book now available

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

What I remember of Canadian geography in grade school was the requirement to colour in a variety of maps. As I recall, our Social Studies teacher had precise expectations as to how the colouring should go, and this seemed far more important than the actual places we were careful shading in with yellow for land masses and blue for water.

I certainly didn't find geography a thrilling subject. This may have been different if my class was using the new book written and authored by Briony Penn for the Kids Can Press series of reference books.

Penn is well known locally as an author and environmental activist, and her illustrations have enlivened maps of Salt Spring and the Creekside Rainforest reserve, as well as her popular book *A Year on the Wild Side*.

Now, after five years in the making, Penn has completed *The Kids Book of Canadian*

Geography for eight to 12 year olds, created particularly with B.C.'s Grade 5 curriculum in mind. It's a book that combines cute illustrations and fun facts with some of the latest scientific information. Social land use patterns and human contribution to climate change are two areas that stand out as being unusually insightful and timely for a kids' reference book.

Including these elements was initially a hard sell with the editors, as Penn described over the phone. But her interest in the project has always been in line with her convictions.

"Originally when they asked me they just wanted the tallest mountain, the longest river," Penn recalled.

"It was difficult to sell some of the ideas — climate change was a difficult concept to sell at that time, and ideas like the impacts of colonization on the landscape. But it's important that kids understand the effect that we've had on the land."

One aspect of Penn's book is giving kids the ability to decode the landscape by learning to read its physical features. This involves know-

ing how geography evolves slowly over time, but also how human use has shaped the land. Each section on a regional ecosystem contains subheadings that focus on The Ancient Landscape; Plants and Animals; First People; New Arrivals; and The Landscape Today.

"It's giving kids clues so they can be detectives."

BRIONY PENN
Author/Geographer

In the section on the Laurentian Woodlands, for example, you'll learn that Mount Royal is an extinct volcano; you'll also learn that farms along the St. Lawrence River are long and skinny because of how the land was divided for tenant farmers hundreds of years ago.

Understanding place names is another fun and informative aspect of the

book that will give kids the fun of piecing together language and history. An offering on the Western Cordillera tells you that B.C.'s Spatsizi Plateau means "red goat" and comes from the fact that mountain goats here roll in the area's red sandstone dust.

"It's giving kids clues so they can be detectives," Penn said of her approach. "They can see how the world has evolved, and how in 400 years we've done the same as a major glacier over millennia."

Penn's book is now for sale at local bookstores and craft fairs. She says it's a great resource for home-schoolers, grandparents who want to brush up on current topics with their family, or anyone interested in learning more about our relationship with the land. And gaining a foothold now could have a profound influence on kids' futures.

"Cutting-edge science right now is all happening through geographers, in fields like climate change, epidemiology, land use. We'd like to get kids interested in geography as a discipline because it is really interesting."

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Move and discipline leads to first show

Peter Brown exhibits at ArtSpring from Dec. 15-21

Peter Brown is a name that hasn't been heard yet by many in Salt Spring's art scene, but that should change after next week.

A painter and sculptor who is new to the island and relatively new to making art a full-time pursuit, Brown will introduce himself and his work to the community at an ArtSpring exhibition beginning Monday, Dec. 15.

Brown grew up in Quebec and spent two years at the Nova Scotia College of Art and Design. He then spent 25 years in a career as a scenic carpenter, working in theatre, ballet and opera, and later in film and television. He gave up that career just a year and a half ago to move to Salt Spring and return to creating his own art.

"I grew sick of that work and found that I had to get on with this and take up my passion," Brown explained at his studio on Mount Belcher.

"I knew from day one that I wanted to be an artist, but I never really had the discipline. Also at that time, I wasn't prepared to be a starving artist."

Finding he has reached a point of discipline, Brown has completely thrown himself into the work of becoming an artist. The walls of his home and studio are covered with paintings that embrace many different styles and techniques, including landscape, figurative and abstract work.

The scenes Brown paints are imagined and come from his mind, often evoking a particular time period, place and its emotional weight. One scene of a boy and a dog in snowy village most likely stems from Brown's childhood; in style it recalls the Quebec painters of the early century.

Another of a thin-faced girl cautiously pulling back a green curtain in a darkened room brings to mind a time of darkness and deprivation. Brown said it reminds him of the year 1919, when World War I had just ended and the world was battling an influenza



Peter Brown shows off his artwork prior to his upcoming exhibit.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

epidemic.

Brown doesn't create paintings based on any specific idea, but let's the elements unfold as they will. Sometimes he has to add layer over layer before he comes to a point where he can stop; sometimes, his work is literally thrown into the fire before he can make sense of it.

"I suppose that's a part of my character, or how I work it, but I guess it would be nice to be a little easier on myself," Brown said. "I find one of the hardest parts is the editing — knowing when to put down the brush."

Brown builds his frames himself, and framing is extremely important to him. Several paintings make use of the frame as an integral component, including one that has been constructed to look like a window. Within, a man's dark silhouette is seen against a rusty background, all in high gloss. This painting reminds the artist of his childhood, when his father would come home from the mill.

"I find one of the hardest parts is the editing — knowing when to put down the brush."

PETER BROWN
Artist

In a landscape of small houses against hills, Brown shows his attention to composition by framing the elements between two black telephone poles with deep shadows. His abstract work also reveals the careful placement of his marks, with deep structural integrity rather than thoughtless splashing.

Some of Brown's work appears more accomplished than other pieces, but for someone who's just jumped into the life of an artist he already shows great promise. With his commitment to exploring diverse approaches, he is sure to find his groove.

To meet the artist and his work, visit ArtSpring between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., from Dec. 15-21.



Elizabeth Nolan

ARTBEAT ON THE ROCK

myself," Brown said. "I find one of the hardest parts is the editing — knowing when to put down the brush."



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ARTSPRING

PUB MUSIC

High-energy band set to stomp at pub

Shag Harbour Band plays Maritime music and more

Moby's is the place to be this week with Dave Roland's usual Thursday night blues jam and a Saturday show featuring the Shag Harbour Band.

On Thursday, Dec. 11, Dave Roland and friends, along with special guest and local bluesman KC Kelly, will host the blues jam.

"Anyone who would like to play a few songs needs only to come in early and talk to Dave about joining the band," explains a Moby's press release. The music is set to start at 8 p.m.

On Saturday, Dec. 13, Moby's will be shaking with the tunes of the maritime foot-stompers, the Shag Harbour Band.

"The Walrus gives us two flippers up!" explains the band's bio, "which more than offsets The Carpenter telling us that since the demise of his last endorsement, Karen

Carpenter, he's been so upset he can hardly eat, let alone shill for anybody."

According to the band, at their last show some patrons came up from the restaurant downstairs to complain that they were shaking the ceiling tiles loose with all the stomping.

"They stayed for the rest of our show and added their own toe-tapping and foot-stomping to the riot."

The Shag Harbour Band is an acoustic group that plays high-energy songs from the old countries and stomp-worthy tunes from the Maritimes, promising to "deliver all the sweat and delirium you can handle." Attendees can expect to hear numbers by Great Big Sea, Jimmy Rankin (and his siblings), the Sons of Maxwell, Blue Rodeo, Stan Rogers and Spirit of the West, with perhaps a few Jimmy Buffett tunes thrown in to round out the night.

The fun starts at 9 p.m. and there is a \$5 cover charge, which is waived if you eat dinner at Moby's

ON STAGE

Scrooge meets Duke in collaboration

'Mini-Scrooge' and jazzy Nutcracker

Two groups of island musicians and actors have teamed up to bring islanders a taste of an enduring Salt Spring tradition — Christmas With Scrooge — along with a great jazz classic, Duke Ellington and Billy Strayhorn's interpretation of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite.

Scrooge Meets the Duke runs for one night only at ArtSpring on Friday, Dec. 19 beginning at 7:30 p.m.

A fundraiser for the Ray Newman Music Fund, which supports musical endeavours and programs for Salt Spring schools and community groups, tickets are \$20 for adults and \$10 for youth.

Sue Newman of Newman Family Productions explains the show in a Q&A format.

Driftwood: Where did the idea for "Scrooge Meets the Duke" come from?

Sue Newman: Monik Nordine, the bandleader of our community swing band, Swing Shift, and an old music friend, has wanted to write some arrangements for some of Ray and Virginia's musical adaptation of Dickens' Scrooge for some time and is such an advocate in supporting young people in music, in much the same way as my parents were, that the idea of doing a Ray Newman fundraiser was a natural. She's also had the band working on Ellington and Strayhorn's jazzy take on Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker since last year, and it must have been the proverbial lightbulb over her head. It's a wonderful idea, and the Bandemonium Music Society jumped on it.

DW: So is the program integrated? How will the audience view each piece?

Sue: Well, the first half of the program will be the full



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Virginia (left) and Sue Newman at the piano, preparing for Scrooge Meets the Duke.

swing band, a great group of musicians, filling the theatre with snappy sugar plums and fairies. No, but actually, my adult and teen tap class will be performing one of the numbers with the band. After intermission will be Scrooge. So it's an evening of fresh interpretations of music and literature classics.

DW: Don't Newman Family Productions shows boast "a cast of thousands?"

Sue: Well, often, yes. But Mum and I've been toying with doing a "mini" Scrooge since we stopped doing the full production in 2005. Our 20th anniversary was glorious and tearful, but we needed a break and it felt like we'd done what we could with the show in that format. With 90-plus community members involved with the cast and crew, it was huge! (You try costuming and then fitting that many people on the stage at ArtSpring!) Anyway, the band will be there, too, dressed to the nines.

DW: So what does the mini show look like?

Sue: It's a beautiful story of hope. Dickens characters are so colourful, and Mum and Dad's music captures the magical and heartfelt moments that Scrooge and the others experience. Virginia will accompany an abbreviated script with selections of their beautiful melodies and humorous lyrics. We have a small cast: 11 costumed actors ranging in age from six to 70 years old, giving the flavour of a whole community... without the whole community! But you'll see your favourites: Scrooge, Cratchit, the Spirits, Tiny Tim, and even the Christmas Fairy. And of course, a little surprise at the Fezziwig Ball.

DW: Did you enjoy your break, and is Scrooge back on the calendar for years to come?

Sue: It was nice to have a "normal" holiday season. My children, although

mostly grown, actually had no memory of this time of year without the show. So it was very quiet and we did miss it. But it was also lovely to make new traditions. This time, though, it feels like we can still enjoy the music and hope the audience will sing along to these great tunes. We also hope to see some of our former cast-mates there to celebrate a new take on a great story. As for the future, it's inspiring to see other things cropping up in the community, like the Victorian Christmas put on by Kim Hunter, Carolyn Hatch and all those accomplished student fiddlers.

DW: Any closing words?

Sue: We hope to see you at the show! And to paraphrase Dickens: "... and let our ghostly little play raise the ghost of an idea. May it haunt your home pleasantly and no one wish to forget its message."

In other words, "God bless us, everyone!"

WORKSHOPS

Sculpting course offered for first time by well-known duo

Allan Crane/Graham Smith event set

Islanders have likely witnessed Allan Crane sculpting unique works of art outside his Stone Fish Studio on Lower Ganges Road.

For the first time this internationally regarded artist will conduct a beginner sculpting course with fellow sculptor Graham Smith. With 60 years of experience between them they have collaborated on several projects and offer significant teaching backgrounds to would-be students.

The hands-on, introductory course will take place over three days, Jan. 23-25, 2009, at Stone Fish Studio. Students will carve two pieces, a sea star and a loon to be completed after the course.

Crane says participants are advised to wear appropriate clothing like coveralls.

"We want students to come prepared to focus on the work at hand so we are supplying tools, stone, lunch and refreshments to allow them to do just that," he said.

As for the type of person who might be keen to get started with stone sculpting, Crane said, "Patience is a must, and an industrious personality. Anyone keen to make the most of the experience will enjoy the process of stone sculpting. Strong fingers and hands also help."

Crane has been asked several times over the years to teach a class, so the course is expected to fill up fast.

The fee is \$450 and includes stone, tools (to keep) and lunch. The registration deadline is Dec. 31.

For further information and registration forms, contact 250-537-1344 or 250-537-1322.

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Dec. 26 lunch and dinner, Jan 1 dinner only, Jan 2 & 3 lunch & dinner

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NEW www.jlccgallery.com

What's On This Week

Wed.
December 10

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. Mahon Hall. 10-5.
Argentine Tango. Every Wednesday at the Core Inn third floor. Beginners welcome. 8 p.m. Info: Julianna, 250-537-1818.
Dance Class. With Robbyn Scott. Antler Ridge Studio, 211 Horel Road. Wednesdays from 5-6:30 p.m. Info: 250-653-4088.

Thurs.
December 11

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Moby's Blues Jam. Dave Roland, friends and special guest KC Kelly host blues night at Moby's. 8 p.m.
SS Elementary Christmas Concert. At the school. 7 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. Mahon Hall. 10-5.
Salty Wheels Square Dance Club. Physical, mental and social workout. Thursdays at Central Community Hall. Info: Marilynne at 250-537-5356.
Blue Christmas Service. Prayers, meditation, music and refreshments at SS United Church. 2 p.m.

Fri.
December 12

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Singers. Christmas by Candlelight concert at ArtSpring. 8 p.m.
Santa Saturnina Symposium. Satuma Heritage Committee hosts three-day event that begins today. Info: 250-539-3217 or richard@richardblagbome.com.

ACTIVITIES

Transitions Thrift Shop. 11th anniversary celebration at the store in the afternoon.
Rollerblading. Fridays at Fulford Hall, 7:30-9 p.m.
Arbutus Therapy Centre. 3rd annual open house. #5-121 McPhillips Ave. 5:30-8:30 p.m.
StoryTime at the Library. Celebrate Lucia Day. For children 4-7 years at the library. 1-2 p.m.
WinterCraft. Mahon Hall. 10-5.

Sat.
December 13

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Singers. Christmas by Candlelight concert at ArtSpring. 8 p.m.
Shag Harbour Band. Moby's Pub. 9 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Mother Tongue Publishing Book Launch. Release of The Life and Art of David Marshall by Monika Ullman. Pegasus Gallery. 5:30-7:30 p.m. with reading at 6:30.
Tango Teaser. Julianna Slomka leads exercise dance class at North End Fitness for women only. No rubber-soled shoes; no experience necessary. 1 p.m. Info: 250-537-8414.
NDP Christmas Bazaar. United Church, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Rollerblading. Rollerblading to music at Fulford Hall. Every Friday, 7:30-9 p.m.
GLOSSI Holiday Party. Food and fun at All Saints. 6 p.m.
Winterfest. Annual festival of food, music, children's crafts and more put on by SS Centre School at SS Centre. 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.
Santa Ship. Annual Lions Club-sponsored visit by Santa from Bellingham. Ganges Coast Guard dock. 7 p.m. approx. Then to SS Elementary.
WinterCraft. Mahon Hall. 10-5.

Sun.
December 14

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

Salt Spring Singers. Christmas by Candlelight concert at ArtSpring. 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

Rumi Celebration. An evening of Zhihr dances, Rumi readings and dances of universal peace. Ganges Yoga Studio. 6:30-8 p.m.
Alternative Gift Market. Sets up at Fables Cottage from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.
Breakfast With Santa. Annual Santa visit to Fulford Hall. 9 a.m.
Children's Christmas Program. Community Gospel Chapel. 6:30 p.m.
WinterCraft. Mahon Hall. 10-5.

Mon.
December 15

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. Mahon Hall. 10-5.
Salty Yarners Knitting Group. Meets 1st & 3rd Mondays of each month at Stitches. 7:30 p.m.
Osho Kundalini Moving Meditation. Drop-in. 5:30 p.m. Info: Amrita, 250-537-2799.
Edkharth Tolle Practising Presence Group. Drop-in. 7:30 p.m. Info: Amrita, 250-537-2799.
Toastmasters. Group meets Mondays downstairs at the United Church. 7 p.m.
Monday Life Drawing. Drop-ins welcome. Core Inn 3rd floor. 1-3 p.m. Info: José at 250-537-1121.

Tues.
December 16

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. Mahon Hall. 10-5.
Alcohol, Drugs & Your Teenager. GISS PAC-sponsored meeting on current SS teen party scene and solutions. GISS multi-purpose room. 7 p.m.
SSI Prostate Cancer Support Group. Regular meeting at the Farmers Institute meeting room. 1:30 p.m.
SS Centre School Winter Pageant. At SS Centre. 5:30 p.m.
Christmas Celebration. Fernwood Elementary School. 7 p.m.

Wed.
December 17

LIVE ENTERTAINMENT

School Christmas Concert. Fulford Elementary. 7 p.m.
Carols for Christmastide. Songs by Friends of Simply Organic. All Saints. 10:10 a.m.
SS Seniors Christmas Party. Lost Chords choir, Readers' Theatre, sing-along and more. SS Seniors. 2 p.m.

ACTIVITIES

WinterCraft. Mahon Hall. 10-5.
Argentine Tango. Every Wednesday at the Core Inn third floor. Beginners welcome. 8 p.m. Info: Julianna, 250-537-1818.
Life Drawing. SS Painters Guild sessions at ArtSpring from 9 a.m. to noon. Drop-ins welcome. Info: Jose, 250-537-1121.
SSI Monetary Foundation. AGM at #8-111 Fulford-Ganges Road. 5 p.m.
Stitch Dimension Quilt Guild. Mystery quilt night. Baptist Church, 520 Lower Ganges Road (around the back). 7 p.m. Info: ptquilts@telus.net.



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CINEMA

High School Musical 3: Senior Year - High school seniors Troy and Gabriella are facing the prospect of being separated from one another as they head off in different directions to college. Joined by the rest of the Wildcats, they stage an elaborate spring musical reflecting their experiences, hopes and fears about their future.

Role Models - Danny and Wheeler are two salesmen who trash a company truck on an energy drink-fueled bender. Upon their arrest, the court gives them a choice: do hard time or spend 150 service hours with a mentorship program. After one day with the kids, however, jail doesn't look half bad. **TWILIGHT** starts Dec. 19th at The Fritz!

CABLE TV

- **Attention Shaw Cable TV Channel 11 viewers** — The Daily is your source for stories reflecting southern Vancouver Island people and places. The program is about half an hour in length and repeats continuously during the day and evening with new stories added daily.

EXHIBITIONS

- **WinterCraft show** of fine handmade gifts runs daily at Mahon Hall, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sun., Dec. 21.
- **Stefanie Denz** holds her annual **open studio** at 471 Beaver Pt. Rd. on Sat.-Sun., Dec. 13-14, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Way Leads Onto Way** — **Jamie Macaulay** exhibition at ArtSpring. Daily through Sun., Dec. 14.
- **Tess Fama** — Musical Painting Series shows in the ArtSpring lobby until Sun., Dec. 21.
- **Various Works by Peter Brown** — painting and sculpture. At ArtSpring daily from Mon., Dec. 15 through Sun., Dec. 21, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Three Artists-Three Mediums** at Cafe Talia. **Lisa Lipsett**, paintings; **Nathalie Carles**, jewellery; **Ulriek Benner**, Art You Wear.
- **Photography** by **Megan Manning** is on display at Salt Spring Books.
- **Shari Macdonald** shows new photos at **Jana's Bake Shop**.
- **Salt Spring Fine Art Tour.** Pick up a self-guided tour map at galleries and other outlets and see the island's finest art.

Breakfast With Santa
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Sun., Dec. 14
9 a.m.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

SERENADING: One group of Salt Spring fiddlers serenades another during a Victorian Christmas scene at ArtSpring on Friday night. The original show presented by Carolyn Hatch's fiddle group wound up a four-show inter-island tour back home on Salt Spring.

CONCERTS

Vocal coach leads singers to Christmas by Candlelight

Deb Toole talks about rehearsals with Salt Spring Singers

BY MARY HUGHES
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

You know Christmas is just around the corner when you see those colourful posters going up all over town promoting the Salt Spring Singers' annual December concert.

This year Christmas by Candlelight comprises a tasty seasonal selection of music from the early 17th century right down to gospel favourites. There will be lots of sing-along as well for wannabe-choristers.

Deb Toole, a popular Salt Spring voice teacher and local diva, has been rehearsing the choir this fall due to the illness of director Mitch Howard.

(Howard's many fans and friends will be happy to know that he's back home on the island and gaining strength every day.)

Toole is a woman of many talents. She's an actor of considerable skill and made several guest appearances in Scrooge over the



PHOTO BY JOHN CAMERON

Deb Toole

years, but she's particularly proud of her performance in Beckett's Happy Days at ArtSpring eight years ago. As a musician she played flute professionally and once played bassoon for the Salt Spring Concert Band.

She and her husband Mark have raised their two daughters on Salt Spring and operated Lakeside Gardens Resort for the past 16 years. Something dear to her heart is the annual community Christmas sing-along which she started in the late 1990s as a fundraiser for the food bank.

"We had every choir on the island singing, but I only let them have five minutes each," she said with a laugh. Those first sing-alongs were

held at the high school with close to a thousand people.

Toole's forte is vocal coaching and the Salt Spring Singers have been busy practising breathing techniques and other voice exercises.

"I was a little nervous at first," said Toole, "because I hadn't led a choir in over 20 years. But I've been having a great time rehearsing the singers. Everyone has worked so hard to get this music to performance standard and the choir sounds amazing. I'm just sorry I won't be there to see the final product."

Because of prior commitments, Toole won't be available to conduct the actual concerts. The choir will be led in performance by Lionel Tanod, music director of the Nanaimo-area Island Bel Canto Singers.

Salt Spring Singers will perform three concerts at ArtSpring, on Friday-Saturday, Dec. 12-13 at 8 p.m., plus a Sunday matinee on Dec. 14 at 2 p.m. Tickets cost \$15 for adults, \$12 for seniors and \$8 for children 12 and under, and \$5 for Eyego youth at the ArtSpring ticket centre (250-537-2102).

ARTS & CRAFTS

Open studios and gallery events continue

Denz's annual home event runs this weekend

Salt Spring artists and craftspeople are making their presence known this December with open studios and a special seasonal focus.

Well-known artist Stefanie Denz is holding her annual open studio at 471 Beaver Point Road this weekend, Saturday-Sunday, Dec. 13-14, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

A prolific painter using a variety of materials and styles, Denz will have her latest work for show and sale.

Also in the south end of the island, the Knotty Threads Local Artisans Gallery and Textile Studio is open Wednesdays through

Sundays from 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., and on Monday-Tuesday, Dec. 22-23 during the same hours.

The Knotty Threads space features work by Jane Mackenzie, Manuela Byron, Tracy Harrison, Joan Carrigan, Kirsten Chursinoff, Julie Mackinnon, Melissa Searcy, Anya Keele, Jan Smith, Ella Topaz and Janine Duns. It is located at 111 Morningside Road in Fulford.

The WinterCraft sale of handmade wares put on by the Salt Spring Arts Council, continues daily at Mahon Hall from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. until Sunday, Dec. 21.

Duck Creek Gallery, at 181 Broadwell Road, features sculptures, photographs, bronzes, prints, paintings and art cards daily from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until Dec. 21.



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TECH-TALK

IT'S A WIRELESS WORLD

- What's the latest?
- Where do I get it?
- Who knows about it?
- Who can help me with it?

When You Want to be Found...

Finding the right GPS satellite system when there are so many on the market is challenging. The difference between prices seems to be relative to how much memory it holds in the card and the "coolness factor" of the features - things like durability, battery life, computer compatibility, multiplicity of uses, etc. Because I am a Libra faced with too many choices, I gave up trying to find the device my partner wanted - something to map trails with - and began to formulate a picture of what I would need for myself. Something simple for my technologically-challenged mind. Always, the first thing to do is ask the right questions to narrow the choices:

- Is the system for the car or for the boonies?
- Do I want it for mapping or to simply be located in the event of an accident?
- How much do I need to spend? The range is large - from \$160 to over a \$1000.
- Who is it for? Will I be the only one using it?

While I was in Mouat's Home Hardware I found a very simple version called the SPOT, which is being marketed as a safety messenger particularly beneficial to those who like to stray "off the beaten path". Cell phones are limited to service areas, sensitive to rough conditions, and have short battery lives compared to the SPOT. It looks like a hand-held radio so my first reaction was to think that it would have limited range. Not so. Employee, Carol Siemko, tells me that her daughter carries one in Costa Rica, and that she could find her whereabouts on a Google Map. Another man standing near us dressed in biking gear added that he carries his wherever he rides. In fact, the SPOT covers virtually all of North America, South America, Europe, Australia, Northern Africa, Northeastern Asia, and hundreds of thousands of miles offshore.

As I considered its usefulness, I thought of myself trail running and spraining my ankle in some quiet spot or being knocked off the road by a motorist. If I'm still conscious, I can push one of these four buttons and help will come:

- Alert 9-1-1 - notifies the emergency call centre of your GPS location coordinates.
- Ask for Help - sends a request for help to family and friends
- Check In - lets contacts know where you are and that you are okay.
- Track Progress - sends and saves your location and allows contacts to track your progress on Google Maps.



Your message can be delivered via e-mail, text message, or emergency notification through the response center, Global Star. And if, in the event I fall in a body of water, this gadget floats in its waterproof shell. At seven ounces the SPOT is easy to tack on to any gear you are carrying and the price is affordable at \$169 plus a yearly service charge. I had hoped to try it out before writing this article, but in order to use it you have to register and activate it at findmespot.com. The website walks you through what they need to know to make the SPOT work effectively.

Talking to people knowledgeable in the area of GPS satellite systems is essential to knowing what is right for you. A recent addition to the line at Mouat's is a top-of-the-line device called the AquaFix 406 retailing at \$1049.99 but on sale now for \$899. I asked Carol about the price difference between the two, and she said that the SPOT is meant for recreational use. The Aquafix is for hardcore adventurers who need an even more durable, waterproof system with no range limitations. If you are planning to kayak to Hawaii or climb Mount Everest, this device should be your buddy, as it sends messages straight to the global search and rescue, COSPAS-SARSTAT. The signal for SPOT, on the other hand, goes first to the company, Global Star, and then to search and rescue.

You can also do detailed trip planning with Aquafix by phoning ahead to the search and rescue center and providing them with your estimated time of arrival, specifics on every member of your crew, etc. One more thing to also mention is that it has no yearly subscription fees. Thus, if you have answered the questions above and come to the conclusion that the GPS you want is one that tells other people where you are, offering a reliable measure of safety, then you're on the right track with the SPOT. If you want a device that offers a more advanced location system than the Aquafix is worth a look. A great Christmas gift for the outdoorsy sort and/or the person who likes to test her limitations with a "safety line"... just in case.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

COLLECTIONS: Alexandra MacDonald and Kasea Campbell staff the entrance way at Fulford Hall's annual Christmas Craft Fair.

Visual and musical treats this month

Exhibitions, opera, Swing Shift and carol sing-along

WHAT'S ON AT ARTSPRING

- **Way Leads Onto Way.** An exhibition of selected landscape and figurative works by Salt Spring artist Jamie Callum Macaulay. Until Dec. 14, daily 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
- **Salt Spring Singers — Christmas by Candlelight.** Light up the season with favourites old and new in a Salt Spring Christmas tradition. Enjoy our bright harmonies and warm up your voice for audience participation. Friday, Dec. 12 and Saturday, Dec. 13, 8 p.m.;

- **Peter Brown Exhibition.** Brown is a recent addition to Salt Spring's artistic community. This is his first exhibition on the island. Dec. 15 - 21, daily 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- **Swing Shift/Newman Family Players: Scrooge Meets the Duke!** Duke Ellington and Scrooge on the same bill? What a night! Swing Shift and Newman Family Productions present a holiday concert that

will be a unique blend, uniting the Duke Ellington/Billy Strayhorn rendition of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker Suite with excerpts from Ray and Virginia Newman's version of Dickens' A Christmas Carol. The concert is a fundraiser for the Ray Newman Fund, which benefits music studies and community performances. Friday, Dec. 19, 7:30 p.m.

• **Metropolitan Opera Live Broadcast — THAIS.** Renée Fleming stars as the Egyptian courtesan in search of spiritual sustenance. Thomas Hampson is the monk who falls from grace. Massenet's sensual opera is presented in a new production by

John Cox. Conductor: Jesús López-Cobos; Production: John Cox; Renée Fleming, Thomas Hampson, Michael Schade. Saturday, Dec. 20, 9 a.m. (Note the earlier-than-usual start time.)

• **Community Christmas Concert & Carol Sing-along.** An annual favourite, this is a chance for you to hear some of the best choirs, musicians, readers and theatre improv, all interspersed with lots of opportunities for everyone to join in singing favourite carols. This is a free concert for the whole family. Please bring along an item or two of non-perishable food to donate to the food bank. Sunday, Dec. 21, 7 p.m.

SEASONAL CONCERTS

Some ancient hymns, orthodox gems and more at Sacred Sound concert

All Saints church and candlelight setting for new choir

Salt Spring Island's newest choir — Sacred Sound — will soon delight islanders with two beautiful Christmas concerts at All Saints-By-the-Sea church on Dec. 19 and 20.

"Sacred Sound's debut concert in October at Music and Munch filled the church and there was standing room only in the All Saints' foyer," describes a recent press release for the concerts.

Sacred Sound, directed by Alain Besson, has a great affinity for the orthodox music that forms the first part of next weekend's Christmas concert, and it will be in a candlelight setting that this Russian and Bulgarian music will come alive.

"The beautiful story about the song Otche Nach in the last Aqua magazine [published by the Driftwood newspaper] reflects the marvel of this genre of music."

The first half of the concert will also include two compositions by Peter Deunov, a Bulgarian musician, physi-

cian, philosopher and creator of the Paneurythmy (a sacred dance performed all over the world).

The second section of the concert will begin with Liauba, a precious song for the Swiss.

"Every 25 years at Vevey, more than 20,000 people sing this ancient hymn which was forbidden in the past by the kings because the soldiers didn't want to fight anymore after hearing it!"

The audience will be invited to sing some simple canons and the event will end with three Mozart masterpieces, including the first movement of the Requiem which will be performed next spring in its entirety.

During the intermission, several door prizes will be distributed from Skin Sensations, Calvin's Restaurant, Stuff 'n' Nonsense, potter Joan Warren, Natureworks, Salt Spring Spa Resort and others who have already partnered with the event.

The concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. and tickets are available in advance from Acoustic Planet at \$15. There will be limited tickets available at the door.

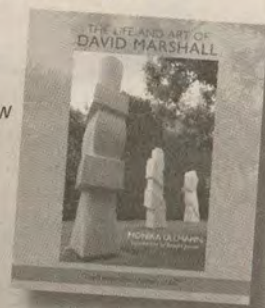
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PULL-OUT TV GUIDE PAGE B15

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- 26 DEC - JAMAICA: from \$1297.00 + tax

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New charter destinations for summer 2009 include: Madrid, Barcelona and Rome (all from Vancouver!)



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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

EXTERIOR DESIGN:
Shawna McKerrill and Crystal Amodeo put together a gingerbread house at Pharmasave.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Alternative Gift Market: stalls in two island spots

Winterfest and Fables Cottage host popular world charitable event

BY KATE RICHER
SPECIAL TO THE DRIFTWOOD

This year more than ever, people around the world need our help. Instead of buying a gift that will collect dust in a closet, try giving an alternative gift at the Salt Spring Centre School's Alternative Gift Market at Winterfest on Dec. 13 or at Fables Cottage on Dec. 14.

Instead of buying another sweater for Uncle Paul, you can help build a well in Africa or buy a yak for a family in Tibet.

Uncle Paul will get an attractive card informing him about the gift given in his honour and you can rest assured that this year's gift won't be collecting any dust.

The Alternative Gift Mar-

ket will offer a variety of meaningful, life-sustaining gifts that will change the world.

Shoppers can help reforest Haiti, provide sterile supplies for home births in Tanzania and much more. Attendees can browse through display booths featuring one-of-a-kind gifts that help those in need.

There is no charge to enjoy the festive atmosphere of Winterfest at the Salt Spring Centre for Yoga, where there will be food, music, entertainment and crafts for kids from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m.

The Alternative Gift Market is one of more than 200 similar markets held around the world that are coordinated by Alternative Gifts International (AGI), headquartered in Wichita, Kansas. AGI was founded in 1980 by Harriet Prichard, a schoolteacher who initially created the idea to teach children that they can change the world.

To date, AGI has raised

more than \$20 million to empower the world's poorest citizens and to preserve the planet.

Last year's market was very successful and the Grade 3, 4, 5 class at Salt Spring Centre School raised more than \$3,000.

The children are very proud to be offering the market to Salt Springers once again.

Grade 5 students Taryn Muldoon and Jacob Richardson remind people that "some people have less money than you do" and that "just giving \$10 could support a family for a month."

Grade 4 student Bronwyn Thompson says, "I like helping people live their lives and helping them with their needs."

Come and check out the Alternative Gift Market at Winterfest at the Salt Spring Centre on Sat., Dec. 13, and at Fables Cottage on Dec. 14 from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

For more information, call me at 250-537-8566.



Linda
Koroscil

LET'S EAT

Rolled Rugalachs

(Makes 44 cookies)

8-oz. package cream cheese

1 c. butter

2 tsp. sugar

2 c. flour

Topping:

1 egg, lightly beaten

2 tbsp. coarse sugar

Filling:

1 1/2 c. walnuts, chopped

4 oz. semi-sweet chocolate

1/4 c. each brown sugar

and white sugar

3/4 tsp. cinnamon

3/4 c. orange marmalade

1/4 c. candied ginger, diced

Line two cookie sheets with parchment. Beat cream cheese, butter and sugar until fluffy. Stir in flour.

Form dough into a rectangle, then cut into four and shape each into a rectangle. Wrap and chill 1 hour.

For filling, stir together nuts, chocolate, sugars and

cinnamon. Roll out one of the rectangles on floured board to 12" x 8".

Spread 3 tbsp. marmalade over top, then sprinkle with 1/4 of the filling. Starting at long side, roll into a tight log. Cut into 12 one-inch slices. Arrange standing on edge 1/4" apart on cookie sheets.

Chill 1/2 hour. For topping, brush egg over top of each slice and sprinkle with sugar.

Bake 25 minutes at 350 degrees until golden. These are a cross between cookie and pastry and really worth the effort.

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2 c. flour	1/4 c. dark molasses
2 tsp. baking soda	1 egg
1 tsp. cinnamon	Melt butter, sift dry ingredients. Add 1 1/2 c sugar, egg and molasses to butter in large sauce pan; remove and cool. Stir in dry ingredients, chill 1/2 hour, roll into balls and roll in remaining sugar. Bake. 375 for 8 minutes.
1 tsp. ginger	
1/2 tsp. cloves	
1/2 tsp. salt	



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With the Light Up last weekend and Salt Spring businesses aglow in festive decor, residents here are sure to catch the holiday spirit. Symbols and rituals of the season are more vibrant and culturally inclusive now than at any other time - an eclectic mix of ancestral heritage, folklore, religion and earth-based spirituality. One ritual shared by many traditions is the creation of light using such things as the decorated evergreen and the menorah.

Celebrations at this time of year have many names and expressions, though the actual word, "Christmas", is based on the birth of Jesus Christ. Common threads run through them all in the symbols of rebirth, love, gratitude, and charity, though they differ in cultural details such as their spiritual or folkloric figureheads. Before the 25th day of December became the honorary birthday of Jesus, pagans around the world already celebrated Winter Solstice, marking the return of the sun after the longest night of the year. The sun's re-emergence is akin to a rebirth, when the days would begin to lengthen again.

Now people generally aren't as attuned to subtle solar shifts because we artificially light our surroundings. However, our physical bodies let us know of the seasonal change in various ways: a craving to eat more, feelings of depression, wanting to stay close to home, or needing more sleep. The celebrations at solstice both acknowledge these feelings and honour the earth's cycles with feasting on special foods, spending time with family and friends, creating arts and crafts symbolizing the sun, and exchanging gifts. These rituals help us to reaffirm our lives and make plans for the new year, while shaking up the winter doldrums at the same time.

Folkloric elements flavour the season with tales whimsical in nature but contain important lessons that acknowledge our realities of the human condition. We all know about Santa Claus as we see him portrayed today, but he has been recreated in numerous ways and influenced traditions throughout history in accordance with different cultures. The pagans in Iceland tell stories of Gryla, a hideous troll who scoops up naughty children in her sack. Her equally horrible sons are the Yule Lads, thirteen in total. But the family has softened up over the years. Gryla has stopped eating stewed children, and the Yule Lads, while still bothersome, have taken up the custom of leaving gifts. Going by such names as Pot Licker, Door Slammer, and Sausage Stealer they cover the whole country over the period of thirteen days bringing gifts to all Icelandic children.

No other holiday inspires such gratitude, good will, and charity among people. When worries about a low pantry and long winter loomed, our ancestors assuaged their fears by spreading joy and abundance with others. Today, the same sentiment exists, relative to one's economic prosperity and spiritual orientation. That people feel stressed could be a sign that changes need to be made to rediscover those feelings of gratitude and renewal. Rejoice in your rituals for they will be a comfort and a source of humour later on!

A special thank you to all the Salt Spring businesses that helped sponsor this page and light up the night with their beautiful displays!

~ K.A. Curtin ~



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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CHRISTMAS LIGHT: Richard Milburn sells his beeswax candles at the Fulford Hall Christmas Craft Fair held this past weekend.

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ISLAND ARTISTS

Passion for music inspires artwork

Tess Fama's paintings, prints and photos now in ArtSpring lobby

BY ELIZABETH NOLAN
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

ArtSpring's lobby space currently takes on an artistic theme very fitting to the surroundings, with Tess Fama's Musical Painting Series.

A mixture of Fama's paintings and photos, the work brings together the artist's love of art and music, celebrating instruments and those who play them. However, it is the act of creation rather than individual players that seems to capture Fama's admiration most dearly.

In her painted matter, Fama has based many of her works on the cubist method of using a fractured, repeated image to suggest movement. One source of inspiration is Marcel Duchamp's *Nude Descending a Staircase*, painted in 1912. Fama comes close to replicating the painting in her work entitled *Nude Descending with Flying V*, shown twice in different-sized giclée prints on canvas. The flying "v" guitar is her musical reference, which she comes back to with the violin in No. 1 and *Learning to Fly*.

No. 1 is a "portrait" of the violin with a riot of movement and colour, the instrument in rich yellow and red tones and the perspective skewed on a convex curve. Fragments of text on either side give the feeling of collage.

In *Learning to Fly*, Fama employs elements from each of its fellows. The colour scheme and fractured image recall Duchamp's *Nude*, while the violin and the scrap of text return to the motifs of No. 1.

In the lower lobby, two large prints



PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

Sirius Andress is exuberant under artwork by Tess Fama, on display at ArtSpring.

that hang well together are *Cello Man* and *Guitar Player*. Fama again uses fracturing, or the multiple repetition of lines, to suggest the players' frenzied movement and the energy produced.

Fama's photographic work captures some of the local music scene and tends to emphasize the physicality of creation.

Players are seen intently focussed on their work, while individual personalities take the back stage.

A photo of Jaime RT (now Zav RT), for example, has the musician's face in shadow while her hands are lit.

An even more extreme, and more moving, example is *Slide Hands*. Here the player's two hands and the neck of the slide guitar are lit only around the edges, while the background and the solid portion of the hands and instrument are completely dark. The effect is to emphasize the magical quality that music can produce, when both the lis-

tener and the player are transported.

In execution, Fama's photos suffer somewhat due to the giclée technique, where inkjet printing is applied to canvas. As often happens with this style, the medium fails to decide if it wants to be a photo or a painting, and winds up being neither.

A better use of technology can be found with *BassMan Dave*. Here Fama applies a digital filter that renders the photo into grainy, almost sepia-toned black and white.

The result has the implied texture of a woodcut print, and the effect works because it is up front as an enhancement. It also makes the forms within the composition more abstract than figurative, giving one the opportunity to see the shapes they are and how they occupy space.

Fama's Musical Paintings Series continues at ArtSpring until Sunday, Dec. 21.

A Benefit Concert for The Ray Newman Fund
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Newman Family Players
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 - red onion
 - Beet root
 - Dried cranberries
 - Pumpkin seeds
 - Feta cheese
 - Pecan halves
 - Maple syrup (or brown sugar)
 - Butter

• What's for Dinner?

CARAMELIZED PECAN GREENS

Short cuts to cooking for one or two © 2008 with Sarah Lynn

Chard: Part of the human diet for thousands of years, chard, together with beets and spinach, is a member of the goosefoot family (Chenopodiaceae), so-named because the shape of the leaves resembles the shape of a goose's foot. The name chard comes from the Latin cardus meaning thistle. Cardus was rendered in French as cardé and evolved in English to become chard. Chard today is commonly referred to as Swiss chard in North America because of its extensive cultivation in Switzerland. However, it is also widespread in the Mediterranean basin and particularly popular in the Provence and Rhone Valley regions of France. Swiss chard is also called silver beet, spinach beet, Sicilian beet, leaf beet, sea kale beet, white beet, strawberry spinach, and Roman kale. Unlike its beet cousins, the root of chard is inedible. Chard is prized for its large leaves and crunchy stalks. The two main types found in most supermarkets are the red chard and the green. The red has a red stem and dark green leaves with deep red veins. The green has lighter green leaves and a white stalk. Red and green chard both have a slightly meatier texture and earthier flavor than spinach. The red variety has the stronger flavor. A general rule of thumb when cooking chard is to treat the leaves as you would spinach and the stalks as you would asparagus. Chard leaves or chard stalks can be boiled, steamed, braised, and sautéed. In addition to serving as a side dish, Swiss chard can be incorporated into stuffings, pasta sauces, pestos, soups, salads and other preparations.

Finely slice and chop one bunch of chard. (The best way to do this is to cut the stems off and chop them separately- Then stack the leaves on top of each other, roll them up, and cut them into thin slivers which you can chop more easily than whole leaves.) Drain & slice **1 can water chestnuts**. Finely sliver about **1/4 cup red onion**, 1 cup beet root, cooked, drained & sliced in slivers. Add **1/4 cup dried cranberries**, **1/4 cup pumpkin seeds**, & **1/4 cup of crumbled feta cheese**. Set aside. Put **1/2 cup pecan halves** into a frying pan, add **1 tablespoon of maple syrup** (or brown sugar) and **1 tablespoon of butter**. Bring to a boil for 3 minutes, stirring continuously. Place on cookie sheet to cool. Set aside. Toss all ingredients together in a large bowl & serve with a dressing or vinaigrette of your choice.

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PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

CREATIVE FLOW: Michaela Desrosiers and Dan Kilmer display handmade glass items at last weekend's annual Beaver Point Christmas Craft Fair.

BOOK LAUNCH

First of 'unheralded artists' series released

David Marshall book set for launch at Pegasus Gallery

Mother Tongue Publishing Limited will hold a book launch and reading on Saturday, Dec. 13 for its new book *The Life and Art of David Marshall* by Monika Ullmann.

The launch, which takes place at Pegasus Gallery, is an opportunity for islanders to meet the author and have their books signed.

"This book is beautifully designed and illustrated throughout with 95 colour and black and white plates (\$34.95)," states a Mother Tongue press release on the event.

"Part biography, part art history, part art commentary and first in the new series *The Unheralded Artists of B.C.*, this book tells the story of a prodigious Vancouver sculptor whose artistic legacy is known to only a few collectors, fellow sculptors and curators. Illustrated throughout with rare colour photographs, the lively, wide-ranging text is based on original interviews, letters and diaries and explores the reasons, both sociopolitical and contemporary, of why Marshall has been neglected as an artist in his own city."

In seeking answers to these questions, Ullmann illuminates some of the "more baffling conundrums" of postmodern art

history, while offering a fascinating glimpse into the politics of art in Vancouver. A resident of Vancouver, Marshall's work is "one of the great treasures waiting to be discovered by the Canadian art world and the general public."

After earning a B.A. in English from SFU in 1978, Ullmann worked as a house editor for CommCept Publishing. Married to sculptor Peter Paul Ochs, she wrote for the Sculptors' Society of B.C. and curated *The Age of Bronze* exhibition at Imagines for a Vancouver Gallery. Eventually she became a freelance journalist, writing features on the arts, health and tourism for Vancouver magazines and newspapers.

The Life and Art of David

Marshall contains an introduction by Brooks Joyner, the director of the Joslyn Art Museum in Omaha, Nebraska and the director of the Vancouver Art Gallery from 1993-1996.

"This is an incredible and highly readable book about David Marshall and his art," states Paul Wolf, president of Artists West. "On meeting David, I had only my intuition and native insight to guide me, but I was certain that with him and his group of friends I was in the company of 'greats.'"

The launch takes place from 5:30-7:30 p.m. with a reading at 6:30 p.m. It is made possible by the support of some Salt Spring artists, and family and friends of artists of B.C.

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ISLAND STAR VIDEO presents...

Flick Pick

Jason Tudor

'Dumb' comedy' Step Brothers smarter than you'd think

The riotous, irresponsible film *Step Brothers* stars Will Ferrell and John C. Reilly as two nearly 40-year-old guys who might as well be 12. I don't mean that they're slightly immature. We're talking about living at home, having no jobs, bursting into tantrums, wearing Chewbacca masks, you get the point.

It seems like disaster for the two brats when Brennan's (Ferrell's mom Nancy (Mary Steenburgen) meets and falls in love with Robert (Richard Jenkins), the father of Dale (Reilly). It's competition and jealousy at first sight, at least until they bond over the hatred of Brennan's too-perfect brother Derek (Adam Scott).

Next thing you know, Brennan and Dale are best of pals, but their antics quickly start to wear on their parents' new marriage. Will they have to finally grow up, or can they manage to live forever in

a world of bunk beds, kung fu and Steven Seagal movies?

Wait, you say, Will Ferrell in a movie about a childish, impetuous adult's struggle with real life? No way! Expectedly, *Step Brothers* has been labelled a "dumb comedy" by critics and audiences who clearly haven't noticed that this thing is actually a satire.

A satire of what, you might ask. Isn't this film just celebrating the whole cliché of guys stuck in a stage of arrested development, a la recent Judd Apatow fare like *The 40 Year Old Virgin* or *Knocked Up*?

Actually, no. Most films of that ilk firmly ridicule the man-child as a loser who must accept reality and grow up... usually in the name of a good old monogamous relationship. For all their appeal to counterculture folks, they're actually pretty conservative in terms of politics.

In contrast, *Step Brothers* celebrates the vitality and playfulness of youth, contrasting it firmly with overblown societal notions of what it means to be a serious adult. Sure, it makes fun of Brennan and Dale's childish behaviour in hilarious fashion (their tantrums aptly use adult language with angry youthful impetuosity), but it's no accident that the more mature the guys get the more incredibly boring they become.

Director Adam McKay — along with Ferrell — has now concocted three surreptitiously subversive comedies with designs on the American Way of Life (the others being *Anchorman* and *Talladega Nights*). So what's smarter — making the "smart" comedy that no one sees, or the "dumb" comedy that might actually get the average person to think a little differently about the world in which he or she lives?

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ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

SEASONAL EVENTS

Anglican holiday festivities signify well-loved traditions

Community welcome to Dec. 17 and 21 events

Among many islanders' highlights of the Christmas season is the Anglican Parish traditional musical event known as Carols for Christmastide.

Established in 2003 by the Anglican Parish as part of its Wednesday morning Simply Organic recital series, the hour-long program has become popular both as an opportunity to sing along and as a recital.

A choir of Friends of Simply Organic, which includes All Saints singers together with guest soloists, will bring you the season's best on Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 10:10 a.m. in All Saints By-the-Sea church.

Talented musician David Storm will be at the piano and the organ.

Although carol concerts are most often held by candlelight in the evening, the morning event provides the perfect opportunity for those who prefer not to drive at night to enjoy seasonal music.

As always, the music is free and is followed by festive refreshments provided by members of the Anglican Caterers, available for a mere toonie.

Another of the Anglican Parish's Christmas events goes back many more years and is deeply rooted in Anglican tradition.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols began as a Christmas Eve service designed in 1880 by Bishop E.W. Benson of Truro, England and is now presented in thousands of chapels and church-

es around the world.

Its form is disarmingly simple. After a processional carol—almost always Once in Royal David's City—with the first verse sung as a solo, there is a bidding prayer and the Lord's Prayer.

Then in a series of nine readings from scripture, the fall and redemption of humanity quietly unfolds.

From temptation in the Garden of Eden through prophetic promises of a coming saviour to the birth of Jesus in a stable in Beth-

lehem, the drama is allowed to emerge without commentary.

The Anglican Parish has established its own tradition by inviting representatives of local organizations and institutions to read the lessons. From ArtSpring to the RCMP, readers will represent those organizations which island life embraces.

The Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held this year in the candlelight setting of All Saints church on Sunday, Dec. 21 at 4 p.m.

To advertise in this popular monthly feature contact Tracy or Kim at 250-537-9933



FOCUS ON SENIORS

Retirement options improved for B.C. workers and employers

Amendments to the Pension Benefits Standards Act that came into effect last week will result in greater workplace flexibility and improved savings opportunities for British Columbians approaching retirement age, announced Colin Hansen, Minister of Finance.

"We recognize that not everyone wants to retire at age 65, and these changes will provide B.C. employers and workers with a range of choices when planning for their business and retirement needs," said Hansen. "After working for most of their lives, people deserve flexibility and options so that if that they want to remain in the workplace and increase their savings, they can do so."

Phased retirement benefits will be introduced for pension plan members aged 60 or older, or 55 and older, who are eligible for an unreduced workplace pension. This will allow people to continue working and contributing to their pension while at

the same time receiving partial pension benefits. Currently, pension plan members who continue to work past retirement age must choose between collecting a pension and contributing to their pension plan. The PBSA amendments will enable employers to offer phased retirement benefits to selected employees in circumstances permitted under federal income tax rules.

For example, if permitted under an employer's pension plan, a worker aged 65 who wants to keep working can do so while continuing to contribute to their pension plan. At the same time, they can receive partial benefits until the time they make the choice to retire and receive full benefits.

The changes are effective immediately and consistent with recommendations made by Premier's Council on Aging and Seniors' Issues to support and promote increased workplace flexibility and greater individual retirement savings.

Pension plan sponsors can now determine whether phased retirement benefits make sense for the needs of their business and employees.

The Province is also requesting federal law be reviewed and amended so people are not forced to convert their RRSPs at age 71. That would mean people could save beyond age 71 and continue to receive tax benefits for purchasing RRSPs. Currently, people who turn 71 are forced to convert their RRSPs and are not able to continue investing in RRSPs.

"Employers throughout B.C. recognize the benefits older workers bring to the workplace. Their knowledge and experience are invaluable," said Mary Polak, Minister of Healthy Living and Sport. "British Columbians are living longer, and older adults want to have the ability to make their own choices including continuing to work."

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WEDNESDAY DECEMBER 10

5 PM	:00	The Simpsons	C'est ça la vie	(25) Maggie and Beast	(4:30) NHL Hockey - Calgary vs. Detroit (Live)	CHEK News	Happy Days School Dazed	Early News	CTV News at Five	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	Pratt & Taylor
	:30	Wheel of Fortune		(35) Arthur			Grow. Pains [Part 2 of 2]	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News		BBC World News		CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	
6	:00	News	Le Téléjournal	Think Big		News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	UFC Fight for the Troops (Live)
	:30			Leon in the Wintertime			George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy		KING 5 News				iCarly iLike Jake	
7	:00	Coronation Street	Virginie (N)	Into the Wild	SportsCentre	El News	Scrubs My Fallen Idol	Entertainment Tonight	eTalk (N)	Matchmaker	Instant Star	Law & Order: Special	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	J.P. Patches 50th	Extreme Speed	Entertainment Tonight	Romeo Ro's Trip	
	:30	Jeopardy	L'Épicerie	Meerkat Manor		The Insider	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law	TMZ	Victims Unit Legacy	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	Anniversary Party		The Insider	Home Improvement	
8	:00	"The Santa Clause" *** (Com, 94) Tim Allen.	Le match des étoiles Demi-finale	Indian School	Off the Record	Secret Millionaire (N)	The Practice Nature or Nurture?	Bones The Superhero in the Alley	Law & Order Sweetie (N)	Vancouver Nights	Pushing Daisies (N)	Little Spirit: Christmas in New York (N)	Stylista Model Behaviour	Secret Millionaire (N)	Pushing Daisies (N)	Little Spirit: Christmas in New York (N)	Command Performance	News	Old Christine (N)	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	
	:30			Indian School																Gary Unmarried	Sabrina Teen Witch
9	:00		M pour musique Spéciale Noël	Christmas in Vienna	UEFA Soccer Champions League - Matchday #6 - Arsenal vs. Porto	El News Special Big Stars, Big Stories (N)	Third Watch Nature or Nurture?	Bones The Man in the Mud	Criminal Minds Brothers in Arms (N)	Sabor Latino	Private Practice Know When to Fold (N)	Stylista Fashion Show 101 (N)	Stylista Fashion Show 101 (N)	Bones The Man in the Mud	Private Practice Know When to Fold (N)	Life Canyon Flowers (N)	Command Performance	CBC News: The National	Criminal Minds Brothers in Arms (N)	Futurama The Honking Prank Patrol	Sportsnet Connected
	:30																				
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	Christmas Together	- Arsenal vs. Porto	True Hollywood Story (N)	The Daily Diya	The Guard Fistful of Rain	CSI: NY The Triangle (N)	Hola Que Tal	Dirty Sexy Money The Plan	I Love Money	Seinfeld The Opera Seinfeld	Q13 News	Dirty Sexy Money The Plan	Law & Order Sweetie (N)		Extreme Speed	CSI: NY The Triangle (N)	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30																			Adrenaline Into Thin Air	
11	:00	News / (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	Montreal International Jazz Festival	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Electric Playground	Frasier Police Story	Family Guy	News	News	Monarchy: The Royal	CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30																				
12 MID	:00	(05) Arrested	La zone	Indian School	Off the Record	Chelsea Lately	Paid Program	(05) Ent. Tonight	(05) The Daily Show	Jai Fiji	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live		The Hour	(N)	Malcolm in the Middle	The Ultimate Fighter 8	
	:30	(35) Hour 22 Mins	(45) Fosse aux lions	Indian School	IHF Hockey	(35) Late, Late Show	Credo	(35) Late Night Poker	(35) Colbert Report	Caribbean Beat	(35) Conan O'Brien		South Park	TMZ	(35) Conan O'Brien	Change Your Brain		(35) Late, Late Show	Futurama The Honking		

THURSDAY DECEMBER 11

5 PM	:00	(4:00) NHL Hockey - Tampa Bay vs. Montreal (Live)	C'est ça la vie	(25) Maggie and Beast	NFL Football - New Orleans vs. Chicago (Live)	CHEK News	Happy Days	Early News	CTV News at Five	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:30) Poker After Dark
	:30			(35) Arthur			Growing Pains	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News		BBC World News		CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Pratt & Taylor
6	:00		Le Téléjournal	Kratts' Creatures Working Animals		News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Drake & Josh	Sportsnet Connected
	:30						George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy		KING 5 News				iCarly iWant More Viewers	
7	:00	CBC News: Vancouver	Virginie (N)	The Leading Edge		El News	Scrubs	Entertainment Tonight	eTalk (N)	Matchmaker	Instant Star	Law & Order: Special	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Celtic Woman The Greatest Journey	The Nature of Things The Suzuki Diaries	Entertainment Tonight The Insider	Home Improvement	World Combat League
	:30	Jeopardy	Ici Louis-José Houde	Big Ideas Animals		The Insider	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access H. (SF)	Daughters-In-Law	TMZ	Victims Unit Baby Killer	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	Holiday Special		The Insider	Home Improvement	
8	:00	Coronation Street	Zone doc Des nouvelles du Nord (N)	The Amber Time Machine	SportsCentre	Secret Millionaire (N)	Smallville	Survivor: Gabon - Earth's Last Eden (N)	CSI: Miami Deep Freeze	What's in Vancouver? Kirdaar	"Eve's Christmas" *** (Dra, '04) Cheryl Ladd.	Ugly Betty The Manhattan Project	Smallville Toxic	Secret Millionaire (N)	Ugly Betty The Manhattan Project	My Name Is Earl (N)	Holiday Special	News	Survivor: Gabon - Earth's Last Eden (N)	Sabrina Teen Witch	Hockeycentral (Live)
	:30	Wheel of Fortune																		Sabrina Teen Witch	UFC All Access
9	:00	Chocolate Confidential	C.A. (N)	Art of the Heist	Triathlon Ironman	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? (N)	Supernatural	The Office (N)	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 19 Down (N)	Dheeyan Ghar Sadabahar Naghmae	30 Rock (N)	Supernatural In the Beginning	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader? (N)	Grey's Anatomy Here Comes the Flood	The Office (N)	30 Rock (N)	Andre Rieu: Live in Vienna	CBC News: The National	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation 19 Down (N)	Futurama Prank Patrol	Best Damn Sports Show Period
	:30							Billable Hours													
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	Vertical City	Poker Night	X-Weighted (N)	The Daily Diya	Numb3rs	ER The High Holiday (N)	Desi Uncle	Eleventh Hour Flesh (N)	Friends	Seinfeld The Virgin	Q13 FOX News	Private Practice A Family Thing	ER The High Holiday (N)		The Nature of Things The Suzuki Diaries	Eleventh Hour Flesh (N)	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30			Design: E2								Friends	Seinfeld The Soup							Adrenaline I Can Dig It	
11	:00	News / (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	Fatherhood Dreams	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Realty TV	Frasier	Family Guy	News	News	Victor Borge 100 Years of Music and Laughter	CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30																				
12 MID	:00	(05) Arrested	La zone	The Amber Time Machine	Off the Record	Chelsea Lately (N)	Paid Program	(05) Ent. Tonight	(05) The Daily Show	Punjabi Vibes	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live		The Hour	(N)	Malcolm in the Middle	Pratt & Taylor	
	:30	(35) Can. Reflections	(45) Fosse aux lions	Machine	Motoring 2009	(35) Late, Late Show	The Daily	(35) E.T. Canada	(35) Colbert Report	Desi Rhythms	(35) Conan O'Brien		South Park	TMZ	(35) Conan O'Brien	Alone in the Wilderness		(35) Late, Late Show	Futurama		

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12

5 PM	:00	The Simpsons	C'est ça la vie	(25) Maggie and Beast	(4:30) NBA Basketball - Toronto vs. New Jersey (Live)	CHEK News	Happy Days	Early News	CTV News at Five	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:30) Poker After Dark
	:30	Wheel of Fortune		(35) Arthur			Grow. Pains	Global National		Phoenix World News			The King of Queens	The Simpsons	ABC World News		BBC World News		CBS Evening News	SpongeBob SquarePants	Pratt & Taylor
6	:00	News	Le Téléjournal	Heads Up		News	Dharma & Greg	News	News			CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	The Mighty B!	Sportsnet Connected
	:30			Time and Place			George Lopez			CTI News	Vancouver Report	CityNews International	The King of Queens	Family Guy		KING 5 News				iCarly iNevil	
7	:00	Coronation Street	Du coeur au ventre	Hockey: A History The People's Game	SportsCentre	El News	Scrubs My Urologist	Entertainment Tonight	eTalk (N)	Matchmaker	Instant Star Hallelujah	Law & Order: S.V.U.	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Moneytrack	the fifth estate	Entertainment Tonight The Insider	"Home Alone" *** (Com, '90)	FSN Pro Football Preview
	:30	Jeopardy				The Insider	According to Jim	Ent. Tonight Canada	Access Hollywood	Daughters-In-Law	TMZ	Noncompliance	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Jeopardy	Inside Edition	KCTS Connects		The Insider		
8	:00	Santa Claus Is Coming to Town	Paquet voleur	The Royal		Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	May to December	90210 There's No Place Like Home	The Rankin Family Reunion	Weekly News Forum	CTS Night Club	Wife Swap Cooper/Kukta (N)	Greatest Holiday Moments (N)	Hates Chris (N)	Are You Smarter Than a 5th Grader?	Wife Swap Cooper/Kukta (N)	Greatest Holiday Moments (N)	News	Frosty the Snowman	Macaulay Culkin.	Hockeycentral (Live)
	:30					Off the Record														Frosty Returns	Gillette World Sport
9	:00	Doctor Who Journey's End (SF) (N)	Une heure sur terre	Dalziel and Pascoe Deadheads	Boxing HBO After Dark - Williams vs. Phillips	Deal or No Deal	Enigma	Life Canyon Flowers (N)	Supernanny James Family (N)	Here Comes Ajumma	Don't Forget the Lyrics (N)	Lipstick Jungle (N)	10th Annual Family Entertainment Awards	Don't Forget the Lyrics (N)	Supernanny James Family (N)	Lipstick Jungle (N)	Bill Moyers' Journal	CBC News: The National	The Flight Before Christmas (N)	Smallville Siren	Best Damn Sports Show Period
	:30																				
10	:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	Volcano Inquiry Into the Life and Death of Malcolm Lowry	Poker World Series	20/20 (N)	The Daily Sandesh	Numb3rs Power	Law & Order Avatar	Vitamin	Stargate Atlantis (SP) (N)	Crusoe	Seinfeld The Contest	Q13 FOX News	20/20 (N)	Dateline NBC	Great Performance s Pavarotti: A Life in Seven Arias	the fifth estate	Numb3rs Power	Dark Oracle Trapped	Sportsnet Connected
	:30																				
11	:00	News / (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	Malcolm Lowry	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Electric Playground	Frasier The Focus Group	Family Guy Airport '07	News	News		CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
	:30																				
12 MID	:00	(05) Arrested	La zone	The Casebook of Sherlock Holmes	Off the Record	Chelsea Lately (N)	Paid Program	(05) ECW Wrestling	(05) CSI: NY Zoo York	Vancouver Masala	Show With Jay Leno	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(05) Jimmy Kimmel Live		The Hour	Roy Orbison and Friends: A Black and White Night	(N)	Futurama	The Ultimate Fighter 8
	:30	(35) Kenny vs. Spenny	(45) Fosse aux lions	Timbersports	STIHL	(35) Late, Late Show	Paid Program						South Park	TMZ	(35) Conan O'Brien			(35) Late, Late Show	Pinky & the Brain		

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ExpressVu	257	120	268	400	255		251	250	254	256	253		290	288	287	291	502	289	552	407
Starchoice	308	702	354	400	358		336	321		389	359		382	380	379	383	390	381	543	419

SATURDAY DECEMBER 13

5:00 PM	(4:00) NHL Hockey - Washington vs. Montreal (Live)	Studio 12	(3:30) Heads Up Where is the Centre of the Universe?	Boxing HBO Championsh p - Card TBA	CHEK News	Dhoop Chaon	Family Guy	First Story	(4:30) Swiat Polskiej	TMZ	Nite Life	CW11's Underground	Friends	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Magnificent Mind at Any Age With Dr. Daniel Amen	Antiques Roadshow Coventry	KIRO 7 News	(4:00) To Grandmother's House We Go" ★★	(4:00) EPL Soccer
6:00		Le Téléjournal	Profiles of Nature	That News Show (N)	Dharma & Greg	News	News	News	NTDTV Weekly	F.B. Eye To Grandmother's House We Go	The Murdoch Mysteries	CSI: Miami All In	Two and a Half Men	News	KING 5 News	Saturday Report	KIRO 7 Eyewitness News	C'mas Charlie B.	The Ultimate Fighter 8 Season Finale	
7:00	NHL Hockey - Vancouver vs. Edmonton (Live)	nouveau genre" ★★ (Animé, '04) Voix de Eddie Murphy.	Prehistoric Park Short-Faced Bear	SportsCentre	El News Weekend	Awaz E Quam	Billy Graham Christmas Special	W-FIVE Presents Peace Warriors (N)	Entrepreneurial Leader	The Canoe	Survivorman	CSI: NY Corporate Warriors	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	NW Backroads	Command Performance	Doc Zone The Disappearing Male	Entertainment This Week	A Flintstones Christmas Carol	
8:00		"Shrek 2" ★★ (Animé, '04) Voix de Eddie Murphy.	Heartbeat The Devil Rides Out	PGA Golf Merrill Lynch Shootout - 2nd Round	The Soup Presents (N)	Mirchi TV	Doc	"Last Exit" ★★ (Susp, '06) Kathleen Robertson.	Phoenix Gathering	Road to Avonlea How Kissing Was Discovered	Crusoe	Boston Legal From Whence We Came	Cops (N)	America's Funniest Home Videos	"It's a Wonderful Life" ★★ (Dra, '46) James Stewart.	Saturday Report	Eleventh Hour Cardiac	He-Man and She-Ra: A	Sportsnet Connected	
9:00	(4:00) Hockey: After Hours (Live)	Le Téléjournal	Midsomer Murders Dead Letters	"Surviving Christmas" ★ (Com, '04) Ben Affleck.	Foundations	Painkiller Jane Portraits of Lauren Gray	Asian Variety Show	Kool Countdown	"Out of Sync" ★★ (Com/Dra, '00) Gall O'Grady.	Boston Legal Nuts	America Most Wanted	"Surviving Christmas" ★ (Com, '04) Ben Affleck.	Saturday Report	48 Hours Mystery The Lord's Boot Camp (N)	Christmas Special	Poker Heads-Up Championship				
10:00	CBC News: Vancouver	Humanima	Racing	48 Hours Mystery Invitation to a Murder	Kenny vs. Spenny	Law & Order: Special Victims Unit Dependent	Vanna Malargal Sabor Musical	Comedy Now	Comedy Inc.	CSI: NY Dancing With the Fishes	Q13 FOX News	Wash. Most Wanted	Doc Zone The Disappearing Male	48 Hours Mystery Invitation to a Murder	The Ren and Stimpy Show Dark Oracle Boiler Room	Sportsnet Connected				
11:00	Hockey Night in Canada: Replay	"Le Pacte des loups" ★★ (Avent, '00) Samuel Le Bihan.	Montreal Jazz Festival	SportsCentre	News	Stargate: SG-1	News	News	Bubble Gang	Bravo!Fact Presents	Role That Changed	CSI: Miami Tunnel Vision	Mad TV Best of Mad TV: Holiday Edition (N)	News	News	ABBA in Concert	Saturday Report	News	Mystery Hunters	The Ultimate Fighter 8 Season Finale
12:00 MID		The Whistleblowers Pandemic	Equest.	IIHF Hockey	Poker World Open (N)	Jack Van Impe		(:05) A Shot at Love A Fistful of Love	"Lalkara Jatti Da" (Act, '92) Kirti Singh.	"From Justin to Kelly" (Mus, '03)	Electric Playground	Without a Trace	Spike Feresten (N)	(:35) Whacked Out	Deepak Chopra	the fifth estate	(:05) Paid Program	(:35) Paid Program	Pinky & the Brain Brinky	

SUNDAY DECEMBER 14

5:00 PM	"Eloise at Christmastime" ★★ (Fam, '03) Sofia Vassilieva.	Oniva	Popular Mechanics / (25) Spellz Silly Straws	(:15) NFL Football - N.Y. Giants vs. Dallas (Live)	CHEK News	Tomorrow's World	Family Guy	In Fashion	Spazio Libero	Battlestar Galactica	Reviews on the Run	Everybody Hates Chris	American Chopper	KOMO 4 News	(:15) NFL Football - N.Y. Giants vs. Dallas (Live)	(4:30) Roy Orbison	Dragons' Den	KIRO 7 News	(4:00) Yogi's First Christmas	(4:30) SN Connected
6:00		Le Téléjournal Découverte	The Saddle Club	That News Show (N)	What Happened?	In Touch With Dr. Charles Stanley	News	News	"Lalkara Jatti Da" (Act, '92) Kirti Singh.	Sue Thomas: F.B. Eye The Lawyer	The Murdoch Mysteries	The Drew Carey Show	Family Guy	Miracle Season	Andrea Bocelli	CBC News: Sunday Night	News	Garfield Christmas	Canucks Connected	
7:00	Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer	Lafaque	National Geographic Attack of the Killer Bees	Hollywood Mysteries	60 Minutes	16:9 Bigger Picture	The Simpsons	"Anne of Green Gables: A New Beginning" (P) (Dra, '08) Shirley MacLaine.	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)	Two and a Half Men	Jericho Four Horsemen	King of the Hill	America's Funniest Home Videos (N)	Great Performances s Vivere: Andrea Bocelli Live in Tuscany	Charles' Other Mistress	60 Minutes	Charlie B. Christmas Flintstone Family...	NHL Hockey - Florida vs. Vancouver (Live)		
8:00	"The Polar Express" ★★ (Ani, '04) Voices of Tom Hanks.	T pour théâtre (P) (N)	Doc Martin Breaking Up is Hard to Do	SportsCentre	Ext. Makeover: Home Akers Family	Waiting for God	Survivor: Gabon - Earth's Last Eden (SF) (N)	Gossip Girl The Serena Also Rises	Friends	"Spaceballs" ★★ (Com, '87) Bill Pullman.	Friends	The Simpsons	"The Santa Clause 2" ★★ (Fam, '02) Tim Allen.	Mike Holmgren	Royal Rivals? Charles and William	Survivor: Gabon - Earth's Last Eden (SF) (N)	ALF ALF's Special Christmas	Canucks Connected		
9:00		Tout le monde	The Whistleblowers No Child Left Behind	PGA Golf Merrill Lynch Shootout - Final Round	"Recipe for a Perfect Christmas" ★★ (Com, '05) Christine Baranski.	Medicine Woman	Survivor: Gabon Reunion Show (N)	CSI: NY The Thing About Heroes	Stylista	Seinfeld The Airport	Q13 FOX News	Housewives You're Gonna Love Tomorrow	Law & Order: Criminal Intent	Celtic Woman The Greatest Journey: Holiday Special	Charles' Other Mistress	Survivor: Gabon Reunion Show (N)	Falcon Beach	Sportsnet Connected		
10:00	CBC News: Sunday Night	Le Téléjournal Le pays natal de Jacques	Montreal Jazz BeTe and Carlos Placeras	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	I-Watch News	The New Canoe	Role That Changed	Cold Case Glued	House Autopsy	Roy Orbison and Friends: A Black and White Night	Royal Rivals? Charles and William	News	Mystery Hunters	The Ultimate Fighter 8 Season Finale		
11:00	the fifth estate	Ferron (P) (N)	Driving TV (N)	(:35) 16:9 Bigger Pic.	CTV News	Hokus Pokus	World of Skiing	AZN Lifestyle Television	Electric Playground	Without a Trace Wannabe	House Humpty Dumpty	(:35) At the Movies	Kevin Gerald	Back Care Basics	(:05) Judge Judy	Yogi's First Christmas				
12:00 MID	Canadian Reflections	(:05) "Moulin rouge" ★★ (Mus, '01)	Prehistoric Park Short-Faced Bear	TSN the Reporters	IIHF Hockey World Junior	Wild On	Paid Program	(:05) Ent. Tonight	(:05) The Daily Show	"Zwischen Den Jahren" (Dra)	"The Good Girl" ★★ (Com/Dra, '02)	Electric Playground	Without a Trace	House Humpty Dumpty	(:35) At the Movies	Kevin Gerald	Back Care Basics	(:05) Judge Judy	Yogi's First Christmas	

MONDAY DECEMBER 15

5:00 PM	The Simpsons	C'est ça la vie	Martha / (25) Maggie	(4:30) NFL Countdown	CHEK News	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Early News	CTV News at Five	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Garfield Christmas	(4:30) Poker After Dark
6:00	Wheel of Fortune	Le Téléjournal	Taste Buds	NFL Football - Cleveland vs. Philadelphia (Live)	News	Dharma & Greg	News	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	"Merry Christmas, Drake & Josh" (Com, '08) Drake Bell.	Sportsnet Connected	
7:00	Coronation Street	Mission Antarticque	Undersea Explorer	El News	The Daily	Entertainment Tonight	eTalk (N)	Matchmaker	Instant Star	Law & Order: Special	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	Royal Riders	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	World Combat League	
8:00	How the Grinch Stole Christmas	La petite séduction Spéciale de Noël (N)	A History of Britain	SportsCentre	My Name is Earl	The Practice	Prison Break Going Under (N)	The Big Bang Theory	It Will Be Difficult to Love	Terminator (N)	Chuck Chuck Versus Santa Claus (N)	Gossip Girl The Serena Also Rises	Terminator Earthlings Welcome Here (N)	Charlie Brown	Chuck Chuck Versus Santa Claus (N)	Antiques Roadshow Trash to Treasure (N)	News	The Big Bang Theory (N)	"Scrooged" ★★ (Fam, '88) Bill Murray.	Hockeycentral
9:00	The Border Shifting Waters (N)	Hauts/ bas de Sophie Je t'aime (N)	The Real Jane Austen	How I Met Your Mother	One Tree Hill	Heroes Duality (N)	Law & Order: Criminal Intent Endgame	Marimar	Two and a Half Men (N)	Rita Rocks	One Tree Hill	Prison Break Going Under (N)	20/20 Drama High: The Making of a High School Musical (N)	Heroes Duality (N)	Magnificent Mind at Any Age With Dr. Daniel Amen	CBC News: The National	Two and a Half Men (N)	Worst Week The Gift (N)	Best Damn Sports Show Period	
10:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	Wipe Out	Pool International Speed Challenge	Final 24 (N)	Scrubs	My Own Worst Enemy (N)	CSI: Miami Tipping Point (N)	Pinoy	Stargate Atlantis	Curb Your Enthusiasm Less Than Kind	Seinfeld The Switch	Q13 FOX News	My Own Worst Enemy (N)	Royal Riders	CSI: Miami Tipping Point (N)	Mystery Hunters	Adrenaline Project	Sportsnet Connected	
11:00	News / (05) The Hour	Ravens and Eagles	Landscapes as Muse	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Electric Playground	Frasier	Family Guy	News	News	Brain Fitness 2 Sight and Sound	CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
12:00 MID	(:05) Arrested	La zone	A History of Britain	Off the Record	Chelsea Late Show	Paid Program	(:05) Ent. Tonight	(:05) The Daily Show	Kurd TV	Show With Jay Leno	(:05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(:05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Show With Jay Leno	The Hour	(:35) David Letterman	(:35) Late, Late Show	Malcolm in the Middle	Pratt & Taylor

TUESDAY DECEMBER 16

5:00 PM	The Simpsons	C'est ça la vie	Martha / (25) Maggie	(4:00) NHL Hockey - New Jersey vs. Toronto (Live)	CHEK News	Fresh Prince of Bel Air	Early News	CTV News at Five	Punjab Times	'A' News	The Tyra Banks Show	My Wife and Kids	King of the Hill	KOMO 4 News	KING 5 News	Nightly Business	The Hour	KIRO 7 News	Fairly Odd Parents	(4:30) Poker After Dark
6:00	Wheel of Fortune	Le Téléjournal	Popular Mechanics	NHL Hockey - Chicago vs. Edmonton (Live)	News	Dharma & Greg	News	News	Phoenix World News	CityCooks	That '70s Show	The Simpsons	News	News	News	CBC News: The National	News	Holiday: Christmas	Sportsnet Connected	
7:00	Coronation Street	Mission Antarticque	World of Gardens	El News	The Daily	Entertainment Tonight	eTalk (N)	Matchmaker	Instant Star	Law & Order: Special	Deal or No Deal	Two and a Half Men	Wheel of Fortune	Evening Magazine	Rick Steves' Europe	Wal-Mart Nation	Entertainment Tonight	The Insider	Canucks TV In His Own Words	
8:00	"The Santa Clause 2" ★★ (Fam, '02) Tim Allen.	"Madagascar (v.f.)" ★★ (Animé, '05) Voix de Ben Stiller.	Sacred Music of the 20th Century	The Biggest Loser: Families (SF) (N)	Islam 101	House Dying Everything	Law & Order: Zero (N)	Officina Italiana Qui Si Parla Italiano	Fringe The Arrival	Privileged All About Friends and Family	90210 Secrets and Lies	House Dying Changes Everything	A Charlie Brown Christmas	The Biggest Loser: Families (SF) (N)	Command Performance	News	NCIS Silent Night (N)	Monster Warriors Sabrina Teen Witch	Hockeycentral	
9:00		Les bougon français Boulot, vibro, bobo (P) (N)	The Museum	SportsCentre	98	NCIS Silent Night (N)	Criminal Minds Charm and Harm	Made in Germany euromaxx	The Mentalist Red Brick and Ivy (N)	According to Jim (N)	Privileged All About Friends and Family	Fringe The Arrival	According to Jim (N)	Eli Stone Owner of a Lonely Heart (N)	Wal-Mart Nation	The Mentalist Red Brick and Ivy (N)	Prank Patrol Game Show	Futurama	Best Damn Sports Show Period	
10:00	CBC News: The National	Le Téléjournal	The View From Here The Rise and Fall of the Grumpy Burger	Poker Night	Momma's Boys (P) (N)	Scrubs	Kitchen Nightmares	Without a Trace (N)	Schauplatz Europa European Journal	Eli Stone	Everybody Hates Chris	Seinfeld The Label Maker	Q13 News	Eli Stone Owner of a Lonely Heart (N)	Wal-Mart Nation	Without a Trace (N)	Mystery Hunters	Adrenaline Project	Sportsnet Connected	
11:00	News / (05) The Hour	Le Téléjournal	Still Life Giving	SportsCentre	News	It's a New Day	News	News	TV Patrol	News	Electric Playground	Frasier	Family Guy Boys Do Cry	News	News	Dr. Wayne Dyer The Power of Intention	CBC News: The National	News	Mystery Hunters	Sportsnet Connected
12:00 MID	(:05) Arrested	La zone	Sacred Music of the 20th Century	Off the Record	Chelsea Late Show	Paid Program	(:05) Ent. Tonight	(:05) The Daily Show	Aina-e-Afghan	Show With Jay Leno	(:05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	That '70s Show	RENO 911!	(:05) Jimmy Kimmel Live	Show With Jay Leno	The Hour	(:35) David Letterman	(:35) Late, Late Show	Malcolm in the Middle	Pratt & Taylor

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INTERNATIONAL AID

Lesotho Cooker Project heats up

Sun does the work for African grandmothers

For those having trouble finding gifts for "people who have everything," organizers of the local Lesotho Solar Cooker Project suggest their group's initiative is a good alternative to material presents.

One hundred percent of the money collected is used to buy, demonstrate the use of, and distribute solar cookers to locally chosen grandmothers in Lesotho, Africa, who are looking after their AIDS-orphaned grandchildren.

"Solar cookers have been used in many other places around the world, and have proved to be a very efficient and environmentally friendly way of making meals for large groups of people," said the project's Jill Willmott. "The Canadian on-the-ground volunteers, who pay their own travel expenses, say that the grandmothers who have already received them can hardly believe their good luck, as the sun now does most of the work and they no longer have to spend time looking for scarce firewood. 'Kea leboha, kea leboha' ('thank you, thank you') is their response as they sing and dance with joy."

For more information, people can call Willmott at 250-537-8343.



HO HO WOOF: Tracy Harrison and Banjo hang out with Santa Claus as Salt Spring's canine population gets a chance to converse with the big guy — and pose for photos — at Mout's. The event was a fundraiser for the local SPCA.



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10 Essential Minerals in Our Spring Water

Boron	Magnesium	Copper
Calcium	Manganese	Vanadium
Chromium	Molybdenum	Iron
Zinc		

Other Beneficial Minerals in our Spring Water

Potassium	Silica	Nitrate
Silver	Sodium	Fluoride

Benefits of BATHING in the Salt Springs Mineral Water

Our alkaline water is high in sodium and potassium chloride, magnesium and calcium. The alkalinity helps to increase the permeability of the skin so minerals can penetrate more easily to underlying blood and lymphatic systems. The chlorides make the body more buoyant, helping to lift the spirits and ease joint and muscle fatigue. Our mineral water helps relieve itchy and dry skin and leaves it feeling silky, invigorated and toned.

Benefits of DRINKING the Salt Spring Mineral Water

The body finds it easiest to absorb minerals through drinking water rich in minerals. Our water contains more than 14 minerals used by the body in quantities that are beneficial. Of the eleven minerals listed as essential to our health, 10 are in our mineral springs. Drinking a litre a day will provide levels that are well in line with the minimum RDA quantities of these minerals. When compared with similar mineral springs, Salt Springs' mineral water matches or exceeds them in mineral content. This is Canada's only seaside mineral springs resort spa. Book your exclusive Salt Springs Mineral Water Spa experience today:
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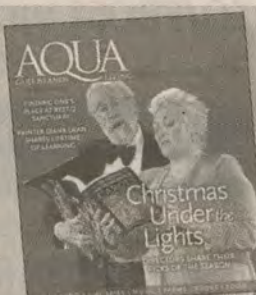
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PEOPLE & COMMUNITY

ISLAND CHARITY

Foundation names recipients

Gifts exceed \$50,000

At the Salt Spring Island Foundation's annual reception for donors and grant recipients on Nov. 27, a total of \$51,300 in grants were presented to a number of the island's charitable organizations. An additional \$60,000 in grants were distributed last spring.

The following grants have just been distributed:

• **CNIB — "Talking Books" Program.** A donor-directed grant for "talking books" (books on tape) at the Salt Spring library.

• **Greenwoods Foundation.** Towards the cost of refurbishing and installing an electric generator for Braehaven assisted-living residence. The generator is on a trailer so that it can also be used for emergencies elsewhere on the island at the discretion of the island's fire chief.

• **Island Pathways and SSI Trail and Nature Club — Partners Creating Pathways.** Towards the cost of creating three new pedestrian pathways linking the hospital and seniors residences with the new Upper Ganges Road pathway.

• **Islands Trust Fund — Ruby Alton Nature Reserve.** For garden restoration materials. All the labour will be done by volunteers.

• **Island Wildlife Natural Care Centre.** To purchase

a new electric dryer for the laundry facility at the centre.

• **Land Bank Society.** To help complete the necessary predevelopment work for the Brackett Spring Family Housing Project, a new affordable housing project currently being developed on Rainbow Road.

• **Salt Spring Parks and Recreation Commission — Rainbow Road Pool.** For the purchase of a bike rack.

• **Salt Spring Branch of Victoria Human Exchange Society (VHES).** To replace the dishwasher and weatherproof the single-pane windows in VHES's transitional house for women, which provides women with dignified and safe housing for a minimum of three months while they try to solve some of the challenges in their lives and find permanent housing.

• **Salt Spring and Southern Gulf Islands Community Services Society.** For the society's Community Living Therapeutic Music Program, which provides a music program for 20-25 developmentally challenged adults living in our community.

• **Community Services Society.** To repaint the exterior of "The Wall," the society's climbing-wall facility.

• **Community Services Society.** For the development and distribution of a new directory of Community Resources and Services,

a comprehensive guide to the resources and services available on Salt Spring. (The development of such a directory was one of the recommendations coming out of the SSI Foundation's 2008 Community Service Needs Study.)

• **Community Services Society.** For the costs involved with website management and promotion for Volunteer Salt Spring, the island's "virtual volunteer centre."

• **Community Services Society.** Toward the operation of the In From the Cold emergency shelter for the homeless.

• **Salt Spring Island Conservancy.** For office upgrades to increase office efficiency and support the objectives of the conservancy.

• **Splash.** Toward the cost of installing a UV water-treatment system for the hot tub at the Rainbow Road Pool.

The Salt Spring Island Foundation supports the community by providing financial assistance to a wide range of worthy charitable organizations on Salt Spring. It is the only island organization for which a single donation or bequest helps a broad range of causes.

For information about applying for a grant and grant application forms, go to the foundation's website at www.saltspringislandfoundation.org.

COMMUNITY EVENTS

Transitions celebrates best year yet

Anniversary is a chance to say thanks

BY SEAN MCINTYRE
DRIFTWOOD STAFF

High sales at the Transitions Thrift Store over the past year mean the store can fund more programs to help women and children escape abusive relationships.

The Ganges store marks its 11th anniversary on Friday, providing customers, volunteers and donors alike an opportunity to celebrate the shop's integral role in the community.

"We are the front line to Island Women Against Violence (IWAV)," said store manager Roberta Temmel, adding that the past year was the store's busiest and most

successful in its history.

Temmel said she recently came across statistics compiled by a Victoria anti-violence group that said one out of every three women in B.C. has experienced some form of sexual violence.

The statistics give extra meaning to the thrift shop's efforts to fund ongoing island counselling sessions, outreach programs and the island's transition house.

"It really brought it home for me why we are doing this work," Temmel said. "Our [transition] house is very busy and it has people coming in all year long every day."

To mark the boutique's anniversary, staff and volunteers have organized a silent auction on several items donated by island craftspeople.

Bidding continues all week and winners will be announced on the afternoon of Friday, Dec. 12. Birthday cake and hot cider will be served as part of the festivities.

The Transitions Thrift Store is open seven days a week. The shop accepts donations of clothing, books, jewellery, linens and other housewares any time during business hours.

"We'll take anything that's in good shape," Temmel said. "[The store] has so many more aspects than just a thrift shop. We really try to accept and re-use anything we can."

For more information about the store and its programs, visit www.iwav.org or call 250-537-0661.

SALT SPRING VINEYARDS

	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
	1 CALL AHEAD	2 CALL AHEAD	3 CALL AHEAD	4 CALL AHEAD	5 CALL AHEAD	6 12-4
	7 12-4	8 CALL AHEAD	9 CALL AHEAD	10 CALL AHEAD	11 CALL AHEAD	12 CALL AHEAD
	13 12-4	14 12-4	15 12-4	16 12-4	17 12-4	18 12-4
	19 12-4	20 12-4	21 12-4	22 12-4	23 12-4	24 12-4
	25 12-4	26 12-4	27 12-4	28 12-4	29 12-4	30 12-4
	31 12-4	December Wine-Tasting Hours: www.saltspringvineyards.com				

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BUS SCHEDULE PAGE A4

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COUNSELLING SERVICES ARE FREE

- * **Counselling Services:** Short-Term counselling for adults, youth and families.
- * **Alcohol and Drug Program:** Prevention and treatment service is free and confidential.
- * **Family Place:** See www.saltspringcommunityservices.ca for fall schedule.
- * **Let's Do Brunch:** Tuesday, 9:30am - 12:30pm
- * **Food Bank:** Open Tuesday, 11am - 4pm
- * **The Wall:** Indoor Rock Climbing Gym, Contact jalaxander@ssics.ca
- * **Recycle Depot:** Open Tuesday - Saturday 10am - 5pm, 349 Rainbow Rd., 250-537-1200.
- * **Seniors Wellness Programs:** Call Sharon Glover at 250-537-4607.
- * **Emergency Mental Health Services:** Available 4 pm to midnight through Emergency Room at Lady Minto Hospital. Call 250-538-4840
- * **24 HR. Crisis Line:** Toll free: 1-866-386-6323. Caller is connected with the Need Crisis Centre in Victoria.
- * **Nobody's Perfect:** Registration at Family Place 250-537-9176.

PEOPLE & COMMUNITY



TREE TIME: Wendy Bisset and James Laughlin prepare for Christmas, picking out a tree from Country Grocer.

PHOTO BY DERRICK LUNDY

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BIRDING

Christmas bird count takes flight on Dec. 27

Birders called on to come out and count

Bird watchers are, once again, being called upon to polish up their binoculars in time for the 22nd annual Salt Spring Island Christmas bird count, scheduled to take place on Saturday, Dec. 27.

"The counts are a great excuse for friends to get together over the festive season for some winter birding," said Gil Schultz. "It also allows birders with different levels of expertise to participate and involves some folks who simply count birds in their own feeders and yards to others who cover several kilometres of territory and major components of their particular zone."

Coordinators and counters in each of Salt Spring's 12 zones head outdoors on counting day to collect data pertaining to the number and species of birds observed in a given area.

The data is compiled with that gathered by more than 11,000 volunteers across Canada and kept by the Bird Studies Canada organization and the National Audu-

bon Society. Data provides information on winter bird distribution and population trends.

During the 2007 count, 93 participants on the island counted 16,745 birds spread over 88 species. Last year's total represented the highest numbers in six years, Schultz said.

Would-be ornithologists of all ages and bird-watching abilities are invited to participate in this year's event. Though there is a \$5 fee to participate, Bird Studies Canada members, feeder watchers who provide counts to regional coordinators and new counters do not have to pay if they do not wish to receive a copy of the final report or have their names recorded on the Bird Studies Canada website.

To encourage members of the Salt Spring Trail and Nature Club to be involved in the count, the club has committed up to \$100 to help cover the Bird Studies Canada fees for its members.

Anyone interested in joining this year's event should contact Gil Schultz by telephone at 250-537-9469 or via e-mail at gschultz@saltspring.com.

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